



# People for Palmer Park Annual Meeting – April 9, 2022



Aerial shot courtesy of Nick Worden



# People for Palmer Park Annual Meeting – April 9, 2022

## **Community Update — 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

- Meet and Greet /Refreshments
- Welcome, Call to Order
- President's Report
- Finance Report & Forecast Budget
- Annual Report – Committee Updates:
  - Events Committee
  - Log Cabin
  - Marketing
  - Membership
  - Preservation
  - Recreation
- Elections of 2022 – 2024 Board Members
- Special Guests Speak
- Open Forum





# PFPP Mission and Vision

## **Mission:**

To further the preservation, revitalization and viability of Palmer Park - a Detroit park for the good of everyone.

## **Vision:**

Our vision is to create an urban, regional destination and daily recreation site that will promote an active and healthy community.

## **Values:**

Preservation of resources / restoration & preservation of history / equal benefit & access to the park / creation of a safe environment / responsiveness to users & the community / timeliness in our actions / collaboration & cooperation with city, community & stakeholders.



# PFPP Governance

## ***Current Board of Directors (2021-Present)***

* Rochelle E. Lento, President	* Rosalinda Haskins, Recreation Chair
* Sharon Gamblin, Vice President	* Rhonda Hendren, Membership
* Patricia Little, Treasurer	* Sigal Hemy
* Amy Lebowsky, Secretary/Marketing Chair	* Roy Raines, Preservation Chair
* Barbara Barefield, Events Chair	* DiAnna Solomon
* Angella Durkin	* Nancy Varner
* Sylvia Greene	* Wendell Byrd
* Gregory Guice	
* Vittoria Valenti-Amodeo	** Nikolette Barnes, Executive Assistant

- ***Regular Monthly Board Meetings/Corporate Formalities***
- ***Standing Committee Structure***
- ***Four Annual Audits & One Financial Review Completed***
- ***Good Standing with the State & IRS***



# 2021 Palmer Park Highlights

- **Art Fair 2021** – Live Show return
- **Bandshell** from State Fairgrounds
- **Farmer's Market** – year 2 held
- **Habitat Restoration Project** - Lake Frances + Witherell Woods
- **Lighthouse** – Renovation Complete
- **Log Cabin Restoration** – major strides
- **PGA Rocket Mortgage Classic** – live
- **Palmer Park Tennis Academy** – new levels + victories
- **Recreation Programming** restored
- **Volleyball court** installed







# Goals/Priorities for 2022

Bandshell – Planning,  
Design, Programming

Community Outreach  
Efforts

Farmers Market

Lake Frances Project  
Implementation

Log Cabin restoration

Planning & Design for  
a Dog Park

Strategic &  
Organizational  
Planning

Guidebooks/Transition  
Planning



# Committees

*PFPP is an all-volunteer organization structured in 7 committees:*

Committee	Activities	Partners
Arts & Culture	Concerts in the Cabin, Arts Programming	Mint Artists Guild
Events	Log Cabin Day, Winterfest, Harvest Festival, Palmer Park Art Fair	Integrity Shows (Art Fair)
Finance	Budgeting, Fund Development	
Log Cabin	Log Cabin restoration	
Marketing	Communications, Community Outreach	
Preservation	Park Cleanups, Community Urban Garden, Orchard, Rain Gardens	Home Depot, Sierra Club, Friends of the Rouge
Recreation	Biking, Yoga, Tennis, Tai Chi, Walking Club	Yoganic Flow, Palmer Park Tennis Academy, US Tennis Association



# Finance Report 2021

## *Patti Little, Treasurer/Chair*

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Revenue</b>			
Membership Revenue	26621	15000	11621
Corporate and Foundation Donations	37739	37960	(221)
Sponsorship Revenue	6600	0	6600
Program Income	24897	16130	8767
Individual Donations and Sales	7674	5050	2624
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>103531</b>	<b>74140</b>	<b>29391</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Farm & Orchard	1255	5200	3945
Art Fair and Market	5167	9060	3893
Event and Activity Cost	4034	11710	7676
Recreation	40670	15350	(25320)
Park Restoration and Maintenance	68579	92900	24321
Marketing and Merchandise	600	1450	850
Administration	9567	12200	2633
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>129872</b>	<b>147870</b>	<b>17998</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(26341)</b>	<b>(73730)</b>	<b>47389</b>

