



## 2026 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 invite grant applications from Friends Groups and partner organizations for projects and programs that directly support Dane County Parks' mission and make clear, meaningful impacts to parkland and/or the park user experience. Projects must be practical, ready to implement, and clearly connected to a defined park need.

**Grant amount:** \$250 (minimum award) to \$1,000 (maximum award)

#### **Who can apply:**

To be eligible, the applying organization must:

- Comply with all Dane County Parks rules, policies, and guidelines
- Have a history of collaboration with Dane County Parks
- Propose a project/program that will occur on Dane County Park property
- Be a Friends Group or partner organization, 501(c)3 status is not required
- Not be a private, for-profit business
- Submit one (1) application per organization per grant cycle
- Have closed out all prior Collaborative Grants Grant (final report submitted) before a new application will be accepted
- Demonstrate the capacity to manage and implement the project/program

#### **Eligible projects must:**

- Take place on a Dane County Parks property
- Be pre-approved by Dane County Parks staff prior to submission

#### **Examples of eligible projects (not limited to):**

- Public educational programming supplies/materials
- Volunteer workday supplies/equipment

#### **Projects that are not eligible:**

- Park map/park brochure design, creation or printing
- Projects on non-Dane County Parks properties
- Tools/equipment that will be used on non-Dane County Parks properties
- Staff salary, contracted positions or honorariums
- Memorial installations (benches, trees, plaques, etc)
- Projects primarily for personal benefit
- Land acquisitions or easements
- Retroactive projects (already underway or completed)
- Additional projects may be deemed ineligible upon review

#### **Grant evaluation criteria:**

- A clear, direct benefit to Dane County Parks properties, facilities, natural resources, accessibility, or the visitor experience
- Project clearly meets eligibility guidelines
- Budget shows sound planning and reasonable costs
- Applicant demonstrates ability to successfully complete the project
- Clear scope, deliverables, and expected outcomes

- Consistency with applicable plans (Parks and Open Space Plan, park master plan, and/or work plan)
- Evidence of consultation with Parks staff
- Project readiness

**Application process:**

- Application available online at [www.danecountyparks.com/friendsgrants](http://www.danecountyparks.com/friendsgrants)
- Before applying, contact Dane County Parks staff to confirm eligibility
- Submit: Cover Sheet + Project Narrative + Project Budget. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Optional: include a map showing the project location (recommended for site-based projects)
- Submit by email to [dane-parks@countyofdane.com](mailto:dane-parks@countyofdane.com) or mail to: Dane County Parks, 4318 Robertson Rd, Madison, WI 53714
- If awarded: an award letter must be signed/returned before funds are issued, and a final closure report with receipts is required at project completion

**Grant timeline:**

- Application period: March 1, 2026 – April 19, 2026
- Anticipated award announcement: June 2026
- Signed award letter due within 30 days of receipt
- Funds will be distributed about 30 days after the signed award letter is returned
- Final report due 12 months after date of signed award letter

**Contact:**

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Engagement & Visitor Services Manager  
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[Pascual.Lael@danecounty.gov](mailto:Pascual.Lael@danecounty.gov)  
(608) 220-7509



**2026 COLLABORATIVE GRANT APPLICATION**  
**Foundation for Dane County Parks and**  
**Dane County Parks Friends Grant Program**

**COVER SHEET**

APPLICATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DANE COUNTY PARKS PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW (1-3 sentences)

\_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TIMELINE (start and end dates) \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED CONTACT PERSON/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PROJECT COST \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MAX \$1,000)

WILL YOU ACCEPT PARTIAL FUNDING?     YES     NO

WILL THIS PROJECT MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT THIS FUNDING?     YES     NO

DANE COUNTY PARKS STAFF MEMBER CONSULTED \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## **2026 COLLABORATIVE GRANT APPLICATION**

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

#### **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

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



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**PROJECT BUDGET**

List items/services to be purchased, quantities, and cost estimates. Identify the requested grant amount and match. Documentation/quotes are not required with the application; however, awardees must submit receipts with the closeout report.

| TASK or ITEM  | UNIT COST | TOTAL COST |
|---|-----------|------------|
|   |           |            |
|   |           |            |
|   |           |            |
|   |           |            |
|   |           |            |
|   |           |            |
| <b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET</b>                         |           |            |
| <b>GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT</b><br><i>(max \$1,000)</i> |           |            |
| <b>MATCH AMOUNT</b><br><i>(if any)</i>              |           |            |