



2025 COLLABORATIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Foundation for Dane County Parks and Dane County Parks Friends Grant Program

The Foundation for Dane County Parks and Dane County Parks are pleased to announce available grant funding for Dane County Parks Friend Groups and partner organizations to lead educational programs, implement small projects, and purchase equipment for volunteer workdays.

History:

The Foundation for Dane County Parks has raised more than \$800,000 establishing an endowment fund to support Dane County Parks. Beginning in 2019, funds from the endowment distribution have been awarded to Dane County Parks Friend Groups and other partner organizations to enhance Dane County Parks.

In the summer of 2022, the Dane County Environmental Council was sunset, and the Environmental Council's Community Partners grant program funding was transferred to Dane County Parks. In the spring of 2023, Dane County Parks used this funding to set-up a mini-grant program.

To provide more impactful funding to benefit parks and to improve efficiencies for organizations applying for funding, the Foundation for Dane County Parks and Dane County Parks have combined available funds to offer a collaborative annual grant program for Dane County Parks Friend Groups and partner organizations.

Who can apply:

To apply for a grant, the entity must:

- Abide by all county rules, policies, and guidelines
- Have previously worked with Dane County Parks
- Have a project/program that will occur on Dane County Park property
- A current 501(c)3 status is not required
- Not be a private, for-profit business
- Submit only one (1) grant application per organization/park property per grant cycle
- Close (final report submitted) previously awarded Collaborative Grants before another application is accepted
- Have the capacity to manage and implement the project/program on their own

Grant Eligibility:

Grants will be awarded for projects or programs on county parkland. Projects must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for funding:

- Total grant request for projects/programs must be between \$250-\$2,000
- Projects must be pre-approved by Dane County Park staff

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Public Educational Programming
 - Program supplies or materials
 - Transportation to make parks and park events more accessible
 - Advertising flyers or handouts
 - Honorariums
- Tools and equipment to be used for volunteer workdays
- Creation or printing of organizational materials, such as membership brochures
- Capacity building projects, such as website development

Projects that are not eligible:

- Park map/park brochure design, creation or printing
- Projects on non-Dane County parkland
- Staff salaries or contracted positions
- Memorial bench or tree installation
- Projects for private use or benefit
- Acquisition of land or easements
- Other projects may be deemed ineligible upon review

Application Process:

- The grant application is available online at www.danecountyparks.com/friendsgrants
- Discuss project eligibility with the appropriate Dane County Park staff and receive an email or letter of confirmation of eligibility to include with the application.
- Complete the cover page, project narrative and budget. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- A map that shows the location of the project is not required, but may be beneficial depending on the project.
- Submit applications by email to: dane-parks@countyofdane.com or mail to: Dane County Parks 4318 Robertson Rd, Madison, WI 53714.
- If a grant is awarded, the grant recipient must submit a brief grant report to close the grant.

Grant Timeline:

The grant application period will run from February 20, 2025 to March 24, 2025. Grant awards will be announced in May 2025 and funds will be distributed shortly after the award letters are signed by the organization and returned to Dane County Parks.

If there is still available grant funding after the initial review period, applications will continue to be accepted throughout the year and grants will be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funding is available.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are matching funds required?

- There is no match required for this grant. This grant may be used as partial funding for an activity or project that fits the criteria.

What if I'm not sure if my project is eligible?

- Dane County Parks and Foundation for Dane County Parks staff are available to answer questions at any point during the year.

How much funding is available?

- There is \$12,000 in available grant funding for 2025.

How will grants be evaluated?

- Project clearly meets eligibility guidelines
- Project budget shows sound financial planning
- Application communicates the ability to successfully complete the project
- Clarity of the proposal and the expected outcomes
- Consistency with the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, park master plan and/or park work plan
- Consultation with park staff on the substance and effectiveness of the project



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COVER SHEET

APPLICATION DATE _____

PROJECT TITLE _____

DANE COUNTY PARK PROPERTY _____

BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW _____

PROJECT TIMELINE _____

DANE COUNTY PARKS STAFF MEMBER CONSULTED _____

ORGANIZATION _____

DOES THE ORGANIZATION HAVE CURRENT 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT STATUS? YES NO
 IF NO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST THE FOUNDATION
 FOR DANE COUNTY PARKS TO SERVE AS YOUR FISCAL AGENT? YES NO

ORGANIZATION MAILING ADDRESS _____

AUTHORIZED CONTACT PERSON/TITLE _____

CONTACT PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CONTACT PERSON PHONE _____

GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT _____ TOTAL PROJECT COST _____
 (IF DIFFERENT THAN REQUEST AMOUNT)

WILL YOU ACCEPT PARTIAL FUNDING? YES NO

WILL THIS PROJECT MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT THIS FUNDING? YES NO

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



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PROJECT NARRATIVE

Concisely describe the project. Please include the purpose, park(s) impacted, partners, activities, population served, expected outcomes, consistency with a park master plan or work plan.



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PROJECT BUDGET

Concisely describe the project budget. Please list item(s) to be purchased, quantities and cost estimates. Please note if there are matching or in-kind funds contributing to the project. Documentation of each item cost or quotes for services are not required.

TASK or ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		
GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT		