

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2019

PARK PLANNING

Gallup Universal Access Playground:

Parks Planning coordinated with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office on a redesign of the rain garden at the Gallup Universal Access playground. Work is scheduled for this fall.

Farmer's Market:

Working with the Office of Sustainability on analyzing the potential to increase solar energy production at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market.

Veterans Park Flagpole Memorial:

The flagpole was installed and the remaining site work is underway. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, September 29th.

Other Miscellaneous Work:

- Ann Arbor Parks partnered with Pickleball advocates on a pilot project by installing temporary tape to delineate pickleball courts within the existing tennis courts at Veterans Memorial Park. The Westgate branch of the Ann Arbor library has Pickleball nets available for checkout.
- The Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee approved funding for a street tree planting in Veterans Memorial Park along Maple Road. The work is likely to occur in spring, 2020.
- Parks Planning coordinated with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office on a donation from the Arbor Day Alliance for planting within Dolph Nature Area.
- For updates on other capital projects presently underway, please refer to item 11-A, *Park Planning Capital Project Update*, under Communications in your monthly packet.

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

- NAP hosted an intern from Rudolf Steiner High School for 10 days. NAP also hosted 2 interns from the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program. This is part of a two-summer program for undergraduates who are traditionally underrepresented in the conservation field and are interested in careers in the sector.
- NAP attended or hosted 7 events to educate the public about the importance of native plants, our work, and recruit volunteers. We talked with over 277 members of the public at these events.
- NAP hosted 18 workdays with 122 volunteers which included these highlights:
 - A celebration of National Trails Day, National Get Outdoors Day, and National Pollinator Week

- High School Students from Community High partnered with Elementary School Students from Ann Arbor Open to work on the historic Three Fires Native American Trail in West Park
 - 13 weekly workdays with the YMCA's Youth Volunteer Corps with 160 total volunteers
- Tina Stephens, NAP's Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, attended S-212, a week-long Wildland Fire Chainsaw Training at Fort Custer. Tina also did two radio interviews. One about NAP's summer events and one about NAP's efforts to protect pollinators in the city, including our National Pollinator week workdays and the "Monarchs in the Rough" program at the Golf Courses.
- Thanks to a cool spring, NAP was able to control spring invasive species well into July, which is roughly 2-3 weeks longer than normal. In all, 5,420 pounds of invasive species were composted from June – August.
- Throughout the summer, NAP monitored 11 different rare plant species of concern, in 16 different parks. These are re-located from earlier records by NAP botanists. A few species could not be relocated; some remain unchanged in size; and a few populations have grown significantly. This is meaningful information as it helps to inform future restoration efforts.
- In June, NAP Stewardship Specialist, Michael Hahn meet with the Oakland County and Lake St. Clair County CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) coordinators to discuss our burn program, our management approach and ways to collaborate in the future.
- On July 10th, Stewardship Specialist, Michael Hahn along with colleagues from the Washtenaw Stiltgrass Working Group hosted a public meeting at the Scio Township Hall. The focus of the meeting was to educate people about Japanese stiltgrass and the negative effects it will have on the surrounding ecosystem if action is not taken to slow its spread now. Stiltgrass was first found in Washtenaw County, in 2016. We are currently aware of populations of Stiltgrass in the Botsford Preserve, which is protected with a conservation easement that NAP helps to manage and in other City owned land along the Huron River.
- Vernal pool levels remained high into July, and NAP took advantage of the depth to do some live-trapping for elusive salamanders (water levels are often too shallow for our traps by this date). We were able to find salamander larvae at several ponds, with one special find: a tiger salamander larva at Oakwoods Nature Area. Tiger salamanders are extremely rare in the city, and not often observed even where we know they occur. Lots of salamander larvae were also found in the city's new Buttonbush Nature Area.
- Turtle nesting season was very long and active this year. Thanks to reports from volunteers and residents, NAP was able to locate and protect over a dozen turtle nests, at 8 different sites. Several had to be relocated for safety. This is the largest number NAP has been able to find in one season. Some nests have now hatched out, others will hatch in the next few weeks. Some painted turtle hatchlings may not emerge until next spring.
- From August 16-18th, NAP coordinated a Swift Nights Out event, in association with the Washtenaw Audubon Society. Over a dozen volunteers participated, and they counted over 2,500 chimney swifts roosting in old chimneys at 5 locations in Ann Arbor. These birds are facing

steep population declines due to loss of habitat, and they now roost almost exclusively in man-made structures.

