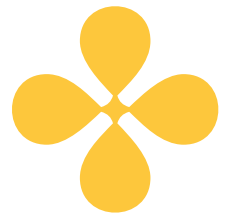


MADISON PARKS

VOLUNTEER REPORT 2023



MESSAGE FROM VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Dear Colleagues and Partners,

In 2023, the City of Madison Parks Division's volunteer program saw remarkable growth and development. In July the new position of Volunteer Coordinator was filled by longtime City of Madison staff member John Weichelt. John dedicated himself to understanding the varied roles and events in which volunteers engage, including those from friends groups, adopt-a-park groups, and local businesses. His efforts led to the advancement of volunteer management, procedures, and increased group participation.

The year was marked by significant achievements in volunteer engagement and event organization. More than 3,379 volunteers contributed 14,447 hours of their time and skills in various activities, from park cleanups to special projects and events. Large-scale volunteer events were a highlight, with hundreds of volunteers participating in various initiatives, including trash pickup and invasive species removal. The program also saw improvements in volunteer processes, the introduction of new forms for easier volunteer participation, and the acquisition of essential equipment and supplies. These efforts culminated in a more robust, efficient, and diverse volunteer program, enhancing Madison Parks role as a community cornerstone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Weichelt', positioned above the printed name.

John Weichelt



The Impact of Volunteers - 2023

Self-Reported and Staff Accumulated Volunteer Data

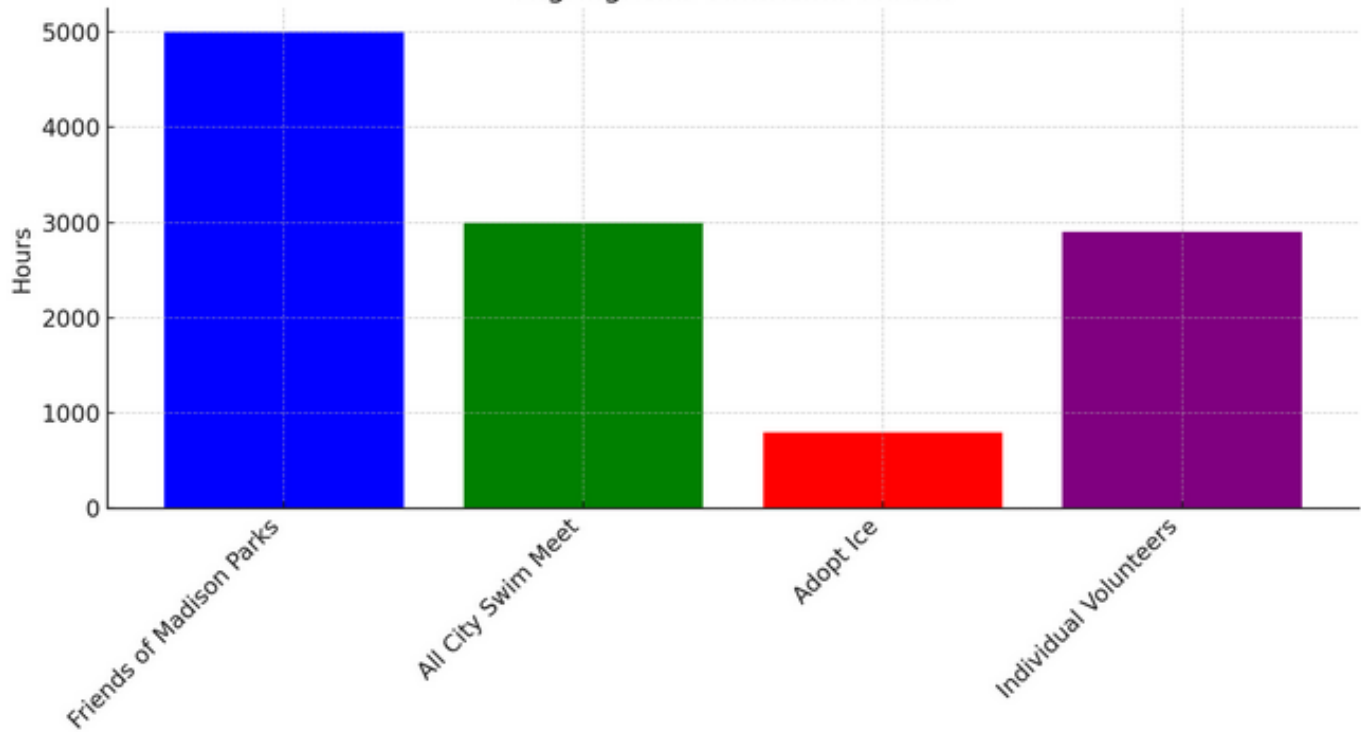
14,447

Total Number of
Volunteer Hours in
2023

3,379

Total Number of
Volunteers in 2023

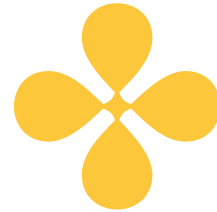
Highlighted Volunteer Hours



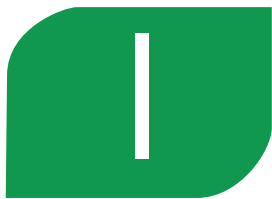
\$459,414

TOTAL \$\$\$ Value of Volunteer Donated
Hours in 2023*

NEXT STEPS



The City of Madison's 280+ parks stand as community cornerstones. Looking forward, we're rolling out clear steps to grow our volunteer program and enhance park stewardship. These next steps are crucial—they're how we'll nurture our parks into even better spaces for all. Together, we're planting the future of Madison's green spaces and ensuring they remain top-notch spots for community connection.



Procure Volunteer Management Software

Make software suggestion, procure with City IT and institute mass usage by volunteers and staff.



Formalize Friends Group Handbook/Agreement

Encourage collaboration with City risk management, attorney, staff, and volunteers to develop and to assess impacts of development of friends group handbook.



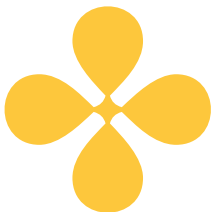
