

# 2022 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING



# who we are

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) provides volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals who wish to make an impact in their community. Every day, volunteers bring invaluable skills, knowledge, and experience to further the MPRB's mission. Their work is critical, enhancing our ability to provide exceptional programs and experiences for all park users. We value their passion and dedication. We are proud to collaborate and appreciate their assistance coaching youth sports, caring for our gardens and natural areas, assisting at special events, and leading park programming.

Covid-19 pandemic impacted the way we operated volunteer programming for two full seasons from 2020-2021. In 2022 pandemic restrictions were lifted and park volunteers returned in full force; eager to give, learn, and connect with their communities.

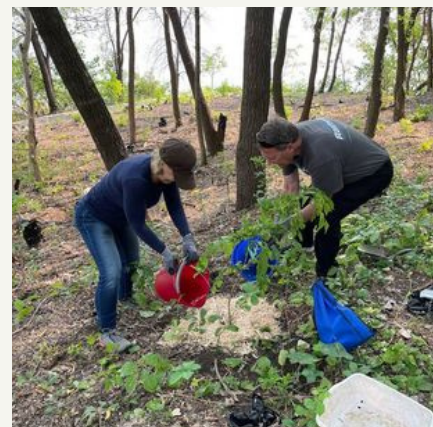
To our park volunteers: We learn so much from you. You bring resilience, imagination, hope, and inspiration to all. You have ensured that our gardens are beautiful, our parks well-tended, and our children have a safe and welcoming place to play -- for that we thank you.

As we look back on 2022 in this report, we celebrate the brilliant work undertaken by volunteers, and the connections they have built through their shared commitment to our beautiful city and Minneapolis Parks.

Prepared by:

Sherry Brooks, Volunteer Coordinator-Environmental Stewardship

Tim Grate, Athletic Program Manager





# 8690 volunteers in 2022



## RECREATION

2426



## ENVIRONMENTAL

6264

# Environmental

GARDENS AND NATURAL AREAS





# our environmental volunteers

"In nature, nothing exists alone." - Rachel Carson



# one-time groups

140 groups (back to pre-pandemic levels!)

2640 volunteers 6320 hours

One-time groups care for our gardens and natural areas at locations throughout the system. Group opportunities are offered April - November and are weather dependent. Tasks vary by season and include planting, weeding, mulching, pulling invasive species, picking trash, weeding, pruning, and general landscape care. Each team has a dedicated staff lead ensuring a successful event.





# park stewards

2311 volunteers 17,149 hours 86 sites

The Park Stewards Program allows groups or individuals to restore, maintain, and beautify our gardens and natural areas. Sites are tended as needed according to the terms of each agreement. Park Stewards teams' range in size from 2-3 to more than 50 volunteers. Most stewardship teams are involved in invasive species or gardening work. Park Stewards work independently with staff guidance.





# garden groups

"We've got to get back to the garden." - Joni Mitchell

195 volunteers 1493 hours

Staff led volunteer recurring opportunities exist at several of our gardens. Volunteers assist staff with ongoing maintenance needs.


Community Garden Leads serve as a point of contact between staff and plot gardeners to ensure that gardens are well maintained, equitable, and accessible.



# earth day

"Save your earth, you can't get off." - Unknown, 1970

1118 volunteers 2795 hours

35 sites, 3640 lbs of trash 

The 2022 Earth Day Celebration continued the pandemic inspired "DIY" (Do-It-Yourself) theme. Trash bags, gloves, and instructions were made available for pick up at participating park sites. Volunteers were encouraged to share pictures of their haul on social media using the hashtag #mplsDIYEarthDay.

# Recreation

COACHES AND PARK PROGRAMS





# our recreation volunteers

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." - Arthur Ashe

FALL/WINTER  
COACHES



SPRING/SUMMER  
COACHES



PARK PROGRAM  
GO-TO CREWS



# fall/winter

464 Youth Soccer Coaches! #soccergoals

6 youth sports programs 1159 volunteers  
60,770 hours

Under the direction of full-time park staff youth sports coaches support our athletic leagues throughout the city. Coaching opportunities exist year-round.

Fall and winter volunteers coach soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, & hockey.





# spring/ summer

"The team comes first." - Simone Biles

4 youth sports programs 422 volunteers  
22,340 hours

Opportunities exist for all levels of commitment. Coaches work with park directors on scheduling times for team practice and games.

Spring and summer volunteers coach gymnastics, baseball, softball, & track.



# park programs

Our "Go-To Crew"

845 volunteers 7814 hours

Year-round programs and community events create a vibrant inclusive community. Go-To Crew volunteers assist with neighborhood festivals, holiday and cultural celebrations, and park activities. Activities may include facilitating a craft activity or monitoring game or playtime.



# give thanks & accolades



## **APPRECIATION PROGRAMMING**

We seek to recognize and celebrate the commitment of our volunteers for their enormous positive impact in our parks through meaningful appreciation activities that align with their volunteer preferences.



## **ACTIVITIES & SWAG**

Appreciation activities include invite only social and learning opportunities, t-shirts, swag, shout-outs and highlights on social media, GovDelivery and at neighborhood parks.

# appreciation/swag

"Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone." - Gertrude Stein



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION ➡ OPEN HOUSE



Wednesday, May 25  
4-6pm


Lyndale Park Gardens, 1300 W 42nd St  
RVSP @ <https://bit.ly/3EJuJu4>

Food, Door Prizes, Fun Swag  
Garden Tours, Free Plants




# social media shout outs

”Get in good trouble...” - John Lewis

 **MPRB Volunteers**  
Published by RM Smothers · November 14, 2022 ·

Thank you for the trellises, Yengkong Lee -- they will get plenty of use by our Community Garden Program gardeners! 🍌🍅🍆  
P.S. - Yengkong is a member of Troop 100. He obtained Eagle Scout status earlier this year. ❤️  
[Northern Star Scouting #youngleaders](#)



 **MPRB Volunteers**  
Published by RM Smothers · September 2 ·

Let Robin R. chase your clouds away at Sibley Triangle where everyday is a sunny day...☀️🌻  
Location: 517 5th St NE. [St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association](#) [St. Anthony West Neighborhood Organization \(STAWNO\)](#)  
[#GardenTour](#) [#newsfromthestews](#) ❤️



 **MPRB Volunteers**  
Published by RM Smothers · November 3, 2022 ·

Another fantastic team from Richfield High School Work-Based Learning Program. Callie Team # did an amazing job cleaning up the perennial and annual beds around the Turtle (Phelps) Fountain. Thanks for helping us get ready for 2023! [Richfield Public Schools #highschoolife](#) [Lyndale Park Gardens](#)





# fun facts

And random tidbits...

- Basketball coaches rock! Collectively contributing 22,420 hours! 🏀
- 100% of park stewardship volunteer survey respondents recommend the Park Stewardship Program! #surveysays
- 118,877 hours served, equivalent to:
  - 2972 full-time 40-hour work weeks
  - 57 years of full-time employment
  - \$3,843,293\*
- Value to the MPRB community - #priceless



\*estimated value of volunteer time in MN: \$32.33/hr

\*<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>



# contact us

## **RECREATION**

Email: [recvolunteers@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:recvolunteers@minneapolisparcs.org)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Email: [volunteers@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:volunteers@minneapolisparcs.org)

## **FIND US ON THE WEB**

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[minneapolisparcs.org/volunteer](https://minneapolisparcs.org/volunteer)



**Minneapolis**  
Park & Recreation Board