



Open Space Volunteer Coordinator

Increasing volunteer opportunities and improving our open space

Description

Proposal

To fund a 0.6 FTE Open Space Volunteers position, to provide greater volunteering opportunities within Council's parks, gardens and verges.

Background

Council currently employs one dedicated PT (0.6) Open Space volunteer coordinator that supervises, trains, coordinates, inducts on site, and supports volunteers who are undertaking works on Council land. This position was created 7 years ago to fill a gap whereby Council were receiving numerous requests for volunteering opportunities with limited staff capacity to support them. During this 7 year period the profile of volunteering within Mitcham Council has grown significantly with staff receiving regular requests for more Open Space volunteering sites and programs. As the current volunteer coordinator resource is at full capacity providing supervision, support and advice to over 100 existing volunteers, Council is unable to support any additional or new volunteer programs.

It is anticipated that an additional 0.6 FTE Open Space Volunteer Coordinator could support in the order of an additional 3,600 volunteer hours per annum, with the potential to provide \$162,000 of value to the City of Mitcham in Open Space management each year (based on the Volunteering SA&NT working hour value (\$45.10 per hour) a financial value can be assigned to volunteers hours).

The financial value volunteers provide to Council is a positive one. What is perhaps of more importance in the current climate of uncertainty that we are all living through, is the emotional, mental and physical wellbeing open space volunteering provides.

Community Benefits

- Increased opportunities for volunteering
- Positive emotional, mental and physical wellbeing
- Improved condition of open spaces

Category B

Rate Impact: 0.10%
Ongoing (Council): \$59,400

Primary Theme

Theme 3.3 Partnerships

Community Insight

I volunteer.

Other Information

- ☐ Pending Grant Funding
- ☐ Future Grant Funding Request
- ☐ Priority Theme
- ☒ Non-Priority Theme

General Manager

Dan Baker