Building Community

Springbrook Nature Center has always worked toward building community. We were founded when the Fridley community, led by the Fridley League of Women Voters and Fridley Mayor Bill Nee, joined together to choose a nature center for the open land that would become Springbrook. We continued building community by hosting large community events such as Pumpkin Night in the Park. As Springbrook staff became regulars in the Fridley School curriculum, the community of nature lovers and Springbrook regulars continued to grow. Similarly, programs for all ages, from Playful Polliwogs to programs for adults, have brought people from Fridley and the surrounding communities together to enjoy and learn about nature.

Springbrook continues to build community through our large roster of volunteers. People of all backgrounds and ages come together to host special events, help with programs, maintain trails, or fill any number of other needs. Connections are made and friendships are formed.

The completion of the interpretive center, the nature-based play area, and the outdoor amphitheater have opened up new ways to bring the community together. Family events such as birthdays, baby showers, and anniversary parties bring people to Springbrook, as do the outdoor entertainment series and the Discovery Dinners.

As we finish construction of the last building of the SPRING Project, the Pavilion Activity Center, we are adding yet another opportunity for friends, families, and organizations to join together in building community in new ways while enjoying nature.

Springbrook Nature Center Foundation and Springbrook Nature Center continue to build a greater sense of community to enhance Fridley and our North Suburban Community. During 2018, we have enjoyed expanded use of the new interpretive center, outdoor amphitheater, nature-based play area, and walking trails at Springbrook. Additional nature-based equipment in the play area was installed and enjoyed by many visitors. And with the last major component of the SPRING Campaign—the Pavilion Activity Center—scheduled for completion in 2019, the SPRING Campaign is officially sunsetting. The redevelopment was successful with the investment of over $7.5 million dollars in the future of Springbrook Nature Center.

Visitation continues to increase, students continue to receive a strong science education, our summer camps continue to develop new programming, and our community programs continue to draw in more families. Renting our facilities has provided nearly 6,000 visitors contact with Springbrook. The new Pavilion Activity Center will provide an additional community resource for science education, community celebrations, relaxing picnics, and views of nature.

As the SPRING Project wraps up, we continue to offer expressions of memory, tribute, and commemoration with pavers, benches, trees, and picnic tables for those who want a lasting memory at Springbrook.

We would not be able to provide the educational programs and maintain the nature center without the donation of time and talent from volunteers. Over 7,800 hours were donated in 2018 from over 1,660 community volunteers and 17 board members.

So, come and visit, become a volunteer, participate in an educational program, or just walk the trails and relax in our 127 acres of nature. Thank you for making 2018 another banner year of building community.

Malcolm Mitchell
Chair
2018 was a year of ongoing success and growth at Springbrook Nature Center. Our programs and services took a significant step forward as we continued to cultivate connections between people and nature by providing beautiful natural spaces, educating all visitors, and enriching our community. More people than ever are visiting Springbrook Nature Center as our beautiful interpretive center is embraced and enjoyed by the community. Nearly six thousand guests enjoyed private events in the interpretive center for business meetings, conferences, workshops, showers, parties, and receptions. In addition to our school programming, special events, and environmental education programs, we are proud to serve the community by providing natural spaces to gather and celebrate.

Through the generous sponsorship of our 2018 entertainment series by the Nee Family and Magenic in honor of Kay Bonner Nee and William Nee, we hosted a variety of free programs in our new outdoor amphitheater. Three lively summer concerts were enjoyed by many visitors as music filled the warm evening air. Our popular Friday Night by Firelight series attracted hundreds of guests as they learned about chemistry, nocturnal animals, and the fur trade in Minnesota through dynamic and entertaining presenters.

Environmental education programming thrived in 2018 as we continued our school partnerships, held a community Environmental Fun Fair, added new educational exhibits, and created lifetime memories through our summer day camps. Through nearly six hundred environmental education programs, our amazing staff and volunteers inspired over 16,000 program participants to explore and enjoy the outdoors.

We are thrilled that so many have made the choice to invest their time and energy in Springbrook Nature Center. Together, we have created a beautiful educational campus, vibrant park, and expanded opportunities for people to connect with nature. On behalf of the staff, we are honored to serve you and the Springbrook community. Thank you for your support.

Mike Maher
Director
ANNUAL GENERAL FUND SUPPORT
Friends of the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation

WE THANK and recognize contributors who made gifts to support Foundation programs in 2018.

