

# VOLUNTEER SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2015



2,400+ VOLUNTEERS MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.

The City of Plymouth continues to provide leadership to other cities across Minnesota as they develop their own volunteer programs, presenting a model for creative and effective ways for residents to give back to their community.

It's hard to measure the impact of volunteers, but it's easy to feel the difference they make.



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<b>Another Big Year!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29,008 hours – volunteers keep coming forward to help!</li> <li>• 2,480 volunteers – a new record! Many volunteers participated in more than one department and/or program.</li> </ul>
<b>Value to the City</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer hours are valued at \$669,215 of contributions in kind.</li> <li>• The number of hours contributed is equivalent to 13.95 FTE.</li> </ul>
<b>By the Numbers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 486 individuals made initial contact with the Volunteer Services office.</li> <li>• 131 applications were received.</li> <li>• 69 potential candidates were interviewed for regular or short-term positions.</li> <li>• 65 requests for volunteers beyond major special events were received.</li> </ul>
<b>New Volunteer Tasks This Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a stand to hold a metal recycling sign used in special events.</li> <li>• Inspect new housing developments for compliance in planting trees.</li> <li>• Help teach children about growing vegetables in the Plant + Play program.</li> <li>• Inventory and inspect park assets such as bleachers, bridges and boardwalks.</li> <li>• Operate a “Goosinator” machine to keep geese away from public spaces.</li> <li>• Scrape paint from the Fire department training tower.</li> <li>• Take overhead photos of parks and business districts with a gyrocopter.</li> <li>• Custom design and sew storage bags for Minion and Olaf costumes.</li> <li>• Assist with water safety presentations at local elementary schools.</li> <li>• Assist with role-playing during active shooter training exercises.</li> <li>• Provide Mandarin translation during a City Council meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 86 volunteer-supported city events, providing front line customer service.</li> <li>• 958 event shifts.</li> <li>• 51,446 participants impacted by volunteer interactions.</li> </ul>
<b>Plantings and Outdoor Maintenance Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 204 volunteers assisted with plantings and outdoor maintenance projects.</li> <li>• 252 volunteers removed buckthorn from 4 city parks, trails and green space.</li> </ul>
<b>Who are our Volunteers?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% are Plymouth residents.</li> <li>• Volunteers reside in 33 different cities.</li> <li>• 21% teens, 43% adults and 36% seniors.</li> <li>• A very close percentage of women (51%) and men (49%) volunteered.</li> <li>• 54 community and family groups participated.</li> <li>• 8 Boy Scouts completed Eagle Scout projects in the parks.</li> <li>• 591 families adopted fire hydrants.</li> <li>• 170 neighborhoods coordinated Night to Unite events.</li> </ul>
<b>Make a Difference - Volunteer!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 238 coaches and ski chaperones – 2,004 youth served.</li> <li>• 10 open pickleball/open soccer volunteers – 1,105 participants served.</li> <li>• 31 Park &amp; Recreation Summer Teen volunteers – 2,221 youth served.</li> <li>• 49 parks, 18 miles of trails and 28 miles streets adopted.</li> <li>• 6 Chaplain Corps call outs to residents in crisis.</li> <li>• 72 seniors received one-on-one computer training from volunteers.</li> <li>• 11.3 miles of hearts painted every 1/10 mile on trails, totaling 58 miles to date.</li> <li>• 12,000 flowers planted in a morning.</li> <li>• 41 Millennium Garden wedding parties assisted.</li> <li>• 200,000 billing permit records electronically filed.</li> <li>• 36,400 Dog Poop Bags dispensed in 19 designated park locations.</li> <li>• 38 volunteers marked 211 storm drains to prevent storm water pollution.</li> <li>• 30 volunteers assisted with assembly projects.</li> <li>• 7 volunteers responded to 110 Santa Letters.</li> </ul>
<b>What our volunteers say:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good things happen when you volunteer.</li> <li>• I love the kids and fellow volunteers and especially your staff, too.</li> <li>• Retirement is not satisfying. I need to do something more active to help others.</li> </ul>
<b>What Staff members say:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He does a fantastic job for the City on these types of projects!</li> <li>• The community flower planting volunteers were wonderful.</li> <li>• She has been so great to have around for skate school!</li> <li>• It is amazing to see so many dedicated volunteers.</li> </ul>