



2023

VOLUNTEER CORDINATOR YEAR IN REVIEW



VOLUNTEER STATS

- **83** volunteer events
- **1,065** volunteers
- **2,200+** hours of volunteering
- Events in **14 different parks** across the island
- Removed over **22,000 sq ft of ivy** (that's around 10 tennis courts)
- **Planted 1,172 native trees and shrubs**



Other tasks included:

- Sword fern salvaging
- Mulch spreading
- Native plant nursery care
- Blackberry removal
- Fence building

FOREST STEWARD ENGAGEMENT

- **3 FS Orientations**
- Welcomed **18 new stewards**
- Stewards led **20 events** of **269 volunteers** totaling **577 hours**
- Our **17 most active stewards** put in an additional **561 hours**
- Held **3 training courses** for Stewards on planting techniques, pruning, and the history of Wildwood Park.
- Added Stewards to **5 new parks** on the Island!



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023 we were able to establish new and deeper partnerships with many local organizations.

Sathya Sai has adopted Clarke Beach Park, and has been putting in a lot of hard work removing ivy. In 2023 they held 4 events. They will continue their stewardship of the park with monthly events scheduled for the Spring through Fall of 2024.



Mountain Bike Club has been helping with various stewardship events since 2021. In 2023, with the building of the Bike Skills Area, they stepped up to the plate to help care for the forest in and around the construction area. They helped at 5 events where they removed ivy, salvaged sword ferns, built a split-rail fence, and planted around 300 native plants and shrubs. They will continue to volunteer in 2024 to help care for both the Bike Skills Area and trails in Pioneer Park.

Scouts— An eagle scout from Troop 457 help build the first part of the fence at the Bike Skills Area. We also had continued support from troop 624 in First Hill, Pack 668 at Island Crest Park.

PARTNERSHIPS CONT.



Aljoya- A small group of seniors from Aljoya came once a month throughout the year to help care for our nursery, tasks included tool maintenance and plant care. They will continue their nursery work in 2024.

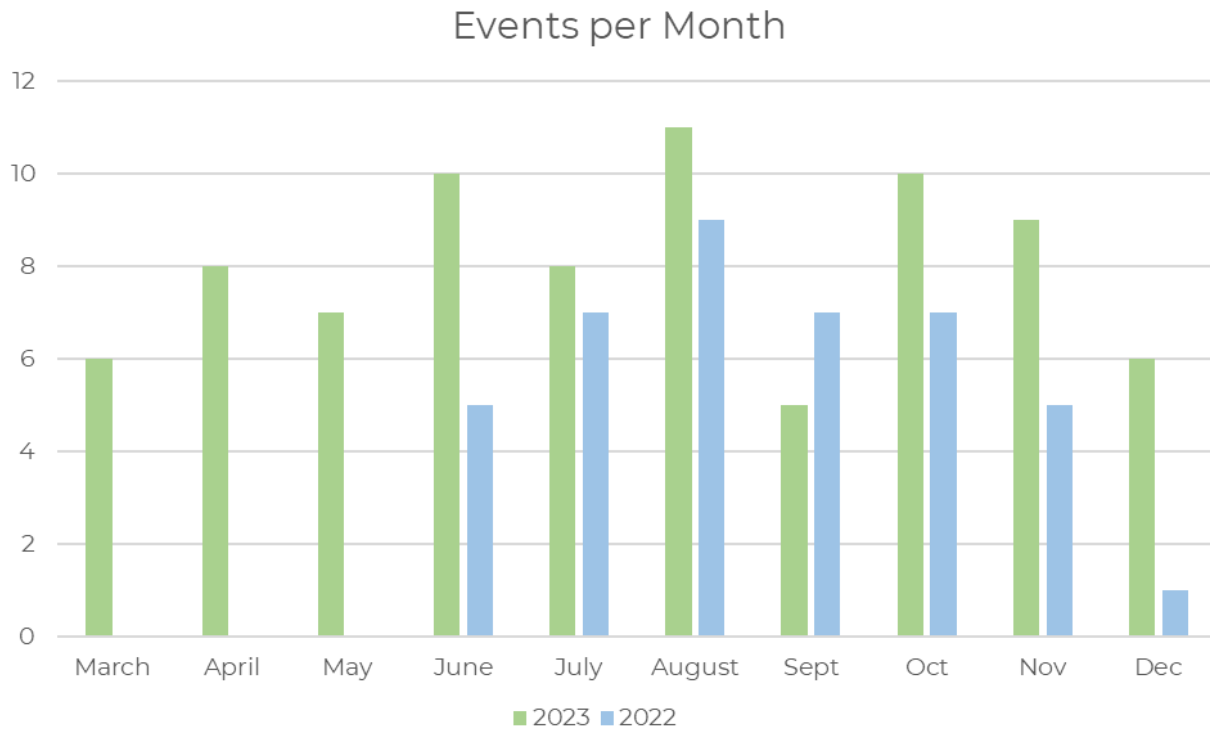
FASPS- Their 6th grade class comes to Pioneer Park 3 times a year to remove ivy and plant! The kindergarten and 1st grade classes continued to work and play in Island Crest Park.



