

CITY OF VANCOUVER—ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Columbia Springs Volunteer Program | Summer Nature Camps | Columbia River Watershed Festival

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

- Columbia Springs nearly doubled its environmental stewardship event capacity, hosting a total of **21 stewardship events**, where **375 volunteers gave 1,966.5 hours** towards restoration and maintenance.
- 62 campers were reached over the course of two weeks of summer camp! **10 of these students participated with a full scholarship**, through partner organizations like Habitat for Humanity and SHARE.
- **25 campers were returning for their 2nd, 3rd or even 4th year in a row!**
- Six high school summer camp interns and two volunteers contributed **628 hours** to summer camp programming, including training, preparation and working directly with campers.
- **781 students, teachers and chaperones** attended this year's Columbia River Watershed Festival at Salmon Creek Park (Klineline Pond).
- **12 community organizations** came together with staff and volunteers to offer environmental learning stations at the Columbia River Watershed Festival. In total, **51 partners, staff and volunteers were on site each day** to make the event a success.
- Columbia Springs staff and volunteers attended many City of Vancouver events including Critter Count, Watershed Congress, Sturgeon Festival and more, **reaching over 1,300 people**.



"Getting to be outside and emphasizing science learning and appreciation for natural environment is so important!" - Jessicah, Parent

SUMMER CAMP SUCCESS

The City of Vancouver and Waste Connections Inc partner with Columbia Springs each year to bring Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp to the community. **These partnerships allow students to learn the important skills of caring for our planet**, while spending their days outside and immersed in nature.



From feeding lunch scraps to the worms to playing recycle relay and creating recycled art crafts, **campers absorb valuable information about waste-reduction, recycling, composting and more!**

Community Volunteers also lend their expertise by leading special learning activities. Ellen Wilson (pictured above) led an amazing owl presentation for campers this year!



"My son absolutely loved camp. The teachers and camp counselors were fantastic— kind, helpful and taught them so much. He learned about recycling and compost and now he better understands why I compost and he wants to help!" - Alissa, Parent

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SUMMER CAMP INTERN REFLECTIONS

"The most surprising part of my summer camp experience was realizing that I can be a leader. As the summer camp weeks went on I saw how I was able to take the lead in ways I did not realize before." - Caroline, Age 16

"I would LOVE to work for a non-profit organization again, especially if it's something that I have interest in. When this internship was over I just got this amazing feeling, like I accomplished something in life." - Ben, Age 16

"Now I better understand what it takes to be a good leader and the kind of personality traits that a leader needs to possess. I can use these skills that I have gained in so many job opportunities and other scenarios in the future." - Josh, Age 16



LESSONS LEARNED FOR SUMMER CAMP 2019

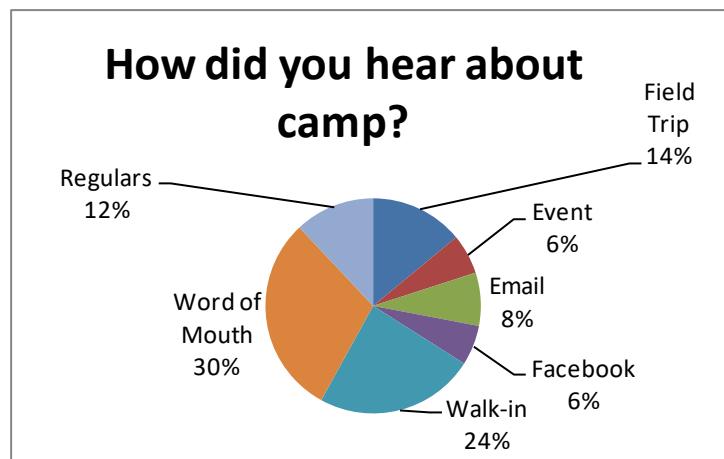
What worked: We provided additional training and added some new training topics for interns including emotional safety and growth mindset. We also did a better job of setting expectations for professional behavior including dress code, punctuality, and documentation.

What didn't work: We got in over our heads on morning craft activities, spending a ton of time prepping materials, organizing, setting up, cleaning up and training interns on how to facilitate the craft. We over-planned activities and didn't have time to get to all the things we planned and prepped.

What we'll do differently in 2019: Less is more will be the mantra of activity planning in 2019. This will allow us to have flexibility for a more camper guided experiences, based on their interest and abilities. It will also create a more grounded and less rushed experience in nature. Most importantly, using and preparing less materials will model the "reduce" ethos of our waste-reduction themed camp and allow students to experience the joy and ease of simply using less stuff. With less prep time we will be able to add a half hour to the time campers are on-site, which is really what it's all about.

