

## National Public Lands Day 2011

On Saturday, September 24, 2011 just over 250 volunteers braved the weather forecast and came out to support Valley Forge National Historical Park in what is called America's largest one-day outdoor volunteer service, National Public Lands Day.

People from Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and the surrounding areas turnout to lend a hand for this special event - now celebrated for its 8th year at Valley Forge National Historical Park- can be attributed in part to the growing emphasis on service and a growing recognition of the importance of public lands for recreation, travel, rejuvenation and health.

Acting Superintendent Pollarine thanked the volunteering for supporting the park and encouraged families to use the park resources by taking advantage of the park trails, fun activities, volunteering and spoke about new volunteer opportunities such as Keepers of the Stream as a way that people can stay connected to the park year round.

Volunteers of all ages rolled up their sleeves to assist with more than 15 projects. They worked with park staff to accomplish the following:

- Added wood chips to protect the trail tread on the ¼ of a mile newly established Chapel Trail. Connector and removed downed limbs and litter from 3-miles of the Chapel Trail.
- Completed mulching of 150 small trees, put on protective bird netting, straighten stakes on 300 trees.
- Planted 8 native threaten plant species.
- Removed weeds and vegetative duff from ¼ of mile of the historic stone road gutters along Inner Live Drive.
- Removed 4 large truck tires and 10 bags of trash from the PA Turnpike area.
- Cut invasive bittersweet vines, removed miscanthus plants and mile-a-minute vines on 2.5 acres along the Valley Creek Area.
- Collected sycamore seeds from the downed William Penn Lafayette Sycamore Tree.
- Cut back over grown vegetation and clean up debris and litter along 80-feet of stone wall on the Joseph Plumb Martin Trail.
- Removed invasive vines and plants on 3.5 acres of the Eitzen Field and PA. Turnpike area.
- Cleaned debris and vegetative duff from the Bottling Plant ruins and repaired 10 drainage features on the Horse-shoe Trail.



***Special thanks to:***

REI – co-sponsors for the sixth-year in a row  
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
National Parks Conservation Association  
Energy Coordinating Agency, Inc  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Audubon Society – Valley Forge  
Friends of Valley Forge Park  
Green Lane Nature Center  
Trout Unlimited  
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum  
Schuylkill Programs Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
South Eastern Search and Rescue  
King of Prussia Rotary Club  
Boy scouts of America  
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Delaware Valley College of Wildlife Society  
Christopher Dock Mennonite High School  
Verizon Telecom Pioneers  
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Nature Conservancy  
West Philadelphia Vineyard Community Church.  
Southeastern PA Payroll Association  
Target Employees- Royersford  
Villanova University  
Cabrini College  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Chester County Intermediate Unit Technical High School

***And countless individual volunteers,  
Thank you!***