



2023 VOLUNTEER

IMPACT REPORT

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

WHO WE ARE

The MPRB is proud to provide volunteer opportunities to individuals and groups who want to make a difference in their community. Our volunteers bring invaluable skills, knowledge, and experience to help us achieve our mission. Their contributions enhance our ability to offer exceptional programs and experiences for park users. We are grateful for their passion and dedication.

To our park volunteers: thank you! You bring resilience, imagination and inspiration to our city. You help us maintain beautiful gardens and parks. You create a safe and welcoming environment for our children and community. As we reflect on 2023, we celebrate the wonderful work that volunteers have accomplished and the connections they have built through their shared commitment to the Minneapolis Parks.

-The MPRB Volunteer Team



2023 SNAPSHOT



12,091

Total Volunteers



81,490

Hours Served



\$2,808,960

***Est. volunteer
time
MN value:
\$34.47/hr**

* independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/
CLICK "newest value of volunteer time report"

**“Be yourself; everyone else is
already taken.”**

Oscar Wilde, -Poet & Playwright



RECREATION

Coaches, Community Centers, Neighborhood Parks



COMMUNITY CENTERS AND PARKS

Our recreation centers would be lost without our amazing volunteers! From tackling mundane administrative duties to lending a helping hand for events and festivals, they are the glue that holds our centers together. Programs like Senior Teas and Tiny Tot Preschools count on the energy of volunteers to run smoothly. And we all know how rowdy seniors and tots can be!

"Volunteer enthusiasm and creativity help make our parks come alive!" -Rachel Hoben, Recreation Center Supervisor



COACHES

Youth coaches are a crucial part of athletic leagues throughout the city, offering year-round mentorship and guidance to young athletes. Fundamental coaches typically concentrate on teaching children aged 4-9 basic skills, while youth coaches specialize in ages 9-18. Working with park directors, volunteer coaches coordinate practice and game times.

1474 coaches! 9069 youth participants!

Twice a year, we have exciting opportunities available for volunteers who have a passion for coaching a diverse range of sports.

SPRING/SUMMER SPORTS

Gymnastics, baseball, softball, and track.

FALL/WINTER SPORTS

Soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and hockey.





“GO TO CREWS”

“Go-To Crew” volunteers assist at Recreation Center Events across the city.

“Crew” time tasks include running activities, monitoring bounce houses, or setting up and taking down event decorations.



"Volunteering is a form of recreation - some people golf, some play pickleball and some like to dig in the dirt."

Mark Schmidt, Cedar Lake Park Steward Lead



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental volunteers join forces with other green thumbs to assist with all aspects of landscape management. Whether they're a crew of 2 or 50, volunteers support our parks by removing invasive species, picking trash, weeding, planting, and pruning.



GARDEN

STAFF LED GARDENING SESSIONS

Under the direction of MPRB's horticulture staff, volunteers assist with all aspects of garden care spring through fall. Weekly, bi-monthly, and monthly opportunities are available at sites across the city.

450 volunteers participated in staff led garden opportunities!

COMMUNITY GARDEN LEADS

Volunteers are the backbone of MPRB's community garden program. Community Garden leads serve as a point of contact between staff and plot garden participants to ensure that gardens are well maintained, equitable, and accessible.

"A garden is not a place. It's a journey." -Monty Don



GROUP SERVICE PROJECTS

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY TEAMS

Volunteer groups assist with the ongoing maintenance of gardens and natural areas throughout the park system. Group project opportunities are offered during non-snow months. Tasks differ by season and include planting, weeding, mulching trees and trails, invasive species removal, and picking trash. Monday - Friday opportunities are available for groups of up to 50 volunteers.

Each team is assigned a dedicated staff lead to ensure a smooth and successful event.

We went big in 2023 with 130 service projects!





TREES!

ARBOR DAY

Each year our arborists call upon volunteers to join them in planting trees at the annual Arbor Day event. This shindig is open to anyone who wants to get their hands dirty. The 2023 event was held at Windom Northeast Park, but the arborists put in loads of prep work beforehand, hosting 281 Pillsbury Elementary students and staff in a pre-planting party over two days. 187 new trees in the ground!

See you at McRae Park on April 26!

TREE CARE

Mulching, sucker pruning, and bucket brigade watering are common tasks.

Picture this: a massive pile of mulch, as colossal as a cement mixer truck, as much as 15 cubic yards! That's the amount of mulch volunteers spread during a typical tree-mulching event. Bring on the wheelbarrows!





PARK STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Program provides opportunities for groups and individuals to care for gardens and natural areas in the park system. Volunteers maintain each site as needed within the framework of a Stewardship Agreement tailored to the site. Through our stewards program, volunteers have the opportunity to build deep, long-lasting connections with our parks and the land.

95 stewardship teams!

