

# Volunteers in Parks Program

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



California State Parks  
Interpretation and Education Division



## © 2016 California State Parks

California State Parks supports equal access.  
This publication can be made available in alternate formats.  
For information call: (800) 777-0369  
(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.  
711, TTY relay service  
**[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)**

Questions about this report or request for copies should be directed to:  
Interpretation and Education Division  
California State Parks  
P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
Phone: (916) 654-2249  
[interp@parks.ca.gov](mailto:interp@parks.ca.gov)

# Volunteers in Parks Program

———— 2015 ANNUAL REPORT ————

California State Parks  
Interpretation and Education Division  
Sacramento, California  
2016





## 2015 ACTIVITY REPORT VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS PROGRAM

### Summary

In 2015, **40,195 volunteers** provided a total of **1,266,695 service hours**, surpassing the one-million hour benchmark for the eighth consecutive year. These hours represent an equivalent value of more than **\$34.9 million\*** to California State Parks. Volunteers enabled state parks to enhance outreach and community engagement activities, services to visitors, and the stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

A whopping 79% of volunteers—**31,855 individuals**—participated as short-term (three days or less) volunteers, while **8,340** people made long-term commitments. This number remained around the same levels as in previous years (except for 2014, where higher numbers are ascribed to the 150th Anniversary's many activities).

Though the total number of volunteers is relatively stable, each volunteer's **average number of hours contributed is 31.51 hours, an increase of nearly 19%**. Interpretation continued to represent the largest category of volunteer service, comprising almost 25% of all volunteer hours. Combined, hours donated as campground hosts, in performing maintenance/housekeeping tasks, and public contact functions account for more than 44% of total volunteer hours.

A pie chart providing a visual representation of volunteer hours in each service category follows; program statistics and graphs that give a five-year look at trends in volunteer activity are also included in this report.

### Staff Support and Training

In 2015, **every staff hour invested in the Volunteers in Parks Program yielded over 10 hours of volunteer service**. The total number of staff involved in the program reached a five-year low of 780, and 118,105 staff-support hours represent a 21% decrease from 2014's activity-rich year.