### 2021 Highlights

- Lighthouse Restoration
- Advanced Tennis Camp
- Return of Events





# 2022 Budget

	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>	
Membership Revenue	25000
Corporate and Foundation Donations	65000
Sponsorship Revenue	22500
Program Income	32900
Individual Donations and Sales	2500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>147900</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Farm & Orchard	9850
Art Fair & Market	20000
Event and Activity Cost	14000
Recreation	52856
Park Restoration and Maintenance	33500
Marketing and Merchandise	1900
Administration	35650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>167756</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(19856)</b>

## 2022 Highlights

- **Primary sources of revenue:** membership, program income & increase in donations
- Continuation of Wednesday Farmers Market
- **Programming:** tennis program targeted to increase in size
- **Log cabin improvements** (*postponed from 2020*): lighting, ceiling & wall repair
- **Lake Frances Habitat Restoration**



# Finance Report

## How to Get Involved:

- Renew your membership
- Buy & wear PFPP gear
- Sponsor PFPP
- Join the Finance Committee!
  - Grant writing
  - Fundraising & sponsorships
  - Strategic planning
  - Process improvement
  - Financial backgrounds
  - System experience
  - Creative minds



# Recreation Committee

## *Rosalinda Haskins, Chair*

- **Basketball Clinic** – *Lori Wild, HomeCourt Detroit*
  - Saturdays, **June 4-July 30, 2022** (check-in begins 9am, clinic runs 9:30-11am)
  - Meet at the newly “Pistons” basketball court
- **Bike Rides** – *Henry Ford II*
  - Thursday evenings **May 5 through October 27, 2022.**
  - Meetup at Splash Park lot starting at 6:00pm, we leave at 6:30pm SHARP!\*
  - Ride the park & surrounding neighborhoods
- **Tai Chi** – *Peter Guenther*
  - Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 pm, **May 18<sup>th</sup> to September 7, 2022**
  - Meet on the lawn at Pontchartrain and 7 Mile Rd.
- **Yoga** – *Kerrie Trahan, Yoganic Flow*
  - Saturday mornings, 9:00am **June 4-September 3, 2022**
  - Traditional Hatha Yoga, for all skill levels
  - Outdoors on the lawn near the urban garden (weather permitting)
- **Walking Club** – *Latricia Wright*
  - Monday & Thursday evenings, 6-7:30pm **June 6-August 25, 2022**
  - Meet up at the splash pad lot before 6pm so we can start on time!

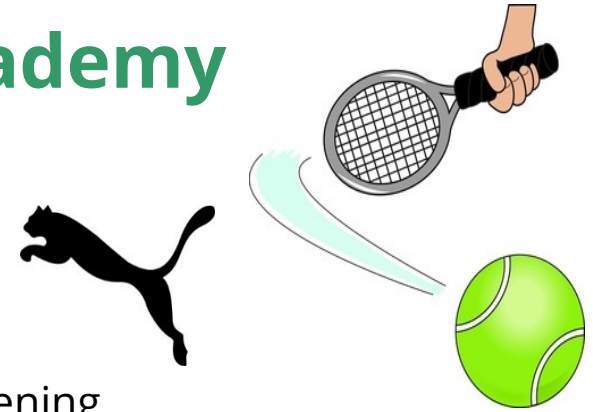






# Palmer Park Tennis Academy

## *Leonora King, Tennis Director*



- **Participants:**

- Approximately 150 kids participated, both day & evening
- Approximately 30 kids participated indoors at Dearborn Racquet Club (from November 2021-April 2022)

- **Competitive Teams:**

**4<sup>th</sup> year of USTA Jr. Team Tennis – Palmer Park Pumas 14U Team – DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!!** – Played District Championship tournament at Deerlake Racquet Club in Clarkston, MI – Pumas were undefeated throughout the entire season

- **Other stuff:**

Took a group of about 20 (parents and players) to Kalamazoo for USTA Boys Nationals 16&18 tournament, to watch elite players participate in major junior tournament.

- Collaborated with Semta, to host a group of approximately 70 people (parents and players) for a private screening of the movie, King Richard.



