



Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc.
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Web: www.parksfriends.org

June 23, 2021

Subject: Parks, Recreation and Forestry Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2022-2031 Input

Hon. Paul Esser and City Council
City of Sun Prairie
City Hall
300 E. Main Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Greetings:

We are writing on behalf of the members of the Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc. (SPPF) to provide input on the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2022-2031. SPPF was formed this past year to provide volunteers, financial support, advocacy, and collaboration for the preservation and improvement of recreational opportunities, land, ecosystems, structures, and equipment within Sun Prairie Parks. We support and care for our parks through assisting with park planning and development, capital project support, programming and events, fundraising, assisting with grant acquisition, and with the purchase of equipment and supplies for all parks in the city.

As part of our assistance with the planning process, we would like to provide input on the proposed city CIP for 2022-2031 to express the views of our board and membership. We conducted a survey to obtain additional input from our members. The results of that survey helped to form our recommendations and requests.

Our board was impressed by the vitality, long range improvement, and imagination in the CIP plan for our parks and recreation facilities. We hope to be a part of master planning efforts proposed. We also were excited about the concept for a Winter Recreation Area for Sheehan Park.

We do have some input we would like to provide that may enhance the efforts displayed in the proposed plan.

- We recommend that the plan include restroom facilities in parks with community resources and/or shelters. Small facilities like the one recently installed in Liberty Park should be added for parks with community resources and/or picnic shelters.
 - The highest priority for a restroom facility would be Vandenberg Park, where the City's first fully accessible playground has been constructed and will be supplemented by a shelter. A restroom facility was dropped from the project due to cost and should be added through CIP process.
 - Persons using community resource playgrounds and/or shelters come from all over the city, which requires travel. Attendees, especially children and older members, should be

provided with restrooms when they are at a park that supports gatherings like picnics or is a city-wide destination.

- Most of our parks are wonderfully connected by a trail system and restroom facilities in a greater number of parks would provide those facilities to bike riders and runners while they are exercising.
- We would like a disk golf course(s) in a city park(s) added to the CIP. This is a popular, relatively inexpensive, and rapidly growing activity that has wide appeal. They would be welcome additions to the possible activities available in our park system.
- Based on the results of the survey we recommend the following revisions to the Parks and Recreation CIP:
 - Raise the Wyndham Hills Pickleball Courts to a #1 priority. SPPF parks friends has raised over \$45,000 of the \$60,000 goal to help fund this project. With this level of effort and support from the community, we feel this project should be a #1 priority versus a #3 priority.
 - Raise the priority of the Dog Park Enhancement project to a #1 priority.
 - SPPF has identified this as a potential priority for our next fund-raising activity.
 - It is an extremely popular community resource.
 - We will be coordinating with the Parks and Recreation Department to identify potential amenities that SPPF could propose and support with donations to enhance the project. An example would be an agility course that would supplement the city proposed improvements.
 - Raise the priority of the following projects to #1
 - FAC Bathhouse Renovations
 - Wetmore Amphitheater
 - Smith's Crossing Shelter
 - Parks Trail Groomer
 - Raise the priority of the following projects to #3
 - Reserve Park Outdoor Classroom
 - Skate Park Expansion
 - Thoreau Park Playground Replacement
- We recommend moving up the Winter Recreation Area in Sheehan Park project to start the design earlier in the CIP timeline. This would allow planning and design completion to provide a shovel-ready project available for grant application opportunities. Starting the design in 2024-2027 with construction in the 2026-2031 timeframe would provide the needed design to accomplish the objective of having a project on the shelf for grant applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Jonathan Stevens, President of the Board, jonathan@parksfriends.org.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, City of Sun Prairie
Kristin Grissom, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director