

FALL 2018



Far Left - A playscape for the new Jefferson neighborhood park.
Directly Left - Insects was the theme of the 2018 Arts in Our Parks Program.
Above - A section of the new playscape that was installed at Beeler Park.
Below Left - The newly refurbished cabin at Joyce Park.
Directly Below - Enjoyment at Rotary Park during Operation Pumpkin.



A Letter from the Director



Dear Friend of the Parks,

Year four of The Hamilton Parks Conservancy's existence is coming to a close. We are continuing to build, repair and create. Our crews have

been working tirelessly to create a great park system. I hope you have noticed the continued improvements.

Some great news this year! The American Planning Association awarded RiversEdge/Marcum Park as one of the five great spaces in the nation for 2018. Thanks again to the Marcum Family for building this wonderful park. It is amazing the number of events and general day to day enjoyment Marcum Park has made possible.

In 2018, the Parks Conservancy concentrated on our neighborhood parks. With great pleasure, we reactivated Beeler Park and Kingston Park. These two parks had no park amenities. The amenities had been removed when they deteriorated many years ago. This left a void in our park system. The Conservancy contracted to install new and updated playscapes and swings for both parks.

Once again children are enjoying these parks. In addition to these new playscapes, we replaced nine existing playscapes for a total of eleven new playscapes this year alone. Some of the playscapes we replaced were over thirty years old. So far in less than four years, we have replaced seventeen playscapes and reinvigorated our playgrounds. The Hamilton Community Foundation has played a major role in the funding of our playscape replacement program. We could not have done it without the Foundation. When the Hamilton Parks Conservancy came into existence in 2015 Hamilton had three spraygrounds. The Conservancy has added three neighborhood spraygrounds and two water features at Marcum Park, thus increasing Hamilton's water features from three to eight. We have been rewarded by experiencing a resurgence in the use of Hamilton's parks.

A new opportunity has arisen to create a new park. The Jefferson neighborhood, (4th Ward), is one of the few areas in town that does not have a park. The new park will be at the corner of East Avenue and Hensley Street next to the Boys and Girls Club. The Frank Pfirman Family donated the needed property, along with some startup funding. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas also contributed \$20,000.00 to assist in the construction and site work. The Hamilton Parks Conservancy has contributed \$25,000.00 from our capital budget. Our vision for the space would be a playscape with swings, a great lawn, park benches, at least eight trees, trash cans, an ADA accessible walk to the playscape, signage and landscaping. We have completed the sitework and constructed a fence to separate the park from the alley. To complete the park, we will need to raise an additional \$85,000.00. This park will greatly compliment the Boys and Girls Club which will be able to use the park for activities and events.

We have continued the Arts in Our Parks program. Our generous anonymous donor has allowed our artists to complete three additional murals and install a sculpture in Joyce Park. The first year the theme was birds of southwest Ohio, this year was insects. Hopefully, we will be able to continue, in 2019, with pollinators.

The Hamilton Parks Conservancy and the Hamilton Conservation Corps are remodeling the old Joe Nuxhall Driving Range building. The goal is to create a Nature Center where children can learn about our natural environment. Things are coming along, and we hope to be installing drywall next month.



Goals for 2019!

1. Complete the Jefferson neighborhood park.
2. Develop Pickleball Courts.
3. Work with Leadership Hamilton Class 27 and the Hamilton Conservation Corps in the re-creation of the Cliffview Natural Area.
4. Build the second nine holes at the Millikin Woods Disc Golf Course.
5. Develop a plan, with the assistance of Historic Hamilton, for the renovation of the Historic Joyce Park Home.
6. Continue our Arts in Our Parks program by painting a mural on the Nature Center at Joyce Park.
7. Continue a high level of maintenance in all of our parks and continue our proactive maintenance program for our park buildings and assets.



We once again have an aggressive plan for improving our Hamilton parks. We have been able to accomplish much due to the fact we are a non-profit agency and our entire focus is on the improvement of Hamilton's Park System. To continue the momentum, we need your assistance. Our donors' gifts help us achieve our goals.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to create an endowment fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation. Twenty percent of our Friends of the Parks donations will go

into the endowment fund, which will enable us to properly maintain our improvements. It is our sincere hope that you will consider a donation this year to allow us to continue our mission of creating clean, safe, and fun outdoor entertainment for the citizens of Hamilton.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Timmer, Director
The Hamilton Parks Conservancy



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