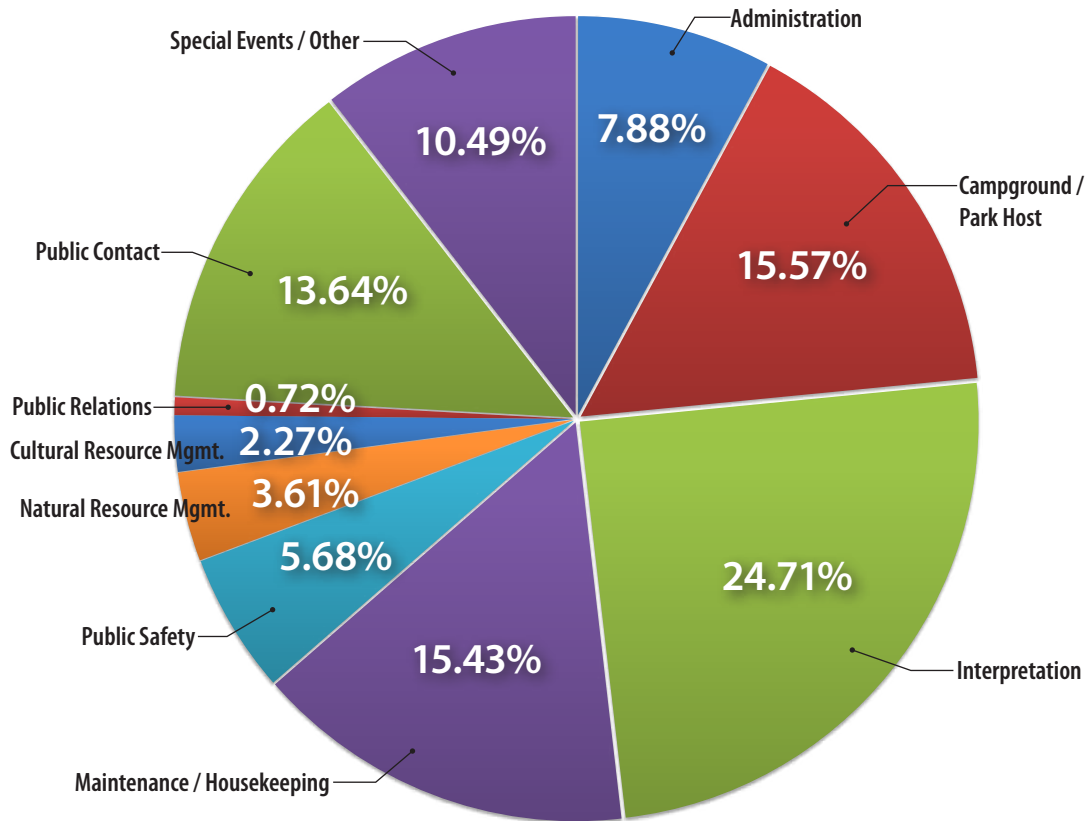
### Volunteer Recognition

Department staff presented 38 Poppy Awards and 9 Volunteer Medallions to outstanding individuals and groups receiving special acknowledgment during 2015.

**Program  
Contact**  
If you have questions about this report, please contact **Karen Barrett** at (916) 653-8819 or Karen.Barrett@parks.ca.gov.

*\*\$27.59 per hour as provided by [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org). This rate is indexed for California and includes fringe benefits estimated at 12%.*

**2015 VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS PROGRAM**  
**Distribution of Volunteer Hours per Service Category**



Category	Examples	Hours
Administration	Office work, computer data entry, training	99,860.50
Campground/Park Host	Day/night operations	197,177
Cultural Resource Mgmt.	Archaeological/curatorial assistance, research	28,727
Interpretation	Nature walks, campfire programs, museum tours, roving interpretation	313,030
Maintenance/Housekeeping	Trail work, litter removal, painting, construction	195,488
Natural Resource Mgmt.	Habitat restoration, wildlife surveys	45,726.50
Public Contact	Visitor Center information, fee collection	172,725
Public Relations	Media contacts and marketing	9,168
Public Safety	MAUs, search & rescue, bike patrol, first aid	71,921
Special Events/Other	Special events, and other duties	132,872
<b>Total Donated Hours</b>		<b>1,266,695</b>

# **2015 by the Numbers: VIPP Spreadsheets and 5-Year Comparisons**

## 2015 - Volunteers in Parks Program

District	Unit	Admin.	Campground /Park Host	Interp.	Maintenance/ Housekeeping	Public Safety	Natural Resource Mgmt.	Cultural Resource Mgmt.	Public Relations	Public Contact	Special Events /Other	Total Vol. Hours	Total # of Vol.	Total Long Term	Total Short Term	Total DPR Staff Hours	Total DPR Staff
Angeles	915	5,949	2,420	18,659	3,447	21,079	3,613	1,643	100	4,377	2,705	63,992	1,444	530	914	3,206	44
Bay Area	660	9,512	16,358	20,461	8,392	14,227	4,423	741	19	14,307	13,937	102,377	3,067	999	2,068	3,491	45
Capital	670	15,234	0	102,796	24,997	2,752	422	13,064	105	7,756	21,813	188,939	909	843	66	19,824	42
Central Valley	730	3,905	4,900	6,805	3,622	319	541	1,538	783	8,482	4,839	35,734	712	275	437	10,043	51
Channel Coast	910	744	15,524	10,628	8,079	400	128	20	0	20,048	12	55,583	377	260	117	1,540	12
Colorado Desert	940	10,203	9,534	7,596	5,285	9,125	6,888	2,081	12	24,490	1,743	76,957	774	379	395	5,825	22
Gold Fields	690	1,155	0	8,827	2,579	3,112	391	180	15	2,478	4,779	23,515	1,270	312	958	1,724	16
Headquarters	x	1,307	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,307	5	5	0	150	12
Inland Empire	950	576	2,453	4,837	695	2,358	231	120	0	5,962	1,336	18,568	238	94	144	826	26
Monterey	720	9,460	2,460	25,746	16,925	2,722	6,253	1,992	838	13,690	3,194	83,280	1,180	720	460	9,448	57
North Coast Redwoods	635	453	18,050	2,224	74,720	1,145	1,915	297	3,168	7,384	1,521	110,877	160	70	90	9,000	60
Northern Buttes	645	3,180	7,324	4,573	2,450	1,509	202	920	491	3,224	3,350	27,223	518	182	336	2,229	37
Oceano Dunes	264	598	1,040	7,908	2,282	1,796	1,874	0	36	0	452	15,986	301	109	192	2,500	2
Ocotillo Wells	555	80	0	993	0	0	640	20	0	0	100	1,833	62	61	1	610	12
Orange Coast	925	1,926	16,545	7,073	4,825	2,091	964	0	68	7,371	28,606	69,469	13,506	358	13,148	4,020	27
San Andreas	565	634	0	0	996	3,256	0	12	0	0	591	5,489	137	55	82	800	4
San Diego Coast	935	10,892	29,773	5,929	9,182	315	6,621	1,245	424	7,430	5,163	76,974	2,424	597	1,827	7,252	45
San Luis Obispo Coast	740	6,970	14,960	23,596	3,912	1,700	1,023	0	308	13,429	2,087	67,985	741	601	140	4,987	50
Santa Cruz	715	7,975	26,208	32,486	10,614	732	5,861	1,443	211	4,832	20,443	110,805	8,243	743	7,500	18,923	105

