

# Pima Prickly Park Volunteer Job Descriptions

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## Introduction and Parking

PPP is a county park being developed in partnership with Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. Note that as a county park it is open to the public and has similar open hours and ramada access availability to other Pima County Parks. [County Park page link](#)

The main visitor entrance is at **3500 W River Rd**. The main park restroom is just inside the front entrance in the county maintenance office.



The volunteer entrance is at **5845 N Camino De La Tierra**. There is a porta-potty available for volunteer use inside the Pima county nursery located adjacent to the park and accessed through a gate near the volunteer entrance.

Note that restrooms are open only during business hours Monday through Friday.

Most volunteers park near the volunteer entrance off Camino de la Tierra as it is closest to hoop house where we generally meet our teams. Note that you cannot access Camino de la Tierra from River Road but can from Orange Grove

## Teams and Workdays

### Important notes

- All volunteers must be TCSS Members for Insurance Liability. Please don't bring friends or family who are not members.
- All volunteers must wear a mask and observe social distance covid safety protocols.
- Bring water and snacks to stay hydrated. Wear protective clothing as appropriate for outdoor work with spiny plants.
- Report any problems or direct questions to our TCSS volunteer park manager Linda Heisley [lindaheisley@msn.com](mailto:lindaheisley@msn.com) or [park@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:park@tucsoncactus.org) Linda's cell is **520-429-4162**

The TCSS mission is **learning, teaching** and **conservation** of cacti and other succulents for the benefit of all our members.

The park is the daily activity center for achieving our mission.

- **Learning** – hands on activities for volunteers as we develop & maintain each garden area of the park. Join one of the garden teams today!
- **Teaching** – regular classes are announced on the Park Events page and volunteers are constantly sharing information as we develop & maintain each garden area of the park.
- **Conservation** – Most plants in the 7 acre park are rescued from construction sites where they would have been destroyed

Typical volunteer work days are Monday & Thursday mornings – meeting times vary with the seasons Individual garden teams may meet whenever they prefer.

In general, ongoing volunteer tasks can be grouped in these areas, detailed job descriptions with specific duties are listed in the job descriptions / volunteer positions section.

- **Garden Teams** – There are several teams who meet regularly to focus on the development and maintenance of specific areas of the park. These groups focus on learning for the team and developing the park as a teaching tool for TCSS members and the general public
- **Watering** – The garden teams typically take care of their own areas but we need people to keep the plants in the common areas cared for.
- **Maintenance** – Like watering, the garden teams typically take care of their own areas but we need people to keep the plants in the common areas cared for. Maintenance tasks include, weeding, trimming and replacing dead plants. Tree trimming should be done by volunteers who have training in proper techniques.
- **Special Projects** – Like the garden teams, the special projects team has its own web page accessed in the park section menu. The projects vary widely and the team members are notified each week of what projects are current for the week.

## Tools and Resource people

TCSS has purchased some tools for use in the park. Volunteers generally bring their own tools but this is not required. Volunteers can be trained on the use of the club owned power tools like the Makita power shovel or the battery powered reciprocal saw prior to using them. If training desired contact

Steve Watts or Linda Heisley. There are rakes, shovels, loppers, and assorted tools in the tool shed in the hoop house. All tools to be returned to hoop house before leaving the park.

There are a number of volunteers onsite Mondays and Thursdays who serve as resource staff to answer you questions or help you resolve issues that may pop up. If you are volunteering on other days, be sure to have Linda Heisley's phone number available.

Resource people generally available for assistance:

**Linda Heisley** – Pima Prickly Park activity director. Linda is the coordinator of all park projects and activities.

**Dave Palzkill** – Dave consults with Linda on nearly every project so he is a great resource for plant questions or plant maintenance advice.

**Dick Wiedhopf** – Dick is the TCSS club president and is a co-planner with Linda on every project so he is a great resource for any type of question you may have.

**Vonn Watkins** – Vonn is the TCSS club vice-president and is also knowledgeable about every aspect of park operations. Vonn is an especially good resource for plant ID questions.

**Crystal Cannon** – Crystal works solo on plant maintenance and is a great resource on “*what is next*” if this is an area that you choose to volunteer.

