

[www.hamiltonparks.net](http://www.hamiltonparks.net)

Fall 2015

**Dear Friend of the Parks:**

The Hamilton Parks Conservancy recently wrapped up its first summer as the manager of our beautiful city parks, and we feel like it's been an extremely productive time. We've accomplished a lot, but we still have a long way to go.

You are no doubt well-aware of the deteriorating condition of Hamilton's Parks in the last few years. We applied over 1,100 gallons of paint this summer in our effort to spruce up our buildings and shelters and remove graffiti. We also removed over 210 dead trees to make our parks safer and more attractive.

Our work has been more than just on the surface. We have also made significant permanent improvements to the parks infrastructure.

At Millikin Woods, we replaced a shelter's roof system that had been destroyed by vandals' fire several years ago. We have also constructed three new shelters, two of them with the assistance of the Hamilton High School carpentry students. And we have also started construction on a new Millikin Woods sprayground!

You will be able to see a drastic improvement in Crawford Woods Park when we have a grand reopening in the spring. We will not only dedicate a sprayground for the neighborhood children, but we have also built a new restroom and replaced three shelters that were practically in ruins — as well as a major upgrade of the parking lot. The difference is astounding!

*Continued...*

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# WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!



**BEFORE**  
**Joyce Park Restrooms**



**AFTER**



**Bike Path Bridge**



**Parks Compound**



## Picnic Shelters



**Crawford Woods Restrooms**



**Trash Cans**



**Playground Mulch**



We are also quite proud of the rejuvenation of the old Wilson Pool site, now named Jim Grimm Park, not only with a sprayground but a whole new playground set, thanks to the generosity of the Hamilton Community Foundation.

And as a matter of public safety, we have installed security cameras in some of our parks, especially those that attract a lot of children, such as the parks with spraygrounds.

We have been able to accomplish all of this because we are a non-profit agency and our entire focus has been on the improvement of our park system. In order to continue the momentum, we need the assistance and generosity of our Friends of the Parks donors.

I invite you to take a driving tour of the parks to get a glimpse of the improvements so you can imagine even better things to come, because we are certainly not finished. Indeed, as I said, we still have a long way to go.

As I make my daily rounds of the parks, I can't help but notice that we are still using playground equipment that I played on when I was a kid. Many of our swing sets are over 50 years old! We need to bring all of those — as much as 90 percent of our playgrounds — up to modern safety standards. We have more restrooms that need to be replaced and over 100 additional dead trees that need to be removed.

For the 2016 season, as we continue to work hard keeping our parks clean and enhancing the safety of its users, we are also planning more capital improvements. Our desire is to purchase additional equipment so we can take maintenance to another level, replace benches, trash cans, drinking fountains, at least 60 new picnic tables, and to start a tree replacement program.

One of the problems of the past is that we build new but do not plan on how we will maintain the improvements in the future. We will be creating an endowment fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation. Twenty percent of all future donations will go into the endowment fund so we will be able to properly maintain our improvements. We feel this is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

While we do this, however, we also have our sights set on the future of the parks, so we will transfer 20 percent of all donations for capital improvements into an endowment fund so that we can maintain those playgrounds and restrooms five and ten years from now.

Next year promises to be another big one. While we continue to spruce up our existing parks, we will be hard at work creating another jewel, Marcum Park, which thanks to the generosity of the Marcum family will be an amazing addition to the RiversEdge complex and is certain to become one of our most popular parks by the time it is completed next fall.

It is our sincere hope that you will consider a donation. This will allow us to continue our mission of creating a clean, safe and fun outdoor entertainment for the children and citizens of Hamilton.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your **tax-deductible** donation and become a part of the rejuvenation of our city parks system.

Sincerely,



Steve Timmer

Director

Hamilton Parks Conservancy

*Scenes from the busy summer of the...*



Thanks to a donation from Jim and Sue Fitton, the Hamilton Parks Conservancy was able to purchase a 27 horse power commercial blower to attach to our Gator. Not only does it blow like a hurricane, but it came with a remote control to adjust the airflow and rotate the nozzle 360 degrees. Now, keeping the bike path clear of debris is a blast — literally!



A group of local artists — Brianne Thyen, Jenn Acus-Smith, Taylor Welch and Stephen Smith — gave the Parks Conservancy Headquarters on North Second Street a colorful makeover.



The carpentry and construction students at Hamilton High School, under the supervision of their teacher Tim Carpenter, pitched in to help construct two of the three new shelters at Millikin Woods.



We debuted our new website! Come visit us at [www.hamiltonparks.net](http://www.hamiltonparks.net) to keep up with all the latest news and developments as we continue to make your parks a clean and safe place to have fun. You can also “Like” us at [www.facebook.com/hamiltonparksconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/hamiltonparksconservancy).