



Volunteer Guidelines

Safety:

- Wear gloves and use tools provided in ways demonstrated by work crew supervisor.
- “Eyes before hands.” When picking up trash from under bushes, behind trees, and under benches, use the tool provided to pull things out where you can see them. Then pick them up.
- Be aware of the locations of other workers and members of the public to ensure your safety and theirs.
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toed shoes (ideally boots); you may be working around poison oak or blackberries.
- Avoid picking up broken glass and hypodermic needles
- Drink water to avoid dehydration.
- Volunteers are not allowed to use power tools, or apply herbicides/pesticides.

Work Site:

- Stack debris out of the way of public but still accessible to staff trucks. Stack cut branches with butt end to road. Keep bagged trash separate from organic debris, weeds separate from brush. Pile weeds to be picked up in small piles (handled by one swoop of pitchfork) so that staff can easily load truck.
- Stow tools properly.
- Work in pairs or groups.

Public Relations:

- You represent the City ‘s Recreation and Park Department, please be polite and helpful to visitors. Volunteers are to follow the City’s Respect in the Workplace Policy.
- The supervising gardener is your host; respect his/her knowledge and experience. Park gardening is not the same as home gardening. Ask questions and seek assistance when you are not sure.
- Help us recruit more volunteers. Bring friends, co-workers, kids, mates.

The work you are doing is important!!

- Pulling weeds, and mulching limits use of sprays.
- Clean-ups improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.
- Volunteers with an understanding of park needs contribute to a supportive and informed constituency.
- Volunteers attract other forms of support—in kind donations of services, supplies, and grants.

SFRPD Volunteer Programs

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