

YEAR END REPORT

Community Volunteer Director's Report Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club September 30, 2022

This past year has been a year of change. We have reopened following the pandemic and have had several different reporting procedures. One took over 6 hours to complete. There have also been different requirements for the Service Agreements. (Not to mention, a new Chief of Interpretation and a new Superintendent for the park.)

Our numbers appear to reflect the changes. Following the Pandemic, our numbers have increased slowly. Our August workday had 95 which is about half of our normal number (for August), but much improved from the last 2 years.

For 8 months of the year, we had 1045 (projected 1100) volunteer hours from 340 (projected 375) volunteers. (Three workdays were canceled and one was not recorded). This number is about 25% of our total in 2019 (4000 hours), but almost double from 2020 (670 hours) and 2021 (586 hours).

The difference appears to be two-fold: volunteer response to the pandemic plus NPS guidelines that prohibited us from working and then limited the number of people that could work.

Groups that have assisted with our workdays include Hillgrove JROTC, Allatoona JROTC, Allatoona NHS, Wheeler HS Helping Hands, McEachern Track Team, Kennesaw State University, Lincoln Tech, Atlanta Outdoor Club, among others.

We escorted KSU's Office of Leadership and Service around to some of our repair sites including the Grand Staircase, fencing around the VC and Picket Line Trail and some of the work on the Environmental Trail. They were truly impressed with what our volunteers can and have done plus that our volunteers see an immediate benefit for their work. That's CL's, TA's and Community Volunteers. They have promoted us on their Facebook page to help with numbers. Following their visit here, they have scheduled other on-site visits with other organizations.

Overall, we have had a good year, not stellar, but certainly much improved over the last two years. We appear to be on the comeback. This comes from a lot of hard work from TA's, CL's and Community Volunteers.