



2023 CCNC Youth Conservation Corps

VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM
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Raleigh
Parks

Program Overview



June 12, 2023, marked year three of hosting Conservation Corps North Carolina (CCNC) at Dix Park for a summer of environment-focused education sessions and projects. The crew comprised of two young-adult leads and six teens (ages 14-18) who had an interest in pursuing a career in a conservation-related field. Five different zip codes were represented, connecting environmental stewardship to residents of Northern, Western, and Eastern Raleigh, as well as Cary.



The crew was solely dedicated to Dorothea Dix Park and completed roughly ten different projects on the property. This included building two permanent pergolas at the sunflower field, trail repair, invasive plant removals and sightline improvements, large-scale event preparation, and more. The CCNC members were able to gain hands-on experience in plant identification, cemetery maintenance, construction, water quality testing, and trail improvement techniques.



Partaking in CCNC helped the youth build connections with their peers, offered insight to career paths, supported learning new skills, and created a sense of investment in a public space. By learning about the park's history, the crew gained new perspective and played an important role in transitioning a space once called 'Dix Hill' to a park for everyone.



For five weeks beginning at 7 a.m., the six teens and two crew leads would learn from and work alongside experts in the field. Through this partnership between Raleigh Parks and CCNC, local youth 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.



Metrics and Partners



Project Metrics

- 1,600 hours of parkland maintenance
- 6.8 acres of invasive plants cleared
- 0.35 trail miles maintained
- 20 cemetery markers raised
- 9 bird boxes built
- 1,300 feet of temporary fencing installed and removed
- 1,200 feet of accessible matting installed
- 4.8 acres of turf maintenance

Educational Sessions

- Past, Present, and Future of Dix Park
- The Dix Park Conservancy and a Park for All
- Park Maintenance, and Event Preparation, and Program Planning
- Legacy in Stone: The Dorothea Dix Cemetery
- Marketing Dorothea Dix Park
- Park Planning
- Raleigh's Watershed
- Federal and Local Government Career Journey
- Political Science and Soil
- Entering the Job Market

This program could not be accomplished without the support of its leaders, donors, educators, and project experts. Thank you to Conservation Corps North Carolina for partnering with Raleigh Parks to make this opportunity a success for Dorothea Dix Park, as well as the crew members. Thank you to the Woodson Family Foundation, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, and the Dix Park Conservancy for your generosity and financial support of this year's crew. Thank you also to the following groups for your time and help in providing project guidance and knowledge on conservation to the crew:

- City of Raleigh
 - Dorothea Dix Park Staff
 - Marketing
 - Parks and Natural Resources
 - Planning
 - Volunteer Services Program
 - Stormwater
 - North Carolina State University Humanities and Social Sciences

We could not provide this exceptional experience without your support!

