

# FRIENDS OF WAUPACA PARKS FALL NEWSLETTER 2015

Volume 1 / Issue 1

## Hello everyone!

We hope you are enjoying the unseasonably warm weather. Our parks are able to be enjoyed a little later into 2015 than in other years.

It has been a while since our last newsletter and we want to make sure you are staying up to date with the happenings within the Friends of Waupaca Parks group and the Parks and Recreation Department.



## FALL O' RAMA

This year our Friends of Waupaca Parks ran the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall O' Rama event at South Park on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Although we were down eight vendors, we felt that 2015 was our best attendance from community members and families who came out to enjoy the festivities. We were fortunate enough to have beautiful weather that Saturday to allow for the success of the event. The Friends of the Parks received great support once again from community businesses. The monetary and in-kind sponsorships allow this event to act as a great fundraiser. After expenses, we were able to make about \$4,200.00 through vendor fees, concessions and sponsorships. This money will benefit programs as well as park and River Ridge Trail improvements.

*Thank you to the entire group of volunteers and sponsors who helped with the event!*

## SWAN PARK

As we enter our 2015-2016 winter season, we have now completed the major projects involved within the Sled Hill Project. Four outdoor basketball hoops were installed in late October which completed the major improvements outlined within the project. This winter we will be maintaining a small portion of ice on the T-ball fields to see the feasibility of maintaining an outdoor ice rink over the winter months. This will be a trial run as we compare this option to other options within the city to provide outdoor skating for our community. We will be observing the ice's impact on the turf as well as getting an idea of how much time it will take our crews to maintain ice in this location. We are absolutely thrilled on how the Sled Hill Project has turned out and look forward to the upcoming snowfall.

Over this fall season, staff and user groups including Waupaca Youth Baseball, Waupaca Youth Softball, Men's Softball and Park Board

representatives all participated in a Swan Park planning process in which a future improvement plan will be derived from the input received and feasibility from a staffing standpoint. Two meetings have been held to gather input and discuss possible future projects. Most improvement projects at Swan Park are from large monetary donations provided by the above mentioned user groups. We believe that this planning process will result in many great improvements over the next few years and we are happy to be working with these user groups. The Waupaca Youth Baseball Association and Waupaca

## Contact Us

### Friends of Waupaca Parks

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*South Park Beach*

Youth Softball Association have already made a commitment to making large donations for improvements to the complex which will be seen in 2016. We thank these groups and their members not only for these improvements but for their work to ensure we have great youth leagues and tournaments throughout the summer months. It is because of the members in these organizations that our communities' youth have an opportunity to be part of something special, whether that be a recreation team at the pitching league level or a more competitive team in traveling tournaments and higher competition levels as they get older. We truly thank all of the people who make our community a better place to live and raise a family.

## SOUTH PARK

Most of you have seen all of the improvements at South Park over the past couple of years but we wanted to shoot you an update on recently completed projects as well as ongoing projects. As part of Phase 2, parking lot construction, decorative lighting and a shoreline restoration project have all been completed. These projects have not only improved aesthetics but also greatly improved safety within the park. Because these projects were under budget we will look to complete a boat landing renovation on Shadow Lake within Phase 2 grant and donor funds. The Shadow Lake boat landing renovation is illustrated in the South Park Master Plan as a Phase 3 project.

Because of the savings we have seen in Phase 2 we will work to complete this project by the summer of 2016. Boat landing renovations will include an improved concrete boat ramp and a pier to assist boat ramp users when loading and unloading. Staff will also review lighting in the parking lot to ensure everything is sufficient. After the boat landing renovation is complete, staff will turn their attention to construction of a fishing pier in the southwest portion of Shadow Lake, across from Bowersox Park. Funds have been secured for the fishing pier through a Phase 3 grant.

For all those who use the beach house at South Park, you will notice some great improvements for the 2016 summer season. An interest from private donors sparked a number of upgrades that were completed this fall and will be on full display next spring and summer. New epoxy floors now cover up the old concrete slab, shower fixtures in the restrooms have been upgraded and the entire interior of the building has been painted. These upgrades were paid for entirely through donor dollars.

We would like to thank all the donors who have made this ongoing South Park Renovation process possible. South Park has been transformed and is a huge asset for the City of Waupaca and its residents where we can swim at the beach, enjoy the new playground, have a picnic at the new shelter overlooking the lake, fish off the pier and enjoy the natural assets we have within our city limits. A special thank you goes out to all of those who have contributed. You have helped create a beautiful space for leisure and recreation within our community.

