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CITY PARK ANNOUNCES ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE

Volunteer registration now open for January 17 event hosted by Friends of City Park

NEW ORLEANS – On Monday, January 17, New Orleans City Park will kick off 2022 with a Park-wide volunteer event.

The Annual Day of Service in City Park coincides with the National Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This year, hundreds of New Orleanians will come together to help care for City Park by lending a hand to beautify the community's green space. The Annual Day of Service provides opportunities to give back by cleaning, painting, weeding, planting, and more. Through the event, Friends of City Park connects individuals to a small group of volunteers spread throughout the Park and provides the tools to make a tangible, lasting difference.

“In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we acknowledge and encourage all New Orleanians to volunteer to improve their community on January 17 — by participating in a ‘day on, not day off,’” said Stephanie Bell, Executive Director of Friends of City Park. “Dr. King worked resolutely to build a culture that values the worth and dignity of every human being — principles shared by Friends of City Park. He also recognized the power of service to build communities. By committing to a service project on this day, you along with hundreds of your neighbors will be investing in the social cohesion of our city.”

In 2020, the first Friends of City Park Annual Day of Service had more than 150 volunteers and produced a total of 300 hours of labor through projects across the 1,300-acre Park (equivalent to a \$7,440 investment for New Orleans City Park). The individual goal for 2022 is to have 400 volunteers on this special day to help improve and transform common areas, trails, and facilities throughout the Park.

In 1994, Congress designated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official Day of Service taking place the third Monday in January each year. This is the only federal holiday observed as an official Day of Service. Several community-minded organizations across the city will be participating in City Park's Annual Day of Service by coordinating teams of volunteers, including event sponsors Ochsner Health System and Raising Cane's.

Community members are encouraged to volunteer for specific Park-improvement projects. For more information and to register, please visit FriendsOfCityPark.com.

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When:

- Monday, January 17, 2022
- Two-hour shifts (vary depending on project)

- Full list of volunteer opportunities: https://bit.ly/Service_22

Where:

- New Orleans City Park
- Volunteer check-in at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, LA 70124

Registration:

All volunteers must pre-register at https://bit.ly/Service_22

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About New Orleans City Park:

For over 170 years, New Orleans City Park has provided access to abundant natural and cultural resources to residents of the region and visitors from around the world. The Park's 1,300 acres make it one of the largest urban parks in the United States. City Park is a popular place to fish on the bayou, picnic, experience safe outdoor play, or engage in athletic pursuits—as evidenced by more than 16 million visits each year. City Park's annual operating budget has been largely derived from self-generated activities. The COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Ida, which significantly affected revenue-generating facilities due to restriction closures, highlighted the vital importance of diversifying revenue streams. Through these challenges, the Park's walking trails, urban forest, and open spaces continue to be a respite to the public. To learn more about the Park and to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund, visit NewOrleansCityPark.com.

About Friends of City Park:

Friends of City Park is a regional, non-profit organization whose mission is to maintain and increase the value and importance of City Park as a place of natural beauty, culture, recreation, and education for the public and is an invaluable support organization for City Park.