

 City of  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Parks and Recreation

August 26, 2015

Parks and Recreation Commission  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT:** Overview of the Department of Parks and Recreation's "Adopt a Park" Program

**LOCATION:** Citywide

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and Comment

**CONTACT PERSON:** Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent, 808-1396

**FOR COMMISSION MEETING:** September 3, 2015

Volunteers help with various stewardship activities in city parks, trails, and natural areas. Activities vary by season, and training and tools are provided. Opportunities are available in all neighborhoods, and many activities are great for large groups, families, or youth groups with adult supervisors.

The program launched in June 2006 with 540 volunteers. Twenty areas were "adopted" for maintenance help, in addition to seven biketrail/parkways. Activities included one day and multiple general clean up days to Creek Week and Earth Day focuses.

Today 63 parks, bikeways and dog parks have been adopted throughout the city. Over 2100 volunteers have worked 3464 hours. Program highlights include:

- The Land Park Volunteer Corps which draws over 100 citizens each month to spend half a Saturday on tasks organized with park maintenance. An additional outcome of the program, at this and other sites, is neighbors getting to know each other and getting exercise.
- In North Natomas, a property assessment helps fund a specialized volunteer program in parks in that area. These efforts are spearheaded by Elena Quintero.

- A Partnership with UC Davis International Extension Education Program, City staff hosted 85 Chinese teens who volunteered at Miller, Southside, Riverbend and Seymour Park for general cleanup projects.
- A former partnership with the Church of LDS, their Helping Hands Volunteer Day brought 1500 volunteers to Land Park for cleanup, bench repairs, mulching trees and flower beds and many other maintenance needs.

Presently, in addressing impacts from the draught, staff is working with volunteers to complete "Mulch Madness" projects throughout all our parks and bike trails. This program helps maintain and preserve trees by retaining water in and around the base of the trees and keeping them thriving for future generations to enjoy.

Over 107 parks could be helped through "adoption". Anyone interested in volunteering or adopting a park can contact Richard Perez, Parks Volunteer Coordinator Richard Perez. Volunteers are asked to wear closed toed shoes and are encouraged to bring work gloves.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kyle Raphael