In addition to the planned projects, staff is working with the Friends of Mirror and Shadow Lake to secure funds for a second phase of shoreline restoration work in lower South Park. This work would include rerouting the channel which runs into Shadow Lake from the wetland area to the west of Shadow Rd. Along with rerouting the channel, native plants would be installed along the channel's edge. These improvements will help mitigate the levels of phosphorus that are being deposited into Shadow Lake. The Friends of Mirror and Shadow Lake and City Staff have been in contact with the Wisconsin DNR and representatives from Stantec Consulting in the planning of this project. As mentioned above, we have not yet secured funds for this specific project, but we will continue to look into grant opportunities as they arise.

## Monetary Donations

We understand that life can be busy and volunteer hours may not be the best option for you. If you want to support the Waupaca Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of Waupaca Parks by monetary means, you can do so by sending a check payable to:

**Friends of Waupaca Parks**  
c/o Waupaca Recreation Center  
407 School St.  
Waupaca, WI 54981

If you have a specific cause that you would like the money to go toward please note it in the memo portion of the check (ex. Senior Center Programs).

Every dollar makes a difference and all amounts are greatly appreciated. We would like to thank all of you who have made donations in the past and are looking to do so in the future!  
River Ridge Trail

## WAUPACA WINTER REC FEST

Please join us for our 2nd Annual Waupaca Winter Rec Fest on Saturday, February 13, 2016 as we look to enjoy outdoor activity during this beautiful time of year! The Waupaca Winter Rec Fest will be held at the Swan Park sledding hill with sledding concessions and other activities. Staff is still working to set the day's events but we are sure you will enjoy them. This is one of our staff's favorite events of the year and we would love to spend the day with you! Keep your eyes open throughout the winter for more details on the Waupaca Winter Rec Fest as we hope to see you there!

## RIVER RIDGE TRAIL

This fall we unexpectedly received a large donation from Tom Godfrey and the Godfrey Family. We cannot thank the family enough for their generosity. Their contribution will go towards building a boardwalk on the Brainard's Bridge segment of trail. This boardwalk will correct a low spot that is often wet and unpassable. This will be a great improvement to the River Ridge Trail system and the Brainard's Bridge segment in particular.

Our wonderful fall season has come to an end. Of course that doesn't mean activities on our River Ridge Trail System also grind to a halt. Trails are open for year round enjoyment. None of the trails are groomed for particular activities but feel free to use them as weather permits.

This past summer the City Parks and Recreation Department hired an employee to do trail maintenance. This included brush removal, posting signs and their repair, cutting downed trees and general trail maintenance. This was funded by dollars that were rolled into the Friends of the City of Waupaca Parks funds when the River Ridge Trail group was incorporated with them.

The **River Ridge Trail Maintenance and Development Endowment Fund** is managed through the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. This year the fund generated a spending amount which could be used for trail projects or added to the principal balance to increase the fund balance. We chose to deposit the spending amount of \$868.00 back into the

fund for 2015. The more the balance in the fund increases, the greater the spending amount is each year. The current balance in that fund is \$25,000.00. If you wish to help, donations can be mailed directly to:

**Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region**  
**River Ridge Trail Maintenance and Development Endowment Fund**  
4455 Lawrence St  
Appleton, Wis. 54912

Be sure to watch for groomed ski trails at the WAU-KING Trail this winter. The Cronies Trail Group has raised monies to purchase trail grooming equipment and in cooperation with Waupaca County Parks plans to have this section of trail open this winter.

## WE HEAR YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING...

*Here's how to get involved!*

Our staff knows that the success of our programs and events are directly tied to our group of high quality volunteers that make everything go. We are greatly appreciative of all those who give their time for the betterment of our programs and the enjoyment of others. We know there are others out there who want to get involved but may not know how! We are here

to help you get involved and put you to work! If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact the Recreation Center at 715-258-4435 or email us at [parknrec@cityofwaupaca.org](mailto:parknrec@cityofwaupaca.org). We are always planning events, programs, parks or trail cleanup days in which volunteers are needed! Once you contact us we will get you into our volunteer contact list and you can stay informed on upcoming activities and specific volunteer duties.



**THANK  
YOU!**

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**FRIENDS OF WAUPACA PARKS**

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Waupaca, WI 54981

**[Recipient Name]**

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]