

2025 Annual Report

Hamtramck Parks Conservancy

Letter from Leadership



Tom Habitz
Executive Director

If you are taking the time to browse our annual report, it means you care about our parks, our community, and our people. If you are passionate at any level about these things, it means you are connected to the mission and vision of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy. If this describes you, then I invite you to celebrate with us a year of true transformation, and to join a movement that represents the best of Hamtramck, and what its bright future holds.

In these pages, you will find a lot of material that represents "accomplishments" of the Conservancy. What has been achieved is the product of years of foresight and investment, leading to the development of an organization that is becoming a flywheel for positive change, initiated and propelled by our partners. And this year especially, our parks activities were undertaken in the midst of one of the busiest construction seasons in Hamtramck on record! Thank you to everyone who determinedly navigated the extended closures of Jos. Campau, Dan St., the Veterans Park parking lots, the Goodson alley – all projects that are reconstructing our platform for growth.

Please enjoy the recap of our first full year of highly creative parks planning designed and organized by our indefatigable Alicia Chiaravalli. Please keep close tabs on the construction particularly at Historic Hamtramck Stadium, which will soon offer a brand new experience for even the most seasoned visitor. Above all, please re-live some of the magical moments in the park that we hope you treasured, and will bring you back out in 2026!





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About Hamtramck Parks Conservancy

Belief in a place is a powerful force. Going back a decade, the staunch belief of two different groups that Hamtramck and its parks were full of untapped potential led to the ultimate formation of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy (HPC). For Detroit City FC (DCFC) and the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium (FHHS), their belief was that our historic sport venues are unique assets, and that with new investment they would become **not only more viable but major catalysts**. DCFC's move into Keyworth Stadium (and significant capital investment), and the full historic revitalization of Historic Hamtramck Stadium led by FHHS, led to collaboration between the City of Hamtramck and Hamtramck Public Schools (HPS) that garnered the attention of civic leaders and key foundations.

Supported with critical philanthropy, that working group engaged with the local community extensively to develop a master plan for the Hamtramck Recreation District (HRD) - encompassing Keyworth, Hamtramck Stadium, Veterans Park, and the surrounding areas – that envisions a host of other new and improved assets, and a coordinating entity to deliver them.

Since this work has been entrusted to us, HPC has been dedicated to **protection of our open and greenspaces**, **operation of Historic Hamtramck Stadium**, and moving the needle on the **full realization of the HRD Plan**, for the benefit of all we serve.

Hamtramck is home to six City-owned parks and two HPS-owned parks.

HPC is responsible for rental of *City-owned* park facilities, but advocates for and supports *all* Hamtramck parks and greenspace.

The HRD contains Veterans Park and Playfair Park, **which together account for 86% of the City's total public parkland.**





SOCIAL COHESION & SELF-EFFICACY

Diversity is our strength in Hamtramck. Programming provided opportunities to build new - and strengthen existing - relationships. Communication and cooperation are essential skills for navigating the complexities of our future. **(LEFT)** During HPC's "What's Growing in the Park?", we did citizen science on our historic Elm tree followed by pen illustrations. Among these five girls, they spoke four different languages.

Veterans Park enjoys visitors across generations. **(BELOW)** During volunteer days, even our youngest participants learned that their actions can have a direct impact on a space they use everyday. When being included means assuming responsible use of equipment, a child is empowered to make that decision.

When We Talk About Sustainability

Sustainability means thinking long-term. Our impact is minimized if our efforts are focused only on the "now". Hamtramck has traits worth both sustaining and growing, so that it can continue to prosper in the future. Here's how **HPC's 2025 calendar reflected this value in our parks and community.**



NATURE IN THE CITY

Environmentalism is likely what first comes to mind when thinking about sustainability. We installed a pollinator garden at Veterans Park as a demonstration and representation of environmentalism at work. From site preparation to soil amendment, mulching, and planting, it's the result of community involvement. The pollinator garden has been the site and subject of formal programming and personal discoveries. The new habitat includes over ten native and nonnative perennial species and has seen an increase in local pollinators.