# Successes of the Tennis Players/Program in 2021



- **Received \$25,000 in Ralph Wilson Foundation Grants over past 3 years** – To be shared equally with Greater Detroit Tennis Alliance programs (*which includes: Chandler Park Tennis Program, Motor City Tennis Club and Palmer Park*). We will receive it again in 2022.
- **Received \$12,500 through Community of Southeast Michigan Legacy Funds (Project Play)** – To be used specifically for the high-performance day camp. This funding will be continuous for 3 years.
- **Received \$15,000 from the Kaspers Foundation** – To be used for the high-performance camp. This funding will be continuous for 4 years.
- **First year of high-performance day camp** – Focused on tournament level/high school athletes seeking to enhance their tennis acumen and skill level. 16 players. Camp ran 5 days/wk, 3-4 hrs/day with a fitness trainer, yoga instructor and sports psychologist.
- **Accelerated for Kidz** – a tennis and technology non-profit organization held their Tennis & Tech Day at Palmer Park.
- **Juneteenth celebration** – Organized by Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association/Midwest USTA. Featured introducing tennis to young children, as well as a presentation on the history of Juneteenth. Midwest USTA brought musical guests and a presentation on mental health in sports for young people.
- **Four tournaments were held at Palmer Park** – Conducted by First Serve Tennis (Chip Fazio, owner) for players, ages 8-10 years of age.

**MORE!**





# Successes of the Tennis Players/Program in 2021



- **People for Palmer Park Tennis Academy was featured on WWJ radio** by host, Terri Lee Chandler, who conducted an interview with Coach Lee.
- **People for Palmer Park Tennis Academy was featured on the big screen at the U.S. Open** in New York with Billie Jean King praising the work of Coach Lee and the tennis program.
- **Our adult tennis team, the Palmer Park Panthers, won (second year in a row) as Davis Cup Champions**, beating out four other park teams from various parts of the City and suburbs.



Palmer Park  
Pumas 14U  
Team –  
DISTRICT  
CHAMPIONS!!







# Goals for 2022



## *Continue high performance camp with following additions:*

- Nutritionist **Laticia Wright** will do an interactive presentation on healthy eating, making healthy water, etc.
- Sports Psychologist, **Jay Novetsky** will speak on various topics of mental fitness for tennis and will attend once a week for 10 weeks
- Local retired world class tennis pro, **Steve Campbell**, will do a presentation on tennis at the professional level
- **Dr. Lauren Dinverno**, physical therapist will do a presentation on strength and conditioning and injury prevention

**Palmer Park Pumas** 14U team will participant in advancing tournament which could potentially take us to a Midwest playoff and then to National event.

Footwork Specialist, **David Bailey** will return to our program for the second year, conducting a two-day clinic on tennis footwork.

**Chip Fazio/First Serve Tennis** will host 4 tournaments at Palmer Park for juniors

**Semta will host a Midwest Diversity Day** to introduce young people in the community to tennis

**Juneteenth event will return**



# Preservation & Beautification Committee

*Roy Raines, Chair*

## 2021 Accomplishments

- Earth day clean up
- Forest path clean up of down branches
- Hired new garden manager  
**nayomi cawthorne**
- Orchard maintenance





# 2022- Goals for Preservation & Beautification

## 2022 Goals

- Establish community volunteer partnerships
- Continue farm bed rental program  
Manager: **nayomi cawthorne**
- Work with city on signage for Witherall Woods wayfinding project
- Earth day clean up coordination
- Other volunteer group cleanup project coordination
- Get signage done for orchard to secure apples from being taken before our harvest fest
- Maintain apple orchard pruning and pest/blight controls
- Reconnect with Home Depot project team - Pending Home Depot Approval

*Our 2022 garden volunteer kickoff day is BACK!  
May 15 10am-1pm*







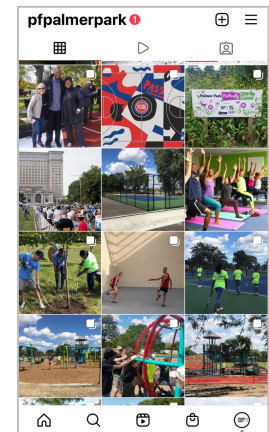
# Marketing Committee

## Amy Lebowsky, Chair

### Overview

The Marketing and Communications Committee is responsible for overall promotion and voice of the PFPP organization. This is done primarily through:

- **Website** (peopleforpalmerpark.org)
- **Social media** (@PFPalmerPark) – Facebook and Instagram
- **eBlasts** (Constant Contact)
- Branded **Merchandise**
- **Press Releases**/Media contacts





# 2022 Marketing Goals

## **Inform and engage the community**

- Provide information on new construction and restoration in and around the park as well as community lead initiatives like park cleanups
- Strengthen the inclusion of our non-digital, offline community
- Encourage neighbors to be our eyes and ears in the park and feel a real sense of investment and pride
- Educate the community on the ecological impact we have on the park
- Provide more historical-based info to the community so we can learn from the past and create an even better future.
- And rebuild our committee...



