

Mary Handelsman

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I joined the volunteer Manitou Creek Watershed Alliance several years ago after being pleasantly surprised that such a group existed. I became more involved in the Manitou Creek Drainage District (MCDD) projects and discussions after learning my home was in the district and not just the watershed. I have been assisting MCDD over the past several months. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my skills and experience as an appointed member of the MCDD board, and to be able to promote good environmental stewardship of the creek among residents.

I feel my experience will assist in this capacity. My passion outdoors has been natural gardening. My job experience was in accounting and finance with a focus on project accounting and included construction and landscaping industries. I've been involved with volunteer activities for many years.

- 43 year resident of Lake County
- BS DePaul University with major in Accounting, CPA, retired
- Over 80% course completion Chicago Botanic Garden Naturalist Program
- Living on Manitou Creek since 1990. About 1 ½ acres have been maintained as natural landscape since 1990 with relatively good quality oak/hickory open woodland
- Streambank restoration in 2000 with C2000 grant through Lake County Soil and Water
- Past board member, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Past board member and treasurer, Habitat for Humanity in Waukegan
- Past board member, president, plant rescue coordinator, program coordinator, Wild Ones in Grayslake
- Past volunteer, Audubon Chicago Region
- Past election judge
- Current member McHenry County Wildflower Preservation and Propagation (WPPC) plant sales committee, former coordinator seminar committee
- Current member Manitou Creek Watershed Alliance, co-chair 2023 Beaver Conflict Management Project
- Current active volunteer assisting Manitou Creek Drainage District at request of the current MCDD board.