(BELOW) A portion of "Bug Buddies" conducted by Wayne County Parks naturalists utilized our pollinator garden as a living laboratory, engaging participants through touch and smell.







TENNIS LEGACY IN HAMTRAMCK

Tennis play at Veterans Park this past year reflected a commitment to cultural sustainability. The energy is reminiscent of the iconic Hoxie tennis camp, which honed the skills of many impressive athletes through the years. Support from the community, Hamtramck High School coaches and students, and HPC resulted in another successful season of United States Tennis Association (USTA) instruction and fun for youth and adults.

(RIGHT) National Tennis Month Celebration with plaque dedication this past Spring.





PRESERVING HISTORY AT HAMTRAMCK STADIUM

Over 100 games are hosted at Historic Hamtramck Stadium during the baseball season. These activities are organized by HPC Director of Baseball Operations Mike Wilson, and Turkey Stearnes Field is carefully prepared for each by the Hamtramck Stadium Grounds Crew led by Tom Derry. The Stadium is the home field of the Hamtramck Cosmos, and also welcomes numerous travel tournaments, adult league games, clinics, and more.

(LEFT) HPC hosted the 4th annual Hamtramck Stadium Juneteenth Celebration with the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, featuring performances by Multidisciplinary Art Contest scholarship winners and a keynote speech by Derrick Hale, grandson of Detroit Stars and Detroit Cubs player Eulyn "Red" Hale.

SAFE EXPOSURE

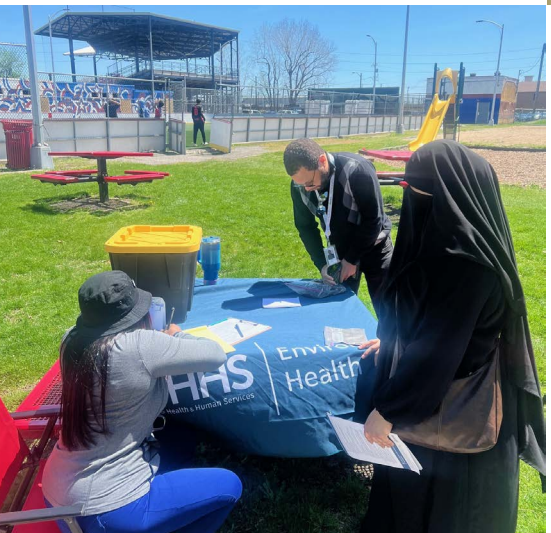
We partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to host a SoilSHOP, providing real-time lead screening for soil from local yards and gardens. Integrated with Earth Week activities on pollinators, native plants, and sustainability, the event offered an accessible, preventive public health service - connecting soil safety, food growing, and neighborhood stewardship to healthier communities. (BELOW)





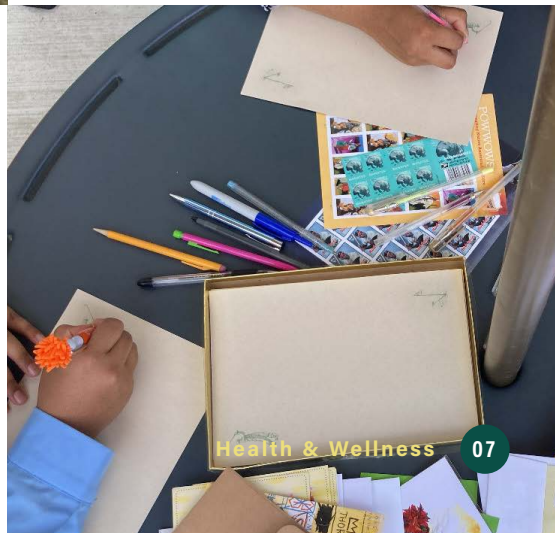
ANALOG ACTIVITIES

Our letter-writing series introduced participants - often for the first time - to the postal service and the magic of snail mail. The new patio became a calm, shared space for parallel play. Writing together without screens offered a break from the constant pull of short-form digital media, allowing connection at a more intentional pace. Alternative recreation opportunities also make the park more welcoming for neurodivergent visitors. (BELOW)