## 2015 - Volunteers in Parks Program (cont.)

District	Unit	Admin.	Campground /Park Host	Interp	Maintenance/ Housekeeping	Public Safety	Natural Resource Mgmt.	Cultural Resource Mgmt.	Public Relations	Public Contact	Special Events /Other	Total Vol. Hours	Total # of Vol.	Total Long Term	Total Short Term	Total DPR Staff Hours	Total DPR Staff
Sierra	683	5,045	5,949	11,245	5,001	1,927	179	1,526	347	14,587	1,908	47,714	617	549	68	4,745	50
Sonoma-Mendocino Cst.	651	2,456	22,262	7,585	5,324	237	2,802	1,630	2,200	11,444	5,832	61,772	2,375	447	1,928	5,468	39
Tehachapi	900	1,607.0	1,417	2,795	1,748	0	414	255	43	1,434	3,828	13,541	659	151	508	1,355	16
Twin Cities	558	0	0	269	413	1,119	342	0	0	0	4,633	6,776	476	0	476	139	6
<b>Totals</b>		99,860.5	197,177	313,030	195,488	71,921	45,726.5	28,727	9,168	172,725	132,872	<b>1,266,695</b>	<b>40,195</b>	8,340	31,855	118,105	780
<b>% of Total</b>		7.88%	15.57%	24.71%	15.43%	5.68%	3.61%	2.27%	0.72%	13.64%	10.49%						

### 2015 VIP Program Figures at a Glance

<b>Total Number of VIPs</b>	<b>40,195</b>
<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b> (equal to 608 employees**)	<b>1,266,695</b>
<b>Value per Volunteer Service Hour*</b>	<b>\$27.59</b>
<b>Value of Volunteers' Contribution*</b>	<b>\$34,948,115.05</b>

\*Value provided by www.independentsector.org indexed for California; value includes an estimated 12% added for fringe benefits.

\*\* Full-time Equivalent

### 2015 DPR Investment in VIP Program

<b>Total Number of DPR Staff</b>	<b>780</b>
<b>Total DPR Staff Hours</b>	<b>118,105</b>
<b>Average Value per Service Hour**</b>	<b>\$41.72</b>
<b>Cost of Park Staff Hours**</b>	<b>\$4,927,340.60</b>

\*\* Calculated by using the midpoint hourly wage of a State Park Peace Officer (Ranger) including employment benefits.



