City volunteers are involved at Westwood Hills Nature Center and they adopt parks, gardens and streets. City events like Pick up the Park, Arbor Day, Parktacular, and the city Halloween parties can’t happen without hundreds of volunteers. School volunteers enrich the curriculum as Art Appreciation volunteers and classroom speakers; they help with literacy and math and many events and activities throughout the district.

Volunteers placed through the VIP office are recruited, screened, attend an orientation and are assigned to volunteer positions where they help on a regular basis, or at one-time events. VIP volunteers come from the business sector, retirees, students, and adult community members. We also want to acknowledge the many parents who volunteer directly in their childrens’ schools.

The 1700+ volunteers placed through the City and Schools Volunteer Office help make St. Louis Park a vital place to live and learn.
Parktacular, 2011

Volunteers generously donate their time each June to help at Parktacular, our St. Louis Park city celebration. They assist with the parade, street dance, eco-fair, slip-n-slide, family fishing, and information booths. Over 70 volunteers donate 210 hours of their time to help make Parktacular a great success.

City Hall Front Desk

Two years ago, the Volunteer Office was asked to recruit volunteers to assist 2-4 hours a day at the city hall front desk. Over 10 volunteers were placed between the spring of 2010 and fall of 2011. It worked out so well, that in the fall of 2011, when the front desk staff person resigned, the city hired two of the volunteers: one for the a.m. and one for the p.m.

Adopt a Park/Garden

Volunteers are assigned to their neighborhood park and/or garden. Their job duties include patrolling and/or cleaning their park, weeding and tending the garden as well as reporting any damaged equipment, vandalism, or other problems to the city park staff.

- Parks adopted: 36
- Gardens adopted: 31
- Volunteers: 108
- Hours: 766

Recreation Center Halloween Party

Thirty-three volunteers helped at the Recreation Center Goblin March and Boo-Gie Concert, donating 82 hours.

Adopt a Street

Fourteen streets have been adopted by individuals, families or businesses. Volunteers agree to pick up their adopted street at least once a year, but many volunteers clean their street more often.

- Streets adopted: 14
- Volunteers involved in clean-up: 116
- Hours: 338

Arbor Day Tree Climbing Event

The VIP office recruited student and adult volunteers to help with the city’s Arbor Day event in Oak Hill Park, which featured the 2012 Minnesota Tree Climbing Championship. Seventeen volunteers served as timers for the tree climbing competition, donating over 65 hours of their time.

Westwood Hills Nature Center Halloween Party

Many students as well as adults from the community participated in the Westwood Hills Nature Center Halloween Party in October, 2011. Volunteers assist with set-up and post-party clean up. On party nights, they run the games, serve refreshments and act as costume characters. To make this wonderful party possible, 173 volunteers donated 728 hours of their time and filled 215 positions.
Pick-Up the Park

In April and May, 2011 the VIP staff recruited over 700 volunteers including businesses, individuals, families, service groups and classrooms from the schools. Before the busy summer season, these volunteers cleaned the trails, parks and open areas in our community. The 2011 Pick-Up the Park volunteers collected over 138 bags of trash and donated 700+ hours of service.

Westwood Hills Nature Center

Volunteers help the naturalists teach visiting classrooms and children’s groups, work on maintenance projects, take care of the captive animals, do library maintenance, and staff the front desk between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. five days a week. 37 volunteers donated 1,443 hours:
- Maintenance and Other - 423
- Bee Keepers - 52
- Library - 3
- Wood Rounds - 84
- Front Desk - 438
- Naturalist Assistant - 132
- Animal and Raptor Care - 309

Flower Planting

In the spring 31 volunteers donate over 60 hours planting flower beds in neighborhood parks.

Monarch Butterfly

Two volunteers were recruited to monitor the life cycle of Monarchs through a program at Westwood Hills Nature Center. They volunteered 12 hours in 2011.

Shakespeare For All

Eleven volunteers donated 33 hours, helping with ticket sales and ushering for the play, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, in Wolfe Park on Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Water Testing

Three community volunteers take water samples from area lakes every two weeks, April – October and file reports with the City Environmental Engineer as part of a water quality program. 107 hours.

Park TV

The Volunteer Office worked with Jamie Zwilling, Communications Coordinator, on recruiting and screening volunteers for Park TV, the city’s Public-Educational-Government (PEG) Access channels. 15 volunteers are helping to produce programming. They assist with video recording, reporting and play-by-play announcing at sporting and community events. They volunteered approximately 320 hours in 2011-12.
Volunteers in Our Schools

Classroom Volunteers
Volunteers help in the classroom by providing enrichment and/or reinforcement of the classroom curriculum. They assist with a variety of activities in the classroom, once or twice a week, as directed by the teachers.
Volunteers - 47
Classrooms - 40
Students - 1,010
Hours - 3,522

Band/Orchestra Volunteers
Community volunteers bring their instruments and join the band class for regular practice.
Volunteers – 4
Students – 146
Hours - 173

"We have had the pleasure of having MANY great community volunteers play along with and/or work along side our band students this year. They come into our Junior High with energy and talents and are so willing to help out in a variety of ways. Some of them volunteer 2-3 hours per week and more than one day per week! They have attended our evening band concerts to continue to show their support. We are so lucky. Thanks Volunteer Office for facilitating community volunteer service in the Junior High Band program for over 10 years now."
Randy Moore
Jr. High Band Teacher

English Language Learners (ELL) Volunteers
Volunteers help students practice their English speaking and writing skills. They also assist students as they learn about American culture and customs.
Volunteers - 3
Classrooms - 3
Students - 14
Hours - 123
Volunteers assist with the Read 180 Program, a specialized program for students who read below grade level. Volunteers provide needed one-on-one attention and feedback for students.

