



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, March 30, 2021

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Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc. Group Organized

(SUN PRAIRIE) — In late 2020, a group of Sun Prairie residents, who are passionate about Sun Prairie parks, began discussions on the formation of a non-profit organization with the purpose of supporting the city's park system. The group has since incorporated as the Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Inc. (SPPF) and is a 501(C)(3), public charity. Donors are able to deduct contributions and SPPF is qualified to accept bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts as tax deductible contributions.

“Parks are vitally important to a healthy city as they provide a place for everyone to enjoy the outdoors, exercise, and play sports,” said Jonathan Stevens, Board President of SPPF. “Unfortunately, local governments are facing pressure to provide more services without raising taxes, and the parks can often be forgotten if citizens don't advocate for the importance of parks.”

Through volunteering, fundraising, advocacy, and collaboration, SPPF plans to assist in the preservation and improvement of recreational opportunities, land, ecosystems, structures, and equipment within Sun Prairie Parks.

The group has already garnered nearly 100 members and a very generous startup donation from the Bank of Sun Prairie. Residents and businesses can show their support for the parks by signing up for an annual or lifetime membership at the group's website, www.parkfriends.org.

“We are excited about sponsoring an upcoming Earth Day parks cleanup in collaboration with the city and the YMCA, a dog park cleanup, and even a community-build for a new playground at Grandview Park.” said William Dunlop, Vice President of the Board.

As SPPF's first major project, the group has been approved by the city to fundraise \$60,000 for four new lighted pickleball courts to be constructed at Wyndham Hills Community Park. Assuming fundraising goals are met, the completed complex will include a total of ten pickleball courts and become a regional destination for pickleball enthusiasts and events. Support amongst the city's Common Council Alders for this project has been extremely high. The group reports that over \$30,000 has already been raised and they hope to present the funds to the city by the end of the year. Donations are still needed and can be made through the group's website, www.parksfriends.org.

To learn more about the Sun Prairie Parks Friends, visit: www.parksfriends.org.

Upcoming events: April 3, 2021
April 24, 2021
Mid-June, 2021

SP Dog Park Clean-up
Earth Day/Arbor Day Cleanup and Tree Planting Event
Playground Community Build

Press only: For additional information, quotes, interviews, graphics, or photos, please contact media@parksfriends.org