EXERCISING TOGETHER

This year we launched our monthly Community Bike Ride series, embracing the city's summer of cones and cranes as a chance to learn about urban planning, mobility, and bike safety while getting active. From tandem-bike hijinks to rides past the Hamtramck gems and through new Detroit agri-arts alleys, participants saw their neighborhoods with fresh eyes - and glimpsed the promise of Joe Louis Greenway projects taking shape. (ABOVE)



HPC Collaborates

Collaboration has always been central to HPC's work. By showing up - at neighborhood meetings, partner tables, and on the ground - we helped connect local groups who may not have otherwise crossed paths, building trust and a shared understanding of where our skills and capacity can add the most value. These connections are yielding tangible results, demonstrating how aligned partnerships translate shared goals into lasting impact.

PARK FACILITY MANAGEMENT

HPC partnered with the City to assume management of City-owned park rentals, improving clarity for residents navigating facilities across City, School District, and nearby Jayne-Lasky Park. HPC developed a streamlined, online rental process and a redesigned, market-aligned fee schedule that clearly identifies responsible entities, amenities, terms, and permitting expectations. This shared effort advances the vision outlined in the HRD Plan.

GROW HAMTRAMCK

The City's four-year initiative to plant 1,000 new trees kicked off at Veterans Park in Spring 2025. HPC supported park tree selection and planting locations with on-foot evaluations. In a dense urban environment, parks offer the greatest opportunity to grow canopy and realize numerous benefits. We are happy to serve on the Community Advisory Board to contribute to the project's long-term success.

BASKETBALL COURTS

HPC and the Hamtramck Recreation Department (HRD) collaborated to respond to community requests for improvements at the Mitchell Filip basketball courts at Playfair Park. With support from the William Davidson Foundation, the courts saw a full refresh with a new color scheme, playing lines, and filled cracks. To round out the project, the HRD followed by replacing hoops and benches.





Hamtramck Parks Conservancy

Historic Hamtramck Stadium

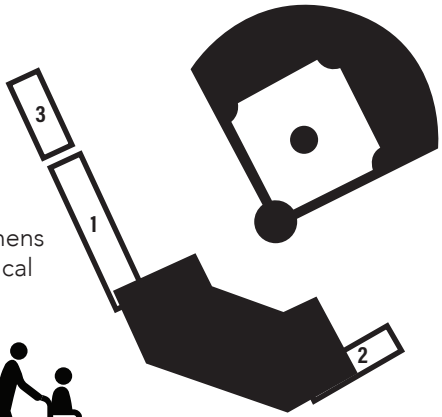
As of year end, Hamtramck Stadium and Turkey Stearnes Field are nearing the finishing touches on a third round of construction, culminating the work begun years ago that kicked off the historic restoration. HPC assisted the City in managing and coordinating multiple grants and contracts for **renovations, improvements,** and **repairs**. Shared recognition of the value of this *public and free* historical resource propelled the multiple partnerships necessary to fund and execute.



BUILDINGS

3 Detroit Stars Clubhouse, Locker Room

1 Storage Rooms, Family & Men/Womens Restooms, Mechanical Room





Waterbottle refill station



Footwash stations & bidet sprayers



Universal changing tables

2 Office, Locker Room, Equipment Storage, Ticket Sales & Concessions







FIELD

Installation of an **irrigation system**, replacement of **sod**, improvements to **field drainage**, and addition of an outfield **warning track**