NATURAL AREAS

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Volunteers perform a variety of tasks with in the park system, including -

- Monitoring and reporting of invasive species.
- Cutting, pulling, piling and hauling invasive woody species such as buckthorn.
- Pulling, deadheading, and bagging invasive herbaceous species.

NATIVE PLANT SEEDING/PLANTING

Efforts to restore natural habitats in 2023 included not only controlling invasives but also planting and seeding native species in the late autumn and winter seasons

300 native shrub species planted!

Get this: volunteers sowed a whopping 11 acres of native prairie and woodland seed!





SPECIAL EVENTS

EARTH DAY

The Earth Day Event in Minneapolis is the city's largest community service project, with cleanup sites throughout the park system. This event is a collaboration between the City of Minneapolis and the MPRB.

Volunteers picked up a whopping 8620 pounds of trash - that's the weight of 2155 chihuahuas! Imagine that!

LARGE EVENT ASSISTANCE

When it comes to special events in our parks, our heroic volunteers go above and beyond! Whether it's setting up, tearing down, or even directing traffic, they're always there to lend a hand.





MENTORS

Our mentor program empowers youth aged 10-14 by providing them with adult role models who support and encourage learning and growth opportunities. We provide training to ensure mentors are well equipped to undertake this important role.

Mentors engage in a variety of activities, including planned events held in parks or within the community. Additionally, they are available to offer support whenever their mentee needs it.

Mentors help shape the future community leaders of tomorrow.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou



COMMUNITY ADVISORY

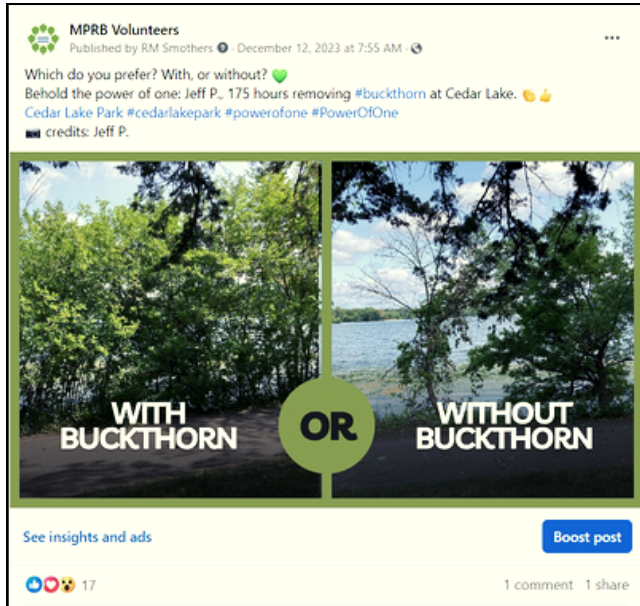
Community members serve on two types of formal committees at MPRB. Project-based Community Advisory Committees (CACs) advise planners on specific park areas when long-range plans are being created. Standing committees work on topic areas of interest to MPRB, such as the urban forest, bicycling, and transit projects. Currently, MPRB appoints to five standing committees.

Pictured above: The 2023 Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission.

**"We are each other's harvest;
we are each other's business;
we are each other's magnitude
and bond."**

Gwendolyn Brooks - Author, Poet, Teacher

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Highlights and shout-outs on our Facebook and Instagram pages because we appreciate YOU!

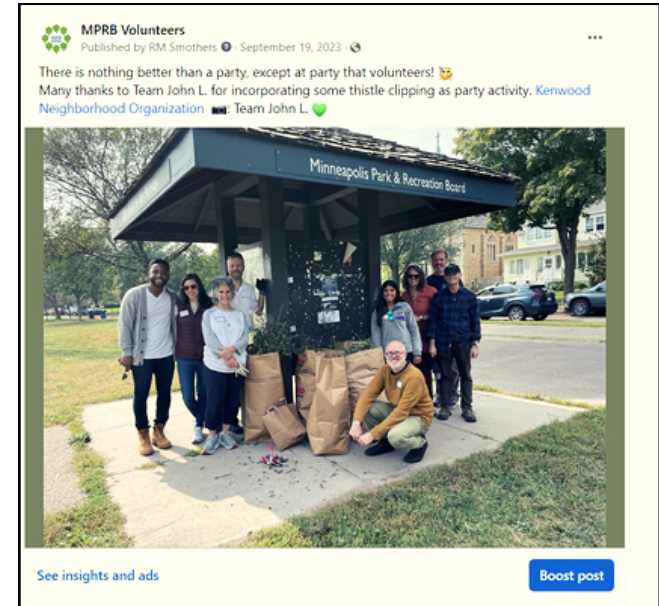
@mprbvolunteers



SWAG & PRIZES

T-shirts, totes, stickers, patches, plants, tools, work gloves...just a sampling of our appreciation booty.

You're worth it!



FOOD, FUN & FRIENDS!

Attend our annual spring open house. Meet co-conspirators for good and enjoy a nosh or two on us!

Save the Date! 5/15/24!



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Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