- In September, NAP led a public bird walk at Mary Beth Doyle Park. 26 people attended, and they observed sandpipers, egrets, cormorants, and a common nighthawk, which is a species of special concern in Michigan. A black-crowned night-heron, which is another species of special concern in Michigan, was observed at Mary Beth Doyle Park in August.
- David Borneman, NAP Manager, was elected as Chair of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council, a position he previously held about 15 years ago. As such, he coordinates and facilitates meetings of the MPFC, including their upcoming annual conference.

PARK OPERATIONS

Park Operations coordinated numerous recreation facility improvements, including:

- Installed new siding and paint on the exterior of Bryant Community Center
- Installed new sand boxes at Cranbrook and Garden Homes parks. They are both located adjacent to the existing play structures.
- Installed Sail-type sun shades at Veteran's Memorial Park Pool.
- New fencing and storage buildings at Fuller Park pool.
- Coordinated sand filter change at Fuller pool.
- Coordinated roof replacement of Leslie House at Leslie Science and Nature Center.
- Repairs to Veteran's Memorial Ice Rink player's benches and bleachers.
- Painted Mack Pool Locker rooms and replaced entrance doors.
- Installed a variable speed control on the water slide pump at Fuller, reducing amperage that will result in a power savings when operating the slide.

Playground Safety:

The second and third rounds of safety inspections have taken place. Three of the current inspectors renewed their Certified Playground Safety Inspector training. One more renewal will take place in the spring. The training is good for three years.

Tree Care:

The tree care contract with Davey Trees is in full swing. Parks that have had work done so far include:

- Winewood Thaler
- Maryfield Wildwood
- Huron Highlands
- Windemere
- Scheffler
- Meadowbrook
- Gallup
- Buhr
- Burns Park
- Sugarbush

Park Mowing:

The grass has started to slow down and we are currently on schedule for the 14-day mowing cycle. We are getting ready for leaf cleanup, which mostly entails mulching the leaves on the grass to return some of the nutrients to the soil. We are also preparing for snow removal by making sure all of the paths in the parks have enough clearance for the plows and machinery to pass without damage.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Media Mentions

- Dog Swim and Food Truck Rallies: <https://www.clickondetroit.com/live-in-the-d/summer-is-coming-to-an-end-but-the-fun-is-just-beginning-in-ann-arbor>
- Argo and Gallup: <https://www.clickondetroit.com/live-in-the-d/summer-weekend-plans-alert-you-can-tube-down-the-river-in-ann-arbor>
- Adopt-a-Park: <https://www.docnetwork.org/vlog-adopt-a-park/>
- Market: https://www.clickondetroit.com/all-about-ann-arbor/ann-arbor-farmers-market-celebrates-100-years-in-august?fbclid=IwAR1bPbmGDPH-rW8ZtiFQ3uM-kuAhRdZ044bPuX6MDGpn_vg88ieXBoI10Y8
- Goats at Gallup: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44z49TZ_i1E
- Monarch is the Rough: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2WzyQPrrQ>

Canoe Liveries

- Summer camps filled up quickly and we had over 500 children attend one of our popular river camps this year.
 - The Gallup location offered eleven weeks of river camps for grades 2nd-5th
 - The Argo location offered 9 weeks of river camps for grades 6th-9th.
 - The river campers experience perfect summer days as we kayak, canoe, paddleboat, raft, tube, stand-up paddleboard, fish and play in our wonderful river parks.
 - The children, and parents, love river camp as said in one of the survey responses “My campers favorite experience was all the various activities on the river. He says it’s the best day camp experience he’s been to and wants to go again next summer!”
- We also had 117 children ages 2-7 years attend one of the month long River Kid classes where little ones and their caregiver explore the river world in a boat.
- Each summer one of our most popular programs is our Night Paddles held at the Gallup Livery. The boat rentals stay open late to venture out of a canoe or kayak under the full moon.
 - June and August we had over 200 people attend the night paddles
 - The July date was cancelled due to a thunderstorm.
- Other fun and educational river programs are kayak and stand-up paddleboard instruction, a river class just for women and a learn to fish class just for kids.

Veterans Memorial Park

- The Vets Swim Team had 145 swimmers this year, which was the 3rd largest team in Vets history. We had a 5-0 dual meet record, making us WISC B-Division Champions for the 2nd time

in team history. At Championships, we brought 109 swimmers, making us the 3rd largest team represented among the 18 team league at Championships. At Championships, we scored a total of 963 points. We ended up in 8th place overall and fell less than 50 points short of moving up to A Division. Combined, our men swimmers finished 4th overall with 707 points. The women finished 12th overall with 255 points.

