



Parks Volunteer Program & Valued Partnerships



Program Overview

- Parks volunteer program is in its **15th year!**
- Grown to almost 8,500 recorded volunteer hours in 2023, equivalent to **4 additional full time employees.**
- Volunteers provided an estimated national value of **over \$284,000 in the past year.**

Program Overview

- Bulk of volunteer hours come from half day events with community groups – including corporate volunteers, religious organizations & school groups.





Individual Volunteers

- Arboretum Gardeners
- Bowers Mansion Docents
- Discovery Room at Rancho San Rafael
- Galena Creek Visitor Center Hosts
- Hive Open Gym Volunteers
- Park Ranger Aides



Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

- Great Community Cleanup
- Truckee River Cleanup
- Adopt-A-Spot program
- Saturday Morning Cleanups





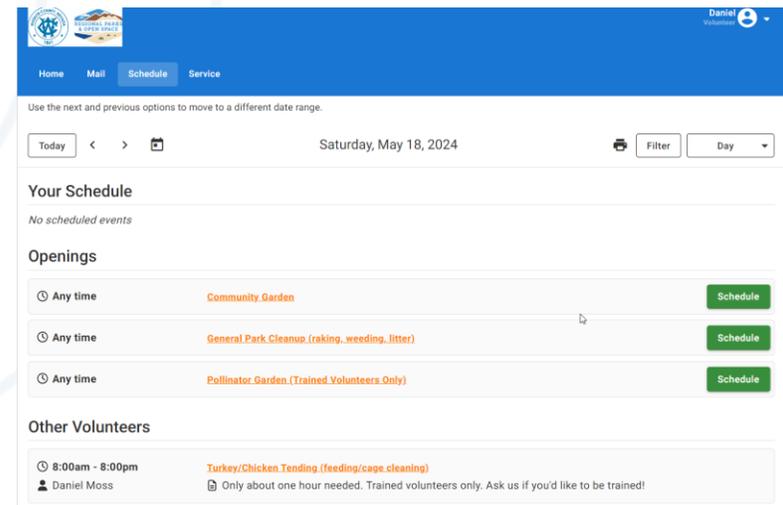
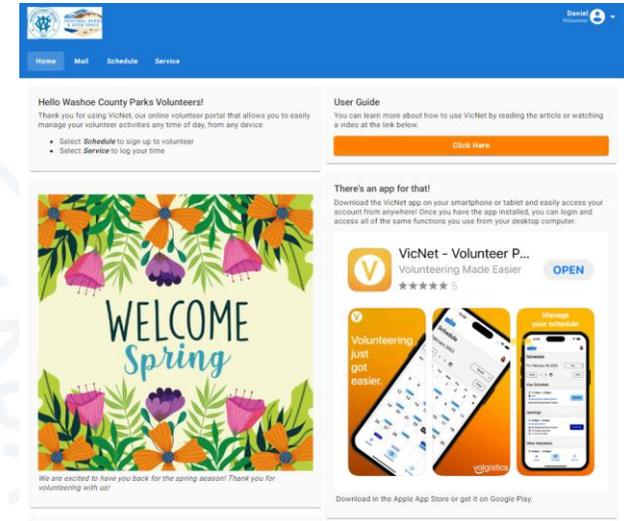
Trends

- Volunteer groups are smaller and more casually organized. Seems to indicate volunteering is becoming more of the day-to-day culture and less of a “special event”.
- Employers seem to be giving more paid time off to volunteer.
- More schools are requiring service hours for class or scholarship requirements.



Program Improvements

- We now subscribe to a Volunteer Management System (Volgistics) which allows individual volunteers to record their volunteer time online or with an app.
- Allows us to post messages for the volunteers, create a calendar with time-slots, and run reports.





Program Improvements

- Using Signup.com to organize community volunteer events with registration in a simple link.
- Created an electronic volunteer application and utilize online background checks. No more storing hard copies with sensitive information on them.
- Expanding partnerships to create more win/win opportunities!

Sierra Nevada Job Corps



Rancho San Rafael Pollinator Garden

- Sierra Nevada Job Corps Cement Masonry training program- tasked with building 7 concrete benches to install in the Pollinator Garden.
- Students earn industry-recognized credentials
- Hands-on training to prepare for high-skill quality employment



Cement Benches Project Involved:

- Pouring 14 cement pillars at Job Corps campus & on site
- Pouring, texturing, and sealing 7 concrete bench tops
- Installing and leveling 14 pillars in the garden (into pre-dug holes dug by Juvenile Services!)
- Installing and gluing 7 bench tops



Partnership to benefit both parties

- Sierra Nevada Job Corps students gained valuable experience and skill through project
- Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space gained 7 new beautiful concrete benches to enhance the new Rancho Pollinator Garden





Washoe County Juvenile Services



Partnering with Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space for 26 Years!



Washoe County Juvenile Services Work Program

- Work Program operates on weekends during the school year and weekdays during school breaks.
- Juveniles fulfill their community service hours locally, nurturing responsibility, empathy, and accountability. Motivating juveniles to make amends for their actions and positively contribute to their community.





Making a positive impact in parks

- Since 1998, Washoe County Juvenile Services work program has been working with Washoe County Parks to complete projects, clean-ups, and beautify our public spaces.
- 175,552 work crew hours have been spent in over 40 Washoe County Parks



Partnership to benefit both parties

- Parks need staff and Volunteers to help complete and maintain projects and landscapes within our parks.
- Juvenile Services has the number of crews needed, and Juveniles fulfill their community service requirements.
- Juvenile Services staff is professional, organized, and have excellent communication with Park Rangers and Staff.



Thank you

