

City of WA
Keep W.P. Beautiful

Hundreds of volunteers beautify city parks

On July 25 the City of Winter Park and Keep Winter Park Beautiful (K.W.P.B.) sponsored 1,000 high school aged young people from the 42nd International Youth Convention of the Church of God – the second volunteer effort of this size undertaken in Winter Park by a non-resident group.

Approximately 20 youth undertook three projects at the Winter Park Tennis Center clearing dead flowers from three beds, spreading 10 yards of mulch in the flower beds and along shrub lines, and removing 150 feet of old green tennis windscreen on courts 6, 7, and 8. The latter included removing skunk, grape and potato vines from the fences.

At the Winter Park Garden Club, volunteers cleaned the end of the parking median and planted the area with sword fern. They also cleared and weeded the perimeter of the building grounds, especially the side of the building by the creek.

The majority of the two bus loads of volunteers in this part of Winter Park joined Gordon Greger, Landscape Supervisor, who shared the history of Mead Garden, and explained the city's tree program as well as the benefits of a butterfly garden as they weeded and realigned several thousand pots of trees, and weeded the butterfly garden.

Eighteen buses of volunteers descended on Fleet Peoples Park where they were met by 36 team leaders, divided into 36 color-coded groups, were given an instruction sheet and

colored sticker, and briefing by their leader. Each group proceeded to their color coded area, made use of the mosquito spray, picked up tools and went to work clearing the dead wood, small plants, and trees.

They were asked to remove all fallen trees and branches and cut out anything smaller than their wrist. An amazing 336 cubic yards of piled up plant materials were later removed by city crews.

Two additional teams were assigned to either work on similar clearing activities along Glenridge Way on the north side of Lake Spier, or to the food team which assembled for each volunteer a bag with a cookie and piece of fruit and a bottle of water.

K.W.P.B. and the city would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors of the event: Albertson's Grocery Store in the Winter Park Village, Family Pride Produce, Harvill's Produce at 1448 N. Semoran Blvd, Publix Community Relations, and Zephyrhills Spring Water.

Special thanks also goes to Jean Sprimont, K.W.P.B. Coordinator, for coordinating the project; John Holland, Director of Parks and Recreation, who offered both the help of the majority of the Parks and Recreation department and carte blanche on the organizing; Ernie Manning, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, for ordering the tools, arranging for the ice and Gator delivery and even spraying the three huge hornet nests; Lee Mackin, Chief of Forestry, and his crew for spending two part days in preparation for the event; Gordon Greger for handling the Mead Garden detail; all of the employees who became overnight-team leaders; Pamela Mann and the K.W.P.B. food