

Alternative Mowing Pilot Program 2023

GIVE 365 initiated a pilot program in 2023, partnering with park operations staff to test alternative mowing practices at eight parks. This pilot program explored mowing practices that diverged from established mowing cycles. The eight pilot sites differed greatly in scope and application. One site is continuing on as a once a year mow with the Veterans Memorial Park having a site designated for an alternative lawn demonstration garden. View the PDFs below to see a map and summary of how this was implemented at each park.

This pilot was developed so that staff and the community could explore the outcome of changing mowing practices such as grass length, community response, maintenance challenges, observed ecological benefits, and more.

The 2023 parks included in the pilot were:

- [Buhr Park](#)
- [Kelly Park](#)
- [Redwood Park](#)
- [Sugarbush Park](#)
- [Virginia Park](#)
- [Ward Park](#)
- [Wurster Park](#)
- [Veteran's Memorial Park \(alternative lawn demonstration garden\)](#)

All parks were recovered to normal mowing cycles by mid June. One important note to make is that it was a very dry May in 2023 with hardly any rain occurring.

Feedback

Ann Arbor Parks assessed all aspects of this pilot while the community was encouraged to provide feedback. You can view the highlights, feedback, and recommendations from the 2023 pilot [here](#). You can also review the [community input and feedback](#) that the pilot generated here.