

Ann Arbor's
BICENTENNIAL PARK

**Help fund a transformation that will enhance the lives of
some of the most underserved communities in Ann Arbor**

AN **A200** LEGACY PROJECT

ANN ARBOR BICENTENNIAL
1824-2024

MAKE A SPLASH!

Fund a vibrant transformation in southeast Ann Arbor

As part of its **Bicentennial commemorations**, the City of Ann Arbor is stepping up with a much-needed shower of attention on Bicentennial Park, formerly known as Southeast Area Park. This 26.5-acre recreational area is on the edges of the densely populated Bryant and Mitchell-Scarlett neighborhoods, home to many of the most underresourced families in the city. The park's high accessibility—it's walking distance for many and on the #5 Packard bus route that runs between Downtown Ypsilanti and Downtown Ann Arbor—means many families can bring their kids for outdoor fun and other programs.

The State of Michigan has committed \$1 million towards the installation of a 2,500-square-foot universal-access splash pad, and the City of Ann Arbor is seeking donations to raise the remaining \$2.65 million to fund the water feature and other improvements to Bicentennial Park. The transformation will raise the park's profile as a welcoming gateway to the city for our neighbors from Ypsilanti, Saline, and Pittsfield Township, and it will provide opportunities for families from these communities and Ann Arbor to share happy, healthy, fun experiences.

And as part of Ann Arbor's commitment to action on climate change, the City's Office of Sustainability & Innovations is covering the total \$135,000 cost of solar panels; additional sustainability features planned for Bicentennial Park include EV charging stations and on-site energy storage to meet the goal of a 100% renewable-energy powered park.

Please join us in enriching the lives of many in our community and advancing our city's commitment to include all families in the best that Ann Arbor has to offer.



PRIORITY NEEDS

\$482,500 **Splash Pad**

Design and install Ann Arbor Parks' first universally accessible splash pad

\$227,000 **Playground**

Install rope-based structure with accessible swings on a Forever Lawn

\$125,000 **Facilities**

Upgrade concessions and bathrooms; include gender neutral/family restrooms

\$25,000 **Pavilion**

Clean, paint, and stain structure; fix light fixtures; add new furnishings

\$795,000 **Paving**

Repave entrances, parking lots, and path system for accessibility and traffic flow

\$5,000 **Park Signs**

Add new signage off Platt Road and renovate existing signs

\$500,000 **Multi-use Building**

New facility with restrooms, offices, and storage, powered with 100% renewable energy

\$494,175 **Maintenance Endowment**

Long-term maintenance and costs for splash pad

BICENTENNIAL PARK

A recreation hub for lively, diverse, densely populated Southeast Ann Arbor

The City of Ann Arbor acquired the land for Bicentennial Park in the early 1990s, and two phases of development in the mid-1990s ushered in the park as it exists today. The Ann Arbor Parks Department encourages visitors to city parks to be mindful of the land's history and the Native people who originally inhabited the area: the Anishinaabe people of the Three Fires Confederacy—the Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomi—and the Wyandot.

TODAY

Bicentennial Park sits among some of the most racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods of Ann Arbor. The densely populated area is home to three housing voucher communities as well as eight Title I schools, including Mitchell Elementary and Scarlett Middle Schools less than a mile away. Social service organizations such as Community Action Network provide programming at facilities nearby. The park's 26.5-acre site includes baseball fields, a shelter, picnic areas with grills, a playground, and paved pathways. The basketball court, which was upgraded in recent years, is in frequent use for lively games among area youth and adults.



A CIVIL RIGHTS ICON VISITS THE PARK

Among notable events at what was then known as Southeast Area Park is a 2012 visit by civil rights icon Rev. Jesse Jackson, who participated in a get-out-the-vote rally at the park. In this image, he shares the stage with members of local African American precision drill teams the French Dukes and the French Dukettes, who performed in the area in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s; the teams gave a remembrance performance at the rally.



EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Why did Ann Arbor City Council choose this park for expansive improvement?

“THIS COMMUNITY DESERVES NOT ONLY COMMEMORATION, BUT TANGIBLE INVESTMENTS THAT UPLIFT THEIR LIVES.”

*Derrick Miller, Executive Director,
Community Action Network*



A large and varied public park system is part of what makes Ann Arbor such an attractive place to live and raise a family, but not all parks have received the same level of attention when it comes to improvements and maintenance. Bicentennial Park is uniquely positioned to enhance the quality of life for underserved communities in Ann Arbor and provide a bridge between them and additional city services and amenities. The social service organizations and housing voucher communities that surround the park primarily serve low-income families and people of color, who would greatly benefit from expanded amenities and programming at the park, which is walking distance for many. This is a chance to create an accessible and empowering space for families, children, and individuals who may have limited recreation options.

Changing these bright possibilities into tangible benefits, however, requires considerable investment to upgrade the park's infrastructure and provide additional attractions. More than \$1.1 million in funding from the State of Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor is a strong start, but it will take significant donations from private donors to make Bicentennial Park the rich asset its communities—especially the children—deserve.

An enhanced Bicentennial Park will have increased patronage, spur economic development in the surrounding area, and provide new opportunities for youth programming. But best of all, it will provide expanded opportunities to build connections among families, friends, and neighbors in a vibrant, inclusive environment filled with many fun recreational options.

CALL FOR SUPPORT

Please help enrich the lives of many families in Ann Arbor and beyond

The much-needed and well-deserved enhancements to transform Bicentennial Park will not happen without private donations. We appreciate your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the park!

Go to artrain.org/a200-bicentennial-park-campaign or click on the QR code below.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

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A BICENTENNIAL LEGACY PROJECT

This fundraising effort is part of the City of Ann Arbor's bicentennial goal to invest in and improve accessibility for historically disenfranchised and marginalized populations in Ann Arbor.





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“THIS PROPOSAL IS REALLY ABOUT EQUITY, AND IT’S ABOUT OUR GOALS FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, WHICH INCLUDE CELEBRATING OUR RICH HISTORY AND MAKING SURE THAT OUR FUTURE DOES NOT LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND.”

Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, Ann Arbor City Council Member, Ward 3



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