

Field Work Contribution

Green Seattle Partnership Performance Evaluation Fact Sheet 1

Composition

The Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) is a unique program in that it relies heavily on both volunteers and professionals to both organize and participate in field work. All field work events for the GSP fall into one of three broad categories based on the combination of participants:



Volunteer Led work parties: a volunteer (Forest Steward) organizes, recruits, and directs other volunteer to conduct field work

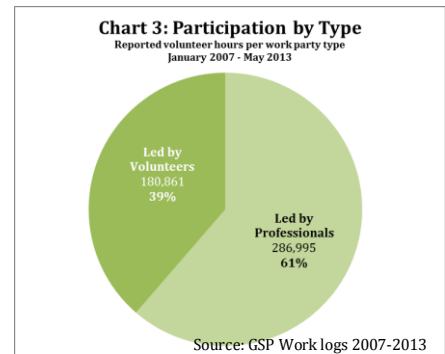
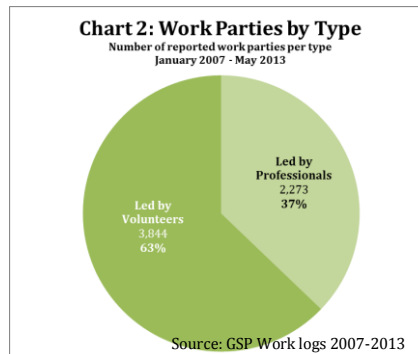
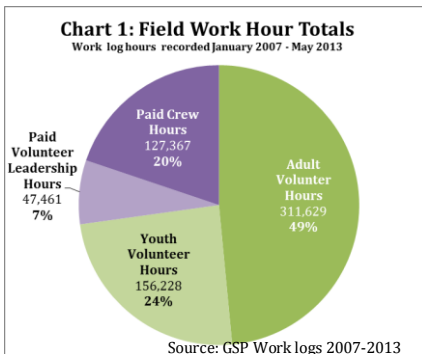


Professionally Led work parties: volunteers are recruited and organized by professionals – either Seattle Parks or contractor staff



Crew work events: work is organized and performed by professional crews – either the Parks Natural Areas Crew or contracted crew

Volunteer Contribution



Volunteers play two essential roles for the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP). First, as can be seen in Chart 1, they contribute 73% of reported hours in the field. Secondly, trained volunteers called Forest Stewards organize a large number of work parties. A Chart 2 shows, they organize almost twice as many volunteer work parties as staff and contractors. These volunteer led events contribute 38% of reported volunteer hours (Chart 3). The remaining 61% of reported volunteer hours come from large professionally led events.

Professional Contribution

GSP relies heavily on the work of paid staff and contractors for crew labor and volunteer management in the field. Volunteer management takes up about a quarter of field staff time (Chart 1 and Table 1), while crew labor time makes up the bulk of these paid hours. The median ratio of

field support hours to volunteer hours is 1:6, meaning that each paid volunteer management hours in the field can be expected to return about 6 field volunteer hours. This ratio does not include work such as recruitment, planning, and organization which take place in the office.

Professional work from outside contractors contributes about 85% of paid field labor hours, distributed between volunteer management and crew labor (Table 1).

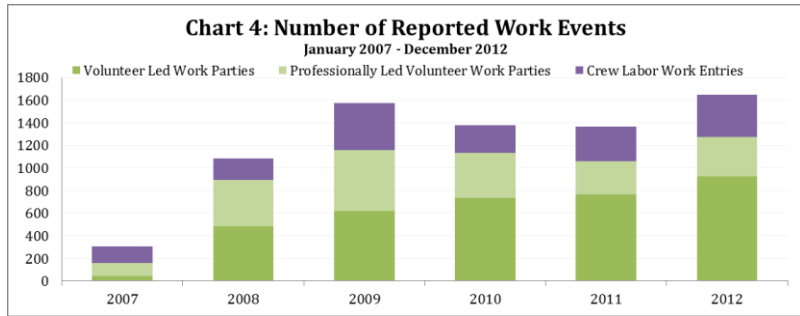
Table 1: Distribution of Reported Professional Labor Hours by Source and Type
(as a percentage of total hired labor)