# JOIN US!

- **Build our committee**

***We are looking for new members with skills or passion in the areas of:***

- Writing press releases and other promotional content
- Video
- Data entry and/or management
- Community Outreach and crafting our marketing message
- Helping us to sell merchandise at our events and represent the organization
- Someone WITH YOUR UNIQUE SKILLS OR IDEAS!

**Would love to hear  
YOUR suggestions!**

[amy@peopleforpalmerpark.org](mailto:amy@peopleforpalmerpark.org)

**Help us spread the word!**

[@PFPalmerPark](#)

**on Facebook, Instagram**

[#PalmerPark](#), [#PalmerParkDetroit](#)





# Membership

*Rhonda Hendren & Sharon Gamblin (Committee Chairs)*

**How can you invest in Palmer Park ?**

**By becoming a member or volunteer today!**

*PFPP members and volunteers are the heart of our organization.*



Our members and volunteers are made up of all who live, learn, work, play or just love Palmer Park. We find that often people are waiting for an invitation to get involved or just do not know how to do so, let us formally invite all who read this presentation to get involved in any capacity that you can to make Palmer Park a better place for all to enjoy today!



# Membership

- **How to become a member:**

- In person, see Sharon Gamblin or Rhonda Hendren, Membership Committee Chairs.
- Online at **[peopleforpalmerpark.org/donate](https://peopleforpalmerpark.org/donate)**
- Members and volunteers are first to know of current events in the park.
- Active members also play a very important role at the annual meeting with voting rights
- Becoming a member allows you the opportunity to run for the PFPP board.

- **Categories of Membership** (*all categories renew annually*):

- Sprout: \$25.00
- Sapling: \$75.00
- Oak Grove: \$100.00
- Apple Orchard: \$250.00
- Membership can also be earned through volunteer hours



# Log Cabin Renovations/Plans

*Jason Fligger, Chair*

## **Work Completed in 2021-2022:**

- The cabin's electrical service was upgraded in conjunction with major City-sponsored improvements to electrical infrastructure throughout the south end of Palmer Park.
- Drywall and interior trim repairs have been started.



## **Work to be Completed in 2022-2023:**

### **Electrical Improvements Will Continue...**

- Complete interior electrical upgrades and install new interior lighting and porch lights.
- Electrical improvements will allow the cabin to host community and private events, such as weddings and concerts, without the need for noisy generators.

# Log Cabin Renovations/Plans

## Interior Improvements:

- Complete restoration of the Senator's Parlor and Keeping rooms *including:* Pocket doors, Base Molding and Window Locks and Trim.
- Reconstruct historic bathroom
- Currently seeking funding for restoration of the kitchen



- Currently seeking funding to begin repairs of the main stairway

## Exterior Improvements:

- Continue to seek funding to rebuild the log chimneys at the north and south ends of the cabin



# Recognition of Log Cabin Partners

- Brian Kiley, provided ongoing consultation for cabin electrical upgrades.
- IBEW Local 58 electricians who installed the new electrical service panel in the cabin and have committed to complete all future electrical work necessary to make the cabin a functional community space.







# Events Committee

*Barbara Barefield, Chair*







# Events Committee

## Past event

- WinterFest with City, Feb 11-13
- Maple Sugaring, March 12

## Upcoming Events

- Aziza Fairy Doors Forest
- Earth Day Cleanup, Sat. April 23
- Tour with Detroit Historical Society, May 14
- Art Fair, June 4-5
- Light Up the Cabin Fundraiser at the Frank Lloyd Wright Turkel Home July 24

## Outdoor events pending City approval:

- Log Cabin Day, June 26
- Harvest Festival: October 8
- WinterFest: Celebrate the Holidays, TBD





# WinterFest with City

February 11-13, 2022





Earth Day Clean-Up • Saturday, April 23 • 11am-3pm

# Aziza Fairy Forest



Find the doors & clean the trash!



