



A Comprehensive, Citywide Outdoor Volunteer Program

Community & Library Services Commission
Study Session
January 14, 2026

Background

On April 9, 2025, the Community & Library Services Commission approved the re-establishment of the Special Interest Committee to collaborate with staff on the development of a formalized Adopt-A-Park program.

The Committee's efforts highlighted the need for a broader, more cohesive framework capable of supporting diverse outdoor volunteer activities, including cleanups, park improvements, maintenance efforts, and other stakeholder-led initiatives. This work informed and ultimately resulted in the creation of the **Grow HB** program.





Program Overview



Program Outline

Grow HB is a new outdoor volunteer initiative managed by the Community & Library Services Department, Facilities & Development Division in coordination with the Public Works Department. It is designed to coordinate and enhance community participation in the care and beautification of City parks, planters, and other common community green spaces. The program brings together all outdoor volunteer activities under one structured umbrella, aligning with the City's broader goals for sustainability, community engagement, and operational efficiency.



Program Outline

Grow HB incorporates a tiered participation model -- Seedling, Sapling, Grove, Mighty Oak, and the Grand Redwood -- to provide scalable engagement opportunities for individuals, groups, and partner organizations.

The program also integrates the City's **Grow HB Project Review Process** to ensure that all volunteer-led improvements meet City standards for safety, maintenance, and design consistency, while leaving room for future growth.



Program Highlights

-  Citywide outdoor opportunities for individuals, groups, and organizations
-  Projects of all sizes -- from one-day efforts to ongoing commitments
-  Partnership-driven approach linking City staff, nonprofits, and community groups
-  Promotes shared stewardship of public spaces and beautification projects
-  Provides City oversight with a structured framework for managing volunteer activities, ensuring compliance with City standards, and maximizing the value of community participation

Program Tiers



Tier I

Seedling

Plant the seed of community care through light, flexible service

Tier II

Sapling

Support growth with hands-on projects that expand your impact, such as Scout achievement projects.

Tier III

The Grove

"Friends of", High Schools, Businesses, and Staff-driven events where volunteers work together to make a difference in limited timeframes.

Tier IV

Mighty Oak

Larger, organized groups, who partner with the City through a Memorandum of Understanding and take on major projects.



Program Opportunities



Volunteer Opportunities

Core volunteer opportunities under the **Grow HB** program may include:

- 🌿 Community, Park, and Beach Cleanups Initiatives
- 🌿 Adopt-A-Project
- 🌿 Adopt-A-Park Pilot Initiative
- 🌿 “Friends of”, Businesses and School Service Group Projects
- 🌿 Scout Projects
- 🌿 MOU & Non-Profit Partnerships

