



## Great Swamp Watershed Association

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(973) 538-3500 • [www.GreatSwamp.org](http://www.GreatSwamp.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Volunteers Needed To Help Protect New Jersey's Great Swamp**

*Assist the Great Swamp Watershed Association with trail maintenance, water quality monitoring tasks this March.*

**Morristown, NJ**—The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) is looking for volunteers to help with two environmental stewardship projects this March.

On **Sunday, March 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, GSWA will hold a one-day *Workday for Volunteers* at its 53-acre Conservation Management Area (CMA) in Harding Township. This open space property is the site of an ongoing forest and wetland restoration project. Like many other managed nature preserves, the CMA is free and open to the public throughout the year, and is accessible via an extensive system of hiking trails and boardwalks.

Working under the direction of staff experts, volunteers will help GSWA prepare the CMA property for new springtime visitors. Tasks will be varied and may include trail maintenance, fence and boardwalk repair, and removal of invasive plant species. Participants should meet at the CMA's main gate located at **1 Tiger Lily Lane** in Harding Township, NJ. A free continental breakfast will be provided. Waterproof footwear and appropriate outdoor work clothing are essential for safe participation.

On **Saturday, March 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, GSWA will offer a *Stream Assessment Training for Volunteers*. Participants will learn how to assess the health of a stream by conducting a visual stream assessment survey.

An early-morning indoor classroom session will teach the science and methodology required in order to visually identify environmental factors that impact stream health. A late-morning outdoor practicum will help volunteers hone their new assessment skills by using them to evaluate a nearby stream site. Volunteers will also learn how to supplement visual assessments by conducting a survey of macroinvertebrate wildlife populations within a stream.

This special volunteer workshop will be led by GSWA's Director of Water Quality Programs Laura Kelm and members of the AmeriCorp New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program. The participating Watershed Ambassadors will represent four of New Jersey's 16 recognized watershed management areas (WMAs), including the Pompton-Pequannock-Wanaque-Ramapo River region (aka WMA 3); the Lower Passaic-Saddle River region (aka WMA 4); the Hackensack-Hudson-Pascack River region (aka

WMA 5); and the Upper/Middle Passaic-Whippany-Rockaway River region (aka WMA 6). Volunteers wishing to work in any of these watershed regions are welcome to attend the training.

The visual assessment workshop will take place at GSWA's headquarters located at **568 Tempe Wick Road** in Morristown. A continental breakfast will be served free of charge.

To volunteer for either of these events, please register online at ***GreatSwamp.org*** or call **(973) 538-3500 x22**. Registering in advance ensures that the organization will have enough supplies to support all participating volunteers. In all cases, volunteers who are new to GSWA will be asked to complete a waiver before beginning work.

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*About the Great Swamp Watershed Association.* Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the water and land of New Jersey's 36,000-acre Great Swamp Watershed region. GSWA works with stakeholders in Morris County and Somerset County municipalities to maintain the health and beauty of open spaces; to educate the public about regional environmental issues; and to monitor and safeguard the five headwater streams—Loantaka Brook, Great Brook, Primrose Brook, Black Brook, and the Upper Passaic—that feed the Great Swamp and the Passaic River.