SITE

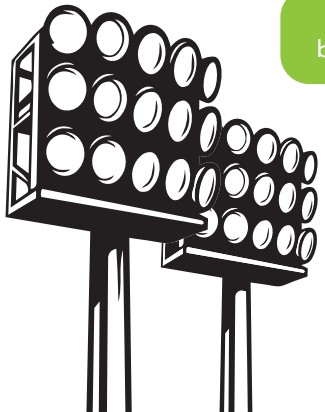
Addition of a **welcome plaza** from the parking lot entrance, **electronic scoreboard**, **hitter's background**, and **field lighting**

HARDSCAPE

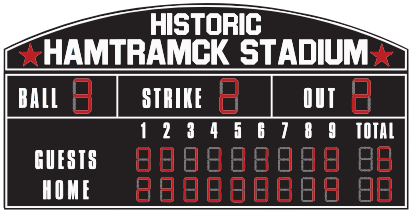
Resurfacing the **parking lots**, Dan Street **drive lane**, and **sidewalks** that serve Hamtramck Stadium and Pinky Deras Field



Field improvements enhance play experience and safety, as well as prevent rainouts.



Detroit area's first professional night baseball game was hosted here in 1930.



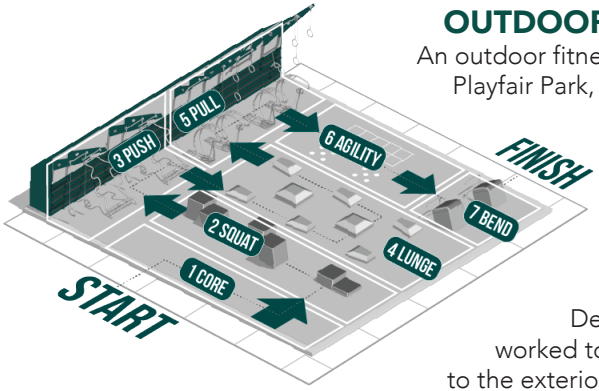


Additional parking spaces will accomodate more visitors.

In Motion

TENNIS MATCHES AT HOME

A USTA grant awarded to HPC is resulting in additional tennis courts at Veterans Park. Tennis advocates, including the Cosmos Tennis team, USTA, Hamtramck Public Schools, and the City of Hamtramck worked together on this project.



OUTDOOR FITNESS CLASSES

An outdoor fitness court will be installed at Playfair Park, which will be open for free workouts. The Hamtramck Recreation Department will also run classes.

RESTROOMS

HPC, HPS/Recreation Department, and DCFC have worked together to bring restrooms to the exterior wall of Keyworth Stadium facing Playfair Park. The project is funded by a Wayne County grant.

ART IN THE PARK

A variety of surfaces will see new art this season. Public art will be selected by open contests and created together, and may span artistic media.



How to Support Our Work



VOLUNTEER
Lend your skills and time to Hamtramck parks. Stay tuned for HPC volunteer days this season.

DONATE
Give money or supplies to support short and longterm projects and programming.

PARTNER
Let's start a conversation about how we can support each other to have a greater impact.

A special thank you to those who supported Historic Hamtramck Stadium through purchase of a banner on the outfield fence.

Campau Clothing Co., Polish Village Café, Polonia, Hammertime Hardware Supply, HCR Supply, The Hamtramck Review, EdwinMoran LLC, Maine Street Restaurant, Turkey Stearnes Foundation

To sponsor a banner for the 2026 season, contact Director of Baseball Operations Mike Wilson.



Thank You to Our Partners

Thank you to our friends and neighbors who support parks as vital public spaces for everyday recreation and community-building. Your contribution reflects a shared belief in Hamtramck's cultural diversity, deep history, and welcoming green spaces.