2018 GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS
Gifts of $1000-5000
Gary and Juliann Brown
Jerrilynn Boehland
Carole Blaska
Kalli-Ann Binkowski
Gary and Shannon Bart Anderson
Betty Ann Addison
Lynda and Robert Antoine
Gifts of $500-999
B. William Ekstrum
Martha and Lou Sinko
Gifts of $500-999
Michael Ellingsworth
Emmans Family Fund
Gifts of $250 to $499
Martha and Lou Sinko
Catherine Voss
B. William Ekstrum
Gifts of $1 to $249
Anonymous
Lynda and David Adams
Betty Ann Addison
Bart Anderson
Gary and Shannon Anderson
Cindy Angerhofer
Lynn and Robert Antoine
Jim and Judy Arnold
Donna and Jerold Bahls
Gary Bank
Jeffrey and Julie Basche
James Bauer
Kalli-Ann Binkowski
Carole Blaska
Jerrilynn Boehland
Gary and Juliann Brown
Clem and Elizabeth Nagel
Robin and Paul Nelson
Becky Oishi
Rhonda and Cameron Ollila
Wendell and Leone Olson
Heidi Olson
Kathryn and Dick Olson
David and Stephanie Ostwald
Janet Parupsy
Alan & Kristina Perry
Sandra Potter
Siegard and Martha
Reckdahl
Finnie Rehm
Terry and Connie Reyes
Eloise and Dennis Roelke
Donna and Rodney Salo
Martha and Eugene Schermer
Joyce and Robert Schmidt
Julia Schmidt
Dirk and Tamara Schmitz
Derek Schostag
Graham and Christine Sedam
Maia and Frank Sedzielarz
Rolf Smoby
James and Joy Sovada
Edmund Spaeth
Susan and Stephen Stedman
John and Susen Maki
Gerald and M. Margaret Macekbergh
Marlyn Maloney
Mary and Ronald Mattson
Robert McKechnie
Dianne and Charles McKusick
Edward Meyer and Barbara Jackson
Russell Miller and Virginia Helseth-Miller
Katherine Mroz
Leonard and S. Murphy
Alfred and Nancy Yee Litt
Richard and Dawn Young
Dorothea and Roger Zbikowski
Stanley and Rita Mae Zdon
Peter and Katey Zeleny
William Zelm
Brandon Zemal
Christy Zender
Honor of Wayne Simenae
Jane Simenae
Honor of Helen Dawson
Mary Dawson
Honor of Garry & Vera Schoolcraft
Edmund Spaeth
Honor of Tim Rider and Therese Shafranski
Brian Rider
Honor of Donna Bahls
Mary Ellen Vetter
Honor of Jack Kirk
Ronald and Jennifer Prasek
Honor of Kay Bonner Nee & William Nee
Christopher Nee
Lisa Nee
Magenic Technologies, Inc.
Honor of Helen Dawson
Mary Dawso
Honor of Garry & Vera Schoolcraft
Edmund Spaeth
Honor of Tim Rider and Therese Shafranski
Brian Rider
Honor of Donna Bahls
Mary Ellen Vetter
Honor of Jack Kirk
Ronald and Jennifer Prasek
Honor of Kay Bonner Nee & William Nee
Christopher Nee
Lisa Nee
Magenic Technologies, Inc.
The SPRING Project Sunsets

Thanks to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fridley City Council, and generous supporters like you, construction for the Pavilion Activity Center begins this spring.

The new PAC facility includes an enclosed three season activities area, two restrooms, a concessions area, and a picnic shelter. It will coordinate functionally and in appearance with the recently built interpretive center. This PAC project will mark the completion of the SPRING Project initiative started almost 10 years ago.

The Pavilion Activity Center will allow us to broaden the horizon of our nature center and expand on:

- Providing an attractive space for outdoor community gatherings and celebrations.
- Offering learning and gathering spaces for school, scout, and volunteer groups.
- Providing a new programmatic and community space for residents of Fridley and the entire Metro Area.

With the SPRING Project sunsetting, Springbrook will continue to focus on building community. The new Pavilion Activity Center, in combination with the outdoor amphitheater, improved trails, and nature-based play area, will distinguish Springbrook in the metro and the region for years to come. We would love to have you come by for a visit and become part of our community.

SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER TIMELINE: Preserving, protecting, and enhancing a pristine wilderness area in the heart of a bustling metropolis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Springbrook Nature Center is established by the City of Fridley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Grand opening of Springbrook's Interpretive Center and Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Finish wetland improvements, including new water reservoirs, pond areas and 1,000 feet of boardwalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Parking lot space doubled and picnic shelter constructed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>SPRING Project vision established and adopted by Fridley City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Permanent levy passed by Fridley voters for Springbrook's operating budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>SPRING Project phasing plan and conceptual renderings complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Springbrook receives $5 million in state bonding and kicks off the SPRING Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Construction begins on Phase 1 of the SPRING Project, including the expanded Interpretive Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Phase I construction complete. Interpretive Center grand opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Phase II construction on amphitheater and nature-based play area completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>Creation of SPRING Fund, completion of Pavilion Activity Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WE THANK and recognize the hardwork and contribution made by the SPRING Campaign Leadership Committee. The success of the SPRING Fundraising Campaign has been due, in large part, to the tireless hours put in by these members who met regularly throughout 2018.

SPRING Campaign Leadership Committee

Donna Bahls—Former SNCF Board
Deborah Dahl—Community Services and Employee Resources Director, Fridley
Tim Dess—Former SNCF Board
Kevin Fox—CEO, Fox Advancement
Neal Hayford—SNCF Board Member
Jack Kirk—Park and Recreation
Scott Lund—Mayor, City of Fridley
Mike Maher—SNC Director
Mandy Meisner—Community Member
Malcolm Mitchell—SNCF Board Chair

SPRINGBROOK BY THE NUMBERS

2018 Springbrook Nature Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Attendance</td>
<td>16,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Programs</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Participant Hours</td>
<td>37,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Student Contacts as Part of School Science Curriculum</td>
<td>13,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Special Event Attendance</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Volunteers</td>
<td>1,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>7,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Summer Camps</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Camp Attendees</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Camp Scholarships</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Total Park Visits</td>
<td>150,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to all of the visitors, camp attendees, volunteers, interpretive specialists, leaders, and community members who helped make these numbers possible.

SPRINGBROOK BY THE NUMBERS

Come by for a visit and see our facility center, community amphitheater, and interactive learning exhibits. Be sure to ask about volunteer opportunities!
2018 Paver Donors

In honor of Jack Kirk
Amanda Bixler
Richard and Cathy Jacobson
Scott and Lucinda Lund
Minnesota Recreation and Park Association
Malcolm and Annette Mitchell
Bruce and Susan Rader
Tara and Jonathan Rogness
David and Wendy Sallman
Michelle Snider

In Honor of Springbrook Deceased Birdbanders
Connie Arnold

Lisa Arnold
Donna and Jerold Balhs
Kent Buell
Mary Dawson
Yolanda and Erling Fugelso
Jill Olson Genaw
Neal Hayford
Brynn Johnson
Jeanne Johnson
Jeremy and Ruth Powers
Ron Reifsneider
Siah St. Clair

2018 Paver Donors

Dianne & Randall Kavanagh
Jim & Nancy Malkowski
Suzanne Egan & Cort Martin
Barb Reiland
Bonne Tressler
Pete Yelle

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation hosts an annual fundraising dinner and auction called the Springbrook Spree to raise funds for programs and enhancements at Springbrook. We thank the many donors of the 2018 Spree.

2018 Spree Individual/Organization Donors

Aki’s Breadhouse
Als Pacas of Dutch Mill Farm
Dennis Anderson
Laurie and Greg Anderson
Anoka County Parks
Applebee’s
Aramark
Donna and Jerold Balhs
Gary Bank
Jeffrey and Julie Basche Beisswenger’s Do It Best Hardware
Blamey Pub and Grill
Brave New Workshop
Breadsmith
Brightwood Hills Golf Course
Broadway Pizza
Gary and Juliann Brown
Caribou Coffee
Clearly Clean
Como Zoo & Conservatory
Crownsers Lounge Supper Club
Culver’s - St. Anthony
Deborah Douglas
Eagle Optics
EDS Builders
Emma B Howe YMCA
Deborah Field
Angelique Frederiksen and Susan Okerstrom
Fridley Optical, Inc.
Fulton Beer
Gardens of Rice Creek
Dorothy Gargaro
Jill Olson Genaw

