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CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

# GIVE 365

# 2023 Season Report

GIVE  
365

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GIVE  
365

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# WHO WE ARE



**GIVE 365** is a volunteer & outreach program within **Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation**. Our volunteers work in “developed” parks, facilities, and playgrounds- park spaces that aren’t purely natural areas. (Our friends at NAP manage those!) GIVE includes the **Adopt-a-Park** program and the Visit Every Park Challenge. We specialize in **Parknerships**, and community engagement is our thing!

## Fast facts:

- Founded in **2011**
- Funded by the **Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage**
- Office located in Fuller Park
- Our motto: Anything is Possible



*Dolph Nature Area 9/10/23*

# 2023 GIVE 365 Staff



**ERIKA**  
*Recreation Supervisor*



**MELISSA**  
*Adopt-A-Park Coordinator*  
*Left in Dec 2023\**



**RYAN**  
*Marketing / River Cleans*



**CONOR**  
*Outreach Coordinator*  
*Left in Sept 2023\**



**AMELIA**  
*Gardener*



**ANDY**  
*Playground Technician*



**OLIVER**  
*Crew / Event Team*



**DOM**  
*Crew / Event Team*



**JAKOB**  
*Crew / Event Team*



**GARRET**  
*Bike Parks / Event Team*



# ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION CORE VALUES



Namita Nisal (2020)

- Stewardship**
- Exceptional Customer Service**
- Innovative Improvements**
- Integrity**
- Community**
- Excellent Parks & Spaces**
- Fun!**

2023  
Totals

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION  
**GIVE**  
365

2,591  
Volunteers

5,920  
Volunteer Hours

257  
Workdays & Events



*Graydon Park  
Neighborhood Workday 5/6/23*

# WHAT WE DO

We work with volunteers (groups and individuals) to help care for and maintain Ann Arbor's parks. Most of our projects involve **park maintenance & beautification** but we facilitate a huge variety of meaningful volunteer tasks!

Some of the many tasks:

- Spreading woodchips on playgrounds
- Weeding playgrounds
- Gardening
- Collecting litter on land & along the river
- Paint & mural projects
- Cutting invasive brush
- Helping at parks special events



*Veterans Memorial Park  
UM Chemical Biology 8/24/23*

# Who We Work With

UM Chemical Biology  
Veterans Memorial Park 8/24/23



We work with a variety of groups and organizations, scheduling personalized workdays with them. We also host open events that we recruit individual volunteers for, where anyone is welcome to come join and lend a hand.

A variety of groups:

- Businesses
- Students
- Ann Arbor Residents or Visitors
- Community Organizations
- Nonprofits
- Sports teams
- Anyone who loves parks!



Bandemer Park 5/26/23



# GROUPS WE WORKED OR PARTNERED WITH IN 2023



To those without a logo or one we couldn't find, we appreciate you as well!