SUMMER CAMP MARKETING STRATEGY

Most families heard about camp through a connection to Columbia Springs.



Nature Nuts Summer Camp at Columbia Springs

Session 1
Entering grades 2-4
July 9-13

Session 2
Entering grades 2-6
July 23-27

Calling All EXPLORERS!
Register now! We're excited to explore with you!
Or how about a day camp? We've got you covered there too!
At Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp, we'll uncover the wonders of the world around us with fun adventures every day, and make new friends in the process!
"Both my daughters LOVE attending Columbia Springs summer camp during summer and learning about how to keep our environment clean and safe for everyone to enjoy." - Emily Soltis, parent

\$159 per camper. To learn more and register go online to columbiasprings.org or contact us at 360-862-0936 ext. 226

Columbia Springs' corporate partners and camp sponsors

Vancouver | [West Coast Construction](http://www.westcoastconstruction.com)

Nature Nuts Summer Camp at Columbia Springs
Session 1 for grades 2-4 July 9-13
9 a.m.—1 p.m. daily

Calling all explorers! Have you ever wanted to live in our streams and forests? Or how about a day camp? At Nature Nuts Summer Camp, we'll uncover the wonders of the world around us with fun adventures every day, and make new friends in the process!
\$159 per camper. Register now at columbiasprings.org/camps

Summer Camp posters and flyers were distributed to partners, displayed on-site, e-mailed and used on social media. Small quarter page "bookmarks" were given to each child who attended a field trip.

"My son said this was the best camp EVER! I just love that he has the opportunity to be outside—so few camps do that. It left him with a calm and happiness at the end of each camp day!" - Alissa, Parent

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SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Brother and sister pair, Talia “Butterfly” and Tre “Tree” Taylor were able to attend summer nature day camp on a full scholarship through a partnership with SHARE. Staff at SHARE have worked with their family through episodes of homelessness and instability. Currently, the pair did have housing with their mom in a small Vancouver apartment, but had to get up really early, take two buses and travel for over an hour and half to attend to camp each day.

Talia and Tre LOVED their experience at Columbia Springs. Particularly when they were able to learn about local native plants, make sun tea from conifer needles and just spend time in the forest. They both enjoyed learning about and building wilderness shelters. And of course, all the games were a hit! Pictured to the right is Talia running from her brother Tre after soaking him with a sponge during a game of “Water Goose” at the end of the camp day.



COLUMBIA SPRINGS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

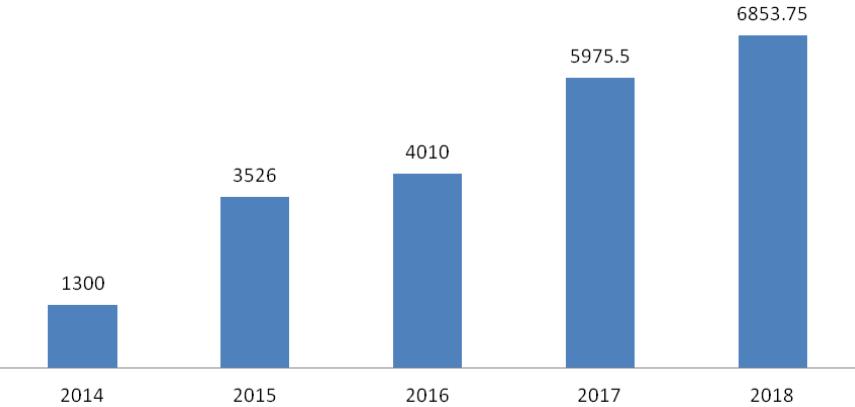
2018 was an exciting year for the Columbia Springs Volunteer Program. The program expanded its capacity in a variety of ways, including increased overall volunteer engagement, the development of a volunteer committee, expansion of volunteer roles, several capital improvement projects, and an increase in stewardship events.

