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Conservation Corps

Benefits to people and nature utilizing
American Rescue Plan Act Funding



fpdcc.com

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ARPA Conservation Corps Partners



student
conservation
association





What is Conservation Corps?

- Paid employment
- Job Training / Certification
- Team based
- Hands-on
- Improves land for nature and people

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Corps Goals



Provide an array of programs for youth and adults including those for people with barriers to employment



Provide valuable paid work experiences to prepare for future jobs

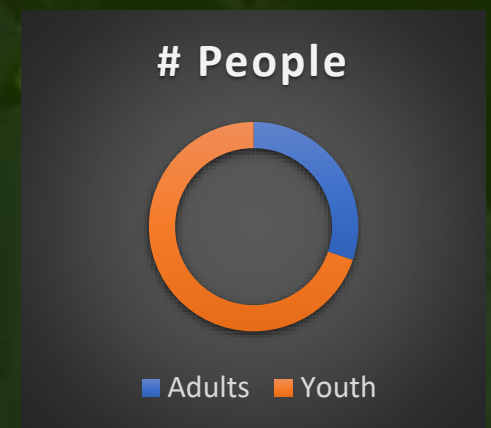
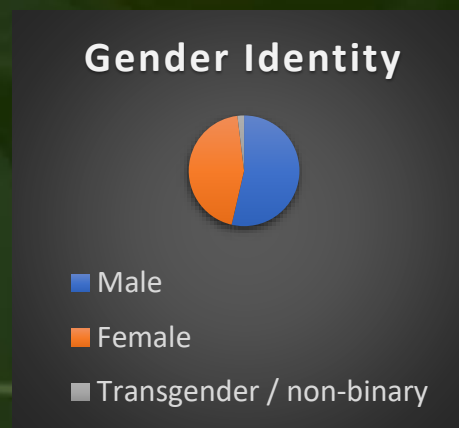
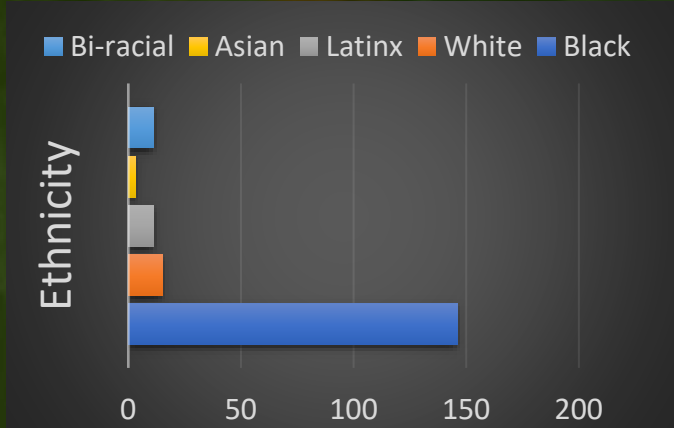


Bring diverse populations to the Forest Preserves that reflect the diversity of Cook County.



Help the Forest Preserves restore lands back to health

2022 ARPA Corps Demographics



Benefits of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Focuses on:

- Improvements to Forest Preserves in low-income communities
- Employment of people who reside in low-income communities

Youth Programs

- Halts a 30-50% budget cut

Adult Programs

- Triples funding for people with barriers to employment



What will ARPA Fund?

FOTFP Forest Preserves Experience

- 5-week summer youth paid employment.
- Housing Authority of Cook County
- \$1,120,000

SCA Gap Year Program

- 6-month program for young adults
- Prepares youth alumni for adult programs
- \$415,000

Greencorps Chicago

- 9-month training program
- Focus on adults with barriers to employment
- \$1,300,000



Job Readiness, Environmental Education and Green Career Exposure



Technical Skills Training



Growing Professional Networks and Job Skills Hiring



Measuring Program Success

- 65 to 95% retention rate
- 60 to 90% obtain job post program (adults)
- 90% would recommend to a friend
- 60% reported visiting the preserves more often after program
- 90% agreed that it helped them gain basic and/or technical job skills
- 50% were interested in conservation / science careers post program



Nathaniel Garcia, Program alumni
Naturalist Job, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Thank you!

Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

- Xochitl Flores, Bureau Chief
- Irene Sherr, Deputy Bureau Chief





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<https://fpdcc.com/nature/conservation-corps-programs>



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Questions?

Thank you to our Corps partners:



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