

# PARKS FRIENDS UPDATE



VOL. 2, ISSUE 4

JANUARY 15, 2025

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc. (501.c.3)

## 4th Quarter and End of Year —Celebrating, Anticipating, and Dreaming



Volunteer



Improve Our Parks



Improve Our World



Be a Park Friend

### Celebrating—2024 Successes



The Friends enjoyed another year of successfully supporting the Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department (SPPRFD) through volunteer effort, fund raising and advocacy. We started in winter removing invasives species from Sheehan Park culminating in a successful burn to restore native plantings. We dedicated the Sue Larson pollinator garden as part of our 4th annual Earth Day celebration, preparing our parks for the new season with over 150 volunteers. We installed pollinator gardens in four parks as part of our on-going effort to raise awareness. We supported parks and city events like the Night at the Rink as part of Frozen Fest, volunteering at Trunk or Treat, the Multicultural Fair, and National Night Out. The Parks Friends constructed a disc golf course in Wyndham Hills Park and completed its third community playground build in Westwynde Park. Volunteers from the Parks Friends, the local neighborhood, community, and playground contractor gathered to construct the new playground equipment in the park. The crews worked tirelessly throughout the day to complete the project in one day.



This was our fourth year of successfully partnering with SPPRFD and the Sun Prairie community. .

### Anticipating — Fund Raising for Wyndham Hill Pickleball Court Sun Shades

With 10 great courts, brand new lighting, windscreens, and comfortable social areas that the Friends and the Sun Prairie Pickleball Advisory Group (SPPAG) were able to raise funds for and have built; shade structures are needed to complete the complex!



The Sun Prairie Parks Friends and the SPPAG are now accepting donations for this exciting project. Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc as a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is registered in the state of Wisconsin as a charitable organization. Your donations are tax deductible and an excellent TAX-FREE use for your mandatory IRA withdrawals.



The cost of adding two shade structures is \$45,000 and the project has raised \$12,500 and is well on its way to seeing the structures installed. Donate today! <https://parksfriends.org/pickle.html>

### Dreaming—Membership—Join Now



The Parks Friends is supported by membership dues (\$15 individual, \$25 family) and the various fund raisers.

We need you all to join/renew so we can provide support to the Parks in the way we have over the past four years. It is a reasonable price to pay for the efforts that impact all of the residents of Sun Prairie.

**Join or Renew Now so we can continue our efforts!**



**Renew, Invite Others to Join, Volunteer, and Donate to Support Parks in Sun Prairie!**

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<https://parksfriends.org/>

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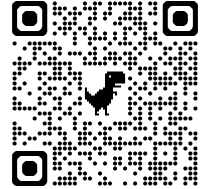


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## Anticipating—Comprehensive Open Space and Parks Master Plan Update — 2025

The Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department is in the process of developing a new 5-year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). This important planning document uses community feedback, a thorough inventory of our park assets, and insights from related plans (such as the City's comprehensive plan and active transportation plan) to identify the department's priorities and investments for the next five years. The project timeline includes presenting a draft to the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission and then gathering public feedback which is due by January 31, 2025



Here is the address to provide comments: <https://form.jotform.com/SPPRF/2025-2020CORP>

## Dreaming – Changes in Organization to Better Support Our Parks



The Parks Friends is 4 years old now and we have looked at how we can better support our parks and community. We are creating a designated investment fund to create a sustainable savings financial base to fund projects and provide continuing support for the organization in the future. The board will present revised by-laws that will allow for establishing an investment account and allow for the Parks Friends to solicit and accept permanent gifts to create that sustainable base. It is important for members to attend the annual meeting to vote on the amended by-laws. Only members will be allowed to vote.

Need more information about the proposed changes or joining the Board email a board member or watch our website or Facebook page: <https://parksfriends.org/>

## Dreaming – Planning for an Exciting and Fulfilling 2025



This coming year we will continue with our efforts to make Sun Prairie Parks an inviting and welcoming place for our community members. Our planned events are listed below and will include the annual Earth Day celebration and park clean-up, installation of pollinator gardens in Sun Prairie Parks, construction of another playground replacement, invasive plant removals in various parks, and if our fund raising is successful—construction of sunshades for the Wyndham Hill Pickleball complex. The Parks Friends rely on your membership and contributions for specific projects—so join, donate and volunteer to continue to make our parks the highlight of our community.



## Upcoming Activities

**Invasive Plant Removal from the Parks — Winter 2025—Saturdays, starting January 18th** so watch our Facebook and Website pages, and the City Volunteer Page.

**Annual Meeting—January 22, 2025—5:00 pm** Glass Nickel Pizza, 410 East Main Street, Sun Prairie

**Frozen Fest—January 26—February 2—Throughout the City**, <https://www.cityofsunprairie.com/1472/Frozen-Fest>

**Earth Day Park Clean Up—April 26, 2025—9:00 am** at Sheehan Park, Linnerud Drive (across from the Library) for the kick-off and to pick up supplies

**Pollinator Garden Installation—May 2025—watch our website and Facebook page.**

**Community Playground Build—Fall 2025—watch our website and Facebook page.**



**Be an active supporter of the Parks in Sun Prairie!**



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