**Detroit's  
Palmer Park**

Behind the Community Center  
1121 Merrill Plaisance





# Log Cabin Day



RIP Neil





# Log Cabin Day







# Light Up the Cabin

Sunday, July 23, 2022







# Concerts

Detroit  
Opera  
Company



## Music of the Spirit *Jazz, Soul, Klezmer & Beyond*





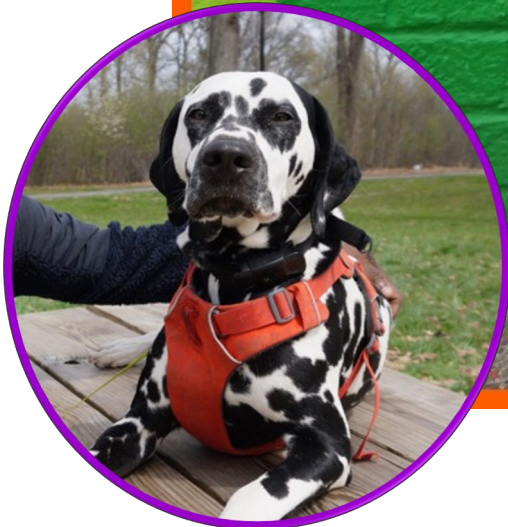
# Harvest Fest







# Palmer Park Unleashed Dog Park







# Palmer Park Unleashed Dog Park







# Palmer Park Farmers Market

*Nancy Varner & Nikolette Barnes*



*Wednesday  
afternoons  
July-Sept. in the  
DEN parking lot*





# 2022 Board Elections

*Nancy Varner + Sylvia Green*

*Nominating Committee Co-Chairs*

## 2022 – 2024 Board Ballot

Recommendation of the Nominating Committee:

There are 9 open seats open for the board; incumbents in red

**Angella Durkin**

**Joseph Darling**

**Gregory Guice**

**Rhonda Hendren**

**Sigal Hemy**

**Amy Kuras**

**Chris McTaggart**

**Roy Raines**

**Stacy Varner**





# Special Reports & Guests

- **Habitat Restoration Project**

Jeff Klein, Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture, City of Detroit GSD

- **Palmer Park Bandshell Plans:**

Farhat Chaudry + Shamori Whitt, City of Detroit GSD

- **Palmer Park Art Fair:** Mark Loeb, Integrity Shows

- **Detroit Parks Coalition:** Sigal Hemy



# Palmer Park Habitat Restoration Project



*Jeff Klein,  
Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture,  
City of Detroit GSD*