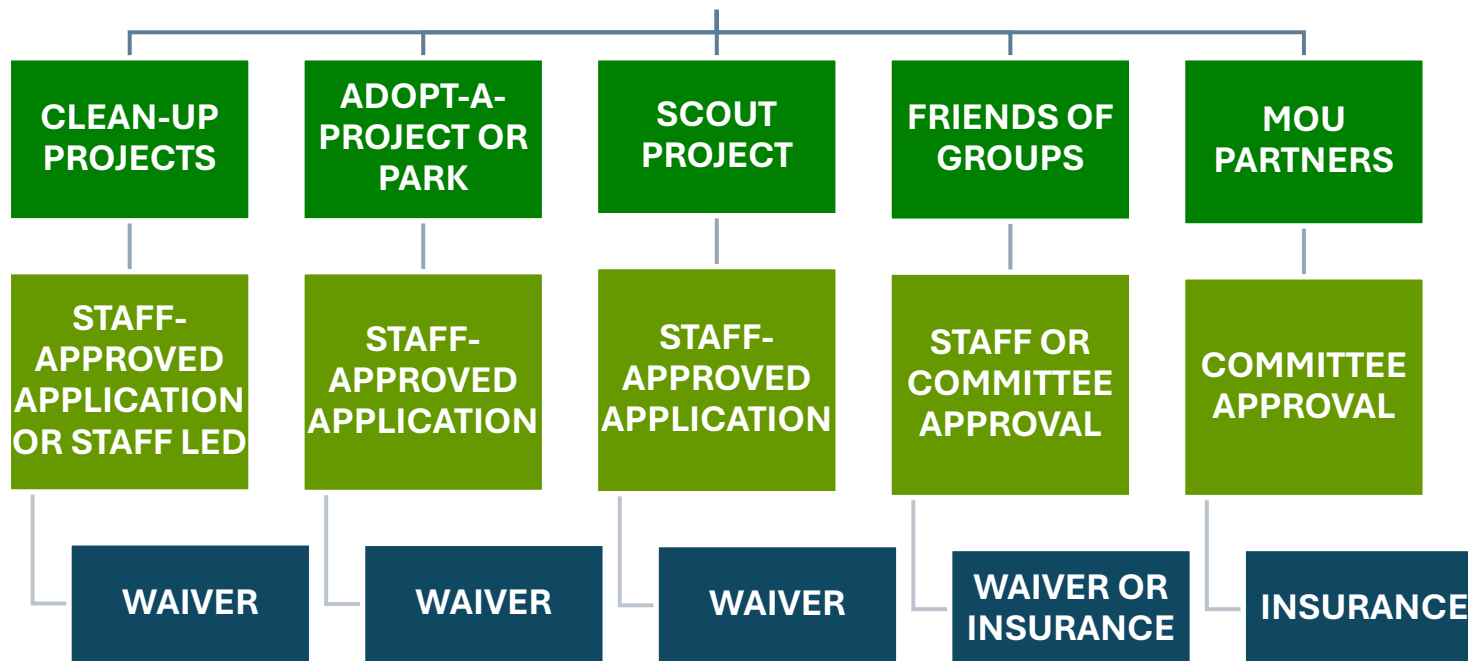




Program Approval At-A-Glance



Approval & Liability Requirements





Grow HB Project Review Committee



Grow HB Project Review Committee








The ***Grow HB Project Review Committee*** provides oversight for large-scale or complex volunteer projects. It ensures projects meet City standards, align with community goals, and support safe, sustainable improvements.



Committee Composition

-  **Community & Library Services Staff** – Facilities & Development Division Staff
-  **Public Works Staff** – Parks, Trees & Landscape Maintenance Division Staff
-  **Other City Staff** – Any other applicable staff required for project review (i.e., Planning Department or Code Enforcement Staff)
-  **Community & Library Services Commission** – (2) Project Liaisons
-  **Grow HB Program Coordinator** – CLS staff member who serves as a liaison, prepares agendas, and facilitates communication

Committee Outline

-  **Oversight** – Reviews projects beyond basic volunteer efforts, such as landscape enhancement, construction, or permanent installations
-  **Compliance** – Ensures alignment with safety requirements, City codes and maintenance capacity
-  **Community Alignment** – Confirms consistency with park and community Master Plans and priorities
-  **Support** – Provides volunteers with feedback, guidance, and pathways to refine projects for approval
-  **Approval Role** – May approve, conditionally approve, request revisions, or deny projects



Volunteer Recognition



Recognition for Volunteerism

Volunteers and Projects may be featured through:

- 🌿 City website
- 🌿 Social media
- 🌿 Newsletters
- 🌿 City's SANDS Recreation Guide

Volunteers may be recognized at:

- 🌿 Commission Meetings
- 🌿 Mayor's Award Celebration
- 🌿 Annual Event (e.g., National Volunteer Week or a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic)





Growing Into the Future





Rooted in community, **Grow HB** is more than a program — it's a movement to nurture pride, connection, and care across Huntington Beach.

Growing into the future...

As **Grow HB** continues to take root and flourish, the program's long-term vision extends beyond simple volunteerism to building a lasting legacy of community investment and foundational support through the following potential components:



Growing into the future...



Funding Partners:

Foundations or conservancies supporting long-term sustainability of projects and initiatives



Sponsorships: Business and community partners providing financial or in-kind support for specific projects



Professional-Level Volunteers: Subject-matter experts offering instruction, training, and mentorship to other volunteers



Grow HB Ranger Program: Educational partnerships providing hands-on experience for future forestry and park professionals



Welcome to

Grow HB
ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Questions?

