

Tackling Invasives, Weeds, and Trash



Concordia Football at 3 parks 8.9.24

September 1 is the first day of meteorological fall! The last month of summer was a busy one. Volunteers made a huge impact, highlighted by a massive invasive removal project at Burr Oak Park and the Concordia football team resurfacing 3 park playgrounds at once. There's still plenty of opportunities to help in the parks in autumn!

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS

[Click here to learn more and register for our upcoming volunteer events!](#)

You can also email us: volunteer@a2gov.org



ANN ARBOR BICENTENNIAL
1824-2024

- Sept 6** Love a Park Day at **Gallup Butterfly Garden** 10am-12pm
- Sept 7** Bike Park Workday at **Tuebingen Park** 12:30-2:30pm
- Sept 10** Love a Park Day at **Veterans Memorial Park** 5-7pm
- Sept 12** Love a Park Day at **Gallup Park Islands** 10am-12pm
- Sept 14** Bike Park Workday at **Bandemer Park** 12:30-2:30pm
- Sept 17** Love a Park Day at **Bryant Community Center** 4-6pm
- Sept 18** Love a Park Day at **Esch Park** 2-4pm
- Sept 20** Love a Park Day at **Northside Park** 10am-12pm
- Sept 20** A2ZERO Green Fair at **Main Street** Many Shifts 3pm-9pm
- Sept 21** Bike Park Event at **Tuebingen Park** 12:30-2:30pm
- Sept 24** Love a Park Day at **Gallup Park Islands** 4-6pm
- Sept 25** Love a Park Day at **Leslie Park** 10am-12pm
- Sept 27** Love a Park Day at **Huron Highlands** 4-6pm
- Sept 28** Rain Garden Planting at **Argo Park** 10am-12pm
- Sept 28** Bike Park Event at **Bandemer Park** 12:30-2:30pm



AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

August Totals: **38** Events / **423** Volunteers / **879** Hours



Love the River Day at Gallup Park Livery August 5, 2024

Volunteers came out to help clean up the Huron River in canoes and kayaks! Our river cleanup program has already recovered over **1880 pounds** of litter this summer, and we're still going!

Mars United Commerce at Frisinger Park August 8, 2024

A big group of volunteers from Mars United Commerce helped freshen up Frisinger Park in a variety of ways, including working on the playground and the garden beds in the park!



CONCORDIA FOOTBALL WORKDAY

The Cardinals football team resurfaced three playgrounds at once!

8.9.24



The **Concordia University of Ann Arbor football team** has been volunteering with GIVE 365 since 2014. Each of the past six years, the whole team has come out for a workday resurfacing multiple playgrounds at once! This year the Cardinals came out and spread new play-safe woodchips at Windemere, Mushroom, and Pilgrim parks.



THANK YOU CARDINALS!



