

Parks & Recreation Volunteer Program Annual Report 2023

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OVERVIEW

A full-time volunteer program coordinator came on board in April 2023. Initial goals included assessing the current CCPR volunteer program to determine priority needs and beginning more accurate tracking of current volunteers. Except for the Natural Resources Division's Calvert Steward, all volunteer hours are based on self-reporting from key staff and should be considered estimates at this time. The reported number of volunteers for 2022 was 745 donating 36,386 hours Department-wide. Initial estimates for 2023 are 1970 volunteers donating 10,438 hours with a dollar equivalency of \$356,100 (numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred).

The current volunteer program consists of both regular volunteers, who volunteer on a regular basis in one or more Division, and special events volunteers, who volunteer on a limited basis for a special event, program or service event. Volunteer hours are categorized by Division, or sub-Division, or specialty program.

Dollar equivalency is determined using Independent Sector rates for Maryland which is \$34.12

(<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>)

Calvert Stewards

The Calvert Stewards are the volunteer branch of the Natural Resources Division friends' group, the Calvert Nature Society. Calvert Stewards use the Galaxy Digital volunteer management software to track the program. The Calvert Stewards had at least 108 volunteers who donated 5,600 service hours this year. Education and Wildlife Rescue had the highest number of service hours reported. Volunteerism peaked in June. See data for a full breakdown.

Aquatics

Aquatics Division volunteers are primarily Swim Team Assistants. Swim Team parents have been volunteering to assist at swim meets for many years, but this is the first year CCPR has attempted to track them as regular volunteers. The swim team season primarily runs during June and July, with 2 volunteer Swim Team Reps attending several pre-season meetings. Other areas of service are acting as timers, and lane or turn judges. Estimates for Swim Team Volunteers for 2023 are approximately 100 volunteers donating 1200 hours (~12 each). There was a great deal of difficulty gathering required paperwork and background screenings, so this process will need to be reassessed this year.

Recreation

The Recreation Division primarily recruits sports coaches and volunteer instructors as their regular volunteers. They also hosted several special events throughout the year which utilized volunteers.

- **Sports Coaches** – Sports coach volunteers are active year-round in a variety of sports: soccer, kickball, field hockey and basketball. Individual coach hours are not tracked, but the Sports Office reports a monthly estimate based on number of coaches and number of practices and games.
- **Recreation Instructors** – Volunteer instructors contributed to the following regular programs: baton, fencing, martial arts, fitness and dance. We also had several volunteers run specialty workshops.

Adopt a Park

The Adopt a Park program is in its second year during 2023. We had 2 parks adopted, Dunkirk by MAEVE and Hallowing Point by First Home Mortgage. Thirty-seven AAP volunteers donated 74 hours of service picking up litter this year.

Community Service

Several service groups participated in volunteer projects this year. Both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts contributed projects to several CCPR facilities including picnic tables and a recycling station at Ward Farm and a Gaga ball pit for Kings Landing. Several other groups performed enhancement projects by planting trees and removing invasive species.

Special Events

Volunteer recruitment this year focused on recruitment of special events helpers for CCPR special events. This was reported as the highest need from the Divisions. CCPR volunteers assisted with the following events: Superhero Sunday, Honor Flight Reception, Halloween Drive Thru, Aquatics Community Day and Home for the Holidays. In total, 44 volunteers served 154 hours.

Day of Service

In November, CCPR help its first Day of Service event at the Opt Outside Day of Service at Kings Landing Park. We had 57 volunteers attend this park maintenance event and participate in raking, sign cleaning, trail pick up and measuring, restocking informational materials and cleaning exterior areas.

PRAB

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) include 9 volunteer board members who meet monthly. At the close of the year, 2 spaces are currently vacant.