Recruit and Manage Volunteers for Ride the Drive

Task and recruit volunteers to join steering committee. Identify groups and recruit more than 300 volunteers.



Grow and Sustain Volunteer Program in New Areas

Continue to engage volunteers and grow database. Focus on new areas of growth in golf, forest restoration, and team leaders.



CONCLUSION

Madison Parks volunteer program has demonstrated remarkable impact and community engagement this year, significantly enhancing our city's green spaces. The program will look to grow with increased capacity to task volunteers individually and as groups by utilizing enhanced processes and technology advancements in management software.

Key Achievements

- 16 Large scale group volunteer events held since August 2023 with businesses and community organizations
- Hire of a full time volunteer coordinator position
- Volunteers removed trash, invasive species and more

Persistent Challenges

- Matching potential volunteers to their area of interest
- Managing volunteer information, training, incentives, and requirements
- Keeping volunteers motivated and engaged

Call to Action

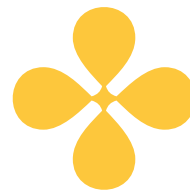
- Strengthen communication between volunteers and Parks staff
- Expanding volunteer opportunities to accommodate different times, skills, and types of volunteers

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the dedication and spirit of our volunteers. Your efforts have not only maintained but enriched the beauty and vibrancy of Madison's parks. Together, we have laid the groundwork for an even more robust volunteer program.

Thank you for being the driving force behind our mission to foster a greener, more united community for all Madisonians. We eagerly anticipate the growth and achievements that the next year will bring.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

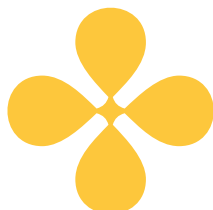
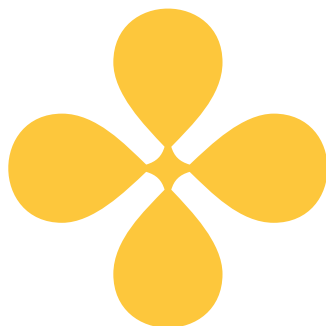


We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated volunteer team leaders, staff of Madison Parks, and the representatives of our friends groups. Their tireless efforts and invaluable contributions have been the cornerstone of this report's creation. Their commitment to excellence echoes throughout the pages, embodying the spirit of service and community that makes Madison's parks a beacon of urban greenery and togetherness. Thank you for your unwavering support and for shaping the narrative of our shared green spaces.

Contact

John Weichelt
Volunteer Coordinator

City of Madison Parks Division
330 E. Lakeside St.
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 261-9179
Jweichelt@cityofmadison.com



Volunteer Report 2023