Grand Casino
Fred Haggar
Half Price Books
Hart Lake Massage
Jerry and Patricia Hartlaub
Neal Hayford
Heights Theater
Barbara Heinecke
Pamela Jambeck
Kathleen and Richard Kemper
Key’s Cafe
Jack and Debra Kirk
Mary Kne
Mary and Dave Kondrick
La Casita - Columbia Heights
La Casita - Coon Rapids
Love That Olive
Roger and Jeanne Lukkarila Lucinda and Scott Lund
Marino’s
Denny and Mary Marquardt
Ross and Mandy Meisner
Edward Meyer and Barbara Jackson
Mickman Brothers
Midwest/Northern Nut
Minnesota Zoo
Minnestalgia Specialty Foods & Gifts
Malcolm and Annette Mitchell
Mickman’s
Vicki and Marvin Reynolds
Red’s Savoy Pizza
Vicki and Marvin Reynolds
Robert Metzger, Dentistry
Sammy Perrellas
Sanna’s Schaaf Floral
Science Museum of Minnesota
Shortstop Bar & Grill
Springbrook Bird Banding Program
Springbrook Nature Center
St. Paul Saints
St. Philip’s Quilters
Surdyk’s Liquor and Cheese Shop
Surly Brewing
Target - Northtown
The Happy Gnome
The Raptor Center
Three Rivers Park District
Toro
Trader Joe’s
Two Stooges Bar & Grill
Pushkar Vaidya and Neha Damle
Renae Wrich

2018 Spree Sponsors

Bob’s Produce Ranch
Financial One Credit Union
Fox Advancement
Maria Dierkhising State Farm Agency
Mike’s Discount Food
Xcel Energy

Pavers, benches, and trees are adding new names and stories to Springbrook Nature Center. As a benefit of making a gift to support the SPRING Project, donors are finding new ways to support the mission of the Foundation and honor memories and loved ones.

You, too, can add your name or the name of a loved one to Springbrook Nature Center. To learn more about sponsoring a paver, bench, tree or other recognition opportunities, contact the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation:

- Call Toll Free: (800) 675-4317
- Email: info@springbrookfoundation.org
- Or, learn more online: www.springbrookfoundation.org

Don’t miss your opportunity to be part of Springbrook Nature Center.
The Springbrook Nature Center and the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation are thriving due, in large part, to the tireless hours put in by our many faithful volunteers. Without volunteers, the Nature Center, Foundation, and the many community events would not be successful. A listing of organizations that provided volunteers in 2018 follows:

**SCHOOLS**
- AFSA High School
- Andover High School
- Andover High School Key Club
- Anoka Hennepin School District Bridges Program
- Anoka High School
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Anoka Technical College
- Blaine Bengals in Action
- Blaine High School
- Calvin Christian High School
- Champlin Park High School
- Coon Rapids High School
- Fridley High School
- Fridley High School Key Club
- Fridley High School National Honor Society
- Fridley Transition Program
- North Hennepin Community College
- Spring Lake Park Schools
- Spring Lake Park National Honor Society
- Woodcrest Spanish Immersion School

**ORGANIZATIONS**
- 4-H
- Anoka County RSVP
- Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District
- Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
- Boy Scouts of America - numerous groups
- Fridley Lions Club
- Girl Scouts of America - numerous groups
- Master Naturalists
- Opportunity Partners
- Urban Bird Festival

**CHURCHES**
- St. Timothy Catholic Church

**SPRINGBROOK**
- Many Individuals and Families
- Special Event Volunteers
- Springbrook Nature Center Bird Banding Group
- Springbrook Nature Center Foundation
- Springbrook Nature Center Photo Club and Regular Volunteers

**BUSINESSES**
- Cummins Power Generation
- General Mills
- Medtronic
- Metro Pediatric
- NMotion Dance Center
- Xcel Energy
- Natural Resources Restoration

**ANOKA COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES**
- Anoka County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program
- Fridley Community Education

**THANK YOU!**

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**SPRINGBROOK Nature Center 2018 Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Maher</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Rogness</td>
<td>Interpretive Program Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Bixler</td>
<td>Administrative Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catrina Mujwid-Cole</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Gavin-Ballanger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPRINGBROOK Nature Center Foundation 2018 Board of Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Mitchell</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Genaw</td>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Meyer</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renae Wrich</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca (Becky) Ervasti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelique Frederiksen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Hartlaub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neal Hayford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Collura</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Newly elected in 2018. 2 Term ended/resigned in 2018.

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board of Directors is committed to finding the resources to preserve and enhance the Springbrook Nature Center into the next generation. We invite you to join with us in this effort on behalf of our community.

**2018 Parks and Recreation Commission - City of Fridley**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Heintz</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Ackerman</td>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Kirk</td>
<td>Director of Parks and Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Dahl</td>
<td>Director, Community Services and Employee Resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Newly appointed in 2018. 2 Moved out of the area, retired in 2018.

The Parks & Recreation Commission provides safe leisure and educational opportunities for all ages through programs, facilities, open spaces and services responding to the needs of the residents and enhancing the quality of life in Fridley. The Commission works in partnership with the Springbrook Nature Center and Foundation to provide guidance and leadership to Nature Center activities.