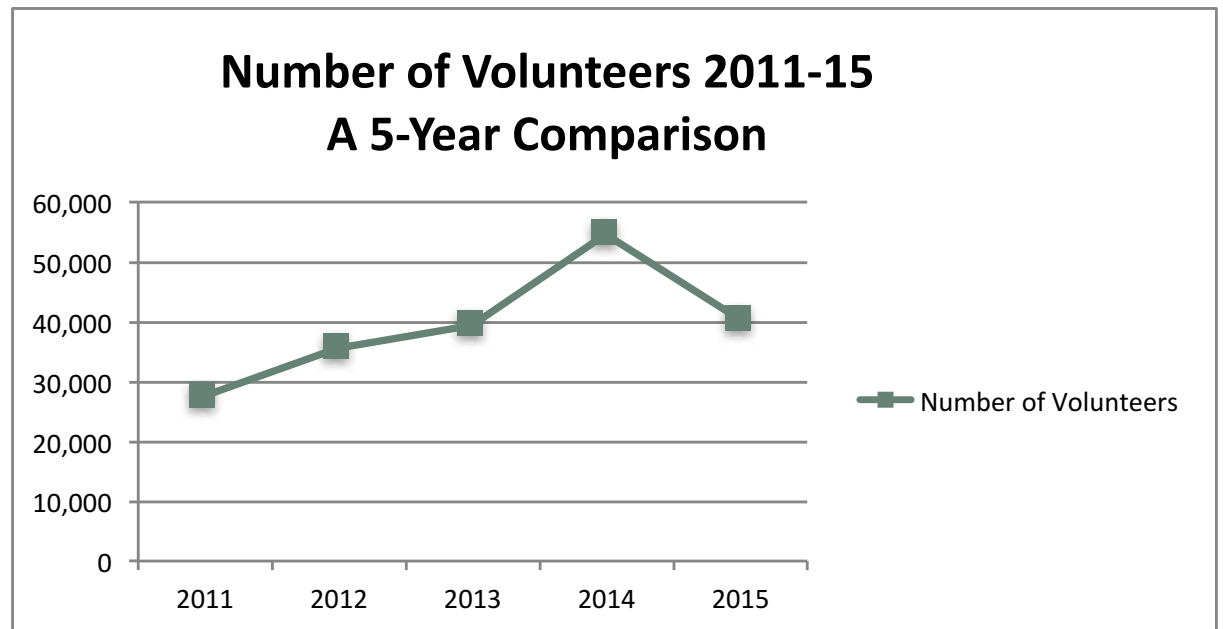
**2015 - Volunteers In Parks Program  
Park Staff / Volunteer Hours**

<b>District</b>	<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Total # of Volunteers</b>	<b>Total DPR Staff Hours</b>	<b>Total DPR Staff</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours Received per Staff Hours Invested</b>
Angeles	63,991	1,444	3,206	44	19.96
Bay Area	102,377	3,067	3,491	45	29.33
Capital	188,939	909	19,824	42	9.53
Central Valley	35,734	712	10,043	51	3.56
Channel Coast	55,583	377	1,540	12	36.09
Colorado Desert	76,957	774	5,825	22	13.21
Gold Fields	23,515	1,270	1,724	16	13.64
Headquarters	1,307	5	150	12	8.71
Inland Empire	18,568	238	826	26	22.48
Monterey	83,280	1,180	9,448	57	8.81
North Coast Redwoods	110,877	160	9,000	60	12.32
Northern Buttes	27,223	518	2,229	37	12.21
Oceano Dunes	15,986	301	2,500	2	6.39
Ocotillo Wells	1,833	62	610	12	3.00
Orange Coast	69,469	13,506	4,020	27	17.28
San Andreas	5,489	137	800	4	6.86
San Diego Coast	76,974	2,424	7,252	45	10.61
San Luis Obispo Coast	67,985	741	4,987	50	13.63
Santa Cruz	110,805	8,243	18,923	105	5.86
Sierra	47,714	617	4,745	50	10.06
Sonoma-Mendocino Coast	61,772	2,375	5,468	39	11.30
Tehachapi	13,541	659	1,355	16	9.99
Twin Cities	6,776	476	139	6	48.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,266,695</b>	<b>40,195</b>	<b>118,105</b>	<b>780</b>	
<b>Average Vol. Hrs. Received per Staff Hr.</b>					<b>10.73</b>

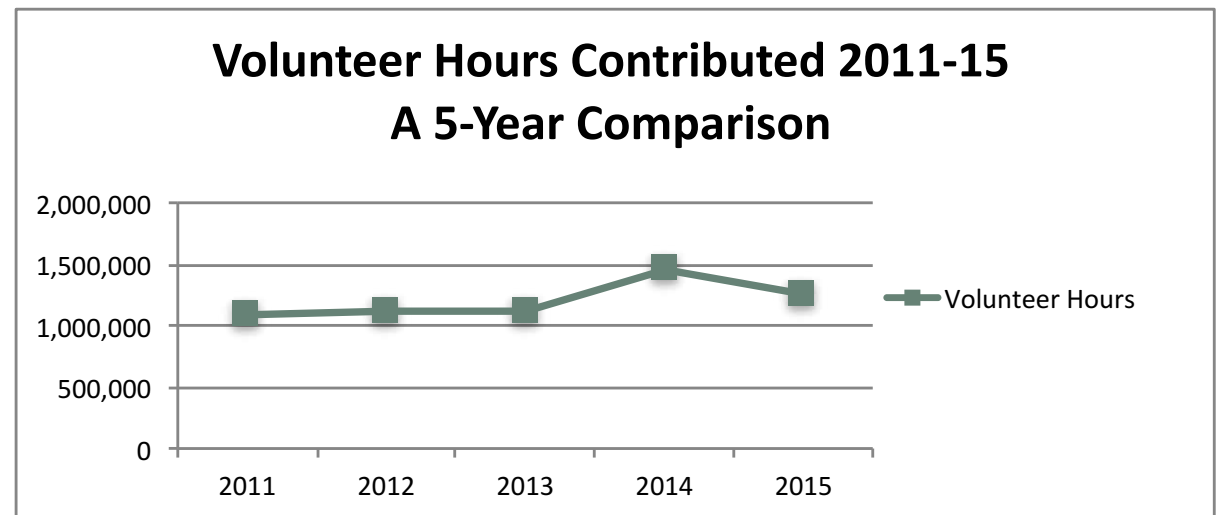
## A 5-Year Look at the Volunteers In Parks Program 2011-15

