PARLIN FORK CONSERVATION CREW

Ever wonder how the 5-acre, Commonwealth Garden, is able to accomplish the amount of work that it takes to start all plants from seed to weeding to growing the plants to weeding to watering to weeding to planting to harvesting to weeding to delivering the produce that is grown to the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital? Fortunately, Commonwealth Garden is blessed to be able to utilize the help of the Parlin Fork Conservation Crews, low-security inmates that fight fires for the State of California. Of course, when the fire season is upon the State of California, crews are generally not available to the garden. However, the crews “slow time” of the year for fighting fires coincides with the busy time of year for either putting the garden to bed for the winter or waking the garden up in the spring in preparation for a successful gardening season.

Along with employees Mellisa Bouley, Garden Supervisor, and Quintton Bowlds, Garden Co-Supervisor, the garden depends heavily upon volunteer help. Each year we are blessed with several extraordinary volunteers who lift the load from Mellisa and Quintton’s shoulders significantly. And, yet, it is also true that a garden of this size would be hard pressed to accomplish the amount of work it takes to accomplish without the outside help of “crews” like those available from Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp and Parlin Fork Conservation Camp. While there are certain criteria that a non-profit agency must meet to utilize the conservation crews, help from these crews is available by calling Chamberlain Creek Camp or Parlin Fork Camp.

Commonwealth Garden has been able to participate in this work-force offering for the past three years; and it makes a tremendous difference. During the time a Conservation Crew is at the Garden the garden gates are kept closed and the garden is not open to the public. We hope you understand the value of the crews and what an invaluable service they provide Commonwealth Garden, and many other non-profit agencies in Mendocino County.