

 City of
SACRAMENTO
Parks and Recreation

October 20, 2015

Parks and Recreation Commission
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: AmeriCorps Services and Engagement within the City of Sacramento

LOCATION: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION: Review and Comment

CONTACT PERSON: Shannon Brown, Operations Manager, 808-4070

FOR COMMISSION MEETING: November 5, 2015

Per a request from Commissioner Colley-Perry, this report provides information on the AmeriCorps Program and how Americorps members are engaged through the City of Sacramento and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Established in 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs -- Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund -- and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. A program component is AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) which is a 10-month, team-based, full-time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. It combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership training and team building. Members serve in diverse teams of 10 to 14 individuals, and priority is given to homeland security and disaster relief projects. Teams are based at four campuses across the country and are assigned to projects in their respective regions. Approximately 1,200 members serve in AmeriCorps*NCCC each year.

Department of Parks and Recreation
Operations Office
915 I Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

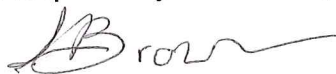
The City of Sacramento partners with the AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region office headquartered at McClellan. The lead contact is Ms. Mary Lynn Perry, Volunteer Coordinator, in the City's Human Resources Department. City departments coordinate projects and needs and request assistance from one or more teams of AmeriCorps members generally for one day to one week at a time. AmeriCorps NCCC reviews the applications and confirms the projects their members can support.

For the Department of Parks and Recreation teams are utilized a few times annually, in addition to requesting a team for about six weeks. Activities include assisting citizens with free tax return preparation, childrens programs, community gardening, park clean up and other projects. One of the largest projects was a one day cleanup of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail with 350 AmeriCorps members in addition to community volunteers.

The City of Sacramento was an AmeriCorps grantee through the California office to support the Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) after school program which is offered free on dozens of elementary school campuses. The agreement provided over 100 AmeriCorps members assisting with fitness and nutrition activities, as well as volunteer recruitment, training and community service projects. The grant required a minimum of a 50% match and various administrative, statistical and other requirements. With the recession and a reduction in funding and support staffing, the City determined to replace the workforce as best as possible with entry level part time City employees beginning 2012.

More information on short and long term volunteer opportunities through the City of Sacramento are on the City's website at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/HR/Volunteer-Opportunities>

Respectfully Submitted,



Shannon Brown, Operations Manager