



Nebraska State Park Volunteers

2011 Report

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The Nebraska State Park Volunteer Program consists of 10 different programs. Each of these programs is unique and fulfills different needs the State Park System has. This report outlines briefly describes each program and provides the number of volunteers, the number of hours the volunteers provided, the value of those hours and the expenses related to each of the programs. The expenses include the staff time for each program, food, tokens of appreciation and other small items. The hourly rate was derived by taking the average hourly rate of all seasonal staff (\$8.487) within the State Park System. Please note that some of the parks did not report numbers for their volunteers, which would change the totals of the programs.

Campground Host Program

This program consists of dedicated volunteers that provide a tremendous value to the Park System by being a liaison between the campers at an area and NGPC. They provide information to visitors, assist in camper registrations and reservations, help maintain campground and park area, contact park staff and other law enforcement personnel about emergencies, and other projects and assignments based on park needs and hosts' skills and interests.



In 2011, there were 28 park areas that utilized the Campground Host program. This program occurs from April 1 to November 30 each year. Each park has different dates they use hosts from. Most use hosts from May until Labor Day. The expense of campsites was determined by taking the average occupancy rate for the 2011 May through September season, multiplying that by the number of days at each area by the cost of an electrical campsite.

# of Volunteers	360
# of Hours Donated	34,941.25
Value of Volunteers Time	\$296,546.39
Campsite Costs	\$37,594.85
Campground Host hats	\$2,075
Staff time	\$4,914.01
Total Expenses	\$44,583.86
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$251,962.53

Volunteer In Parks Program



This program allows for volunteers; individuals or groups to come into park areas and provide assistance at any time they are available. This program includes volunteers for the Halloween events at Ponca and Indian Cave State Parks. Typical work that occurs in this program includes maintenance at park areas, planting of trees, assistance with naturalist programs and fishing clinics, mowing, assistance regarding flooded areas, work in the shop areas, greet visitors, cleaning up beaches, the Christmas dinner at Ft. Robinson, and work in the

gift shop.

In 2011, there were 27 areas that participated in the Volunteers in Parks program. This program runs throughout the year. Each park has volunteers help them with a multitude of tasks that they cannot complete with existing staff.

# of Volunteers	907
# of Donated Hours	9,925
Value of Volunteers Time	\$84,233.47
Materials/expenses	\$1,433.63
Staff Time	\$5,868.93
Total Expenses	\$7,302.56
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$76,930.91

Tree Plant @ Fort Robinson State Park

This is a Park-specific program that was created through a partnership with Boy Scouts. This program will end in 2012 as per their agreement. This program consists of a weekend of Boy Scouts and their families that come out and plant trees at Fort Robinson State Park.

# of Volunteers	1,028
# of Donated Hours	8,224
Value of Volunteers Time	\$69,797.08
Food	\$3,364.89
Staff Time	\$2,533.99
Total Expenses	\$5,898.88
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$63,898.21



Living History Program



The Living History Program is a program that captures the time of our Living History Re-enactment volunteers. There are multiple re-enactments and demonstrations at the State Historical Parks and all of those are done by volunteers. In 2011, six State Historical Parks and one State Park (Ft. Robinson) had volunteers provide their time to these programs. Staff time is not included with the numbers below since the staff would be working on that day at the area.

# of Volunteers	270
# of Donated Hours	4,643.5
Value of Volunteers Time	\$39,409.38
Materials/expenses	\$0
Staff Time	\$0
Total Expenses	\$0
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$39,409.38

Take Pride in America Day

This program started in 2004 as an agency wide program where volunteers come out on a specific day in May and volunteer their time. It is a national partnership established by U.S. Department of the Interior to encourage and empower volunteers to improve our parks, lakes, wildlife areas and cultural and historic sites. Volunteers provide their assistance in landscaping, painting, trash pick-up, and general maintenance. In 2011, three park areas and three Wildlife Management Areas hosted events. Only the park areas events had volunteers attend.



# of Volunteers	58
# of Donated Hours	315
Value of Volunteers Time	\$2,673.40
Materials/expenses	\$97.84
Staff Time	\$1,657.51
Total Expenses	\$1,755.35
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$918.05

Trail Maintenance Program

This program is geared toward the maintenance and development of the internal trails within our State



Park system. There are multiple groups that were not captured in the information because they did not inform the Park Superintendent they were there. This program will require some administrative work to control the work done within the areas. In 2011, 3 different areas identified volunteers in the Trail Maintenance Program.

# of Volunteers	163
# of Donated Hours	584
Value of Volunteers Time	\$4,956.41
Materials/expenses	\$0
Staff Time	\$0
Total Expenses	\$0
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$4,956.41

Community Service Program

This program is for court appointed community service projects. Multiple individuals call the State Park System to do their community service. Projects include general maintenance, painting, and trash pick-up. In 2011, 3 different park areas participated in this program.

# of Volunteers	29
# of Donated Hours	679.5
Value of Volunteers Time	\$5,766.92
Materials/expenses	\$0
Staff Time	\$912.28
Total Expenses	\$912.28
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$4,854.63

Internships

This program consists of people who want an internship for their schooling and do not get paid for their work. In 2011, Parks Administration in the Lincoln Office took part in this program.