# OUR REACH

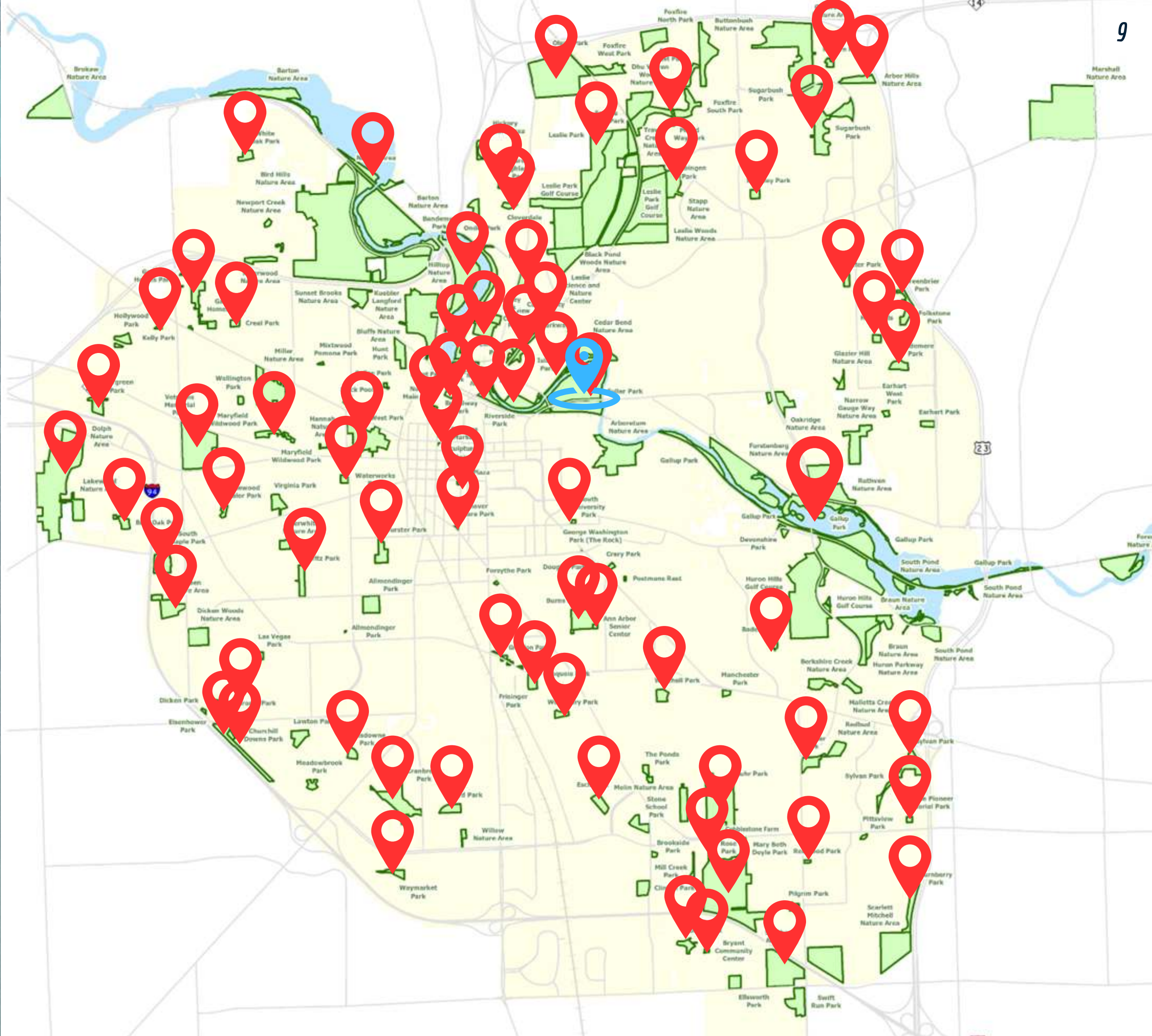
GIVE 365 can work in any City of Ann Arbor park that is not purely a nature area. There are **162 park properties** and we have worked in over 130 of them. In 2023 we worked in **74** of those parks!



Parks where we held an event in 2023



GIVE 365 office





# WHERE WE WORKED

We held volunteer events in **74 different parks** in 2023

Number of events held at some of our larger parks in 2023:

- Gallup – **40**
- Veterans Memorial – **21**
- Bandemer – **20**
- West – **14**
- Fuller – **13**
- Buhr – **8**



# OUR EVENTS & INITIATIVES



*Volunteer instructors led a bike skills clinic at the Bandemer Bike Park 6/24/23*



# PLAYGROUNDS

44 playground events  
 512 volunteers  
 754 volunteer hours  
 38 playgrounds resurfaced



There are **78 playgrounds** in city parks. The city standard is to manage these beloved play areas without the use of traditional herbicides. Volunteers pull weeds by hand and spread play-safe woodchips. A salt & vinegar mix has been tested in a few of these areas. These playgrounds are managed and scouted by our Playground Technician, Andy.



# Gardening



**92**  
gardening events

**785**  
volunteers

**1,377**  
volunteer hours



## Guiding gardening philosophy:

- Support what is present
- Maximize seasonal interest
- Plant native species and provide native habitat



# HURON RIVER CLEANUP PROGRAM



Toyota-Subaru of AA 8/23/23



Google 6/2/23

In the summer months (June, July, August, September) GIVE runs a series of cleanup events on the Huron River, in partnership with the Gallup & Argo liveries. Volunteers get in canoes & kayaks, armed with litter-grabbers, and paddle on the river collecting trash. This program is funded by a MiCorps Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program (VSCP) grant from EGLE.

