



GREEN BEAT

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- Groundwork USA
- Partnership news

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2011 Green Teams Featured In This Issue

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THE GREEN TEAM

GETTING TODAY'S YOUTH EXCITED ABOUT A GREEN FUTURE

Groundwork USA is partnering with the National Park Service again this summer, to get our nation's youth out to our National Parks. Initiating national environmental change is a movement, and that movement begins with our youth. This summer high school students ages 14-18 will get to be part of that movement through participation in the Green Team program, a national initiative that provides youth with paid work experience in areas of ecological restoration and environmental stewardship. The participants will work in small to mid sized groups, allowing them to learn important skills that can be brought back and applied to environmental issues in their own communities and neighborhoods.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging the community and solving the problems of environmental injustice go hand in hand; through the Green Team experience participants can return to their communities with a firsthand understanding of actions that can be taken on a local scale. The teams will be

sent to national parks, where they will meet with rangers and engage in an ongoing dialogue about environmentally conscious behavior; they will then immerse themselves in hands-on activities such as invasive plant removal, habitat restoration, trail maintenance and erosion control. Many of the youth involved will have had no prior experience

with the natural outdoors, and the green team provides a means of exploring nature. Several of the national parks are close to home, teaching kids the valuable lesson that nature does not have to be found in exotic far-flung places, but often lies closer to home.





Summer 2011 Green Team Park Plans

Groundwork Buffalo:

The Green Team members of Groundwork Buffalo will be traveling to the famous Cuyahoga Valley National Park, where they will spend several nights camping and learning about environmental responsibility from the Park's rangers. They will spend the duration of their visit learning about the management of non-native species, and will become actively immersed in invasive plant removal.

Upon returning to Buffalo, they will take a guided bike tour of historical city waterways, where they will learn about the impact of water on the growth of Buffalo as a commercial hub. Doing this will teach the team valuable lessons about natural resources that are often taken for granted; water is a precious commodity in many parts of the world. The team

will then collectively reflect on lessons learned from their service trip and brainstorm ways to apply these examples to their community. They will then present their findings to community members, and write a newsletter.

Groundwork Hudson Valley:

The Hudson Valley Green Team members aren't afraid to get their hands dirty; the team will be heading down into the Delaware River Water Gap to help restore a deteriorating trail section of the world-renowned Appalachian Trail. There they will learn firsthand the meaning of environmental stewardship as they tackle challenges of embankment leveling, overflow drainage, debris removal, canopy lifting, and exotic species management. After restoring the Park's trails the team will

head to Virginia and participate in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's annual conference, where they will attend workshops and seminars that will build their knowledge of ecological value and add to their outdoorsman skills.

Upon their return to New York the team will apply the skills learned from the trip to their home communities and tackle an independent project of their own: maintenance of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail.

Groundwork Dallas:

Texas is a dry state, and many of its environmental issues center around the use of water. That's why Groundwork Dallas is



sending its Green Team to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, where members will learn valuable techniques in the design and building of natural surfaced irrigation canals. Following this they will explore the agricultural and aquatic features of the San Antonio River walk, as well as participate in masonry and adobe wall restoration. Park Rangers will teach curious team members about ranger duties and the construction/ importance of maintaining hiking trails in the Park.

As a continuation of their learning and discovery in the Park, the team members will use skills learned to help create improvements to local community gardens and lower irrigation costs. Skills learned will also be

transmitted back to the community with the purpose of raising environmental awareness and creating green spaces around Dallas. Team members will also use techniques learned to build amenities in the nearby Great Trinity Forest and Trinity River watershed.

