Volunteer Services Program

Annual Report
2016-2017

Letter from the Staff

This year marked another exceptional year of volunteerism with the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. Our department saw growth from our community citizens donating their time, talents, and resources to enhance our programs, facilities, parks and greenway trails. The Volunteer Services Staff is proud to present the 2016-2017 Volunteer Services Program Annual Report.

This year we celebrated some great successes. Here are a few key highlights:

- We had another record year of volunteer participation with nearly 14,000 volunteers assisting with park enhancement projects, youth athletic leagues, special events, and much more. Over 149,000 volunteer hours were contributed to the department with the volunteer service being valued at over $3.5 Million.
- The department hosted its first AmeriCorps NCCC team to assist with invasive plant management at Fallon Park. The team partnered with the City of Raleigh's Foster Grandparents program, an AmeriCorps Vista program, to educate local elementary students about invasive plant species. This was the first partnership of its kind between AmeriCorps programs across the United States.
- The 2017 Fred Fletcher Outstanding Volunteer Awards celebrated its 22nd year of honoring volunteerism in our City of Raleigh Parks System. This year, we recognized 15 outstanding volunteers in 12 categories who embodied the volunteerism spirit of Mr. Fred Fletcher.
- Our 3rd Annual It's My Park and Trail Day took place during National Volunteer Week to promote volunteerism within the City of Raleigh Parks System. This year's annual day of service saw growth with our volunteers who participated in 11 staffed park clean-ups and cleaned up an additional 25 parks and 30 miles of greenway in just one day.

We want to thank you for your passion, dedication, and support to enhance and beautify the City of Raleigh. Because of YOU, the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department continues to expand its resources, develop positive community relationships, and provide a great place for Raleigh Citizens to live and play.

Thanks for all you do,

Ashley Deans
Resource Development Manager

Mary Owens
Volunteer Services Coordinator

Leigh Bragassa
Invasive Program Coordinator

Bringing people to parks and parks to people

Volunteers Make An Impact

Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources' Volunteer Services Program offers opportunities for individuals, church groups, corporations, scouts, community organizations and school groups to contribute time, talents, and resources to enhance City of Raleigh parks, programs and facilities. You are able to make a big impact in your local community by joining our team. Check out all of the great things YOU helped our department accomplish this year through your volunteer service! To become a volunteer, visit the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources' Volunteer Services Program Webpage.

13,954 Volunteers

149,742.28 Volunteer Hours

$3,564,774.73 Value of Volunteer Service

2,000+ Volunteer Opportunities

Parks Division

The Raleigh Parks Division offers various volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to assist with park enhancement projects to beautify their local parks and greenway trails. By volunteering at your local park or trail, you are able to assist the department in providing a safe and beautiful outdoor green space. Volunteers are able to assist with a one-time event or participate in our ongoing volunteer programs, Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Trail. Over the past year, volunteer participation with park volunteer projects increased by 17% resulting in 728 more hours volunteered than last year . The growth in volunteer participation and hours served proved to be a great resource in keeping our parks and trails beautiful for all to enjoy.

Highlights

1,499 Volunteer Projects

5,968 Volunteers

13,191.45 Volunteer Hours

$310,418.91 Value of Volunteer Service

Amount of landscape material added to parks by volunteers	
1,134+	cubic yards of mulch
450+	cubic yards of woodchips
15+	cubic yards of gravel
17,340+	annuals/perennials
1,422.5+	bags of litter
10+	pallets of sod
7,000+	bulbs
128+	trees

Parks Division (cont.)

Volunteers in Parks (VIPs)

Volunteers of all ages serve our department by assisting with park enhancement and beautification projects through the Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Park programs. These ongoing volunteer opportunities allow individuals, families, and community organizations to adopt a City of Raleigh Park or a mile section of the Capital Area Greenway System. Volunteers complete quarterly volunteer projects which include: mulching and planting landscape beds, tree plantings, litter pick up, invasive plant species removal, adding surfacing to playgrounds, turf restoration, constructing split rail fences, and much more! This year, our VIPs adopted 102 miles of greenway trails and 67 local parks and contributed over 3,000 hours to beautify their parks and greenway trails.

Invasive Species Program

The Invasive Species Program allows volunteers to assist with the management of invasive plant species within the Raleigh Parks System. These exotic plants threaten the natural ecosystem, limit visibility, and affect safety in all our parks and greenways. The program serves as a resource to manage infestations, prevent introductions, and provide educational opportunities to all citizens. In its second year, the program increased its volunteer impact by removing invasive plant species in 21 parks. For more information on how to get involved, visit the Invasive Species Program Webpage.

Volunteer Impact

660 volunteers

2,117 volunteer hours

69 volunteer projects

$49,876.52 value of volunteer service

Recreation Division

The Recreation Division offers volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals to interact with patrons of all ages at our community centers and recreational programs and classes. Volunteers serve as holiday event and festival assistants, program and class instructors, Senior Games and Special Olympics assistants, Youth Athletic League Coaches, Art program assistants, Senior Club Liaisons, and much more! By serving as a Recreation volunteer, you are able to make a difference in an individuals life, share talents and skills, gain experience, and meet new friends!