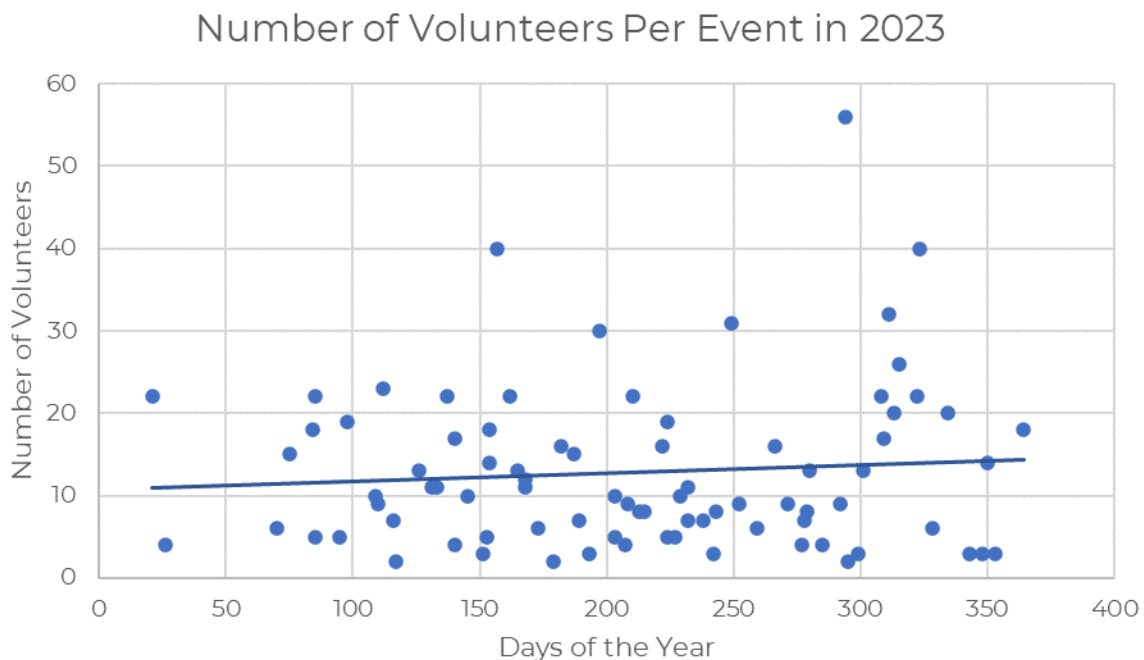
Rotary- 3 Rotarians attended our Forest Steward Trainings throughout the year, this will allow the Rotary Club to do more stewardship events annually at Rotary park and other parks in the island.

Additionally we held events for: Mercer Island Horticulture Club, Nerd Wallet, REI, Homeschool Stewardship Squad, National League of Young Men, and MI Women's Club

DATA ANALYSIS



This graph shows the number of events offered per month in 2022 and 2023. The position went from seasonal to LTE and was able to provide more monthly opportunities (both educational and volunteer-based).



This graph shows the number of participants per event in 2023. The trendline shows the average number of participants slowly increased throughout the year, starting at around 10 and ending at around 13 volunteers per event. This shows that participation has remained steady throughout the year.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In 2023 we held more educational offerings than in 2022, including:

- **Spring Plant Walk**
- **Summer Plant ID Tour**
- **Weedy Plant Basket Weaving**
- **Indigenous People's Day Plant Walk**
- **Owling walk**
- Tabling at: **Leap for Green, Summer Celebration**, and the **Farmers Market**

We also piloted Winter Workshop Series, the first of which was held in Dec 2023 on the “Benefits of Native Plants” with additional workshops being held in 2024.



OUTREACH MATERIALS



City of Mercer Island

Merger Island Parks and Natural Resources SPRING VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Help us take care of our trails and parks! We're hosting outdoor events across Mercer Island. All ages welcome, tools, gloves and snacks provided. Registration is required. *(Locations and times may be subject to change)*

Thurs, 3/30	4pm-6pm	Pioneer Park
Sat, 4/8	10pm-1pm	Pioneer Park
Thurs, 4/13	4pm-6pm	Luther Burbank
Sat, 4/22	10am-1pm	Wildwood Park
Thurs, 4/27	4pm-6pm	Pioneer Park
Sat, 5/6	10am-1pm	Clarke Beach
Thurs, 5/11	4pm-6pm	Island Crest
Sat, 5/20	10am-1pm	Pioneer Park
Thurs, 5/25	4pm-6pm	Island Crest



Scan Here with Phone to Register




City of Mercer Island

Join us for a Work Party and Save Some Trees!

8/31 3pm-5pm



Scan code to register

On Thursday, August 31st, we will be removing ivy growing up the trees in Gallagher Hill Open Space. Join us to help rescue these trees. No experience necessary; gloves and tools are provided. All ages are welcome.



City of Mercer Island

Join Us for ARBOR DAY

Luther Burbank South Shoreline

Saturday, Oct 21

9:45am-1pm

Come celebrate the opening of the new trail by **helping us plant trees and shrubs.** All ages welcome, lunch will be provided.

Scan code to register



This project is funded by the King County Flood Control District, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, King Conservation District and proceeds from the King County Proposition No. 1 Parks Levy approved by King county voters in August 2019.



City of Mercer Island

UPCOMING FALL VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Help us take care of our trails and parks! We're hosting outdoor events across Mercer Island. All ages welcome, tools, gloves and snacks provided. Registration is required. *(Locations and times may be subject to change)*

9/9	10am-1pm	Upper Luther
9/12	4-6pm	Gallagher Hill
9/23	10am-1pm	Pioneer Park
9/28	4-6pm	Pioneer Park
10/7	10am-1pm	Pioneer Park
10/12	3:30-5:30pm	Gallagher Hill
10/21	10am-1pm	Luther Burbank
10/26	3:30-5:30pm	Pioneer Park



Scan here to register

Photo credit: David Choy