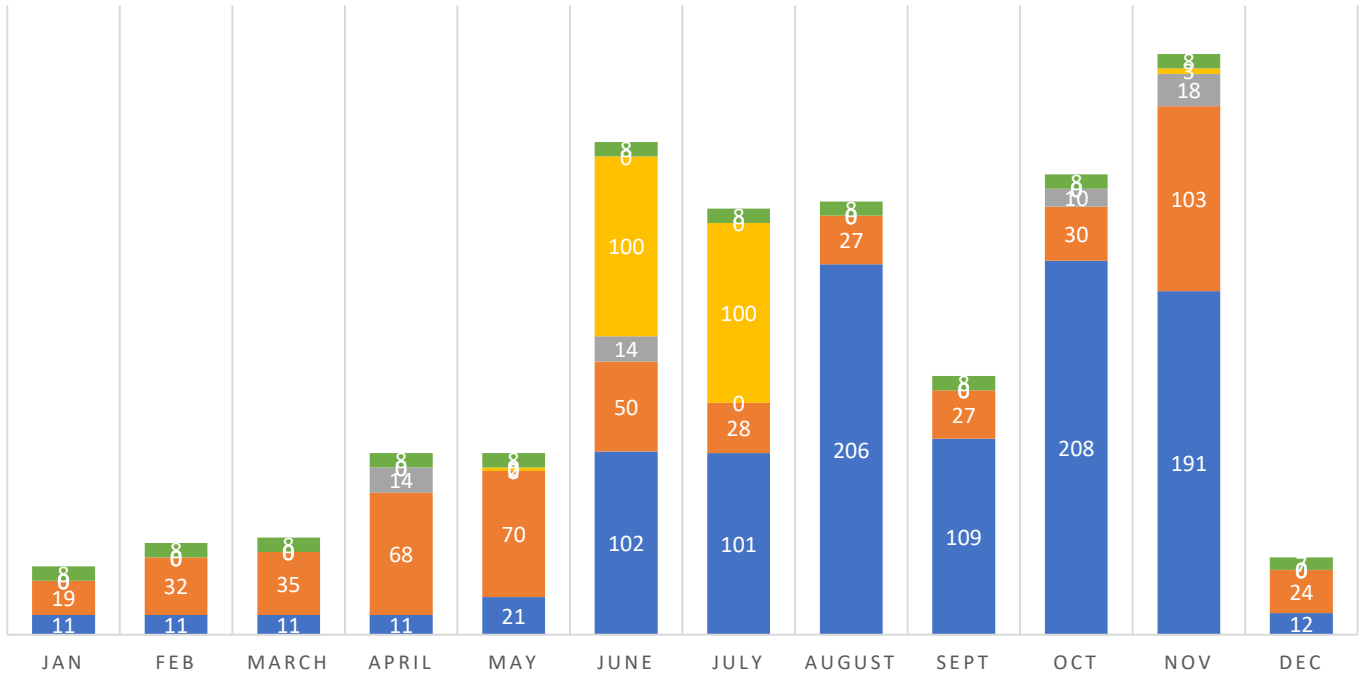
VOLUNTEER DATA

Division	Total Volunteers	Hours	\$ Value
Recreation	1082*	3230.5*	\$110,224.66*
Natural Resources	513+	5605	\$191,242.60
Parks	67	162	\$5527.44
Aquatics	205	1222	\$41,694.64
Special Facilities	0	0	0
PRAB	9	142.5	\$4862.10
ANNUAL TOTAL	1866	10,324	\$352,222.76