Note: 2014 marked the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks; the increase in events, interpretive programming, and a Headquarter's supplied activity toolkit likely swelled volunteer and staff participation. The trendline is stable, 2014 is an anomaly.

Year	Number of Volunteers
2011	27,638
2012	35,659
2013	39,613
2014	54,898
2015	40,195



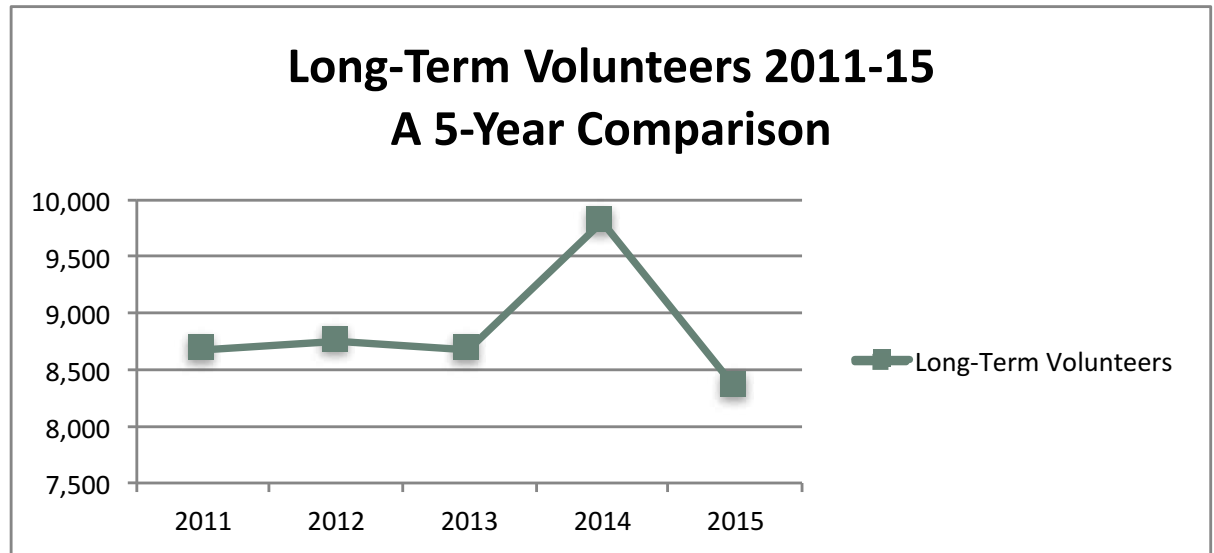
Year	Volunteer Hours Contributed
2011	1,088,258
2012	1,107,782
2013	1,117,049
2014	1,454,704
2015	1,266,695