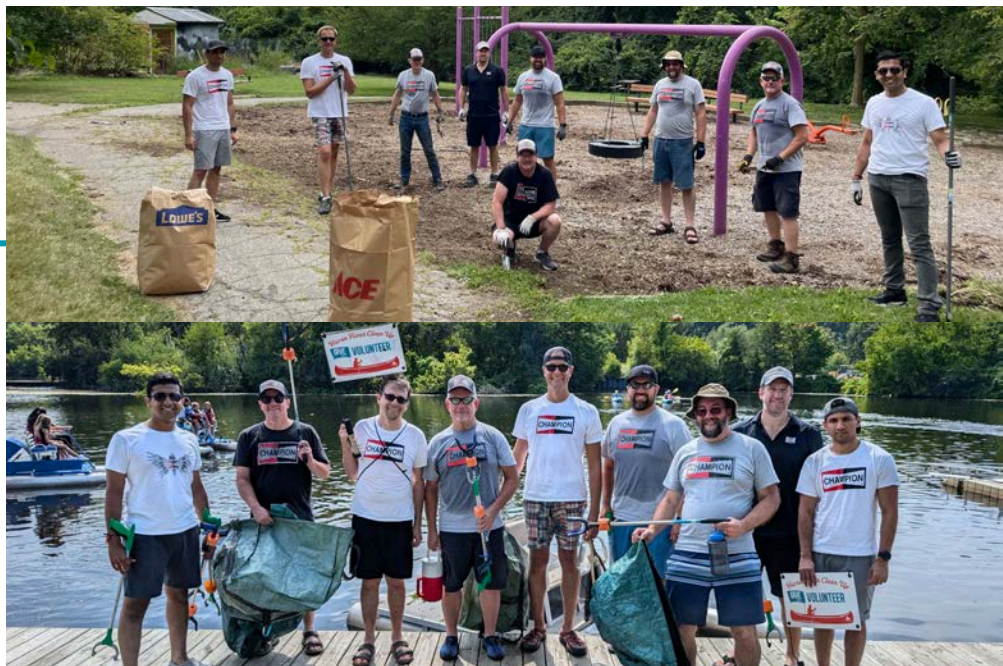


**Aerodynamic Advisory
at Gallup Park**
August 21, 2024

Aerodynamic Advisory helped revitalize the garden beds at the entrance to Gallup Park, pulling weeds and spreading mulch.

**Tenneco at Leslie Park and
Gallup Park Livery**
August 23, 2024

Enthusiastic volunteers from Tenneco came out and did a double workday! First they weeded the playgrounds at Leslie Park, and then cleaned up on the Huron River in the “Gallup Pond” area around the Gallup Livery!



**Campus Town Church
at Buhr Park**
August 24, 2024

This group of volunteers helped pull weeds, spread mulch, and freshen up the garden beds in Buhr Park at the entrance to the Buhr Park Pool and Ice Rink facility.



VISIT EVERY PARK UPDATE

The VEP Challenge is having its biggest year ever!



Thousands of people are out exploring the parks! The Visit Every Park Challenge is having its biggest year since it began in 2020. 29 people have already become VEP Champions in 2024! This makes 88 official Champions in total. We love to see how enthusiastically people have embraced this challenge. It's gotten more popular than we ever could have hoped!

An important note—our current slate of prizes is only valid for 2024, and prize pickup pauses in December. If you want these prizes, you have about 2 months left to get them! While the VEP Challenge is here to stay, the prize list will probably be a little more modest going forward. Have fun exploring!



New A200 Murals at Bicentennial and Leslie Park!

As part of the celebration of Ann Arbor’s bicentennial, murals were painted on the basketball courts in Leslie Park and Bicentennial Park. The artists, Amanda Humphrey and Joe Trumpey, were chosen by a public vote. Volunteers helped paint the mural at Bicentennial Park! The courts are open to use while they wait for the final touch of the A200 logo at center court.



TRICK OR TREAT ON THE RIVER

Save the date!
Sunday, October 13th
12pm-4pm



Staff Spotlight: Sarah

Sarah originally worked for GIVE 365 in its infancy in 2012! Sarah, a parks supervisor, has recently returned to GIVE as the interim supervisor. “I’m happy to be involved with GIVE 365 again and I am amazed by how the program has grown over the years! I love that GIVE offers a broad range of volunteer opportunities that help involve the community with the parks.”

Trick or Treat on the River is just over a month away! This event is a favorite every year for kids and volunteers alike.

[Volunteer Signup](#)

[More information](#)

Volunteer of the Month: Ken

Ken has been volunteering at GIVE 365 events for years, and has helped at dozens of events. He has done a lot of tireless work in garden beds in parks. You might be able to spot Ken somewhere else in this newsletter...





Invasive Brush Removal at Burr Oak Park

Manisha Data's Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Girl Scout Manisha Datar proposed a project cutting invasive brush at Burr Oak Park through our Adopt-a-Park program. This was her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Three workdays were held in August, cutting down hundreds of pounds of invasive brush like buckthorn and honeysuckle! On August 14th the Domino's Pizza customer service team helped with a group of 38 volunteers!



An Adoptable Park: *Huron Highlands*



Huron Highlands Park is a neighborhood park located off Skydale Drive, just west of Pontiac Trail on the north side of Ann Arbor.

This park has a playground, two garden beds, grass fields, and some fruit trees.

This park needs a regular volunteer group or individual to keep up on weeding and pruning the garden beds and mulching and weeding the playground. Knowledge of or interest in caring for fruiting trees is a plus! This park would be a great volunteer opportunity for a community group or local business to help with upkeep two or three times per year.

If you're interested in adopting this beautiful park, email adopt-a-park@a2gov.org!



Links



[GIVE 365 Page & Upcoming Events](#)



[Visit Every Park Challenge](#)

Social Media



Facebook



X (formerly Twitter)



Instagram

