2022 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING
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:
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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 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.

140 groups (back to pre-pandemic levels!)
2640 volunteers  6320 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

“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.
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.
our recreation volunteers

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” - Arthur Ashe
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
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@minneapolisparks.org

ENVIRONMENTAL
Email: volunteers@minneapolisparks.org

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