

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

GIVE  
365

2024  
Yearly  
Report



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# WHO WE ARE



ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION  
**GIVE**  
365



**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!

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



*Tuebingen Park 4/28/24*

# 2024 GIVE 365 Staff



**ERIKA**  
*Recreation Supervisor  
(Left in April 2024)*



**SARAH**  
*Recreation Supervisor (Interim)*



**DANA**  
*Adopt-a-Park Coordinator*



**RYAN**  
*Outreach, Marketing, River Cleans*



**ANDY**  
*Playground Technician, Outreach*



**AMELIA**  
*Gardener / Event Team*



**OLIVER**  
*Crew / Event Team, Playgrounds*



**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!**

# 2024 TOTALS

**3112**  
Volunteers

**6327**  
Volunteer Hours

**275**  
Workdays & Events



**GIVE 365**  
ANN ARBOR  
PARKS & RECREATION

Concordia Football at Pilgrim Park  
8/9/24



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 variety of meaningful volunteer tasks!

Some of the many tasks:

- Spreading woodchips on playgrounds
- Weeding playgrounds
- Gardening with annuals, perennials, native plants, & rain gardens
- Collecting litter on land & along the river
- Painting & mural projects
- Cutting invasive brush
- Helping at parks special events



# WHO WE WORK WITH

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.

- Businesses
- Student organizations
- University units and departments
- Ann Arbor residents or visitors
- Community organizations
- Neighborhood groups
- Nonprofits
- Sports teams
- City, county, and state units
- Anyone who loves parks!



Gallup Park adopter Sarah 10/1/24



# GROUPS WE WORKED OR PARTNERED WITH IN 2024

This isn't even all of them! To those without a logo or one we couldn't find, we appreciate you as well!



# OUR REACH

GIVE 365 has been working in City of Ann Arbor park properties that are not purely nature areas. There are **162 park properties** and we have worked in over 130 of them.