## 2023 Totals

**1611** pounds of litter removed  
**25** events  
**295** volunteers  
**573** volunteer hours

# SHORELINE RESTORATION & INVASIVE REMOVAL



GIVE 365 is managing 2 ongoing Shoreline Restoration Projects, one at Gallup Park & one at Island Park. There are in partnership with the **Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioners Office**. These projects are focused on erosion prevention and habitat support.

.....

**16** Invasive removal events held in 2023

- Cutting non-native invasive plant species, including buckthorn and honeysuckle



# ALTERNATIVE MOWING PILOT PROGRAM & Park Sustainability Initiatives



In 2023 GIVE 365 piloted a program to look into alternatives to mowing turf grass and to consider park areas that could be turned into temporary or permanent “No-Mow” areas. This was adapted from City Council’s 2022 No Mow May initiative to reduce emissions and support pollinators. We designated eight areas in parks as no-mow areas after soliciting community feedback and recorded observations of these areas. Neighbors and friends of these parks were invited to provide feedback on this pilot program.

We have several Park Sustainability Initiatives that we are working on, see more information about this project and other initiatives at the [Park Sustainability Initiatives page](#).



# SPECIAL EVENT: HURON RIVER DAY

5/21/2023 - 1500+ attendees - 14 volunteers

GIVE 365 has a long history of helping out at Huron River Day by recruiting volunteers for the event. This time we also served as an exhibitor, presenting educational materials about our Huron River Cleanup Program.



# SPECIAL EVENT: TRICK-OR-TREAT ON THE RIVER

10/15/2023  
2000+ attendees  
84 volunteers



# GIVE 365 BY THE NUMBERS: 2023 Bike Parks Annual Report

**1000** 1,000 followers were added to the Ann Arbor Bike Parks Facebook page and 140 on Instagram.

**55** A record breaking 55 signed in volunteers participated and 22 were repeating volunteers.

**52** 52 people attended skills clinics (35 at the free beginner skills clinic and 17 at the free advanced skills clinic) led by volunteers.

**24** 24 volunteer events were offered at Bandemer and Tuebingen bike parks.

**8+** 8+ regular/repeat volunteers contributed at Tuebingen Bike Park. *The most ever recorded!*

## Other significant accomplishments:

Significant improvements were made to erosion management/drainage features at Bandemer and erosion management carpets, tarps, gravel and drain tubing were added at Tuebingen.

The sheds at Bandemer and Tuebingen are now equipped with a range of essential items, including kids' shovels, watering cans, patch kits, tool kits, pumps, sandwich boards, GIVE sign-up tables, cloth, binders, forms, gloves and shirts. A "Gorilla Cart" is also being housed at Bandemer.

Three riding lines and 10+ jumps were added at Bandemer in response to 2021 citizen survey respondents' requests for jumps and progression options. The number of ride

lines increased from 4 to 7, with lines added for beginners, intermediates and advanced riders (including options to transfer between lines). The number of jumps increased from 14 to 24+. Features were rearranged to make progression more intuitive with lines increasing in difficulty from right to left. A beginner start hill and return berm were added to increase progression and safety.

Many cubic yards of clay were added to the Bandemer Bike Park.

Volunteers and staff assisted Jen Proctor with research and information for her documentary film about the Ann Arbor Local Loop. And, plans were made to present at the 2024 A2 Bike Summit.



Restoration continues to the riding lines and features at Tuebingen Bike Park including the addition of three banked turns and two jumps!



A part-time Bike Recreation Volunteer Coordinator position was added to the GIVE 365 program.



49 posts were created and shared on Facebook and 42 on Instagram.

Staff began tagging City of Ann Arbor, Parks & Rec, and GIVE365 on social media posts.



# Adopt-a-Park

city of ann arbor

The Adopt-a-Park program, which is part of GIVE 365, fosters long-term relationships with an individual park. Adopters and staff work together to develop expectations, create workplans, and schedule workdays. These adopters can be individual people or groups & organizations, including neighborhood groups, businesses, and more.