- Ann Arbor Family Magazine 2019 Favorites
 - Favorite Place to Ice Skate – Runner-up
 - Favorite Waterpark – Runner-up

Farmer's Market

- Food Truck Rallies, first Wednesday of every month 5-8, with 15 + trucks. After the Rallies end for the evening we are partnering with MI Theater to offer an outdoor movie on a big blowup screen. One last chance to catch a food truck rally – Wednesday October 2nd.
- Ann Arbor Farmers Market will be hosting a Farm to Table Dinner on Friday, September 20, 6 pm – 8 pm. We are so excited to celebrate the market's 100th birthday with this wonderful event.

GIVE 365

- Implemented a Waste station pilot program at Fuller with goal of reducing contamination and diverting landfill waste.
- See attached Gazettes for a wealth of information regarding GIVE 365 programs.

Mack & Fuller Pools

- Fuller Pool Day Camp had a total of 671 campers.
- The new camp sheds were extremely well received by campers, parents and the general public.
- Fuller has once again remained open for 2 additional weeks. Over 90 extended season passes were sold this year.
- At Mack a new sand filter, pumps and UV filter were installed over the summer. Pool tiles were also repaired. Staff are excited about the new equipment and the impact it will have on visitors.

Buhr Pool

- Over 300 dogs attended the annual Dog Swim.
- Buhr had more campers than ever before – 517.

Senior Center

- Fall water color workshop is completely booked and in full swing
- A new Succulent Workshop (flyer attached)
- Book Exchange 9/20 1-3pm

- Spirituality and Coping Workshop 9/27 (This is a FREE workshop that helps people who are coping with a loss of a loved one and gives opportunity to share your experiences with others dealing with similar feelings. This workshop also touches base on spirituality and what it may mean to you. This workshop is led by Reverend Dorrie Rosenblatt, M.D., Ph.D. who has a background in medicine and in research working with geriatric population)
- Euchre games: Starting 9/20
- Bingo Game Nights starting in October

Cobblestone Farm

- There are three special events this month using Fuller Field 7 and the Fuller Park parking lots. The idea to use this area was driven by how popular and crowded parks such as Gallup can be during the weekends. It also provides groups with a nice staging area as well as easier parking.
 - Sunday Sept. 15 Autumn Stroll
 - Saturday Sept. 21 St. Jude Walk
 - Saturday Sept. 28 Palestine Walk

Huron Hills and Leslie Park Golf Courses

- The golf courses are continuing their participation in the Monarchs in the Rough program. In our local effort to reverse the decline of the Monarch population we have doubled the required one acre of milkweed seed at both courses. The program has worked well and there been a noticeable increase in the monarchs around the courses.
- On course improvements that have been successfully completed are re-sodding the tee on number 7 at LPGC, and the rebuilding of the bunker on number 9.
- Our new golf course superintendent Victor Morales-Rios, has settled in nicely to his new job. Golfers have been very complimentary about the conditions at both golf courses this year and reviews through the sites like Google, Yelp and Golf Advisor have all been top notch.
- Camps and instruction have ended for the season. Kevin Sercel and Chuck Brooks each did an outstanding job with our programs. Children's camps were running at an 85 -90 % capacity and the adult instruction classes received outstanding evaluations.
- The Men's and Senior's tournaments were as successful as in year's past, with 88 golfers competing in the Men's and 99 golfers in the Seniors. New to the schedule this year was the Match Play. Here after an elimination round, 16 golfers completed head to head. This new event is sure to be one of the more exciting events we will host in the years to come.
- FootGolf - The family fun soccer ball golf that is played at Huron Hills is remaining steady over the last two years. In 2018 we had 568 people come out at play - totaling \$5,424 in revenues. So far in 2019 we have had 600 rounds and \$5,700 in revenues. This fun alternative to golf will be evaluated year to year.

The page is framed by various illustrations of succulent plants, including several rosette-shaped plants with blue and green leaves and some with reddish-pink edges, and a few upright, bushy green plants. These illustrations are scattered around the central text area.

Indoor Plant Care + Propagation

Join this hands-on class lead by Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener trainee Corry Buckwalter to learn about the health benefits of growing indoor plants, how to care for them and propagate your own new plant to take home. Whether you already have a green thumb and keep plants thriving for decades or are just curious about the *magical* world of indoor plants, this class is for you.