**Cathy Robson** – Cathy is the “*hoop house*” (propagation) manager and can help you find tools and supplies.

## Volunteer Job Descriptions

Volunteering is an opportunity for TCSS Members to give back to the Tucson community while developing some great hands-on skills and knowledge.

You will receive hands-on training as needed in any and all of the tasks listed below.

The park management volunteers will assist you in modifying any of the volunteer job descriptions to make them do more for your learning or personal satisfaction. The descriptions below help you get started making a contribution to the development of our desert plants teaching facility.

- **Garden Teams** – Joining one of the garden teams is a way of focusing your learning in a specific area of cactus and succulent landscapes. Team members join as students with a desire to learn as opposed to experts in this area. The team leader is not the most knowledgeable but is a person willing to be the **central energy** to schedule activities. Team activities include;
    - Designing and developing the garden – always looking for ways to make it more educational for visitors with plant ID signs and web page postings.
    - Maintaining and improving the existing garden – the management staff can help you procure new plants through propagation, solicited donations, or purchase.
    - Social activities that make the development process fun!
    - Educational activities such as custom designed classes that you request, visits from guest botanists or field trips to other specialty demonstration gardens. Park management volunteers assist you as needed.
- Current Garden Teams

- Pollinator Garden – Team leader – Penny Miller – members – Michael McCutcheon & Ann Wellnitz. More information available on the website Pollinator Garden page.
  - Agave Garden – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Baja Garden – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Cholla Maze – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Ferocactus Garden – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Saguarohege – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Common area front & rear entry landscapes – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Common area perimeter plants as security fencing – Team leader – position open - please help?
  - Wildlife Habitat – Team leader – position open - please help?
- **Watering** – This task is critically important. Countless hours of rescue effort and park development can be lost if our new transplants and drought sensitive plants are not cared for. The park water system is extensive but the volume of water available only supports a maximum of 3 hose bibs running at one time. For this reason we need water teams (affectionately called hose haulers) every day of the week during the late spring, summer and early fall months. It's best if you work in pairs so that one person can improve the water basins, rake debris from under the plants and or check soil moisture levels using a moisture meter.
    - Monday water team #1 - open
    - Monday water team #2 - open
    - Tuesday water team #1 - open
    - Tuesday water team #2 - open
    - Wednesday water team #1 - open
    - Wednesday water team #2 - open
    - Thursday water team #1 - open
    - Thursday water team #2 - open
    - Friday water team #1 - open
    - Friday water team #2 - open
    - Saturday water team #1 - open
    - Saturday water team #2 – open
    - Saturday water team #1 - open
    - Sunday water team #1 - open
    - Sunday water team #2 - open
- **Maintenance** – Maintenance tasks include, weeding, trimming and replacing dead plants. This is a good task area for those who like variety and prefer to work solo or in a small group of friends.
    - Maintenance team #1 – Crystal Cannon
    - Maintenance team #2 – Dave Palzkill
    - Maintenance team #3 – Dick Wiedhopf & Vonn Watkins
    - Maintenance team #4 – open
    - Maintenance team #5 – open
    - Maintenance team #6 – open
    - Maintenance team #7 – open

- **Special Projects** – The special projects team has its own web page like the garden pages where pending projects are listed. Members of the team receive an email on Monday's that describe the project on deck for this week. Members then RSVP so that the work tasks can be better planned. There are tasks for all physical abilities although this team often takes the more physically challenging projects. If you would like to be on the email notification list and receive weekly project announcements email [Steve.Watts@TucsonCactus.org](mailto:Steve.Watts@TucsonCactus.org)
- **Hoop House Manager** – Propagates plants for the park and for plant sales. Manages the secure tool storage. Cathy Robson
- **Training Coordinator** – The training coordinator responds to training requests from individual volunteers or from garden teams and arranges classroom, hands-on or field trip training as appropriate. To submit a request for training for any of the above position assignments email [Steve.Watts@TucsonCactus.org](mailto:Steve.Watts@TucsonCactus.org)
- **Free Plant Table Monitor** – The free plant table located behind the hoop house is a spot where members can drop extra plants, cuttings or offsets that they wish to share with other members. The monitor cleans up the table periodically by removing and discarding old plants not taken by members.