Groundwork Gary:

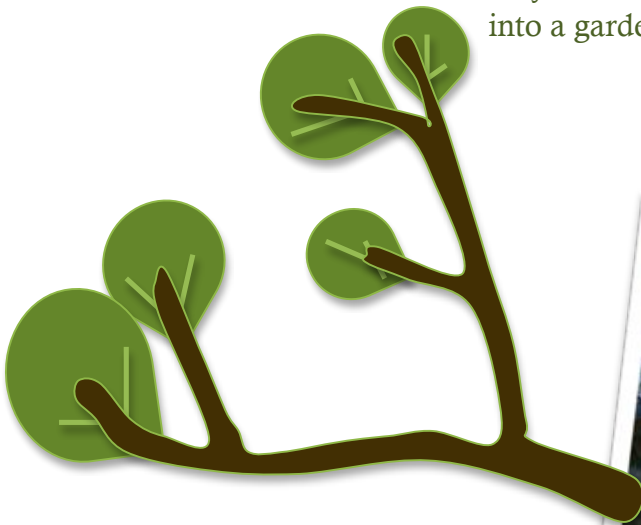
Groundwork Gary will be traveling to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, where they will receive training on community gardens and brownfields. They will focus on understanding the reclamation of brownfields, the characteristics of community gardens, and their role in neighborhoods. Rangers will teach the team about major sources of aquatic pollution and point out the effects of such pollutants on local habitats. Upon their return to Gary, the team will use the skills they learned to convert a vacant lot into a garden.

Groundwork Milwaukee:

Groundwork Milwaukee is tasked with the construction of rain gardens and bio-swales in the Kinnickinnic River watershed. While doing so they will learn about invasive species management and habitat restoration along the Kinnickinnic River, as well as engage in trail building and soil erosion control projects for the Milwaukee County Parks. Afterwards the team will use skills learned to reduce storm water runoff and implement rainwater harvesting systems through cistern installation at community gardens in the Harambee Neighborhood.

Groundwork Portland:

The Portland Green Team will be heading to the historical Fort Vancouver, where they will repair damaged historical fences and re-paint trim. The team will then tackle the task of window installation and work on the Columbia River waterfront.





Green team members will form new friendships and bonds that will last long after their service trips are over.



Celebrating our nation's green spaces for 95 years: the N.P.S.

Groundwork is proud to be partnered with the National Parks Service, an organization that since its founding in 1916 has been a pioneer in blazing the trails of environmentalism and conservation.

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There they will participate in maintenance projects and testing. Other activities will include heritage garden maintenance and camping in the Fort to learn outdoorsman skills.

Upon their return the team will take skills that they've learned to engage restoration projects in the Johnson Creek watershed in east Portland and Multnomah County. These projects will involve water monitoring and fresh water mussel conservation.

Groundwork San Diego:

The San Diego Green Team is headed to the fun-filled Santa Monica National Recreation Area and Channel Islands National Park. Rangers at the Park will educate students about the environment and train them in the removal of invasive plant species from the Park's grounds. Afterwards the team will learn about reclamation and re-vegetation techniques. These skills will then be taken back to the team's home communities and applied.

Groundwork Somerville:

The Somerville Green Team will travel to Minute Man National Park in Concord, MA. Once there they will become involved in trail maintenance, invasive species removal and receive training

in principles of rural agriculture. This will involve the restoration of historic agricultural fields and the removal of overgrowth and vegetation from historically significant stonewalls. Afterwards the team will install livestock fencing to allow for animal grazing and clear agricultural ditches to aid with field drainage.

Look out for news from other Groundwork Trusts and their Green Team/Park summer plans in future issues!

Participating Parks

Santa Monica National Recreation Area

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Minute Man National Park

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Indiana Dunes National lakeshore

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Delaware River Water Gap National Recreation Area

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

This newsletter was designed, written and produced by Groundwork USA's Summer Youth Intern, Lars-Olaf Höger.



The Green Teams will have the opportunity to travel far and wide to work in some of North America's most beautiful and awe-inspiring locations. The Parks are spread from coast-to-coast, though close to the Trust's home location: nature is not something that needs to be found outside one's community.



Groundwork USA



PARK LOCATIONS