Plant care topics will include proper soil media, containers, watering and light requirements, as well as common indoor plant problems and how to address them. The instructor will discuss eight methods to conduct vegetative propagation. Come prepared to get your hands in the dirt and have fun! Sample potted plants will be available to study.

Free. Ten participant limit. Registration required, call 734.794.6250.

**Starting Friday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Avenue**



THE GIVE GAZETTE

June 2019 in Review | Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

GIVE

365



Volunteers waiting to see the goats at Gallup

June Impact Report

June has been a crazy month here at Give 365! We've hosted 26 events, launched our counselor-in-training program, and welcomed 10 goats. We also debuted our newest color of volunteer t-shirts: coral! We've proven this color looks GREAT on everyone, so book a volunteer event with us today to get your own.

27 events
505 volunteers
1,187 volunteer hours
10 goats

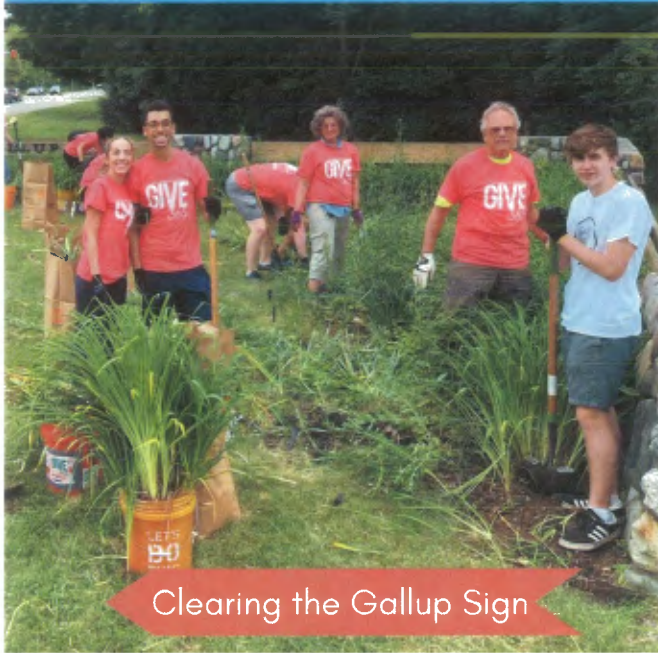


Mitsubishi at Southeast Park



Painting a new mural at Hunt Park

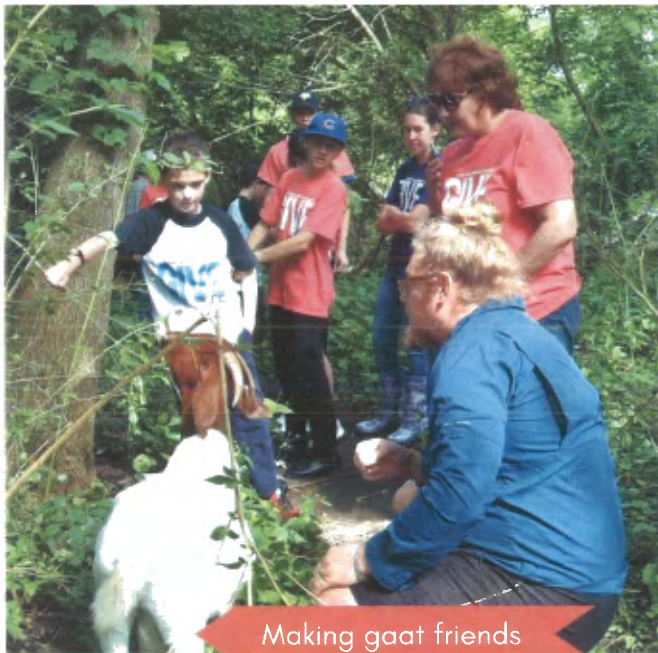
Goat Talk & Walk Success



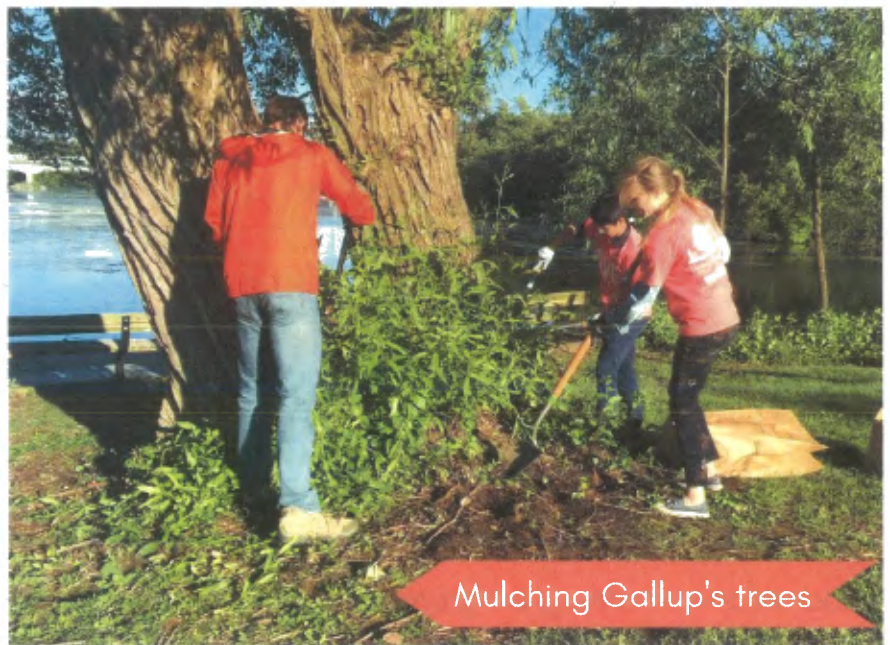
Clearing the Gallup Sign

"While goats are beautifying our park, you can too!"

Our special opportunity to get up close and personal with goats combined with volunteer projects attracted over 300 people. At Gallup, volunteers mulched over 30 trees, weeded and mulched the entrance pathways and beds, and cleared out the overgrown park sign bed. Thank you to all who came out, got excited about goats, and gave back to the parks!



Making goat friends



Mulching Gallup's trees

For an update of our goatscaping pilot program, to see before and after pictures, and to peruse even more scenes from the Talk and Walks, visit a2gov.org/goats-at-gallup.



Before



After

Talk & Walk Numbers

326 attendees

195 volunteers

322 service hours

Volunteer Highlights

June's weather proved much better than it had been this spring! As a result, our dedicated volunteers were able to complete so many projects. Below, you'll see a team from Google, who painted fencing at Leslie Park Golf Course. Takara Bio not only did a pond clean, but also spread woodchips on Gallup's trails. The UM office of Development mulched trees and weeded at Wurster Park. Thanks to these and all our groups and individuals who joined us this month!