	Parks Staff	Contractors	Total
Volunteer Management	4%	22%	26%
Crew Labor	11%	63%	74%
Total	15%	85%	100%

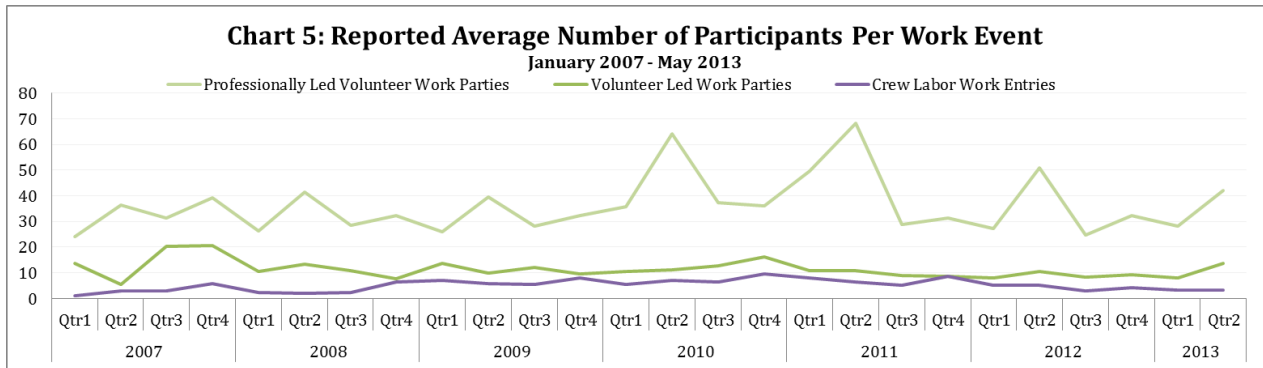
Source: GSP Work logs 2007-2013

Trends

Since 2007, the average number of recorded GSP work events has consistently surpassed 100 per month.. While they tend to be smaller than volunteer work parties led by staff or contractors (Chart 5), the number of reported volunteer (Forest Steward) led work parties have been slowly increasing throughout the years of the program (Chart 4). Nevertheless, professionally led volunteer work parties still contribute largest portion of reported field hours (Charts 2 and 6).

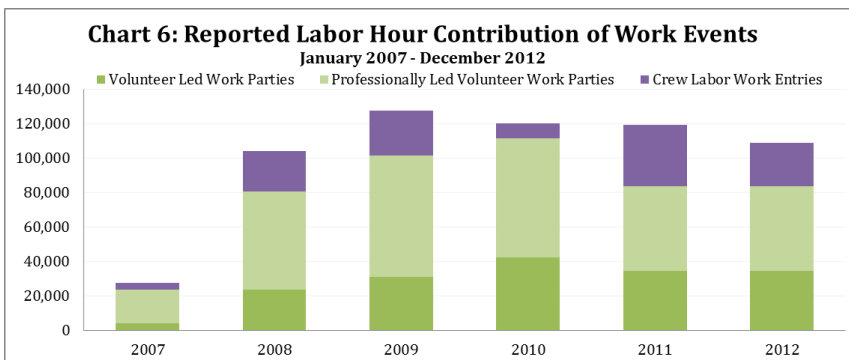


Source: GSP Work logs 2007-2013



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Professional led volunteer events tend to fluctuate dramatically on a seasonal basis. The concentration of events such as Duwamish Alive!, Seattle Works Day and Earth Day in the second quarter drive up the average size of these staff led volunteer events (Chart 5) and are hefty contributors to their reported labor hour contributions.



Source: GSP Work logs 2007-2013

As Chart 6 illustrates, the number of volunteer hours seems to have peaked in 2009 and 2010, though have remained relatively stable in 2011 and 2012, providing a promising trend for volunteer participation going forward.