Recreation Division volunteers contributed nearly 6,000 more volunteer hours than the previous year. The increase in volunteer hours resulted in a $220,257 increase in the value of volunteer service. The growth in volunteerism within the Recreation Division shows the passion and commitment volunteers have to connecting and enriching our local community.

Highlights

250+ Volunteer opportunities

5,107 Volunteers

91,055.38 Volunteer Hours

$2,182,562.42 Value of Volunteer Service

Recreation Division (cont.)

Special Events, Programs and Classes

Volunteers support Recreation special events, programs, and classes by serving as assistants and instructors. Special event volunteers assist with running games and activity stations and creating a fun experience for all participants. Volunteer instructors have the opportunity to teach participants new languages, skills, and knowledge and allow them to connect to their local community. This year, nearly every Community Center and Recreation Program utilized volunteers to enhance their site and program and make a difference in participants' lives.

Youth Athletic League Coach

Individuals can make a difference in a child's life by serving as a youth athletic league coach. Coaches teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and the value of a fair game. The Athletics Program's 16 youth athletic leagues rely on passionate volunteers who create a fun environment for all players. Volunteer coaches contributed nearly 13% more volunteer hours than the previous year, showing their commitment and dedication to mentoring players.

Volunteer Impact

428 Coaches

25,113 volunteer hours

16 youth athletic leagues

$591,662.28 value of volunteer service

Natural Resources Division

Volunteers assist the Natural Resources Division with preserving our natural resources through park enhancement projects and educational programs. Over the past year, individuals of all ages have volunteered their time to install new pollinator gardens, manually remove invasive plant species, construct new structures, clean up parks and trails, monitor animal activity, assist with special events, teach classes, maintain disc golf courses and much more!

Natural Resources volunteers were able to make a big impact this year at our lakes, nature preserves and natural resource sites by participating in over 250 volunteer opportunities.

Highlights

250+ Volunteer opportunities

1,013 Volunteers

3,941.5 Volunteer Hours

$92,855.85 Value of Volunteer Service

Historic Resources & Museums

The Historic Resources and Museums Program heavily relies on volunteers to assist with maintaining our historic sites and promoting the history of the City of Raleigh. Individuals and groups contribute their time and talents to assist with research projects, new museum exhibits, special events, guided tours, maintaining gardens, and much more! Volunteers were able to make a big impact this year by contributing 393 more volunteer hours and increasing volunteer participation by 21%

To become a volunteer and make an impact, visit the Historic Resources and Museums Program Volunteer Webpage.

Highlights

50+ Volunteer opportunities

1,085 Volunteers

9,214 Volunteer Hours

$217,081.84 Value of Volunteer Service

Advisory Boards & Commissions

The Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department offers citizens of Raleigh the opportunity to volunteer for various boards and commissions. These individuals provide leadership and serve as liaisons between City Council and our citizens. Boards and Commissions members are advocates for the positive growth of our department's parks and programs.

Serving as an advisory board or commission member is a great way to connect with others in the community and volunteer your talents and resources to provide a better place for citizens to live and play.

To learn how you can serve on an advisory board and commission, visit the Boards and Commissions Webpage.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Historic Resources & Museums Advisory Board

Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board

Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board

Public Art and Design Board

Raleigh Arts Commission

Dix Park Master Plan Advisory Committee

Dix Park Master Plan Executive Committee

2017 Fred Fletcher

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER
Awards

Since 1996, the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and the Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board have awarded Fred Fletcher Awards for Outstanding Volunteerism in the City of Raleigh Parks System to citizens, businesses, community organizations, and non-profit organizations.

The Fred Fletcher Volunteer Awards Program honors Mr. Fletcher's 54 years of dedicated service to the department as an Advisory Board member and chairman by honoring volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the programs, services, and facilities offered by the Department.

And the Winners are...

CATEGORY	NAME
Award of Excellence	Sallie Ricks
Outstanding Athletic Volunteer	Pamela Carpenter
Outstanding Financial Contributor	AT&T North Carolina
Outstanding Greenway Volunteer	Diamonds in the Sky and Falls Lake Red Foxes
Outstanding Adopt-A-Park Volunteer	Catherine and Al Blalock
Outstanding Adult Program Volunteer	Brenda Cameron
Outstanding Specialized Recreation Program Volunteer	Blair Callahan
Outstanding Volunteer Group	Method Boys to Men
Outstanding Project Volunteer	Yash Garg and Harish Chander
Outstanding Program Volunteer	David Shepherd
Outstanding Teen Volunteer	Erin Darnell
Outstanding Cultural Resources Volunteer	Mary Overcash

It’s My Park and Trail Day

Volunteers of all ages celebrated National Volunteer Week by participating in the City of Raleigh’s 3rd Annual It’s My Park and Trail Day. This Annual Day of Service promotes volunteerism in City of Raleigh Parks and Greenway Trails. Community citizens, corporate groups, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and church groups assisted with picking up litter and debris to make our Parks System beautiful for all to enjoy.

This year’s event had great success with volunteers cleaning up over 25 parks, 30 miles of greenway, and removing over 100 bags of litter from City of Raleigh green spaces.

151 volunteers

293.5 Volunteer Hours

$6,914.86 Value of Volunteer Service

Together we connect and enrich our community through exceptional experiences

RALEIGH Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

parks.raleighnc.gov

CITY OF RALEIGH NORTH CAROLINA