UM Development



Google



Takara Bio

Meet our New Staff



Mike

Born and bred in Texas, Mike is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Cameroon who currently lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He completed his master's degree at the UM School for Natural Resources and Environment with a concentration Environmental Justice in protected areas. He is shifting his career domestically and engaging communities to develop public spaces for equitable use and climate mitigation. Mike loves the ability to meet new humans every day, skill build as a necessity of frugality, and to move to music.



Karen

Karen is a lifelong gardener and is currently working on her Master Gardener Certification through Michigan State University Extension. She is a recently retired Environmental Consultant who resides in South Lyon.

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Adopt
a Park

1519 Fuller Road
734-794-6445
volunteera2gov.org
a2gov.org/volunteer

THE GIVE GAZETTE

July 2019 in Review | Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

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Volunteers from Llamasoft
helped landscape
at Fuller Park Pool

July Impact Report

It's been quite a warm month, but our volunteers have braved the heat this July. They've been hard at work spreading woodchips on playgrounds, cleaning litter from the river and on land, keeping our gardens weed-free, and planting flowers around sign beds.

Thank you MSTEM
volunteers for your work
at Baxter!

2019 Overall

Fiscal Year:

201 events

8910 volunteer hours



Baxter Park
before



Baxter Park
after

River Clean Up Highlights



CHRT-Gallup Pond
36.1lbs

Homepoint -Argo to Gallup Trip
363lbs



The Huron River has been flowing high and fast, but has calmed down enough for our volunteers to get out and collect over **762 pounds** of litter this July! Volunteers pulled bottles, cans, concrete blocks, shopping carts, tables, chairs, and so much more. Although these things end up in the river, we are thankful our volunteers who step up and clean it out!