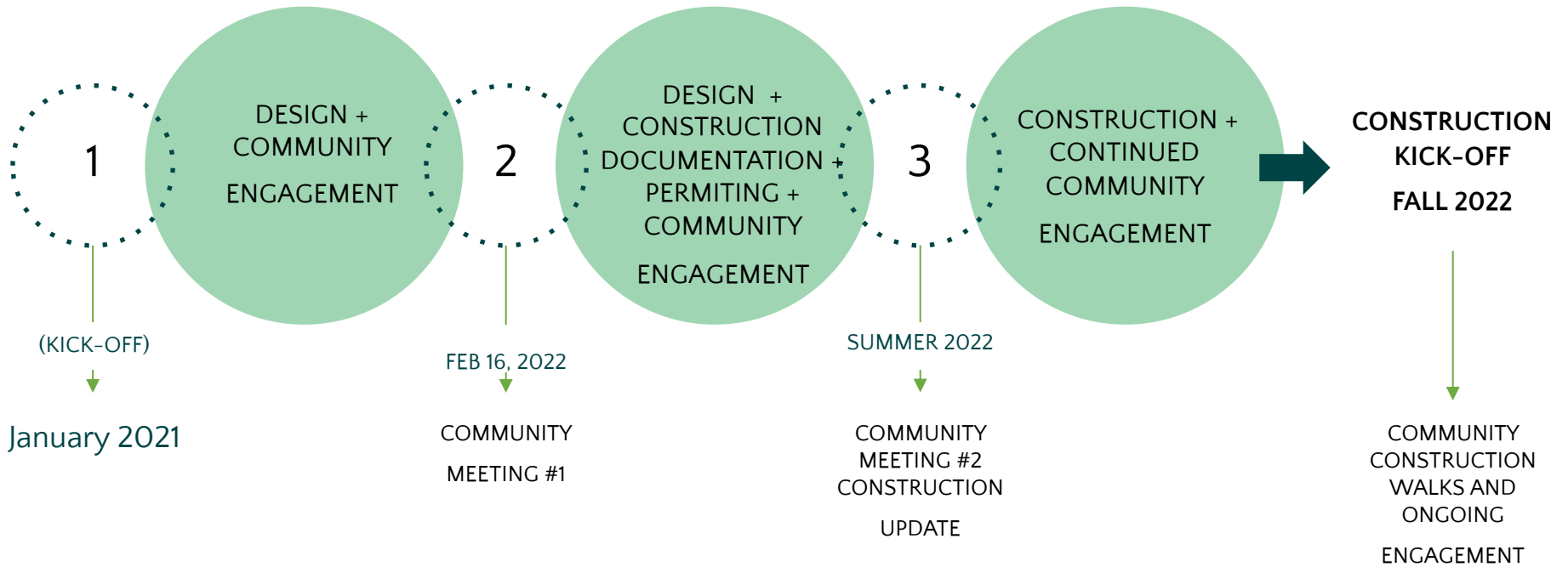




## *Intended Outcomes*

- Provide an exciting/dynamic ecological setting, connecting park visitors to the park's restored natural landscapes, through programs and activities.
- Improve water quality and clarity of Lake Frances, and create an aquatic habitat to support it
- Restore or re-create ecological habitats that connect Lake Frances and the surrounding areas to the adjacent Witherell Woods
- Begin to restore the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the woods.

# Project Timeline





# 2012 People for Palmer Park Master Plan



Transform the Park through an Ecologically Restorative Approach.



Historic Preservation Restoration and Ecological Innovation



Created a unified vision for the parks future as a public amenity embedded in an ecologically diverse and productive environment.



Contemporary Best Practices within the established historical park context.



# 2016 Kresge Foundation Grant



Provided a Framework for the Restoration of Lake Frances



Improve Water Quality



Remove Invasive Species



Provide Habitat



Retain Stormwater Run-Off



Helped in Determining Initial Costs



PALMER PARK - LAKE FRANCES REVITALIZATION PROJECT

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

# 2018-2021 City, Grant, Partner Funded Improvements



## Over 3M in Park Improvements

- Tennis Court Complex
- New Trails/Walkways and Grading
- Kaboom Playground
- Pavilion and Picnic Shelter
- Volleyball Court
- Island Beautification
- Log Cabin and Light House Preservation and Restoration







# National Fish & Wildlife Grant (NFWF) Lake Frances and Witherell Woods



“The Fund supports habitat restoration projects throughout Southeast Michigan, with the dual purpose of restoring habitat while also improving public access to and/or use-opportunities of natural areas throughout the region.”



## Outlined Improvements for Lake Frances

- Drain and Dredge Lake Frances
- Naturalize the Lake Shoreline
- Demonstrate Green Practices
- Control Waterfowl Waste
- Engage the Community and Educate



## Outlined Improvements for Witherell Woods

- Improve access to the woods
- Establish a Volunteer Stewardship team to support long-term monitoring activities + seasonal care and management.
- Educational Opportunities and supportive steward programs with the Detroit Exploration and Nature Center.





# \$1M Michigan Enhancement Grant Lake Frances and Witherell Woods



## Additional Improvements for Lake Frances



- Restore Water Recirculation System
- Naturalize Additional Adjacent Areas with an Ecological Approach
- Create Additional Bioswales to Manage Stormwater
- Construction of Boardwalks



## Additional Outlined Improvements for Witherell Woods



- Walkway Improvements and better connectivity through the woods
- Cleaning and Clearing of Invasive Species.