An annual neighborhood Adopt-a-Park workday held at Graydon Park (5/6/23)

# 2023 Totals

**41**  
Parks with  
active adopters

**40+**  
Adopt-A-Park  
workdays

**1,777**  
Volunteer hours



# Adopt-a-Park

city of ann arbor

**Adopt-a-Park  
Event Today**

Please join us!  
Ask a staff member, or event leader, how you can be involved.

**Adopt-a-Park**  
city of ann arbor

313.794.8441 | ADOPT-A-PARK@ANNARBOR.ORG | 4300X.ORG/ADOPT-A-PARK  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES | OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

*Creal Park  
Neighborhood Workday 6/11/23*



# *Waterworks Park Neighborhood Get-Together*

6/17/23

*with Ann Arbor Farm & Garden*

Waterworks Park was adopted by **Ann Arbor Farm & Garden**. To celebrate, they partnered with Adopt-a-Park to host an event for neighbors and friends of the park in June. There were crafts, games, refreshments, flowers were planted, and kids painted rocks to put into one of the park's garden beds. AAF&G has made several gifts to the park and hosted another event in the fall!



## *Waterworks Park Fall Celebration*

*10/7/23 with Ann Arbor Farm & Garden*

**Ann Arbor Farm & Garden** helped host another event at Waterworks Park, celebrating autumn and several trees that they donated to the park. These trees were planted near the playground to help provide shade and featured some native oaks. There were donuts and cider, more games, and pumpkin painting for kids.





# Visit Every Park Challenge

In addition to our core volunteer activities, GIVE 365 coordinates the Visit Every Park Challenge! The VEP challenge encourages participants to try visiting all 162 parks, and earn prizes along the way. Visit them all to become a champion! 2023 was the busiest year for VEP yet, by far!



# 2023 VEP Recap



- **32** new champions (representing 16 households)
- Ordered and distributed over 3,000 VEP brochures!
- Launched the Park Finder tool - [www.a2gov.org/parkfinder](http://www.a2gov.org/parkfinder)
  - Search by park name or amenity, includes links to Google Maps coordinates to park parking lots
- Partnered with the AADL Summer Game— **1,448** players entered the code at the “VEP Lounge” outside the GIVE 365 office in Fuller Park, over **2,000** found the codes on our website!
- Updated large banner at the VEP Lounge in Fuller Park, added one at Gallup Park with brochure box
- Implemented a registration sign-up form to try to capture how many community members are participating
  - Over 340 individuals registered representing diversity of all ages and backgrounds. Many of these were participants with family members, pets, or friends they recruited!



# 2023 Visit Every Park Wall of Champions

These champions have visited every Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation property!



**Nish & Moose**



**Brooks**



**Elana** (Pictured: Kodi)



**Aladdin**



**Karin & Jim**



**Boweï**



**Rachel & Kellen**



**Deven**



**Izzy & Zylar**



**Cathy**



**Parag**



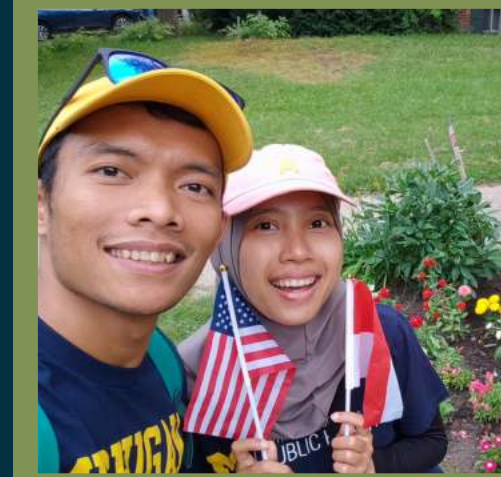
**Jim & Ginny**



**Kennedy + Hull Family**



**Miller Family**



**Lala & Riyan**



**William**



“This challenge and the Ann Arbor parks provided much needed light, joy and something to focus on and challenge myself with.”



# THANK YOU

**to the thousands of volunteers for their dedication to park stewardship efforts!**