2021 Minneapolis Parks & Recreation

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING
who we are

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) 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 by educating and building community relationships. Every day, volunteers bring invaluable skills, knowledge and experience to further the MPRB's mission. Volunteers' work is critical to our 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, and lead programming in our parks.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to bring immense challenges that impact the way we work, play, socialize, and volunteer. Most volunteer programs returned in 2021 but with continued pandemic related restrictions: masking, social distancing, and additional 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 give, connect, and maintain a bit of normalcy during these stressful times. You have ensured that our gardens are beautiful, our parks well-tended, and our kids have a welcoming place to play -- for that we thank you.

Additionally, we would like to thank our amazing staff who supervised and worked tirelessly to provide positive, meaningful experiences for our volunteers.

The following report highlights the brilliant work completed and amazing connections made by MPRB Volunteers in 2021.

Prepared by:
Sherry Brooks, Volunteer Coordinator-Environmental Stewardship
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6010 volunteers in 2021

RECREATION
776

ENVIRONMENTAL
5234
Environmental Gardens and Natural Areas
our environmental volunteers

"All things are possible in May." - Edwin Way Teale
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 to ensure a positive experience.

135 groups  2204 volunteers  5014 hours
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

131 volunteers  1211 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 gardeners to ensure that gardens are well maintained, equitable, and accessible.
earth day

"The Earth is what we all have in common." - Wendell Berry

502 volunteers  1255 hours  2359 lbs collected

Due to the ongoing pandemic the 2021 Earth Day Celebration was “DIY” style (Do-It-Yourself). Trash bags, gloves, and instructions were made available for pick up at participating park sites. Volunteers were encouraged to practice social distancing, follow current Covid-19 guidelines, and share pictures of their haul on social media using the hashtag #mplsDIYEarthDay.
Recreation
COACHES AND PARK PROGRAMS
our rec volunteers

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

FALL/WINTER COACHES

SPRING/SUMMER COACHES

PARK PROGRAMS
fall/winter

6 youth sports programs  519 volunteers
32,830 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.
4 youth sports programs 257 volunteers 14,560 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.
Year-round community events create a vibrant inclusive community. Events range from neighborhood festivals, holiday celebrations, and more. The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly affected our ability to offer park program volunteer opportunities due to building closures and pandemic restrictions.
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
social media shout outs

"Get in good trouble..." - John Lewis
fun facts

"It’s been a crazy season, why not close it out in crazy fashion.” - Paul W., Park Stewards Volunteer

- 159 youth soccer coaches. Look Ma, no hands!
- 135 group events - an increase of 65 from 2020!
- 817 Facebook followers
- 70,713 hours served, equivalent to:
  - 1768 full-time work weeks
  - 34 years of fulltime employment
  - $2,190,689*
- Value to the MPRB community - positively priceless

*estimated value of volunteer time in MN: $31/hr
*https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_state_2021/
contact us

RECREATION
Email: recvolunteers@minneapolisparks.org

ENVIRONMENTAL
Email: volunteers@minneapolisparks.org

FIND US ON THE WEB
facebook.com/mprbvolunteers
minneapolisparks.org/volunteer

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board