



2020 Annual Volunteer Report

Volunteer Statistics Summary

14,304 DNR Volunteers (down 8,099 volunteers)

262,560 Hours Donated (down 18,019 hours)

126 FTE's (Full Time Equivalents based on a 40-hour workweek or 2,080 hours/year.) Volunteer hours are equivalent to an extra 4% or 126 full-time people helping the DNR manage the state's natural resources.

\$7.4 Million Value – using \$28.15/hour is based on the hourly earnings of all Minnesota production and non-supervisory workers on private non-farm payrolls average as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and increased by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits as listed by [Independent Sector](#).

Conservation Impacts – Volunteers monitored changes in abundance of fish and wildlife, conducted biological surveys, improved acres of habitat, educated and engaged citizens in outdoor activities, safety and conservation practices.

Global Pandemic

The World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. By March 17, all fifty states in the US had reported confirmed cases. Illness and death have come to many infected. Federal and state actions were taken to try to slow the spread. People were not allowed to gather with others in public places and volunteering almost came to a complete halt for a time at the DNR. The numbers on this year's annual report show the results. See DNR Volunteer Trends 1993 – 2020 at the end of this report.

Division	Volunteer Position	Number of Volunteers	Number of Hours	Conservation Impacts
Ecological and Water Resources	Lake Level Monitoring	650	5,525	645 lakes and waters info used for decision making
	MN County Biological Survey	41	1,258	60 biological surveys completed; data collected on 800 species;
	MN Loon Monitoring Program	318	1,920	Change in abundance of wildlife – loons counted on 577 lakes
	Nongame Wildlife Program	5	183	Biological surveys completed including the capture of two golden eagles.
	Precipitation Observers	1,697	20,364	Monitored Minnesota's climate
	Project WET	5	100	177 adults and 1,180 youth educated
	Rare Plant Conservation	0	0	Biological surveys were not completed this year
	Scientific and Natural Areas	236	1,272	Acres of habitat improved by removal of invasive species, site observations, and biological surveys
	State Climatology Office	3	32	Assisted with reporting Lake Ice In/Out; Precipitation quality control
	State Fair Volunteers	0	0	State Fair was canceled
	Volunteer Loon Watcher Survey	132	1,950	Monitored loons on 152 lakes in Minnesota
	Eco/Waters Resources Subtotal	3,087	32,604	
Enforcement	Advanced and Bow Hunter Education Instructors	46	678	427 adults and/or youth educated
	Firearms Safety Instructors	3,928	78,560	15,731 adults and/or youth educated
	Snowmobile Safety Instructors	1,256	15,072	5,863 adults and/or youth educated
	Trail Ambassadors	192	4,914	15,896 miles of trail conditions observed and reported. Adults and/or youth educated on trail etiquette.

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Enforcement	Youth ATV Safety Instructors	921	5,526	4,899 adults and/or youth educated
	Wildlife Safety Instructors	30	120	6 adults and/or youth educated on turkeys and bears
	BWCA Enforcement trip	1	60	Assisted Conservation Officer with successful BWCA work trip
	Training Academy scenario actors	15	1,050	Provided real-life scenario training and feedback for new Conservation Officer Candidates
	Enforcement Subtotal	6,389	105,980	
Fish & Wildlife - Fisheries	Aquatic Management Areas	4	32	9 acres of habitat improved and recorded fish passage on a known fish barrier
	Stream Habitat	1	10	Restored fish passage on an unknown fish barrier
	Fisheries Subtotal	5	42	
Fish & Wildlife - Wildlife	Area Wildlife Management Volunteers	18	437	Cleared 0.5 mile of hunter walking trails; improved 15 acres of habitat; rehabilitated and maintained 7 WMA signs; monitored 90 bluebird boxes; built and installed 10 kestrel boxes
	Adopt-A-WMA	15	175	16 miles of trail improved and 20 acres of habitat improved including cleaning up
	Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Program	32	270	Adults and youth engaged in outdoor activities
	State Fair (Wildlife Wing)	0	0	State Fair was canceled
	Wildlife Research	18	2,234	40 bear dens visited and bears collared; collected data on spruce grouse; completed prairie chicken surveys
		Wildlife Subtotal	83	3,116
Forestry	Fire Wardens	2,213	22,100	Thousands of acres protected by issuing burning permits to citizens
	Urban and Community Forestry Volunteers	550	69,626	Trees planted and maintained; education and outreach

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Forestry	Forestry Volunteers	2	15	Trash pickup; installed “no Dumping” signs in State Forest
	PlayCleanGo Volunteers	0	0	All events were canceled
	Project Learning Tree (PLT)	6	120	132 adults and 2,640 youth were educated; tree cookies created for classroom use
	School Forests	220	4,000	Over 5800 adults and 35,000 youth engaged in forestry activities; trails maintained
	State Fair Volunteers (Smokey Bear)	0	0	State Fair was canceled
	Forestry Subtotal	2,991	95,861	
Operations Services	Landscape Management	14	426	5 acres of habitat improved on the Willowbrook Campus on Warner Rd, St Paul
	State Fair Volunteers (stages)	0	0	State Fair was canceled
	OSD Subtotal	14	426	
Lands & Minerals	LAM Volunteers	0	0	No volunteers in 2020
	Lands & Minerals Subtotal	0	0	
Parks & Trails	Bluebird Monitoring	25	628	Collected data and monitored change in abundance of bluebirds in over 120 nesting boxes; biological surveys completed
	Campground Hosts	118	14,586	Maintained campgrounds and facilities, provided customer services, served as public contact and aided with safety in parks
	Candlelight Ski/Hike Events	299	1,411	Over 13,150 adults and youth engaged in candlelight events in Jan/Feb 2020 before pandemic

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Parks & Trails	Naturalist Programs	229	1,105	8,000+ adults and youth engaged in activities and educated on nature topics
	Other State Park Projects	55	584	Rock climbing taught; assisted with fishing derby and fat tire bike rally event; transcribed oral histories; wildlife and bird counts; fed birds
	Prairie Restoration	47	178	11 acres of land restored to native prairie
	Resource Management	684	3,133	89 acres of habitat improved; 20 miles of trail built; bird feeders maintained; rare minnows re-introduced into water body; prairie plant plug planting; manure bunk built
	Trail Maintenance	268	2,906	76+ miles of trail improved, restored or built;
	Parks & Trails Subtotal	1,725	24,531	
2020 Volunteer Totals		14,304	262,560	Volunteer numbers are down by 8,099 volunteers and 18,019 hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic reducing or closing many DNR volunteer activities in 2020.

*Since creating a department-wide DNR Program in 1988, Minnesotans have engaged in more than **12.3 million hours** of volunteer service focused on managing our state's natural resources, adding more than **\$230M in value** to the State's work over the last 33 years.*



DNR Volunteer Trends 1993 - 2020