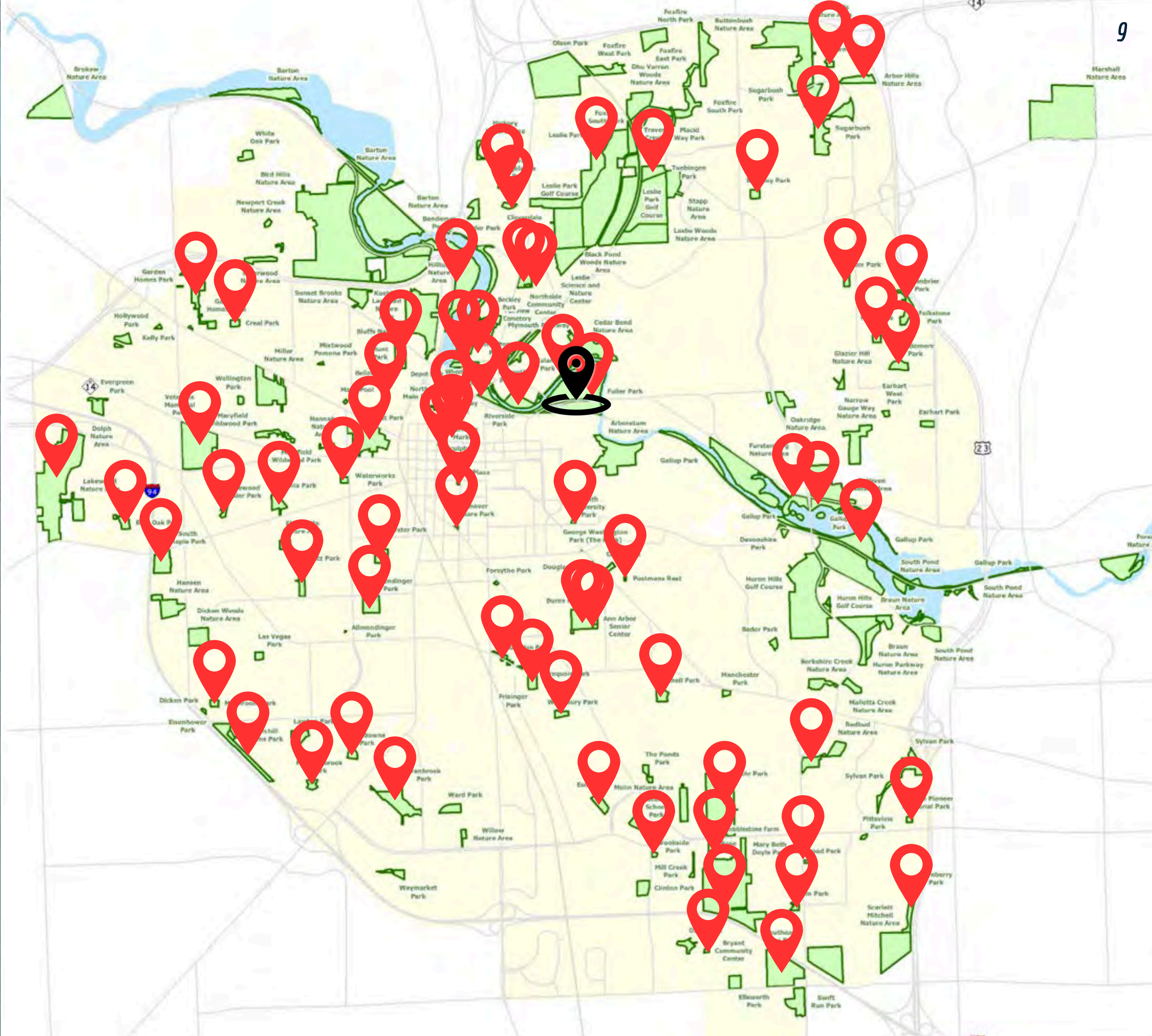
In 2024 we worked in **67 parks!**



Parks where we held an event in 2024



GIVE 365 office





Beta Alpha Rho at Burns Park 10/6/24

# WHERE WE WORKED

We held volunteer events in **67 different parks** in 2024

Number of events held at some of our larger parks in 2024:

- Gallup – **45**
- Fuller – **23**
- Veterans Memorial – **20**
- Bandemer – **18**
- West – **10**
- Buhr – **10**



Postman's Rest Park 10/17/24

# SPECIAL EVENTS & INITIATIVES

*River Cleanup with Toyota R&D*  
9/6/24



ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION  
**GIVE**  
365

# PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

33 playground events  
11 playgrounds resurfaced



*Glacier Highlands Park 5/18/24*



*Mushroom Park 8/9/24*

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. These playgrounds were managed and scouted by our Playground Technician, Andy.

# HURON RIVER CLEANUP PROGRAM



*Toyota-Subaru of AA 9/13/24*



*Toyota R&D 9/6/24*

In the summer months (June-September) GIVE runs a series of cleanup events on the Huron River, in partnership with the Gallup & Argo liveries. Volunteers get in canoes & kayaks, equipped with litter-grabbers, and paddle on the river collecting trash. This program was partially funded by a MiCorps Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program (VSCP) grant from EGLE. This year we smashed our all-time record for pounds of litter collected in a season, with **over 2700 pounds** of trash recovered from the river!

<b>2708</b>	pounds of litter removed	<b>2024 Totals</b>
<b>28</b>	events	
<b>378</b>	volunteers	
<b>878</b>	volunteer hours	

# Gardening

**113**  
*gardening events*

Guiding gardening philosophy:

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



Island Park 5/19/24



Gallup Park 7/12/24



Frisinger Park 5/23/24



Buhr Park 8/24/24



Hanover Square Park 9/13/24



Veterans Memorial Park 6/27/24x



Waterworks Park 7/27/24

# PAIN & MURAL PROJECTS



GIVE 365 has painted or assisted with a variety of art projects and murals in parks. We worked with local artist T'onna Clemons of the Youth Art Gallery, who designed the mural at Fuller Park pictured above. Later in the year, we painted the planters outside of Fuller Park pool, pictured to the right. Volunteers helped paint both of these projects, and also assisted with the Bicentennial Murals which were painted on basketball courts in Leslie Park and the newly renamed Bicentennial Park.



# SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECTS



*Island Park 5/19/24*

GIVE 365 has been 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. We held a shoreline planting project as part of Huron River Day (5/19/24) this year, as it was at Island Park. Over 100 plants went in the ground, all native species of grasses, shrubs, flowers, and trees.



# INVASIVE REMOVAL PROJECTS



*Gallup Park Islands 9/12/24*



*Burr Oak Park 10/3/24*

GIVE 365 has been working on several invasive removal projects in parks, mostly focusing on cutting back buckthorn and honeysuckle. We have been working on the “Goat Islands” at Gallup for about 6 years now, a project that has included some goatscaping! In this area some native plants are starting to take root and we have planted more. We have been using herbicide-free methods with the goals of replacing as much of these invasive plants as possible with native species. We also have ongoing projects at Island Park, Fuller Park, West Park, Scheffler Park, and Veterans Memorial Park. This year a Girl Scout named Manisha Datar initiated a massive invasive removal project at Burr Oak Park through our Adopt-a-Park program, in which we cut down invasive shrubs and planted native plants in a large area behind the playground, improving safety and visibility while working to create a native prairie area.