Volunteers - 38
Classrooms - 17
Students - 204
Hours - 1,298

Volunteers assist in the media centers at the schools.

Volunteers - 9
Hours - 439

In 2012, 33 volunteers donated 74 hours of their time to help the High School and Jr. High Media Center staff conduct their inventories. The volunteers scanned and recorded over 30,000 items.

“I’m impressed with the teacher; I’m impressed with the students; I like what I am doing!”
School Volunteer
**Math Program Volunteers**

Volunteers work with students grades 2-12 in their classrooms or as tutors in the high school math lab.
- Volunteers: 32
- Classrooms: 21
- Students: 425
- Hours: 934

*“The Learning Lab has been very successful this year with the math lab alone serving well over 300 students a week. The volunteers have been indispensable in being able to provide all students with as much individual assistance as possible. It has also been beneficial for students to meet professionals working in various fields and learn how math is important to their jobs.”*

Will Tanberg  
Sr. High Math Resource Room  
Instructional Assistant

**Aquila Elementary International Baccalaureate (IB) Project**

In April and May, community and parent volunteers, along with staff, met weekly with groups of students to help them with their project research, organization and presentations for their 5th grade IB project. The VIP office assisted the project coordinator with volunteer recruitment, as well as developing materials and guidelines for volunteers.

**Breck School Student Volunteers and Pi Beta Phi Collegians from the University of Minnesota**

20 students from Breck School volunteer one hour a week for 15 weeks in our elementary school classrooms. In addition, 10 students from the Pi Beta Phi sorority at the U of M read with the Kids Place students at Aquila elementary school twice a week in February and March. These 30 student volunteers donated over 430 hours.

**Classroom Speakers**

Volunteers enriched the classroom curriculum by sharing their hobbies, careers or special interests with students. Many of the talks are given by city staff, including the Fire, Police, Forestry and Water Departments.
- Speakers: 16
- Presentations: 38
- Hours: 25

**Adult English Language Learners (ELL) & General Equivalency Diploma (GED)**

The goal of these dedicated volunteers is to provide extra help for adult students who are learning English or working on their GED. The VIP office assists the Adult ELL program with volunteer recruitment.
- Volunteers: 59
- Hours: 2,522
**Literacy 1**

Volunteers are trained to work with beginning readers. They spend 1-1 ½ hours a week in a first or second grade classroom helping during literacy time.

Volunteers - 44  
Classrooms - 27  
Students - 675  
Hours - 1,888

“Edmund Gottlieb, (pictured at right) is a shining example of what it means to be a part of a Children First Community. He takes the children’s learning above and beyond. If he’s reading with them, you’ll often see him referencing the globe, pulling out a dictionary, or finding another book to support the text. He is a truly caring adult who invests in our whole class and their learning and well being. Most importantly, Edmund teaches the students that a love of learning lasts a lifetime!”

Kelsey Okey  
First Grade Teacher  
Peter Hobart Primary Center

**High School Orchestra**

The VIP Office worked with Orchestra teacher Miriam Edgar to create a volunteer position with the High School Orchestra for concert pianist, Liz Wolfe. Ms. Wolfe worked weekly with groups of students helping them prepare their sections for upcoming concerts.

**Park Spanish Immersion Math Tutors**

The VIP office assisted PSI staff with information, direction and forms to start a successful before school math tutoring program utilizing parent volunteers.

**Picture Person/Art Appreciation**

Trained volunteers teach six art appreciation lessons a year to children in grades K-6. “American Art” was the focus of this year’s curriculum. (At PSI, the amity scholars teach the lessons.)

Volunteers - 46  
Classrooms - 74  
Students - 1,875  
Presentations - 444  
Hours - 852
Volunteers in the Park

Judges for the High School DECA Competition
Volunteers are placed with the high school business program to serve as judges at the West Metro DECA Competition. Volunteer DECA judges role-play business scenarios with high school students who have prepared business plans and practiced for interviews. This year, 34 volunteers contributed 136 hours.

Judges for Mock Interviews
Twelve volunteers donated 13 hours playing the role of potential employers in mock interviews with students in the Careers class at the High School.

Kids’ Place Student Volunteers
Students ages 14 and older volunteer during the school year and over the summer with the St. Louis Park Community Education Kids Place Program. 5 students volunteered over 500 hours.

St. Louis Park High School Community Service Class
Students in the Community Service classes at the High School, under the direction of their teacher, Sophia Ross, volunteer in the elementary classrooms 2-4 times a week.

BRAVO Music Appreciation
Classical music is the focus of the BRAVO! Program for grades 1-3. It is structured much like the art appreciation program. A music background is a requirement for BRAVO! volunteers. They are trained and scheduled into assigned classrooms where they teach six lessons a year on classical music and composers.
Volunteers - 4
Classrooms - 7
Students - 175
Presentations - 49
Hours - 53

The Volunteer Office partnered with Children First to offer Asset Champion Training to the school volunteers. Fourteen school volunteers became official Children First “Asset Champions” when they, along with several school staff and other community members, attended one of two trainings co-hosted by the City and Schools Volunteer Office and Children First.

The mission of the VIP program is to promote quality volunteerism in the City of St. Louis Park and in the St. Louis Park School District.

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