* data for January, February, March and December are not included

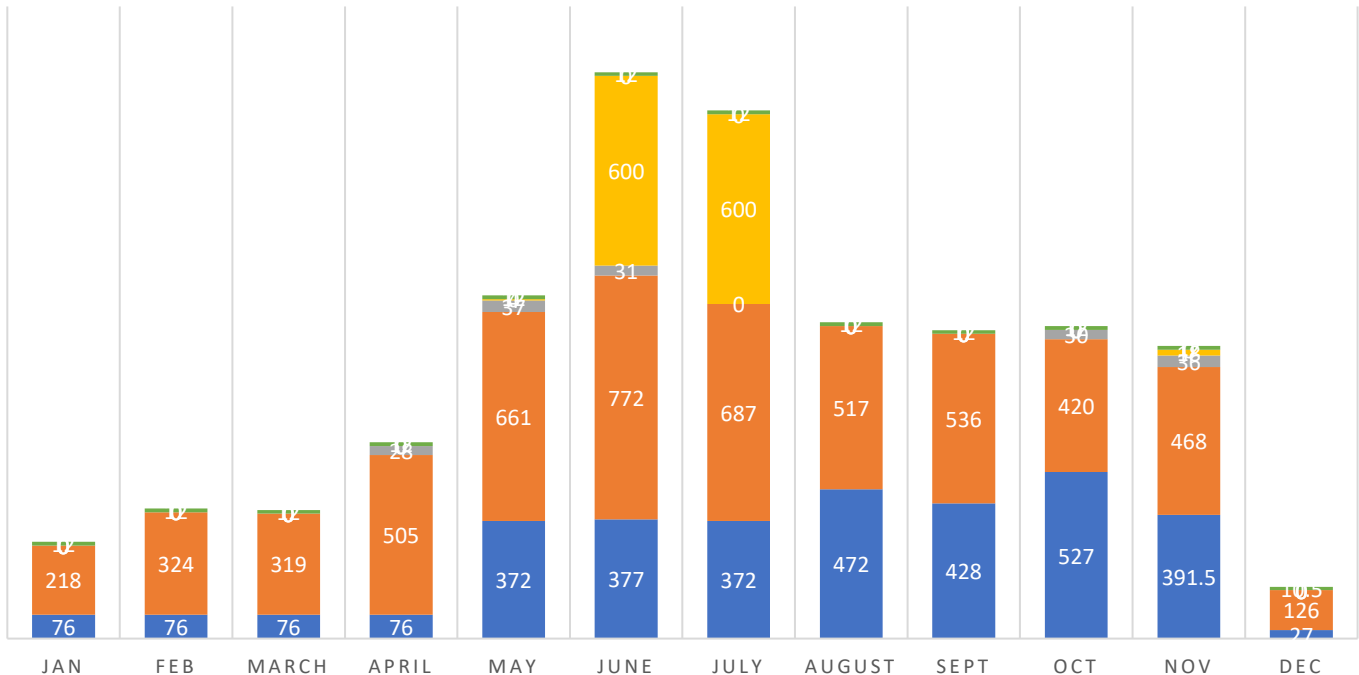
CCPR VOLUNTEERS

■ Rec ■ NRD ■ Parks ■ Aquatics ■ SF ■ PRAB



VOLUNTEER HOURS

■ Rec ■ NRD ■ Parks ■ Aquatics ■ SF ■ PRAB



Goals and Recommendations

The biggest hindrance to growing the CCPR volunteer program is a lack of a centralized, efficient system to process, manage and track CCPR volunteers that is accessible to all key interdivisional staff. Compiling data has been tedious and accuracy is questionable. Recommendations for 2024 are:

- Meet with each Division to assess the past year. Most Divisions need a more accurate tracking method and a centralized record keeping system that is accessible to the Volunteer Coordinator and key staff. Revise current processes for ease and accuracy.
- Implementing a more efficient method to track and report hours. We are currently assessing Xplor Rec for its capabilities as a volunteer tracking system.
- Update the outdated CCPR Volunteer webpage and marketing material.

Photo Highlights



First Home Mortgage adopted Hallowing Point Park this year, volunteer baton instructor Vivian M. with her class, high school service hours volunteers, Drake and Ashley B lead games at Community Day at Hall Aquatics, Brownie Troop 11059 installed a recycling center and game at Ward Farm Park.



Cub Scouts lend a hand with raking leaves on Opt Outside Day of Service at Kings Landing Park, the Therapeutic Recreation social club volunteered as Ghost Busters for the Halloween Drive Thru at Hallowing Point, Civil Air Patrol Cadets assist with the Home for the Holidays parade, swim team volunteers preparing for a meet at Cove Point Pool.



Volunteer Yegor Y. and daughter Ella hand out flags at the Honor Flight event, Troop 429 installed a Gaga ball pit at Kings Landing Park, Ambassador Girls Scouts lead games at Superhero Sunday, Calvert Steward education volunteers lead 5th graders through an oyster reef study activity at Fishing Creek boardwalk.

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

2023 Annual Report

Date of Issue March 2024

CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
c/o Natural Resources Division
2880 Grays Road
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Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