# SPECIAL EVENT: HURON RIVER DAY

5/19/2024 - 26 volunteers

GIVE 365 has a long history of helping out at Huron River Day by recruiting volunteers for the event. This was the second year we also served as an exhibitor, presenting educational materials about our Huron River Cleanup Program. During this year's event we had volunteers help plant native plants at a shoreline area!



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

10/13/2024  
500+ boat rentals  
75 volunteers



# BIKE PARKS

There are bike parks in Bandemer and Tuebingen Park, which are very unique amenities! A dedicated crew of volunteers has been busy working at these sites for the past few years, led by Garret Potter, who is now on the GIVE 365 staff. Improvements have been made to increase safety, upgrade usability, and improve aesthetics.



# 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.



Graydon Park 6/1/24



# Adopt-a-Park

## 2024 Totals

**38**  
Parks with  
active adopters

**58**  
Adopt-A-Park  
workdays



*Ann Arbor Farm & Garden at  
Waterworks Park 7/27/24*



6/2/24



10/20/24



# Waterworks Park Events

with Ann Arbor Farm & Garden

Waterworks Park was adopted by **Ann Arbor Farm & Garden** last year. They continued to host events for neighbors and friends, combining volunteering with fun games and activities for kids.





In addition to our core volunteer activities, GIVE 365 has been coordinating 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! The program has been getting more popular each year and 2024 was the busiest year yet, by far!

# 2024 VEP Recap

- 69 new champions, more than any other year—more than half of all champs were this year!
  - 129 champions in total (since 2020)
- Ordered and distributed over 1,000 VEP guides
- Partnered with the AADL Summer Game again—2,862 players earned the “GIVE Back to Parks” badge by finding codes on our web pages!
- New suite of prizes including special A200 themed prizes to help celebrate the Ann Arbor Bicentennial
- Several people attempted “advanced” versions of the challenge, including 4 people who biked to all 162 park properties in one day, and one person who ran to every single park from their house!

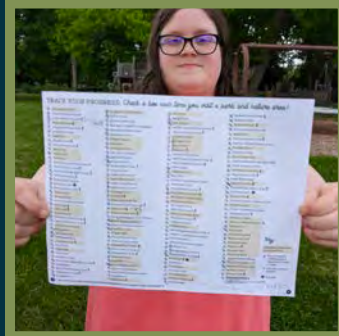




# 2024 VEP Wall of Champions



Eli, Adam, Ries



Isabella



Michael



KC & Sheila



Myles & Isaiah



Yitah



Anne & Mike



Sarah



Michelle



Liza & Bob



Julia & Kathleen



Eden & Daphne



Dimitra



Alan & Nancy



Solaire



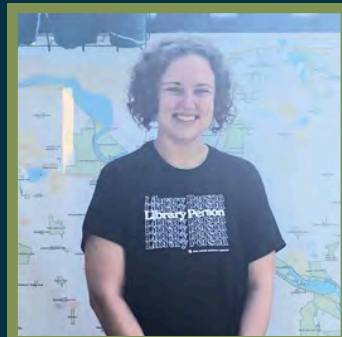
Doug



Joshua



Bhagyashri & Shivanya



Alivia



Darla & James



Yogesh



Erick



Derek



Tim



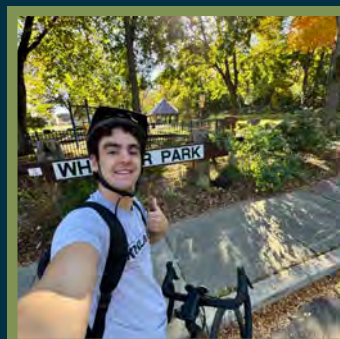
Ellen



John



Tim & Maya



Matias



Mary & Henny



Bridget & Andrew



Rachel



Spencer



Lisa, Timothy, Matthew



Rachel & Hannah



Beth



Brent



Gordon



Ed



Paul



Hannah & Pelham



Sebastian & Megan

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

Not every champion is pictured.

“I love this challenge - I never would've known the large amount of work the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department undertakes for the community!”

“I've been to several parks over the years, but doing the Visit Every Park challenge gave my partner and me a greater appreciation for the city and its nature. ”

“I am such a big fan of the parks challenge, I tell all my friends and it has made me love the City of Ann Arbor even more.”



**THANK YOU**

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