- Total Volunteer Hours: 6,853.75 (14.7% growth from 2017)
- 1,672 total volunteer shifts filled by 558 volunteers (36% growth from 2017)
- Hosted 21 park stewardship events that engaged 375 volunteers. Planted 896 native trees and shrubs as part of restoration efforts.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GROWTH

Increase in volunteer hours, 2014-2018



Volunteer Hours by Category

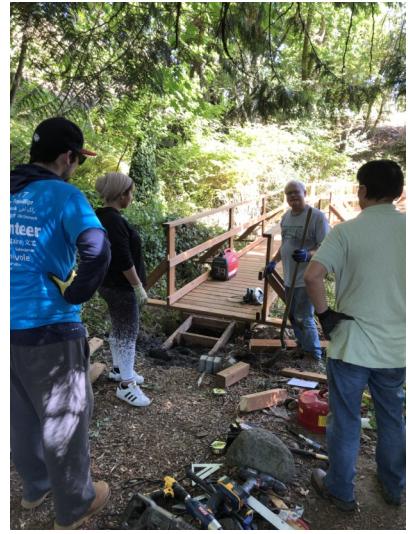
- K-12 Education: 1,737.75
- SITC Volunteers: 350.5
- Stewardship & Park Maintenance: 1,966.5 hours
- Docent Activities: 66
- Event Volunteers: 639.75
- Total hours includes hours given by board members, committees, and other volunteer activities not captured by this grant or specified categories.

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VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

With the support of Hewlett-Packard Volunteers (HP) and our own dedicated volunteer leaders, we completed two structural improvements to our site that greatly improve our services for on-site education.

- **Wetland Platforms Accessibility Upgrade:** Over two days, 11 HP volunteers gave 44 hours to re-deck the wetland platform, add a new platform, add bumper guards, and develop an entrance ramp. These additions provide more accessibility for students with limited mobility to fully participate in this interactive learning station during our field trips.
- **East Biddle Bridge:** Over the course of four days, 26 HP volunteers gave 104 hours to re-deck the East Biddle Bridge, which connects Heron Loop to the East Biddle Lake. Previously, the bridge had been narrow with only one hand rail. The new bridge is large enough to accommodate walkers in both directions and has sturdier handrails on both sides. This bridge, used by students during field trips, is now much more safe and inviting. We hope this will encourage more park visitors to explore the eastern part of our site.



DOCENT PROGRAM

In 2017, guided walks were scheduled twice a month and volunteers were responsible for developing and delivering specific topics at each walk. However, we struggled to keep attendance consistent at each walk and volunteers expressed feeling concerned about their ability to deliver subject specific material.

In 2018, four new docents joined our docent program and completed an 8-week, 16-hour training series to learn in-depth information about Columbia Springs and Pacific Northwest ecology, wildlife, and fish hatchery functions. **We adjusted the training so that all docents learned a standardized guided tour, with specific talking points we wanted all volunteers to discuss.** The tour leads participants on a 1-hour tour through the Vancouver Trout Hatchery and Heron Loop trail. **Volunteers expressed feeling much more confident in their ability to lead a standardized tour following our training.**



In 2018 we scheduled a guided walk for every 2nd Wednesday of the month, April – October which resulted in 7 events total. **We had an average of 20 participants at each walk, with a total of 145 guided walk attendees.** Each walk was led by two docents, with a total of 10 volunteers participating. This success has led us to replicate the same schedule for 2019. We intend to add additional, topic-specific walks on weekends for docents who feel confident leading a more technical walk.

In addition to the guided walks, docents are expected to serve in the Columbia Springs Visitor Center and host interpretive activities throughout our site. Unfortunately, the Visitor Center was under development for the majority of 2018 due to renovations and construction. Docents also felt that the interpretive activities were difficult to host on their own. **Looking into the future, we are excited to have more volunteers in our visitor center, which will be re-launched in April 2019.** In addition, we plan to change our format for interpretive weekend activities—we will host multiple activities in our Visitor Center, classroom, and throughout the park once a month.

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COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED FESTIVAL

... at Klineline Pond in Salmon Creek Park!

2017 Columbia River Watershed Festival Teacher Feedback Report

12 teachers reporting

Festival Organization:



Please Rate the Following:	Answer Response	Comments
1. Communication leading up to the event.	Very Satisfied.....12 Satisfied.....0 N/A.....0 Unsatisfied.....0 Very Unsatisfied.....0	- I had one woman hand over a wagon, so I could use it to pull around one of my students who had a cast on her leg. Super generous! - Ellen, our leader was so wonderful with kids and volunteers. She was kind and very punctual. We loved our time with her! This was so helpful to navigating the festival and for getting some more information to share with students.
2. General organization of the festival.	Very Satisfied.....12 Satisfied.....0 N/A.....0 Unsatisfied.....0 Very Unsatisfied.....0	- I felt the layout was very well thought out. - The festival was very well organized and my class was provided with additional volunteer help! - We learned so much while having fun! Your projects were creative and applicable in so many ways outside of the festival. The presenters were knowledgeable and great with the students. Thank you for including us!
3. Accommodations (tents, chairs, etc.)	Very Satisfied.....10 Satisfied.....2 N/A.....0 Unsatisfied.....0 Very Unsatisfied.....0	
4. Helpfulness of staff and volunteers.	Very Satisfied.....12 Satisfied.....0 N/A.....0 Unsatisfied.....0 Very Unsatisfied.....0	

