



# Mrs. Stock's Park

97 N. Broad St., Hillsdale, MI 49242

Dear Friends of Mrs. Stock's Park,

Reminding us of the history of Mrs. Stock's Park, our beloved Sally Fallon once wrote: *Mrs. Stock's Park was originally established in 1898 by Wilhelmina Stock, the wife of the mill owner, F.W. Stock. Before the park was created, the nine-acre parcel was a black, mucky, snake infested swamp. To assuage her grief over the loss of three young children in three successive years, Wilhelmina vowed to turn the swamp into a park. She worked tirelessly on the project for ten years, always making the park open to all. It was the showplace of Southern Michigan. Over the years, Stock's Mill was sold and the Park became neglected and unkempt. In 2003 the City of Hillsdale acquired the title of the Park. Under the leadership of MaryAnne MacRitchie, the Mrs. Stock's Park Committee began the project of restoration with financial help from the community, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation and the Hillsdale Garden Club.*

One hundred and twenty three years later, the Mrs. Stock's Park Committee, in cooperation with the City of Hillsdale, the Hillsdale Garden Club and our volunteers, maintains and restores the ten-acre park using donated funds. That's why we come to you each fall to ask you to donate as much as you can to help us to improve and to maintain this gem in our midst.

The projects we hope to complete in the coming year include building a second pavilion toward the back of the park in memory of Roberta Hill; building a concrete fence/retaining wall around three sides of the Sundial Garden east of the pond that matches the new concrete benches; scraping, sanding and painting the front black metal fence; and regular maintenance of the gardens. The family of Connie Erholtz has donated a lovely statue of a little girl, named "Miss Connie," who is watering a flowerpot, to the Red Bud Garden at the back of the park. The dedication of this statue was held on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 1:00pm.

The restoration and upkeep of our Park just down the hill from Hillsdale's city center continues for the use and enjoyment of all in our community. As you know, the Park is used by couples who want a lovely outdoor setting for their weddings, by families large and small for reunions and picnics, by friends taking a walk, by people walking their dogs, by young musicians attending summer music camps, by athletes seeking shade for challenging summer workouts, by parents wanting to expose children to the beauty of nature, and by photographers whose cameras capture the beauty of the Park. And all of us enjoy the Concert in the Park series on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm throughout the summer.

If you make a pledge to give annually, you will find a yellow card in this letter as a reminder. For everyone else, there is a green card to record your gift. Please return one or the other. If you wish, please designate the fund you want your gift to go into: Maintenance Fund, General Fund or Roberta Hill Memorial Fund. We thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

The Mrs. Stock's Park Committee: Cory Champion, Mitzi Dimmers, Connie Erholtz, Marcella Gray, Barry Hill, Dianne Miller, Colleen Savarino, Tom Walworth, Liz Webb, and Louise Worms