

GREENBEAT

THE NPS • GROUNDWORK USA GREEN TEAM • PARTNERSHIP NEWS



A GREENBEAT DOUBLE FEATURE

GREEN TEAMS ELIZABETH AND DENVER

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The National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program (RTCA) and Groundwork USA have teamed up to engage teens from diverse backgrounds with their local National Parks as part of the Groundwork Green Team Program.

For more information visit: www.groundworkusa.net



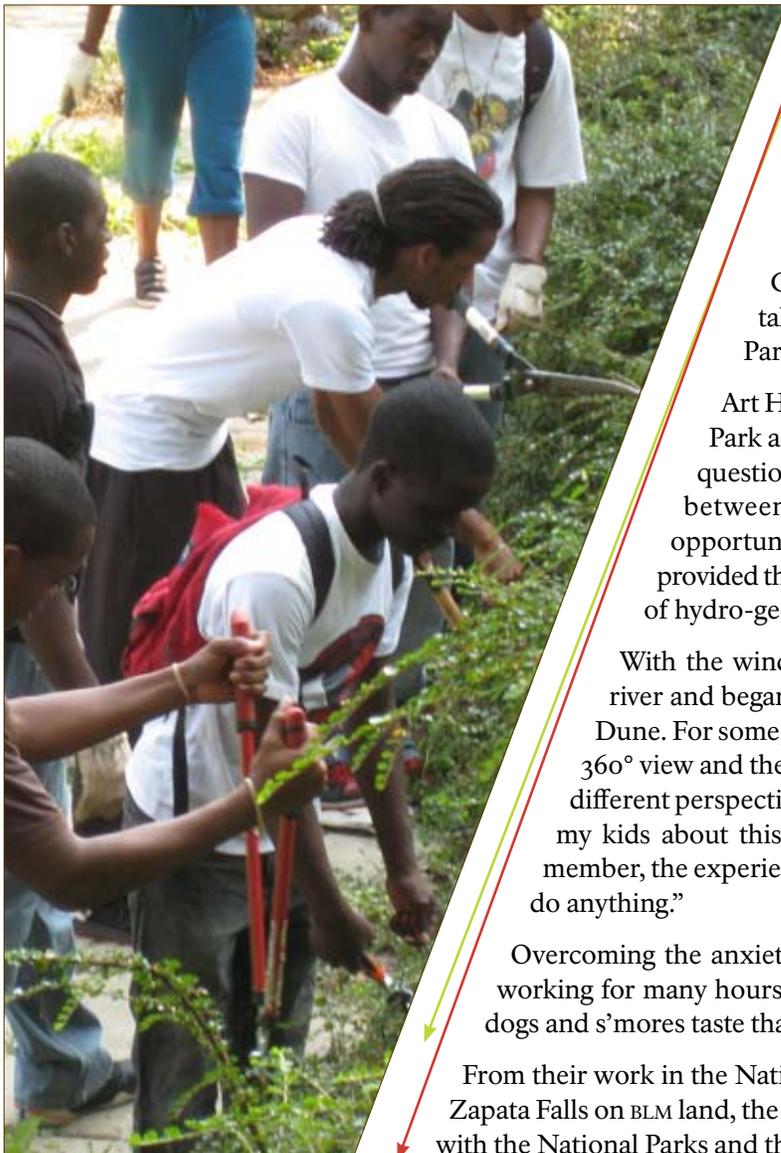
GREEN TEAM ELIZABETH

HISTORY AND SERVICE AT MORRISTOWN NHP

Fifteen members of the Groundwork Elizabeth youth Green Team Program visited Morristown National Historical Park in Morristown, NJ on August 17th. Fighting off intense 90+ temperatures, and high humidity, the group worked on removing invasive weeds and trimming the evergreen ground cover at the entrance to the Park.

Led by National Park Service Ranger and coordinator of Volunteer Services, Pam Dobben, the group was rewarded for their efforts with a tour of George Washington's Winter Headquarters for 1789-1790, and a special hiking tour of replicas of the huts that the Continental Army built for the troops that winter. Jefferson Park Ministries and Green Team leader Alex Elie commented, "The official end to our Green Team program was Friday, August, 14th. These fifteen individuals proved their commitment to the Green Team program, to National Parks, to community service and learning by coming back to join the trip from their summer recess."

Groundwork Elizabeth hopes to formalize a more regular series of visits to this park, thanks to the Groundwork USA National Park Service grant which was announced this past spring.



GREEN TEAM DENVER

SCALING THE GREAT SAND DUNES

After eight weeks of intense biking and outdoor environmental work in and around Denver, Colorado, the Groundwork Denver Green Team culminated their summer with a service trip to the tallest dunes in North America at The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Art Hutchinson, Superintendent of The Great Sand Dunes, National Park and Preserve, personally welcomed them to the park, answered questions, and spoke at length to the Green Team about the difference between a National Park and a National Preserve and about job opportunities and pathways to work in the National Park Service, and provided them with tasty fresh berry lemonade. Kristen Frederick, a student of hydro-geology, was the interpretive guide and labor leader.

With the wind whipping across the dunes, they hiked along the dried-up river and began their ascent of the 8,691 foot Colorado peak known as High Dune. For some, it was one of the biggest challenges of their life. The expansive 360° view and the peace and serenity of the dunes allowed them to appreciate a different perspective from city life. "I can't wait to tell my family about this. I'll tell my kids about this," remarked team member Jeremy. For Jamal, another team member, the experience was more than just a story. "If I can do this," he said, "I can do anything."

Overcoming the anxiety of bears and big cats while camping for the first time and working for many hours in the National Park to remove invasive plants made the hot dogs and s'mores taste that much better.

From their work in the National Park and on the National Preserve, to the nearby hike to Zapata Falls on BLM land, the Groundwork Denver Green Team grew from their experience with the National Parks and they can't wait for next year to do it again.