MAJOR FUNDERS

Ralph C. Wilson, Junior Foundation, Zatkoff Family Legacy Fund, **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan,** Mr. Walter Oehrlein, **Kaspers Scholarship Fund**

CONTRIBUTORS

Tom Niczay, **Ed & Linda Wolyniec,** Sarah Hathaway, **Lisa Ewers,** Denise Staudt, **Neil & Ashley Plamp,** Karen Steitz, **Scott Veselenak,** Daniel Brickley, **William Bialkowski,** Passenger Recovery, **Dave & Malgosia Tulecki,** DTE Energy Foundation, **Coville-Triest Foundation,** Turkey Stearnes Foundation

PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

Huron-Clinton Metroparks, **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services,** Wayne County Parks, **Detroit Public Theatre,** General Motors Youth Corps, **General Motors European Connections,** Wheelhouse Detroit, **Joe Louis Greenway Partnership,** Wise Guy's Chess Club, **Bumbo's Chess Club,** Detroit Ultimate Frisbee, **The Cleanup Club,** University of Michigan Club of Detroit, **CornOilWine Farm,** Friends of the Rouge, **Turkey Stearnes Foundation,** Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, **Hamtramck Police Department,** Hamtramck Beautification Interns



Financial Report

HPC's first financial audit as an organization was conducted for Fiscal Year 2024 (January through December), with formal financial statements issued. Annual audits will be completed by the third quarter of the following year. The figures below represent unaudited financials.

Expenses



- Administration $225,600
- Hamtramck Stadium $88,604
- Programs $41,852
- Park Improvements $31,623
- Events $16,038

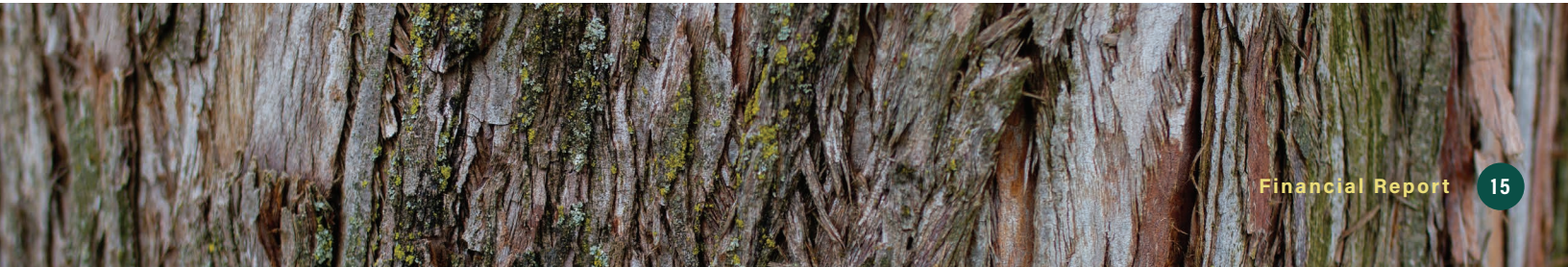
Income



- Grants & Contributions $494,436
- Rental Income $32,390
- Interest $8,419

HPC's revenue is derived primarily from charitable donations and field rentals. Revenue supports expenses that operate the organization, make physical investments to park spaces, administer programs, and manage Historic Hamtramck Stadium.

Of special note, HPC has been engaged with managing or assisting with grant-funded projects that are administered through the City of Hamtramck, within our parks system. The investment associated with these projects, including the latest round of construction at Historic Hamtramck Stadium, is not reflected on the organizational financial statements, yet represents a significant amount of organizational activity.





Board of Directors

The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy is governed by a nine member Board of Directors, which represent the City of Hamtramck, Hamtramck School District, Detroit City FC, and community members.

Konrad Maziarz *Chair*	**Jason Eddleston**	**Syed (Aamir) Ahsan**
Sean Mann *Treasurer*	**Craig Daniels**	**Jim Larson-Shidler**
Tom Niczay *Secretary*	**Ed Wolyniec**	**Abdulmalik Algahaim**

Our Staff

Thomas Habitz *Executive Director*
Alicia Chiaravalli *Director of Programming and Communications*

Mike Wilson *Director of Baseball Operations*
Tom Derry *Hamtramck Stadium Grounds Crew Lead*





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