



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Donald Rocha

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 20, 2015

---

Approved Don Rocha Date 1-20-15  
 PH

---

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Volunteer Tool Trailer & Debris Trailer

Amount of City Funding Required: \$21,180

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

This is a proposal to fund a volunteer tool trailer (fully stocked with tools and supplies) and debris trailer for PRNS/community volunteer use. Currently, the City has one volunteer tool trailer fully stocked with tools and supplies for park beautification projects. PRNS does not currently have a debris trailer.

In 2014, the existing tool trailer supported approximately 95% of PRNS One Day Volunteer Events. These are events where volunteers such as church groups, company employees, school groups, home owner associations, neighborhood associations and youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts support a park through service. There were 134 One Day Volunteer Events total at San Jose parks that were supported by 4,315 volunteers in 2014. These volunteers provided 12,802 hours of volunteer service, which is valued at \$309,552 (based on a value of \$24.18 per volunteer hour from [http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)).

From this data, we can extrapolate that the Volunteer Tool Trailer supported approximately 127 volunteer events, where 4,099 volunteers worked 12,162 volunteer hours (value of \$294,077) supporting

park maintenance operations. Adding a second volunteer tool trailer would allow PRNS to support most or all volunteer events, and program an estimated additional 24 events per year.

Of the 134 One Day Volunteer Events, it is estimated that 85% were events where a volunteers picked up litter or trimmed landscaping, thus creating green waste. Such debris was handled twice: once by volunteers, and again by park staff who came to remove the debris from the park. A debris trailer would allow for volunteers to load and store the debris directly into the trailer, and then minimize staff time to remove the debris from the park. This efficiency would allow park staff to spend more time working on projects more technical than debris removal (turf repair, edging, and irrigation repair, etc.). Additionally, a debris trailer could be used to transport bulky equipment such as a large volume of wheelbarrows to community events. The current protocol for transporting these wheelbarrows is inefficient and requires a city vehicle to retrieve a trailer from storage at a far-away site.

PRNS along with community volunteers play a vital role in protecting and enhancing San Jose's neighborhood parks and open space. An additional volunteer tool trailer and debris trailer would allow PRNS to facilitate more volunteer events per year, cut down staff time, and continue to support critical park maintenance operations.

### **Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

Name: Athena Trede

Phone number: 408-793-5563

E-mail address: Athena.trede@sanjoseca.gov