



2022 CCNC Youth Conservation Corps



Raleigh
Parks

VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM
raleighnc.gov/parks

Program Overview



On June 13, 2022, Raleigh Parks welcomed the return of Conservation Corps North Carolina's (CCNC) Dix Park Youth Conservation Corps. This marked year two of hosting a crew that was solely dedicated to Dorothea Dix Park. This program allows Raleigh-area youth (ages 14-18) to learn about conservation and develop career skills in this field. The crew members' interests ranged from cellular biology to welding, and each had an interest in working outdoors to better the environment.



This program was funded by the Woodson Family Foundation through the Triangle Community Foundation and donations from the Dix Park Conservancy. By partnering with Raleigh Parks, CCNC can carry on the original 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps mission of cultivating new generations of land stewards through conservation-based projects in the heart of downtown Raleigh.



Two crews, each consisting of two young adult leads and six youth members, spent a month each working on roughly 14 conservation projects on the property. Their tasks included trail building, invasive plant removals, cemetery restoration, hammock installs, and more. The teens gained hands-on skills in construction, water quality testing, trail maintenance, public relations, and invasive plant management. Each project promoted the health of native wildlife, helped preserve the park's rich history, and supported the mission of 'a park for everyone'.



This experience built connections between peers and the local community, taught practical skills, and equipped the members to navigate their future within the conservation career pipeline. By continuing to offer opportunities like this, we instill the importance and necessity of conservation, particularly to maintain spaces like Dorothea Dix Park.

Crew Education and Projects



Because of Dorothea Dix Park's urban location, this year's crews were able to take part in unique opportunities. The members spent a few days acting as sunflower ambassadors - educating the public on pollinators, soil remediation, and biofuel. The crew was also instrumental in the setup and breakdown of the inaugural 4th of July Celebration hosted at Dorothea Dix Park.

Beyond working in the field, the crews were able to learn from about 20 different speakers in conservation-related fields. Guests from NC State University, Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, the Box Turtle Connection, and PepsiCo spoke to the members about their various roles with the environment. Soil science, event planning, controlled burns, and bird identification are just a few of the topics that were presented.