# of Volunteers	1
# of Donated Hours	52
Value of Volunteers Time	\$441.32
Materials/expenses	\$0
Staff Time	\$0
Total Expenses	\$0
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$441.32

Inmate Services Program

This program is located only at Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area and utilizes the federal prison inmates from Yankton, South Dakota. They are bused in from April until the end of October on two days a week and the volunteers are provided meals while at the park area. They did general maintenance, painting, landscaping, building if needed and other tasks of that nature.

# of Volunteers	223
# of Donated Hours	1,449.5
Value of Volunteers Time	\$12,301.91
Food	\$1,137.32
Staff Time	\$1,602.68
Total Expenses	\$2,740
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$9,561.91

Ponca Expo

Ponca Expo cannot be considered solely a volunteer program since it is an agency initiative. Volunteers assist in this program, but the Expo does not exist to meet the needs of our volunteers. These volunteers assist in putting on all the programs, assist in surveying the visitors, assist in the shuttling of visitors and other tasks assigned to make the Expo happen. In 2011, 195 volunteers were identified, providing 1,192.5 hours of work, which equals out to be \$10,120.75 in value.

Breakdown of State Park System

Park Area	Volunteer Programs Participated In	# of Volunteers	# of Hours Provided	Value of Volunteers Time
Alexandria	CG Host	23	454	\$3,853.10
Arbor Lodge	LH, VIP	101	542	\$4,599.95
Bowring Ranch	LH, VIP	73	340	\$2,885.58
Branched Oak	TPIA, CG Host	74	4,942	\$41,942.75
Buffalo Bill	LH, VIP	82	1,310	\$11,117.97
Calamus	CG Host	12	2,660	\$22,575.42
Chadron	TM, VIP, CG Host	166	1,380	\$11,712.06
Conestoga	VIP, CG Host	5	171	\$1,451.28
Fremont	CS, VIP, CG Host	164	8,649	\$73,404.06
Ft. Atkinson	LH, VIP	?	3,033.5	\$25,745.31
Ft. Hartsuff	LH, VIP	119	1,288.5	\$10,935.50
Ft. Kearny	CG Host	1	252	\$2,138.72
Ft. Robinson	Tree, LH, VIP, CG Host	1,090	9,233	\$78,360.47
Indian Cave	TM, VIP, CG Host	103	2,895	\$24,569.86
Johnson Lake	VIP, CG Host	46	1,863	\$15,811.28
Keller Park	CG Host	5	83.75	\$710.79
Lake Maloney	CG Host	?	130	\$1,103.31
Lake McConaughy	VIP, CG Host	65	1,547	\$13,129.39
Lake Minatare	CG Host	?	1,000	\$8,487.00
Lake Ogallala	CG Host	4	420	\$3,564.54
Lewis and Clark	I, CG Host	229	1742.5	\$14,788.60
Louisville	CS, VIP, CG Host	114	3,944.25	\$33,474.85
Merritt Reservoir	CG Host	2	2,131	\$18,085.97
Mormon Island	CG Host	2	918	\$7,791.06
Niobrara	VIP, CG Host	?	927	\$7,867.45
Pawnee	VIP, CG Host	22	661.5	\$5,614.15
Platte River	VIP	34	236	\$2,002.93
Ponca	E, TM, VIP, CG Host	252	2,623.25	\$22,339.90
Rock Creek Station	LH, VIP, CG Host	80	970	\$8,232.39
Rockford Lake	VIP, CG Host	29	350	\$2,970.45
Schramm	VIP	4	18	\$152.77
Stagecoach	VIP	40	100	\$848.70
Summit	TPIA, CG Host	8	38	\$322.51
Two Rivers	VIP	?	1,807	\$15,336.01
Verdon Lake	TPIA, VIP	21	146	\$1,239.10
Wagon Train	VIP, CG Host	5	152.5	\$1,294.27
Willow Creek	CS, VIP, CG Host	40	2,120	\$17,992.44
Windmill	CG Host	2	918	\$7,791.07

LH=Living History, CG Host= Campground Host, TPIA=Take Pride in America, CS=Community Service, TM= Trail Maintenance, I= Inmate Services, E= Expo, Tree= Tree Planting, VIP= Volunteers in Parks

Overall Value of State Park System Volunteers in 2011

This is the first year a tracking system has been utilized to capture all costs associated with the State Park System volunteer programs. It should be noted that some park areas did not track the number of volunteers, but they did track the hours they provided. The overall number will be higher than what is reported. It is likely that there are some park areas that had volunteers at their location that were not captured. It is also likely that not all expenses were coded correctly to be captured to the specific programs. Staff will be trained more consistently to collect the data in the field and properly code the expenses and their time so the most accurate depiction of the program can occur.

# of Volunteers	3,234
# of Donated Hours	62,006.25
Value of Volunteers Time	\$526,247.03
Expenses	\$45,703.53
Staff Time	\$17,489.40
Total Expenses	\$63,192.93
Total Value of Program minus expenses	\$463,054.10