VOLUNTEER NEWS

The numbers are in for Fiscal Year 2018-2019...

DO YOU KNOW HOW VALUABLE OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE? 😊

From July 2018 through June 2019, here’s how the numbers stack up:

🌟 According to www.independentsector.org, the national average value of Volunteer time during this past year was **$24.69 per hour**!

🌟 6,774 Volunteers gave 49,153 HOURS of their time in FY 2018-2019 for Park & Recreation programs, sports, events and projects

🌟 These hours added **$1,213,575** in value to YOUR Park & Recreation Department!!

**THANK YOU to ALL OF OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS!**
**SUMMER Native Plants Gardening at Latta Nature Preserve**

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078

- Every Thursday through August 22 – 3:00-4:30pm

*Help our garden grow!* Join us on Thursdays through the summer, to care for our native plants as they grow, bloom and provide important habitat for the nature center’s wildlife. Please bring your hat, sunscreen and water bottle! **Volunteers must be at least age 10; volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult over the age of 21.**

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Anjoli.Reynolds@mecklenburgcountync.gov to sign up!

**WATCH FOR NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FALL!**

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**Natural Resources Volunteer Information Sessions!**

Are you interested in helping out at one of Park & Recreation’s Nature Centers or Nature Preserves? **Attend one of our upcoming Information Sessions** to find out what it takes to Volunteer:

- Tour the facility, review available Volunteer roles (such as special events, programming, stewardship, etc.) and expected commitments, and more!

**Saturday, September 7 - 10:00-11:00am** at Reedy Creek Nature Center, 2900 Rocky River Road, 28215

CONTACT: Jose.Chavez@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

**Sunday, October 13 – 2:00-3:00pm** at Latta Nature Center, 6211 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078

CONTACT: Anjoli.Reynolds@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

**Saturday, November 2 - 10:00-11:00am** at Reedy Creek Nature Center, 2900 Rocky River Road, 28215

CONTACT: Jose.Chavez@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

**Sunday, December 1 – 2:00-3:00pm** at McDowell Nature Center, 15222 South York Road, Charlotte, 28278

CONTACT: Melissa.OLenick@MeckNC.gov
HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL 2019

LOCATION: Reedy Creek Nature Center, 2900 Rocky River Road, 28215
DATE: Saturday, August 24, 2019
TIME: 8:30am-4:00pm
*Volunteers may work all day, or a half-day shift: 8:30am-12:30pm or 12:00-4:00pm – Please specify a preference when signing up! WE ESPECIALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE AFTERNOON SHIFT!

Our annual Hummingbird Festival offers a close-up view of hummingbirds at Reedy Creek Nature Center, and features fun for the whole family! We serve up to 2000 patrons each year, with nature activities, crafts, hikes, games, hummingbird banding, educational talks and vendors. The Festival is a rain-or-shine event!

Volunteers will assist with: greeting guests; loading shuttle buses; assisting with crafts, games or other activities; helping with keeping the grounds clean. Please wear a red shirt if you have one!

Volunteers need to bring a refillable water bottle; snacks and extra water provided.

*Volunteers must be at least age 12, and ANY Volunteer under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times!

Directions: About 5 miles east of I-485 - Exit 36, off of Rocky River Road. Park at the front of the park, you will be directed upon arrival. Take a shuttle bus to the Welcome Tent at the Nature Center lot.

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Laura.Domingo@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov to sign up!

NATURE AT NIGHT FESTIVAL

LOCATION: MCDOWELL NATURE CENTER
- 15222 York Road, 28273 – 1 mile west of Shopton Road on S. Tryon/York Road
DATE OF EVENT: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2 SHIFTS: Day/ Setup – 10am-3pm OR Event – 3pm-9pm
TIME OF EVENT: 5:00PM – 9:00PM
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 20 for Day/Setup and 60 for Evening/Event

Join the McDowell Nature Center for a fun-filled, educational night as we explore what surprises nature has to offer after the sun goes down! The evening will include live animals, crafts, night hikes, hayrides, hot dogs and s’mores, storytelling, and much more! This event is rain or shine. Please dress in layers to be outdoors. Goodie bags, snacks and water will be provided for all Volunteers; dinner is provided for the evening shift only. Please specify a shift when signing up to Volunteer – Thank you!

