2020 Volunteer Impact
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board engages citizens by providing volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals to make an IMPACT in their community. Volunteerism plays an important role in creating support for the organization by educating and building RELATIONSHIPS with citizens. Every day, volunteers of the MPRB work to change the world. They bring invaluable skills, knowledge, and experience to help further the MISSION of the organization. Volunteers’ work in the COMMUNITY is critical to MPRB’s ability to provide exceptional experiences to all park users. We value the PASSION and dedication of all volunteers who collaborate with us to:

- coach youth sports
- care for gardens and natural areas
- assist with special events
- lead programming in our parks

2020 brought immense challenges that impacted the way we work, play, socialize and volunteer. Recreation centers were closed and youth sports leagues were put on hold or cancelled. Outdoor environmental volunteering continued with pandemic related restrictions: reduced group sizes, social distancing, and other safety protocols. These challenges also brought great resilience, imagination, and hope. We have learned much from you -- our park volunteers. You have provided opportunities to connect and realize hope. You have ensured that our gardens are beautiful, our parks well-tended and our kids have a place to play. THANK YOU!

And THANK YOU to volunteer supervisors who work hard to provide positive, meaningful experiences for our volunteers.

The following report highlights the brilliant work completed and amazing connections made by MPRB Volunteers in 2020.

Prepared by:
Sherry Brooks, Volunteer Coordinator-Environmental Stewardship
Nicole Zappa, Volunteer Coordinator-Recreation
3068 total volunteers
2172 environmental volunteers
896 recreation volunteers
"There appears to be more humanity shared with each other, whether walking, biking, skating, or volunteering. Just start to live for the moment, make the best of the life we have now." - Dave S. Garden Volunteer
recreation

citywide athletics & rec centers

"Coaches have been doing a great job modeling positive behavior, including COVID protocol! Parents are over the moon!"
- MPRB Youth Soccer Parent
As a community garden lead, I helped to make sure gardeners were successful this year & facilitated our future gardens vision. Volunteering has been deeply meaningful & a peaceful escape from the hustle of daily life.” - Laura C.
community events, gardening & more

“We see the future not as something out of our control, but as something we can shape for the better through concentrated and collective effort.”

- President Barack Obama
we appreciate you
kudos & swag

MPRB staff seek to recognize and celebrate the energy and commitment of volunteers for their tremendous positive impact in our parks. Volunteer Appreciation Programming seeks to support and encourage year-round volunteerism through appreciation activities that acknowledge volunteers in meaningful ways that align with their volunteer preferences.

Appreciation activities include:
- t-shirts, caps, totes, water bottles & other useful swag
- invite only social & learning opportunities
- shout-outs & spotlights on social media, GovDelivery & at neighborhood parks
"Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone."

-Gertrude Stein
2020 at a glance
random tidbits & fun facts

- 71 group projects - one group safely conducted two job interviews during their garden event!
- 121 new volunteer applications submitted
- Ready for spring - 2380 tulips planted
- 3 sites hosted volunteer-led Sports Clinics in August
- 387 Winter Sports Coaches (basketball, hockey and wrestling, pre-pandemic)
- 211 Fall Sports Coaches (flag football and soccer)
- 1620 cubic yards of soil moved, that's 300 bathtubs full!
- Lots of fun provided by costumed volunteers and staff at the first ever drive-thru Halloween event
- 74 steward teams tended our gardens & natural areas
- 600 DIY Earth Day volunteers
- 753 Facebook followers
- 4 virtual Positive Coaching Alliance Workshops held for MPRB Youth sports coaches
- 724 Environmental Group Service Project Volunteers
contact us
we'd love to hear from you

Recreation Volunteer Programs
Nicole Zappa
nzappa@minneapolisparks.org

Environmental Volunteer Programs
Sherry Brooks
sbrooks@minneapolisparks.org

Find us on the Web!
facebook.com/mprbvolunteers
minneapolisparks.org/volunteer

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board