# Updated Phase 1 Master Plan Overview





# Updated Phase 1 Master Plan Overview



NATURALIZED UPLAND ADJACENT AREAS  
WITH A MORE ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESTORED AND CLEANED  
LAKE FRANCES w/  
NATURALIZED SHORELINE

# Updated Phase 1 Master Plan Overview



WATER  
FEATURE  
RESTORED  
PUMP HOUSE

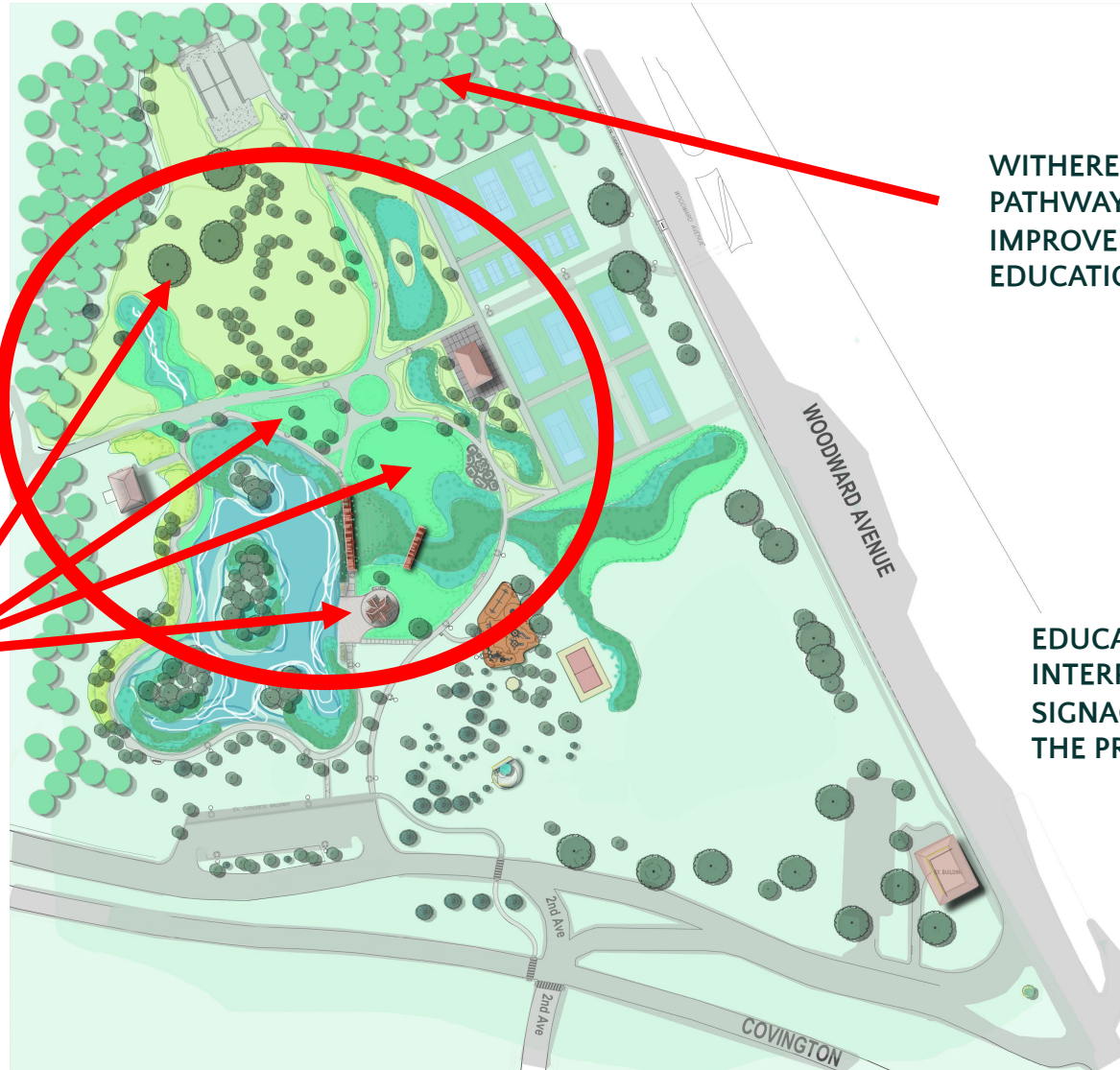
LAKE  
FRANCES  
BOARDWALK

ADDITIONAL  
BIO-RETENTION  
AREAS





# Updated Phase 1 Master Plan Overview



WITHERELL WOODS  
PATHWAY  
IMPROVEMENTS AND  
EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

EDUCATIONAL AND  
INTERPRETATIVE  
SIGNAGE THROUGHOUT  
THE PROJECT

MAINTAINED  
TURF AREAS FOR  
PICNICS AND  
ADJACENT  
RECREATION

# Palmer Park Bandshell



*Farhat Chaudry + Shamori Whitt,  
City of Detroit GSD*





# Palmer Park Bandshell





# Palmer Park Bandshell Timeline

- **DBA Secure Funding:** January 2022
- **Issue Bid for Design Build:** February 2022- April 2022  
Notice to Proceed: April 2022
- **Public Outreach:** May-June 2022
- **Obtain Permits:** July 2022
- **Construction:** August 2022 – February 2023
- **Completion Milestone:** February 2023







# Palmer Park Art Fair 2022

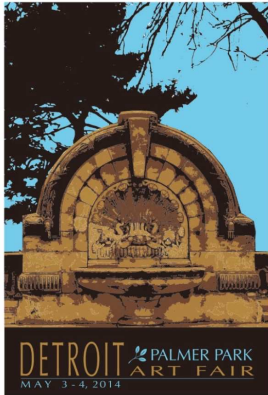
*Mark Loeb, Integrity Shows – Partner*

**Saturday & Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>**





# RECENT POSTERS



2014 Hubert Massey



2015 Maria Petrenko



2016 Ronald Scarbough



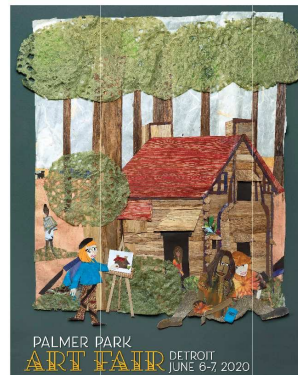
2017 Amy Ferguson



2018 Davis & Fortin



2019 Annette Poitau



2021 Judy Bowman



2022 Desiree Kelly  
Preview!





# This Year at the Art Fair

- Juried Artists
- Mint Artists Guild Teen Artists
- Detroit Fine Art Breakfast Club Artists **EXPANDED!**
- Detroit Art Teachers Association Artists
- Authors, Book Signings **EXPANDED!**
- Poetry Readings **NEW!**
- Live Music Stage **NEW!**
- Food Trucks
- Beer Tent



