



Become a Friend of the Parks!



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f/hamiltonparksconservancy



FALL 2019



Far Left - New sculpture at Rotary Park.

Directly Left - Rainbow over Marcum Park.

Above - A fun day at Joyce Park!

Below Left - New playground at L. J. Smith Park.

Directly Below - A new pollinator garden created by Janis Overholser, our Horticulturist.

A Letter from the Director



Dear Friend of the Parks,

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of the Hamilton Parks Conservancy's fifth year of managing and maintaining Hamilton's park system. In this short period of time I believe we have provided a park system of which we Hamiltonians can be proud. I am very thankful that our crews continue to work tirelessly to provide safe, clean, and more importantly fun parks. We will be highlighting the many changes to the park system in our 2019 Annual Report. I would like to touch on the 2019 Goals we set for ourselves in the 2018 Fall Update you received last year.

Goal 1 | Complete the Jefferson neighborhood park. Jefferson Park opened on the last day of the children's 2018-19 school year. We not only met our goal but, in order to be sure it was safe, I was the first one to go down the large tube slide. It was a lot faster than I thought it would be. Jefferson Park has hosted Movies in the Park, Arts in the Parks programs, neighborhood get-togethers and after church socials. This park has become the gathering place for the Jefferson neighborhood, exactly what a park is supposed to be.

Goal 2 | Develop Pickleball Courts. We went one step further than development, we got started. In order to reduce costs, Hamilton Parks Conservancy crews removed all the old rusted fencing and poles and sold the scrap to Cohen's Recycling. Neyra Paving came in and repaired, expanded and re-blacktopped the surface. Presently, new fencing is going up! We don't currently have the funds to finish the project so we will need to wait until next year for completion. The new 8 court Pickleball Complex is at Bob Gentry Park which is located at Neilan Boulevard and Williams Avenue.

Goal 3 | Work with Leadership Hamilton Class 27 and the Hamilton Conservation Corps in the re-creation of the Cliffview Natural Area. In January and February, Hamilton Parks Conservancy crews started on the removal of the

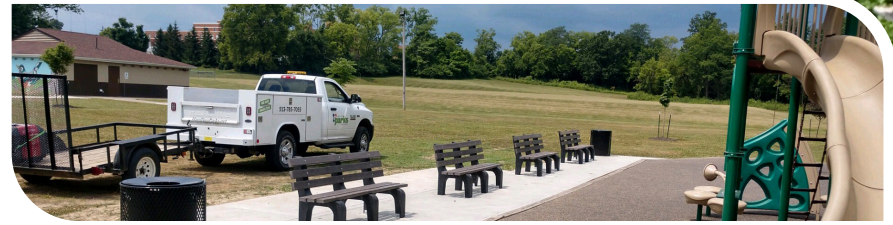
invasive species problems. We removed honeysuckle and dead trees from the area. This was phase 1. This winter, we plan on doing a final clean sweep and have the area cleared for the reintroduction of native species.

Goal 4 | Construct the second nine holes at the Millikin Woods Disc Golf Course. The Millikin Mile, Hamilton's Disc Golf Course's second 9 holes has been constructed. It is now a full 18-hole course. We still have the finishing touches to complete, but all 18 holes are being played.

Goal 5 | Develop a plan for the renovation of the Historic Joyce Park Home. The home has been completely restored. All new plumbing, electrical wiring, heating and air have been installed. Conservancy personnel completed the interior carpentry work and painting. Vinyl windows were removed and replaced with appropriate Anderson windows. We are now renting the home and the revenue is going toward park improvements. This is another way we are increasing revenue. The only remaining work on the home is the exterior painting.

Goal 6 | Continue our Arts in the Parks program by painting a mural on the Nature Center at Joyce Park. The Nature Center remodeling was completed this year. Our anonymous donor has once again come through. The entire front of the Nature Center is a mural of pollinators. If you get a chance, stop by and see it, it's amazing! It is the old Joe Nuxhall driving range building in Joyce Park.

Goal 7 | Continue a high level of maintenance in all our parks and continue our proactive maintenance program for our park buildings and assets. This year has been difficult. We have grown our park system, but due to a great economy we have lost personnel. We have had to juggle the many tasks we have by utilizing contractors. In some cases, we have slipped.



In 2020, one of my personal goals is to provide our crews with the appropriate staffing. I have asked a lot of our staff and they have not let me down, but they cannot do the impossible.

- In addition to the 2019 goals, the Conservancy completed the following:
1. We added a new playground at L.J. Smith Park in the North End.
 2. We are in the process of finishing up a Fitness Court alongside the Great Miami Recreational Trail in Joyce Park. We were able to leverage funds with a grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation.
 3. We added ADA accessible walks at Jim Grimm Park.

Goals for 2020!

1. Begin programming at the Nature Center
2. Movies in the parks
3. Complete the pickleball courts
4. Arts in the Parks – Mural on the Jefferson Park fence
5. Construct at least two new shelters
6. Complete a study on the feasibility of an additional dog park

We once again would like to ask you to partner with us in improving 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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