- Day/Setup shift: Set up of tables/chairs, tents, supplies, stations, etc.
- Evening/Event shift: Assist staff with stations: food, crafts, information tables, hayride, etc.

*Volunteers must be at least age 12; anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times.

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Melissa.Olenick@MeckNC.gov to sign up!
Summer Tutoring at Revolution!

LOCATION: REVOLUTION PARK SPORTS ACADEMY
- 1125 Remount Road, Charlotte, 28208
DAY/TIMES: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00PM
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 1-2 hours each date, set schedule with staff
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2 per day

Students in grades K-12 receive weekly tutoring OVER THE SUMMER in reading and math, primarily facilitated by NC Educator licensed teachers. Volunteers provide valuable 1-on-1 assistance for these scholars. A great opportunity to provide a positive example to youth and teens – WE NEED ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO SERVE MORE STUDENTS!

- Volunteers must be at least 18 years old for this ongoing opportunity and must join the Volunteer Program.
- Volunteer approvals remain active for a full year – registered Volunteers may continue to serve during the school year!

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to register as a volunteer!

Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services

Challenger Flag Football & Spirit Squad

SIGN UP NOW to Coach!

LOCATION: Marion Diehl Adaptive Field at Queens University Sport Complex
- 2219 Tyvola Road, 28210 – behind Marion Diehl Recreation Center
DATES: September 4 – October 26 (Wednesdays and Saturdays)
TIME: Practices on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm; Games on Saturdays, 9:00am-12:00

Challenger Flag Football is a co-ed adaptive sport program offered by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation’s Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services; and is designed for youth, teens and young adults with disabilities. The season runs from September 4 through October 26, with practices on Wednesdays and games on Saturdays. The Spirit Squad schedule runs at the same time as Challenger Flag Football – practices are on Wednesdays, and the Spirit Squad cheers for 1 hour each Saturday. Making sure that EVERY player has a great experience takes a lot of Volunteers, so sign up TODAY! Volunteers will assist players or cheerleaders on the field; assist with skills & drills or cheers, and/or coach one of the teams. Dress in athletic wear, and bring your SMILE! ☺

*You must be at least 18 years old to help with Adaptive Sports or other TIRS programs!
Contact Danielle.Dobbs@MeckNC.gov for more information!

To Volunteer with these awesome adaptive sport programs, you must enroll in our Volunteer Program, which includes an online application and a background check.
Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services

Tropical Paradise is a dance for people in the community with disabilities, ages 13 and older. Our theme is Hawaiian, with decorations that create a luau-like atmosphere and food that matches the relaxed vibe. We will tie up the end of summer by dancing, making our own leis, eating sliders and kabobs, and drinking slushies!

❖ Location: Tyvola Senior Center, 2225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte, 28210
❖ Date: Friday, September 20
❖ Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm (event) — Volunteers needed from 5:00pm

Volunteers will help to decorate before the event; serve food, help with activities and socialize with participants during the dance; and help with take down/clean up afterwards. Dress for the theme – Hawaiian shirts and leis would be great!

You must be at least 18 years old to Volunteer with Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services.

For more information or to Volunteer at the Dance please contact: VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Madeline.Jones@MeckNC.gov

*Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services has opportunities to “adopt” upcoming Dances by providing food, decorations, activities and/or dedicated Volunteer support! Please contact Madeline.Jones@MeckNC.gov or Candice.Moore@MeckNC.gov for more information – Thank you!

SIGN UP NOW to Coach Youth Sports for Fall...

Soccer, Flag Football and Cross-Country will hold Coach meetings in August...practices begin in September...and Basketball will be next!

If you have coached with us before, THANK YOU – and we hope that you will join us again! Your Volunteer application and approval remains active for a full year, and you are welcome to help with multiple Youth Sports. Please remember that you must update your application annually. Contact Volunteer Services if you need to check on your renewal date or status!

To become a NEW Volunteer coach, you must enroll in our Volunteer Program - if you would like to enroll please contact Volunteer Services at VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to receive a link to the Volunteer Enrollment site, with additional instructions.

As a Coach, you will need to be available for both Practices and Games/Meets. Most of the practices are during the week and the games/meets are usually on Saturday.