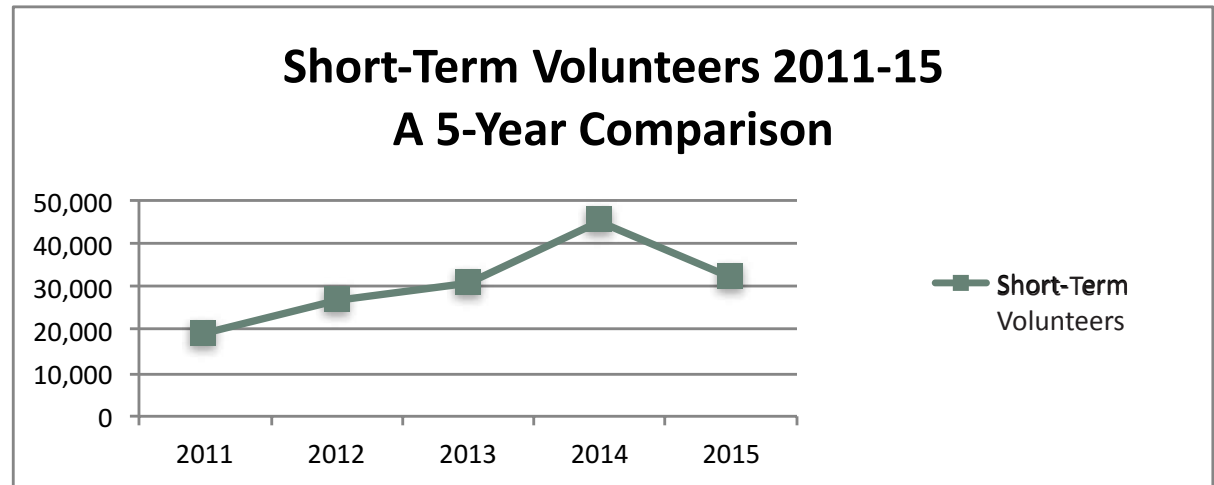
## A 5-Year Look at the Volunteers In Parks Program 2011-15 (cont.)

Note: 2014 marked the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks; the increase in events, interpretive programming, and a Headquarter's supplied activity toolkit likely swelled volunteer and staff participation. The trendline is stable, 2014 is an anomaly.

Year	Long-Term Volunteers
2011	8,672
2012	8,757
2013	8,681
2014	9,809
2015	8,340



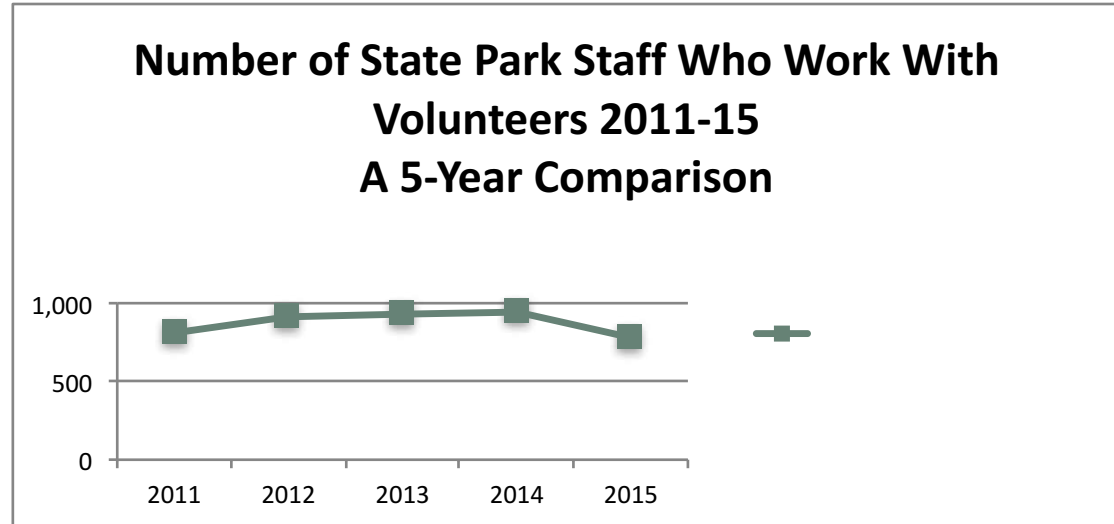
Year	Short-Term Volunteers
2011	19,241
2012	26,902
2013	30,932
2014	45,089
2015	31,855



## A 5-Year Look at the Volunteers In Parks Program 2011-15 (cont.)

Note: 2014 marked the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks; the increase in events, interpretive programming, and a Headquarter's supplied activity toolkit likely swelled volunteer and staff participation. The trendline is stable, 2014 is an anomaly.

Year	Number of State Park Staff Involved with VIPP
2011	816
2012	911
2013	922
2014	943
2015	780



Year	State Park Staff Hours Contributed to VIPP
2011	97,679
2012	94,644
2013	111,828
2014	150,104
2015	118,105