# Detroit Parks Coalition

## *Sigal Hemy*







# Detroit Parks Coalition

## Overview

The Detroit Parks Coalition (DPC) is an alliance of organizations that supports healthy, equitable, and vibrant parks and public spaces. We are a diverse group of park leaders and community members who have come together to expand resources for Detroit parks.



Image: Downtown Detroit Partnership



# Detroit Parks Coalition

## *Our History*

- Formed in 2010 in response to the City of Detroit's plan to shut down 77 parks.
- In 2018, reformed as a coalition of Detroit's five region-serving parks.
- In 2021, doubled membership and added staff
- 2022 begins organizational launch



Image: Belle Isle Conservancy





# Detroit Parks Coalition



Image: Chandler Park

## *Current Members*

- Belle Isle Conservancy
- Chandler Park Conservancy
- Clark Park Coalition
- Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
- Downtown Detroit Partnership
- Friends of Patton Park
- Friends of Rouge Park
- Midtown Detroit, Inc.
- People for Palmer Park
- Sidewalk Detroit
- At-large members:  
Libby Levy, Laura Trudeau

## *Our Purpose*

- Maximize the impact of park stewardship organizations by strengthening connections and communication across the parks system.
- Create better experiences for park users through expanded and coordinated programming, improved maintenance, and capital improvements.
- Advocate for development of new and increased sources of funding for all parks and public spaces in Detroit.



Image: Sidewalk Detroit



# Detroit Parks Coalition

## 2022 Goals

- **Capital Improvements** – Allocate \$500,000 in state funding for capital improvements in Detroit parks
- **Shared Programming** – Develop and expand cultural and recreational programming across parks
- **Capacity Building** – Provide funding, technical assistance, and staffing support to help our members deepen their impact
- **Partnerships** – Share learning within the Coalition and develop strong points of contact with City of Detroit and other parks partners
- **Amplify Communications and Advocacy**



Image: Friends of Rouge Park

# People *for* Palmer Park

DETROIT



**THANK  
YOU!**