Saturday in the Park

Spirited music and free ice cream amid the lush forest on a perfect Minnesota summer evening – it doesn’t get any better! Kids played in the playground and families went for a hike. The July 27th Ninth Annual Saturday in the Park had it all. The Fridley City Band (photo below) performed several sets in the amphitheater, including a selection of traditional German songs. Hundreds of ice cream cones were “dished out” (Senator Carolyn Laine helped - photo above), featuring Fridley’s own Grandpa’s Homemade Premium Ice Cream. Be sure to attend the July 2020 Saturday in the Park.

Camp Scholarships

The Springbrook Foundation provided a one week summer camp scholarship to 21 children, 10 of which included extended care. Recipients came from 12 different families, with 14 children being non-residents. This summer over 450 campers enthusiastically explored our wildlife, got wet discovering critters in the wetlands, created art, solved problems, and made new friends, all while being immersed in nature. Volunteer junior leaders learned leadership skills under the supervision of our fabulous naturalists, insuring each camper had a great experience. Be sure to register your child for a fun camp next summer.

Leave a Legacy

Many “naming and recognition opportunities” are available to persons or organizations who want to leave a noteworthy legacy. Examples of modest gifts are a plaza paving stone, a tree or a bench with an inscription of your choice, installed amid this beautiful park. Go to the SNCF website, hover on Donations, then hover on Overview, and click on Recognition Donations for gifting. Or call 800-675-4317. To leave a lasting legacy, don’t miss this opportunity.
Pavilion Activity Center Update

The SNCF, SNC and City of Fridley staff have partnered to finance, design and construct a multi-purpose Pavilion Activity Center (PAC) near the former picnic shelter site. Much of the funding has been obtained although we need to raise $40,000 more. Major funders include McGough Construction, Fridley Lions Club, Minnesota DNR, City of Fridley, and SNCF – thank you. Plus making substantial gifts were Vision Woodworking, Total Aire Inc., Park Construction, Bolton & Menk, J&J Taylor Distributing Company, United Surface Preparation and Parsons Electric – thank you. The design is complete, site prep work complete and the customized, pre-engineered shelter components have been received and assembled. Indoor construction is proceeding and will be finished late winter. The new spiffy PAC facility includes an enclosed three season activities space, two restrooms, a concessions area and a picnic shelter, all adding significantly to SNC programming capabilities.

Toe-Tapping Times

Free outdoor concerts by talented, unique local artists – what a treat. The 2019 Summer Performance Series was highlighted by three Tuesday evening concerts in the amphitheater. Sponsored by the SNCF, the Good Morning Badlam, the Roe Family Singers and the Sweet Rhubarb (photo) bands performed, surrounded by beautiful forest, prairie flowers, wildlife and toe-tapping audiences. Watch the Springbrook Nature Center website for the schedule next summer and plan to attend.

Autumn Sampler

If you enjoyed unique beverages, tasty hor d’ouerves, clever door prizes, pleasant live music and plenty of spirited conversation (photo), you were probably attending the 3rd annual Autumn Sampler. Hosted by SNC, SNCF, the City of Fridley and Fridley Liquor, this September 14th community-building event entertained over 100 guests at the Nature Center. A big thank you goes to the many friendly, skilled beverage and food vendors. For a really fun evening, plan to attend next year.

Thank You Cummins

Needing a performer sunscreen late in the day at the amphitheater, preferably natural, the Cummins Inc. folks came to the rescue. The planting team (photo), lead by SNCF Board Member Pushkar Vaidya, obtained and planted six tall quaking aspen trees, a fast growing deciduous tree, to provide delightful shade, color and movement. Thank you Cummins!

Marching On

If you attended Tower Days, 49er Days (photo), Janiboree, VillageFest and Stockyard Days parades, you saw Board Members and friends enthusiastically marching on behalf of the Nature Center. Carrying signs, peltts, antlers, and other natural artifacts, they scrambled to keep up with the parade pace as many viewers wanted to touch or chat. We march because these summer local community celebrations are a great place to promote Springbrook and nature. We’ll see you at the parades next summer!

Contact Info

Springbrook’s internet website presence has evolved into two fine working websites, a Nature Center (SNC) website (springbrooknaturecenter.org) (763) 572-3588 and a Foundation (SNCF) website (springbrookfoundation.org) (800) 675-4317.

Feeling Generous?

Go to giveMN.org
Type Springbrook
Click DONATE
THANK YOU!
Give to the Max Day — Nov. 14, 2019

Mmm Good!

On Saturday, October 20th, scads of Pumpkin Night in the Park attendees enjoyed brats, dogs and pizza, plus carrots and apples, all served by the SNCF Board and recruited friends. Board members worked diligently to plan, set-up, and feed the families, volunteers, staff, and law enforcement folks, all while earning a few dollars for Nature Center related projects. Thank you for patronizing our concession stand and come visit us again next year!

Thank You Xcel Energy

In a continuing partnership, Springbrook was awarded a grant from Xcel Energy for a new exhibit to explore biomimicry – product or process design inspired by biological entities. A large, MicroEye Discovery microscope and digital monitor with interpretive panels will be used in our summer camps, in school education classes, and in a public exhibit at the Nature Center.

Welcome Fall

Where did many families go to welcome fall? To the free Springbrook Friday Night by Firelight programs. These outdoor amphitheater evenings featured the Gibbs Farm - Dakota Talk, wolves by the International Wolf Center and reptiles/amphibians by the Minnesota Herpetological Society. Sponsored by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, each evening’s presentation was followed by a campfire and s’mores. Fun! Next year plan to attend.