What people are saying about the Columbia River Watershed Festival:

- “Melissa (our class guide) was super critical to our success and was wonderful, kind and helpful! **All the presenters were extremely approachable and amazing educators.** Fabulous job, everyone!” - Royce Andrews, Hazel Dell Teacher
- “Such a great day! **My class learned so much (me too) and the content aligns perfectly with what we are teaching!!**” - Emily Mondy, Anderson Elementary Teacher
- “You all do such a wonderful job! Great setup, everyone knows where they need to be, and you treat volunteers/presenters so well with your generous food and snack layout!” - Sonja, Mount Saint Helens Institute Presenter
- “You guys are the best! Excellent event. **Teachers and kids both get so much out of it** and you all host it so well.” - Melissa Johnston, Partner
- “The best part of the festival is interacting with new students in an outdoor environment and **being there while they make discoveries about the natural world.**” - Shane Carter, Water Resources Education Center
- “This was my first watershed festival and it was extremely well organized. The layout was easy to follow and **everyone seemed to have a great time.** I really enjoyed the presentations. “ Jana Grote, Volunteer

IN NUMBERS!

- **8 schools** attended from Vancouver Public School District, Evergreen Public Schools and Our Lady of Lourdes.
- A total of **30 classes** of 4th graders attended.
- Over **781 people attended** the festival including students, teachers and chaperones.
- **12 community partners** came together with staff and volunteers to offer environmental learning stations.
- In total, **51 partners, staff and volunteers** were on site each day to make the event a success.



2018 COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED FESTIVAL STATIONS INCLUDED:

Your Watershed! | What's a watershed? | “Know This Place” Scavenger Hunt | Watersheds Rocks! Music Making with Mo | Trees in Our Watershed | Know Where it Goes! | Recycle Relay | Energy Jeopardy | Compost and Decomposition | Living Streams: Stories for Healthy Watersheds & More!

City of Vancouver Event	Number of people reached by CS		
	# Students	# Adults	Total
Critter Count	35	16	51
Watershed Congress	25	5	30
Sturgeon Festival	120	78	198
Old Apple Tree Festival	140	62	202
Watershed Festival	661	120	781
Summer Nature Camps	62	0	62
Totals	1043	281	1324

An example of the stewardship award/newsletter that each camper receives at the end of the week is on page 7.





Each camper receives a stewardship award at the end of camp with a short newsletter on back that they can share with their parents about environmental stewardship and waste reduction!

TALES FROM THE TRAIL

Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp | July 17, 2018 | Columbia Springs Environmental Education

Wow! What a Week!!!

Wondering why your camper came home each day tired and happy? Let me clue you in to some of our activities this week...

Our youngest campers, in the Dragonfly Cabin, had a chance to catch water bugs out of the wetlands, dissect owl pellets, practice daily nature yoga and engage their inner artist in forest based water color painting!

The Foxglove Cabin also had a busy, busy week... They built survival shelters AND had a chance to play tracker-seeker (an extreme, team-based game of hide and seek in the forest) AND create their own "Eagle Eyes"! They also constructed nature journals, went hiking, went bug hunting and completed a salmon habitat challenge by constructing a salmon stream.

Our oldest crew of campers, the Worm Cabin, had adventures galore! They also collected bugs from the wetlands, but then they brought them up to the lab and checked them out under microscopes... so cool! They also had a chance to play tracker-seeker and as a cabin they chose to complete a service project (which we're so grateful for!!) at our nature play area.

On top of all that each of our campers had the chance to enjoy a fun and creative "up-cycled" recycle craft each morning followed by all camp games. It was hot this week, so water-based games like "water goose" and "sponge relay" were VERY popular!!

All in all we couldn't ask for a better week with a better crew of campers. From our education team at Columbia Springs, thank you so much for joining us at Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp. We can't wait to see everyone again next year!

- Ms. Fern



Partners Make it Possible

The City of Vancouver and Waste Connections Inc partner with Columbia Springs each year to bring Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp to the community. These partnerships allow students to learn how to care for our planet, while spending their days outside and immersed in nature.

When we feed lunch scraps to the worms, play the recycle relay, and make recycled crafts, campers absorb valuable information about waste-reduction, recycling, composting and more!

What household items do you normally cast away that could be used for crafting? Check out some of our favorite recycled art projects from camp, made from plastic spoons and paper plates!!



WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.
Connect with the Future®

