

DATE ISSUED: April 15, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-078

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Park and Recreation Department Volunteer Contributions During
Fiscal Year 2003

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

In Fiscal Year 2003, the Park and Recreation Department (Department) received assistance from 23,279 dedicated volunteers who donated more than 143,238 hours to the City's parks, pools, recreation centers and the programs, activities, and events offered throughout the facilities. These dedicated volunteers saved the City of San Diego \$2,369,161.¹

BACKGROUND

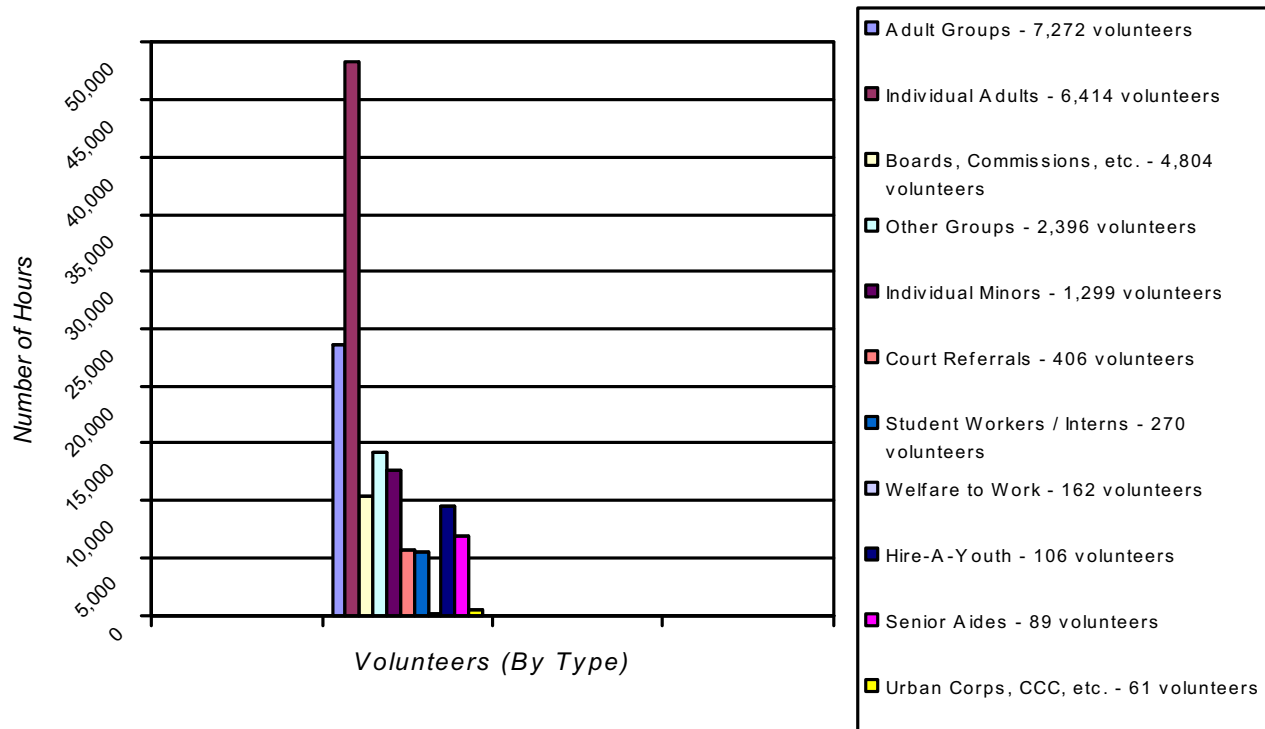
For many years, the Department has benefited from the contributions of adults, seniors and youth volunteers who serve in various capacities throughout the City's park system. The volunteers work on a wide range of activities including: trail restoration in our open space parks, assist with youth recreational programs, act as senior "telephone friends", and help plant trees in parks citywide.

Through the use of a successful recruitment program and a diverse "menu" of volunteer opportunities, the Department has been able to increase the number of our volunteers who participate each year, as well as consistently maintain a core group of faithful volunteers whose loyalty and commitment to the populations and programs they serve can go back decades.

¹ Based on a "salary" of \$16.54 per hour average wage. Source: President's Economic Report and published by the international Association for Volunteer Administration.

DISCUSSION

In FY2003, Department volunteers contributed thousands of hours, as categorized by the “type” of volunteer.



Each year, the Department honors exemplary volunteers through an annual Volunteer Recognition Event. Later this year, the 9th annual celebration event will take place in Balboa Park. As with the tradition of this event, it will be made possible through private donations and generous corporate sponsors.

To have the interest, enthusiasm, encouragement and input of “people who don’t have to act as if they care, because they care enough to act” is an enormous benefit to the City’s park system. It is with the help of dedicated volunteers who donate thousands of hours to their community’s recreational and leisure needs, that the lives of people of all ages, abilities and income are enriched each day throughout the City of San Diego.

Respectfully submitted,

 Ellen Oppenheim
 Director, Park and Recreation Department

 Approved: Bruce A. Herring
 Deputy City Manager

OPPENHEIM/SLM/CD