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THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT
HONORS 2019 DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER
JANE LADKY

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to Three Rivers Park District, Jane Ladky, of Edina, has been awarded the Park District's Distinguished Volunteer Service Award for her service as an Animal Care Specialist and Natural Resources Monitor at Richardson Nature Center.

Ladky has been volunteering for Three Rivers for over 13 years. In that time, she has volunteered a total of 996 hours, with 69 hours last year. As an Animal Care Specialist Ladky provides specialized care every week to the raptors at Richardson Nature Center including an American kestrel, a red-tailed hawk and a broad-winged hawk. Raptor care volunteers complete extensive training to gain in-depth knowledge about raptors, technical skills and safety precautions. In addition to feeding and caring for the raptors, Ladky shares her vast knowledge with park guests who visit the nature center. Ladky is also a Natural Resources Monitor, catching, identifying and releasing adult dragonflies and searching for and counting Monarch larvae on milkweed plants for two citizen science projects.

What motivates Ladky to volunteer all these years? "I love the work I do as a Raptor Care volunteer," Ladky explained. "My favorite experience is being at the nature center and seeing how excited visitors, school kids and families are to be there."

What's it like to be a volunteer for Three Rivers? "I feel so welcomed and appreciated when I come in for my Friday morning Raptor Care shift. I am grateful for the friendships I've made and I feel like everyone there is family to me," Ladky said.

(more)

Distinguished Volunteers/2

"Jane is a wonderful volunteer and her positive energy and sense of humor is infectious," said Outdoor Education Supervisor Michael Gottschalk. "The work Jane does with our raptors requires specialized training and attention to detail and we appreciate her efforts very much."

The Park District benefits from the services of volunteers in many ways, including farm, nature, recreation, art and history program assistance, patrolling slopes and trails, surveying wildlife, assisting with special events and races, gardening and collecting prairie seeds. For more information about volunteer opportunities within the Park District, visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer or contact the Volunteer Office at 763-559-6706.

Ladky will be honored by the Park District Board of Commissioners at an award ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at the Administrative Center in Plymouth.

About Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system that manages park reserves, regional parks, regional trails and special-use facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Park District offers facilities for every season, including picnicking, swimming, creative play, boating, fishing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, golf, camping and sledding; extensive trails for hiking, biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as program sites for nature, recreation, art, historic and farm education.

Three Rivers Park District's mission is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. The Park District owns and operates over 27,000 acres and serves more than 12.5 million visitors a year.

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