Project Metrics

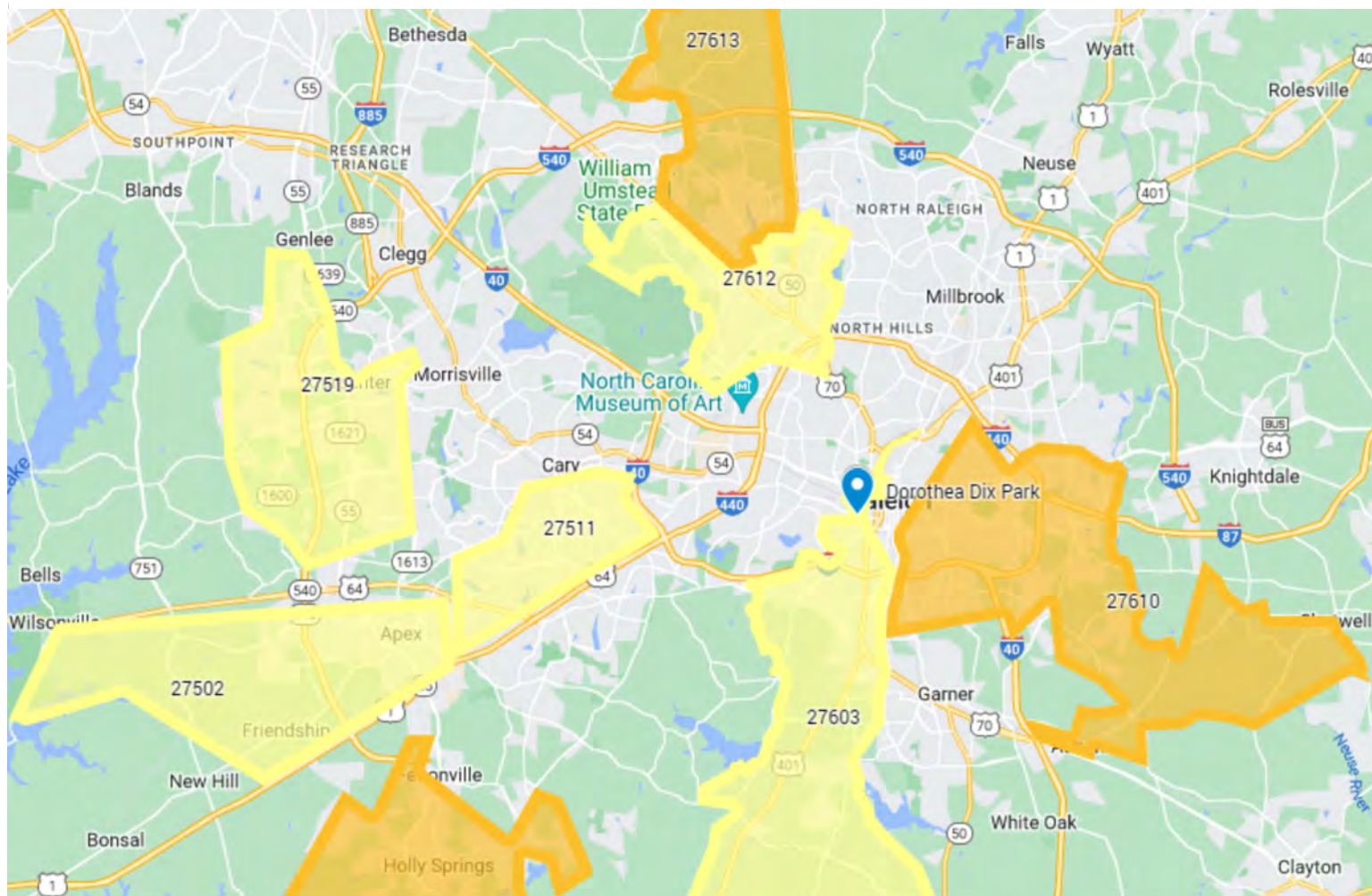
- 2,720 hours of parkland maintenance
- 0.2 trail miles created
- 14 hammocks installed
- 25 bags of trash collected
- 150 bike rack barricades placed
- 87 cemetery markers raised
- 7.5 acres of weeds whacked
- 14 acres cleared of invasive plants
- 3 salamanders found in Rocky Branch Creek
- 16 lighting elements built
- 9 hours served as sunflower ambassadors

Educational Sessions

- Park planning and maintenance
- Volunteer event planning
- Historic cemetery preservation
- Public event planning
- Non-profit partnerships
- Career mentorship
- Trail building
- Invasive plants
- Birding
- Soil science
- Watersheds/water quality
- Restoring historic landscapes
- Urban forestry
- Sunflower biofuel



Participant Demographics



This program received 24 total applicants, and the final crew of 11 consisted of four 15-year-olds, one 16-year-old, five 17-year-olds, and one 18-year-old. The 11 applicants were derived from eight different zip codes across Wake County, connecting our parks and environmental stewardship to residents of Cary, Apex, Holly Springs, and beyond.

Participant Zip Code List

27502, 27511, 27519, 27540 (2), 27603, 27610 (2), 27612, 27613 (2)

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CCNC Youth Conservation Corps Partners

Thank you for your continued support!

Woodson Family Foundation
Triangle Community Foundation
Dix Park Conservancy
Conservation Legacy
Conservation Corps NC
Pepsi Co.
City of Raleigh

Natural Resources
Parks

Cemetery Crew
Dorothea Dix Park Staff
Horticulture
Marketing

Planning
Urban Forestry
Volunteer Services Program
Water
Stormwater

North Carolina State University
English Department
Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources
The Box Turtle Connection

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