

Chapter Nine: Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Minneapolis residents were asked a series of questions about volunteer opportunities.

Increase the Number of Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are an important part of the Minneapolis Park system including youth athletic coaches and caring for natural areas.

Do you think the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board should increase the number of volunteer opportunities? Do you feel strongly that way?

Only sixteen support the Board increasing the number of volunteer opportunities, while a majority, 57% oppose.

STRONGLY SUPPORT6%
SUPPORT	10%
OPPOSE	46%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	11%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	27%

Support is higher among:

- Commissioner District One residents
- residents in the Northeast Service Area
- residents born between 1946 and 1964
- over \$75,000 annual income households
- households with children
- Recreation Center users
- monthly visitors to neighborhood parks
- East African and Somalis

It is lower among:

- Commissioner Districts Five and Six residents
- residents in the Southeast Service Area
- homeowners
- residents born before 1946
- less \$25,000 annual income households
- households without children

- residents for over thirty years
- residents who don't use Recreation Centers
- residents who don't visit neighborhood parks often
- weekly and monthly visitors to regional parks
- American Indian and Alaskan Natives

Those in support of the Board increasing the number of volunteer opportunities were asked two follow-up questions.

What kind of additional volunteer opportunities would you like to see offered?

Only two opportunities were suggested by more than ten percent: “park maintenance” at 20% and “enrichment instructors” at 11%.

UNSURE	13%
LANGUAGE TRANSLATORS	3%
GREETERS/INFORMATION DESK	9%
FLYERS/SIGN DELIVERY	3%
COACHES	8%
PARK MAINTENANCE	20%
ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS	11%
EVENTS STAFF	4%
PLAYGROUND ASSISTANTS	5%
SECURITY	6%
LANDSCAPING/GARDENING	5%
YOUTH MENTORS	5%
TUTORS	6%
SCATTERED	2%

“Park maintenance” is cited at a higher rate by:

- weekly visitors to neighborhood parks

“Enrichment instructors” is mentioned by:

- residents currently not working
- Recreation Center users

Would you be willing to volunteer for the Minneapolis Park system? How many hours per week would you be willing to volunteer?

Overall, only about eight percent would be willing to volunteer for the Minneapolis Park system.

NO	33%
YES/ONE TO TWO HOURS.....	35%
YES/THREE TO FOUR HOURS.....	10%
YES/FIVE HOURS OR MORE	3%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	20%

“No” is posted at a higher rate by:

- Commissioner District Three residents
- renters
- residents currently not working
- less \$25,000 annual income households
- East African and Somalis

“Yes/one to two Hours” is cited most frequently by:

- over \$75,000 annual income households
- Recreation Center users

Summary and Conclusions

Only sixteen percent of the sample support the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board increasing the number of volunteer opportunities. A majority, 57%, oppose such action. Among the sixteen percent, only two items: “park maintenance” and “enrichment instructors” post over 1% of the overall sample. Only eight percent indicate they would be willing to volunteer hours with the Minneapolis Park system.