

# 2025 Annual Report

You belong out here—in our parks, with our trees, and on our trails. Here’s how we did in 2025.



## Volunteers Showed Up

We’re constantly blown away by our community. In 2025, West Michigan volunteers showed up to plant trees, steward park spaces, build trails, and to help us grow a more nature-connected city!

### THE BREAKDOWN:

- 1,666** volunteers
- 5,599** volunteer hours logged
- 111** volunteer shifts
- 637** new volunteers



## In the Parks

2025 was a big year for Parks! We launched a new conservation program, developing a plan to steward park land and comply with the 1821 Treaty of Chicago. Together, we made parks safer, healthier, and more accessible.

### THE BREAKDOWN:

- 274** volunteers
- 548** hours of work in:
  - 11** parks
  - 13** acres
  - 12** different invasive species



## For the Trees

Are we seeing a trend? 2025 was another record-breaking year for our Trees program. Not only did we plant and give away more trees than ever before, our team of 10 youth employees cared for the trees we planted. As always, we’re blown away by how much our community loves trees.

### THE BREAKDOWN:

- 873** street trees planted
- 551** trees given away
- 850** trees watered and cared for
- 10** seasonally-employed youth



## On the Trails

Our trail program growth is slow and steady. In 2025, we built adaptive natural surface trails in Ball Perkins—because everyone belongs out here, no matter how you enjoy the outdoors. We are also laying the groundwork for more adaptive trails in West Michigan.

### THE BREAKDOWN:

- 3.2** miles of natural surface trails constructed
- 345** volunteer hours
- 1** IMBA Trail School hosted
- Piloted** Trail Stewards program

**Grand Rapids, you showed up in 2025!** I am in awe of all of you for helping make this a fourth straight record-breaking year. We get to spend every day with our amazing volunteers, neighbors, partners, & the amazing team at the Parks and Recreation Department. It is all of you that give me hope and optimism for where we’re headed as a community.

I’m lucky enough to know as well that there’s a lot of folks just like us in cities and towns all across our country who love their parks, urban forest, and trails almost as much as we do! As great as 2025 was, I’m excited to keep working with old friends and new in 2026, building off the great success you’ve created!

Stoked,

Stacy Bare  
Executive Director

