



2024 CCNC Youth Conservation Corps

VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM
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Raleigh
Parks

Program Overview



August 2, 2024, marked the close of the fourth year of hosting Conservation Corps North Carolina (CCNC) Youth Conservation Corps at Dix Park. This partnership between Raleigh Parks and CCNC, provided an opportunity for local youth to 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 young-adult leads and six crew members (ages 14-18) spent six weeks of their summer at Dix Park completing a variety of projects and participating in educational opportunities on and off site. Beginning at 7 a.m., the crew would round up at the outdoor classroom between the newly renovated Gatekeeper's Cottage and Physician's House for a stretch circle and safety debrief before beginning the day's work. For each topic and project type, the group was able to work alongside and learn from experts in various fields of environmental stewardship.



The 2024 CCNC Youth Conservation Corps crew contributed to ten different projects across Dix Park and the surrounding area. Their project list included: Building six permanent swing pads at the Big Field to prevent erosion; trail repair at the Pine Loop to preserve its durability; invasive plant removals at the Pine Loop and Rocky Branch Trail to improve sightlines and safety; and large-scale event preparation for the City's Fourth of July Celebration. From these projects, the members gained hands-on experience in plant identification, construction, trail maintenance techniques, and more.



This year's teens represented five different zip codes from Northwest, South, and Eastern Raleigh, as well as Garner and Wake Forest. The amount of teens from varying zip codes made this an opportunity that provided connections with peers beyond their residence. Partaking in this experience helped the youth network with professionals, offered perspective to career paths, supported learning new skills, and created a sense of investment in this public space. Through their hard work, they have directly contributed to the legacy of Dix Park.

Metrics and Partners



Project Metrics

- 1920 hours of parkland maintenance
- 6 swing pads built
- 750 bails of pine straw laid
- 1200 pounds of litter removed
- 53 trees pruned
- 6 acres worked in for invasive plant removal
- 0.25 trail miles maintained
- 75 yards of temporary fencing installed

Featured Educational Sessions

- Political Science and Soil
- Park Maintenance and Event Preparation
- Federal and Local Government Career Journey
- City of Raleigh Greenhouse Operations
- Park Planning
- The Dix Park Conservancy and A Park for All
- Raleigh's Watershed
- Invasive Plant Species
- Job Readiness

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 everyone involved. 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 informative presentations:

City of Raleigh Cemetery Crew, City Greenhouse Staff, Destination Park Crew, Heavy Construction Crew, Invasive Program Crew, Marketing, Planning, Volunteer Services Program, Walnut Creek Wetland Park Staff, Dix Park Staff, Stormwater Staff, and Dix Park Conservancy.

We could not provide this exceptional experience without your support!