

# PARKS FRIENDS UPDATE



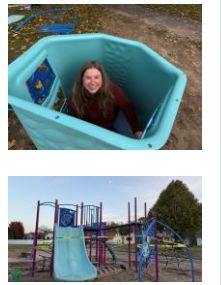
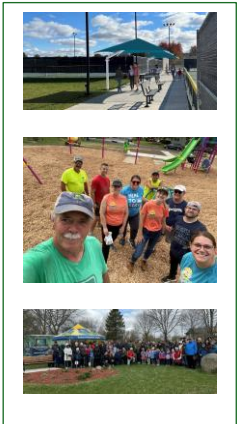
A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc. (501.c.3)

## Year End 2025 — Celebrating, Anticipating, and Dreaming



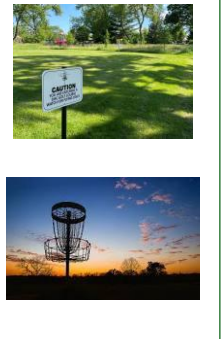
### Celebrating – 5 Year Anniversary

This December the Sun Prairie Parks Friends (SPPF) celebrated our 5-year anniversary. The Friends were formed during the COVID crisis to provide support and advocacy for the parks in Sun Prairie. Over the years the Parks Friends coordinated four Earth Day Park Clean-ups, were instrumental in the improvements of pickleball courts at Wyndham Hills Park, supported community playground builds in five parks throughout the city, installed pollinator gardens in over a dozen parks, cleared invasives from city parks and woodlands, installed disc golf course, and supported numerous Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation, and Forestry events. The efforts of the Friends leadership, members and volunteers have made a lasting impact on the parks in the City of Sun Prairie.



### Celebrating – Community Playground Builds

The Friends in partnership with the Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and their contractor installed new playgrounds at Carriage Hills/Turkey Run and Glacier Crossing Parks. Volunteers spent the morning unpacking and assembling the components for the playgrounds and assisted the contractors with the installation. These builds save the city dollars that are then applied to the playground improvements in the form of upgraded equipment. This is the fourth year of doing these projects in partnership with the City.



### Celebrating – Disc Golf

The Friends in partnership with the Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department added tees to the practice disc golf course in Wyndham Hills Park to allow for a wider variety of play on the course. Additionally, the city is preparing a master plan for a disc golf course in a city park. Once the master plan is approved and adopted, the Friends and the city will begin preparations for the installation of the course and the improvements required. The Friends are committed to assisting the project and are currently raising funds for the course. You can donate at

<https://parksfriends.org/donate.html>

# Parks Friends Update



## Celebrating – Thoreau Park Native Plantings

The Friends installed native planting in Thoreau Park. Through a Dane County program they obtained plants and coordinated with Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation, and Forestry to install the plantings. A team of volunteers from the community and Friends members installed the plants on a Saturday. This is a continuation of efforts by the Friends to improve our parks with the addition of native and pollinator plantings. Look for opportunities to volunteer in the coming year.

## Anticipating – Goals for our 6<sup>th</sup> year

The Friends plan to continue the advocate for improvement to our parks. We anticipate some changes with the reorganization of city staff and departments but will continue our efforts. Earth day clean-up will continue on April 25<sup>th</sup> where we see 150-200 volunteers from throughout the city clean up our parks to prepare them for the new year. Invasive removals and native planting volunteer opportunities will continue thought the year. We anticipate raising funds and beginning the installation of a dedicated disc golf course. We will be looking for members and volunteers to support our parks and events in the new year.

Additionally, the friends are taking the steps to establish a fund to support our operations in the future. We currently operate using membership fees and donations received at events and online. Our goal for 2026 is to establish an endowment and use the income for assist with operational and project costs. There will be more to follow on this exciting opportunity to establish a lasting impact on the city’s parks and recreation opportunities.



## Dreaming – Upcoming Events and Initiatives

The Friends are continuing work to establish a fund to finance our operations and fund projects for the city parks. If you have experience or expertise in foundation work, consider joining the new investment committee.

Our major events for the year are:

- Annual Meeting – January 2026 – 5:00 pm Glass Nickel Pizza, Main Street.
- Frozen Fest – volunteer opportunities - Hibernation Hustle  
<https://cityofsunprairie.volunteermatters.org/project-catalog/69>
- Invasive Removals – Smith’s Crossing Park – meet behind Creekside Elementary School at 10:00 am. <https://cityofsunprairie.volunteermatters.org/project-catalog/62>
  - January 17
  - February 21
  - March 21
- Earth Day Clean-Up – April 25 – Meet at Sheehan Park across from the library at 9:00 and then head out to parks.