AAPS Summer Fitness-Gallup & Argo Ponds
47.3lbs



Coyote Logistics- Argo to Gallup Trip
288lbs

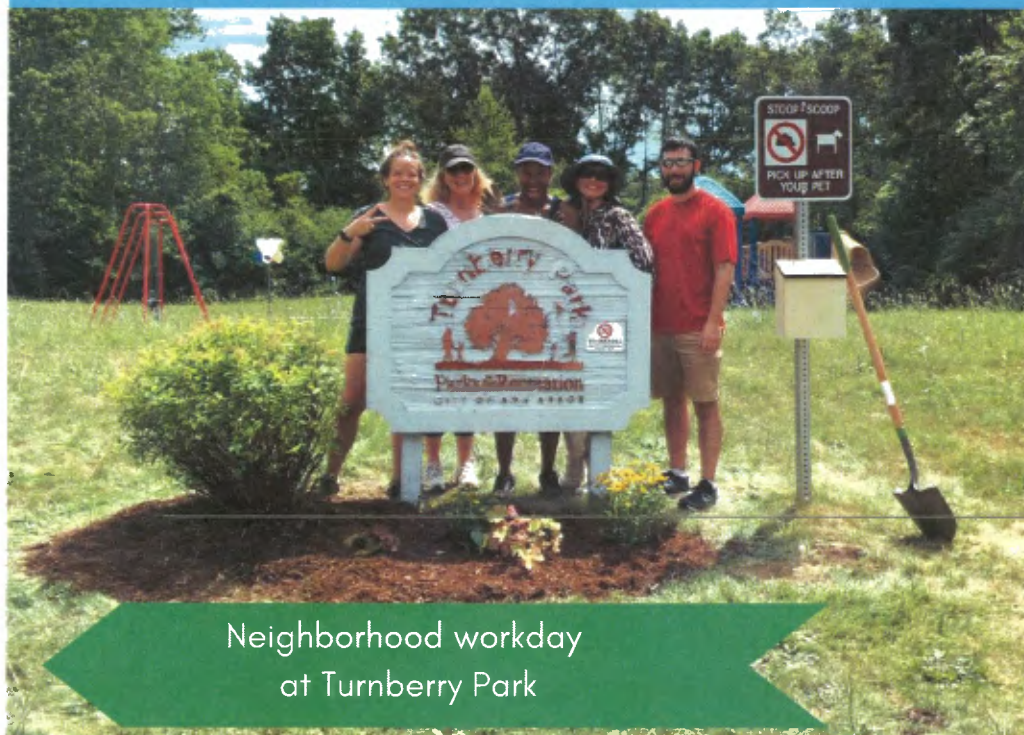
6 groups
105 volunteers
241 service hours
762 lbs of trash

We know how fun this type of event looks- and we'd love for everyone to get out and experience it for themselves. However, we are currently booked for river clean ups this year. If you'd like to be added to our waitlist, please contact us at volunteere@a2gov.org

Adopt-a-Park

city of ann arbor

Adopter Highlights



Neighborhood workday
at Turnberry Park



DocNetwork Adopters
at Buhr Park



Mitsubishi Adopters
at Southeast Area Park

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giveback



THE GIVE GAZETTE

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

GIVE 365

August 2019 in Review | Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation



Volunteers from UM Medical program helped landscape at Argo and Gallup Parks to kick off orientation week!

August Impact Report

August wrapped up to be a great month for our volunteers to get involved in our parks system! The rain mostly held off, and we worked with a variety of groups such as Concordia's Football Team, Kaiser Optical, DTE Energy, Spotlight Houses, and much more! We were also able to complete a few more river cleanup trips, keeping litter and debris out of the Huron River. Be sure to check out our upcoming events to get involved. As always, if you have a group we can look to find a day and time to work with you!

DTE volunteers at
Bryant Park: before



DTE volunteers at
Bryant Park: after



Counselor-in-Training Highlights



Buhr Park CITs



Huron Hills CITs



Too old for camp, too young to work? Volunteering is a great way for tweens and teens to earn service hours and gain work like experience. The Counselor in Training program is a collaboration between GIVE365 and our day camp sites at Gallup, Buhr, Fuller and Huron Hills. CIT volunteers support the camp program and develop leadership skills. It

is a great opportunity for those interested in volunteering at different facilities and gaining knowledge and work-like experience. Email us to learn more about summer 2020:

volunteera2gov.org



Fuller Pool CITs

4 locations

3 months

13 CITs

2041 hours of service



2019 Splash Day



Winners of the watermelon spitting contest



At this Splash Day, we celebrated all things earth and eco-friendly. Participants joined our volunteers for a recycling of favorite games, sustainable crafting, and plenty of fresh water to splash about in!



Sustainable crafts with the Ecology Center

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