To check out where our Centers are located, and to find phone numbers for the Centers, go to www.parkandrec.com > Recreation Centers.
ALL OF OUR RECREATION CENTERS OFFER FALL YOUTH SPORTS!
Look below to find the Recreation Center that is close to your home or workplace...

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<tr>
<th>Recreation Center</th>
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<td>Albemarle Road Recreation Center – 28277</td>
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<td>Arbor Glen Recreation Center – 28208</td>
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<td>Berewick Recreation Center – 28278</td>
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<td>Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center – 28208</td>
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<td>Elon Recreation Center – 28277</td>
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<td>Hickory Grove Recreation Center – 28215</td>
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<td>Ivory Baker Recreation Center – 28206</td>
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<td>Mallard Creek Recreation Center – 28269</td>
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<td>Methodist Home Recreation Center – 28215</td>
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<td>Naomi Drenan Recreation Center – 28211</td>
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<td>Revolution Park Sports Academy – 28208</td>
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<td>Southview Recreation Center – 28208</td>
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<td>Sugaw Creek @ MLK Recreation Site – 28213</td>
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<td>Tom Sykes Recreation Center – 28203</td>
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<td>Tuckaseegee Recreation Center – 28208</td>
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<td>Wallace Pruitt Recreation Center – 28208</td>
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<td>West Charlotte Recreation Center – 28216</td>
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<td>Winget School Recreation Site – 28273</td>
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*Cross Country is ONLY offered at Sugaw Creek/MLK Recreation Site!

*Ask about CHEERLEADING at your Recreation Center!

Volunteer
Opportunities for Groups

Bring YOUR group out to help keep our Parks, Greenways and Nature Preserves looking their very best! We welcome any group, from businesses, churches, neighborhoods, fraternities/sororities, Scouts, students, civic groups, colleges/universities, etc.

For more information on volunteering for any of our projects, please contact:

- Karen Howard at 980-314-1046 Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov
- Pamela Thomas at 980-314-1059 Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov

WEEKDAY PROJECTS

- Projects can be arranged for groups of 10 to 100+ Volunteers, from March through November, on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday – 9:00am – 12:00.
- Contact us with a preferred date for your project and an estimated number of Volunteers, including how many adults and youth, if applicable.
- You bring work gloves and a water bottle, and we’ll do the rest!
- Check out our Park locations by visiting www.parkandrec.com > Parks
**SATURDAY PROJECTS – Open to the public!**

- **Hours are 9:00am – 12:00 Noon**
- Volunteers 12 years old and up are welcome!
- All Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21.
- You must RSVP to VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov NO LATER THAN the Wednesday before the project date! We need to know how many Volunteers to plan for, and we need to be able to contact you in case of changes or cancellations.
- All projects are park maintenance and beautification projects, which may include mulching, weeding, pruning and clean-ups. Be aware that all projects involve manual labor!
- All you need to bring are a pair of gloves, a water bottle and LOTS OF ENERGY!!
- Please go to www.parkandrec.com to see where Parks, Nature Preserves and Greenways are located. From the home page click on either the Parks, Nature Preserves or Greenways tab.

**SATURDAY PROJECT DATES: **

- All Saturday projects are 9:00am – 12:00 noon*

  Project dates and/or locations are subject to change!
  - Saturday, August 17 – Albemarle Road Park – *cleanup, mulch, etc.*
  - Saturday, August 24 - *Come and help at the Hummingbird Festival!*
  - Saturday, August 31 – HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND – *No Park projects*
  - Saturday, September 7 – *To be announced*
  - Saturday, September 14 – Little Sugar Creek Greenway – *invasive plant removal, etc.*
  - Saturday, September 21 – FESTIVAL IN THE PARK – *No Park projects*

**WATCH FOR MORE SATURDAY PROJECTS COMING FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER!**

**VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS**

We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:
  - For one-day events or projects
  - For helping with a program ONE time (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an after-school program)

YOU **MUST** REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:
  - To be a Coach for any sport
  - To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov if you are not sure whether you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event or program. We are happy to assist you!
CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs, events or projects, please contact:

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046
Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov

Pamela Thomas at 980-314-1059
Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov

PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult, who is at least 21 years old.
*Volunteers working with Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services (TIRS) must be at least 18 years old.

LIKE and SHARE us on Facebook - We are https://www.facebook.com/MeckParkRec/