

2011 Plymouth Volunteer Services *annual report*

1,800+ volunteers
make a difference in
the community



A variety of time commitments

opportunities
for all ages



interests



- data entry
- senior computer instructor
- police reserves
- soccer coach
- primavera
- millennium garden
- ski chaperone
- volunteer in the park
- farmers market aide
- plymouth arts council
- clerical aide
- yard & garden
- wedding rehearsal coordinator
- flower planting
- fire & ice
- summer teen volunteer
- plymouth on parade
- special mailings

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The city's volunteer program is successful because we empower the volunteers. By placing them in roles that match their skill sets and trusting their abilities, we encourage their efforts and benefit from their successes.

A perfect example of this is our event captains. Volunteers identified with strong leadership and problem-solving skills take on greater roles of responsibility during major events including Fire & Ice, Yard & Garden Expo, Plymouth on Parade, Halloween at the Creek and New Year's Eve. Staff assigns them specific leadership roles and then trusts their ability to make sound decisions that will keep the event running smoothly.

One event captain commented, "I find helping out with these events so fulfilling. It's allowing a part of my personality to flourish, which encourages my confidence and provides overall satisfaction."

A Record-Breaking Year!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,062 hours – a record number! • 1,859 volunteers – a 30% increase over last year. Some volunteers participated in more than one department and/or program.
Value to the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer hours are valued at \$578,044 of contributions in kind. • The number of hours contributed is equivalent to 13 FTE.
By the Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 480 individuals made initial contact with the Volunteer Services office. • 151 applications were received. • 91 potential candidates were interviewed for regular or short-term positions.
New Volunteer Tasks This Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a coloring book for watershed education • Tree inventory in parks and public thoroughfares • Feasibility research on developing a package of water resource materials that residents can use to conserve water • Environmental outreach in elementary schools • Cashier assistant • Landscape maintenance at Fire Station 1 • Farmer's Market newsletter writer • Scan documents and save electronic copies • Power wash and stain park benches
Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 special events city-wide • 1,026 special event shifts
Who are our Volunteers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82% are Plymouth residents. • Volunteers came from 31 different cities. • 28% teens, 49% adults and 23% seniors • More women (53%) than men (47%) • 34 different community groups participated. • 6 Boy Scouts completed Eagle Scout projects in the parks. • 543 families adopted fire hydrants. • 186 individuals coordinated Night to Unite events.
Make a Difference - Volunteer!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 221 coaches – 1243 youth served • 21 ski chaperones – 526 youth served • 61 Park & Recreation Summer Teen volunteers – 2369 youth served • 45 parks adopted • 38 of miles of trail/streets adopted
Top 5 Ways Volunteers Heard About Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park & Recreation Activities Guide • City staff/volunteer • Club Y.E.S. (Youth Extending Service) at Wayzata High School • City website • Family member
Why Volunteer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Plymouth is such a great place to live. I love this place!" • "I want to adopt a trail in honor of my late dog, Rocky." • "The experience of being a Summer Teen Volunteer for the last four years has been priceless. Being a staff leader is my number one summer job priority next year." • "I've really enjoyed being involved with the City!" • "I make a difference and I'm only nine! I love volunteering."