

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY + NEW BEGINNINGS

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ANNUAL REPORT

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Our Purpose

Our purpose is to pursue unique fundraising opportunities and increase private sector support to further the development, growth and excellence of the Park District in providing modernized facilities and quality recreation services.



Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life in the metro area through the development of modernized facilities, new programs and by offering great opportunities for all in the community.

FARGO PARKS

At a Glance



110 MILES OF TRAILS
2,400 ACRES OF PARKLAND



161 FULL-TIME STAFF
1,100 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES



70+ SPECIAL EVENTS
OVER 1,000 PROGRAMS



FARGO PARKS SPORTS CENTER
5 OUTDOOR PUBLIC POOLS
3 INDOOR ICE ARENAS
5 PUBLIC GOLF COURSES



THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

In 2024, the Fargo Park District Foundation received \$622,045 in donations and another \$385,000 of in-kind gifts for a total of \$1,007,054 all thanks to our amazing community, sponsors and donors.



Giving Hearts Day | Named top 5 fundraiser for Giving Hearts Day 2024

A word from our Executive Director

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION,

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the remarkable progress and accomplishments of the Fargo Park District Foundation. Your generous support and commitment to our mission have allowed us to continue enhancing our community through transformational projects and initiatives.

This year, we celebrated the opening of Phase I of the Fargo Parks Sports Center, a milestone that represents years of dedication and collaboration. When the Foundation was established in 2018, our first undertaking was to secure private donations to help bring this facility to life. Countless hours were spent by our Foundation Board, staff, and fundraising advisory committee building relationships with community-minded leaders who shared our vision. Together, we turned this ambitious dream into reality.

In celebration of this achievement, we hosted a VIP event, bringing together our partners for an exclusive first look at the first phase of the facility. It was a meaningful evening to honor what has been accomplished and to look ahead to what is yet to come.

As we eagerly anticipate the opening of Phase II which will include two ice rinks, four additional courts, six pickleball courts, a playground, and two more community rooms, we remain committed to enhancing opportunities for recreation and connection across the Red River Valley.

Another significant project on the horizon is the Island Park Pool redevelopment. Slated to open in the summer of 2025, this project is generating excitement throughout our community. To date, the Foundation has raised \$1.5 million, enabling us to meet critical project needs and incorporate key features such as shade structures, scoreboards, and enhanced spectator seating areas for swim meets.

Our commitment to accessibility and inclusion continues to be a priority. This year, proceeds from our golf event—which raised \$19,460, a 25% increase from 2023—will provide scholarships to hundreds of children, ensuring they have access to our programs and facilities to stay active and engaged. Additionally, through our partnership with Dare 2 Stand Out, we've added an adaptive VertaCart golf cart at Rose Creek Golf Course, enhancing opportunities for individuals of all abilities to enjoy the game.

The Foundation has also expanded opportunities for commemorative giving. Working with our Parks Department, we are growing our Memorial Trees and Benches Program, allowing donors to create lasting tributes in our parks. Notably, we were honored to dedicate Officer Fauske memorial benches at Timber Creek Retention Pond this year.

Finally, we are proud to announce the establishment of an endowment fund for the Foundation. This fund provides donors with the opportunity to give lasting gifts that will support our parks, trails, programs, and facilities for generations to come. These endowments represent a sustainable path forward, ensuring the ongoing growth and impact of the Foundation.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we are creating a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant Fargo. We look forward to building on this year's successes and to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

With Gratitude,



Executive Director

Fargo Park District Foundation



Leading the way

The impact of the Fargo Park District Foundation is able to go further thanks to the staff and Board of directors who keep it running. We're happy to introduce you to our team who is always here to chat!



Craig Bjur
Foundation
Executive Director



Stacey Griggs
Foundation Board
President



Melissa Brandt
Foundation Board
Vice President



Chad Marsden
Foundation Board
Treasurer



Mike Erickson
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Foundation Board



Darren Dunlop
Foundation Board



Bob Bartelt
Foundation Board



Aaron Hill
Fargo Park Board
Representative



Becky Bjornson
Administrative
Specialist



FARGO PARKS SPORTS CENTER

The longtime vision for Fargo's own destination indoor sporting, event and activity facility has now become a reality with the opening of Phase I of the Fargo Parks Sports Center in June 2024 and Phase II opening January of 2025. This multipurpose community recreation facility will accommodate nearly any indoor sport, activity, tournament or special event.

PROVIDING SPACE FOR

20,000 local children
20+ local organizations
1,000,000 visitors annually

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

30+ community partners
\$36.4 million in private donations
\$9 million of in-kind gifts and services

At a Glance

IT'S IN THE NUMBERS

390,000+ sq ft of indoor space
123+ acres of outdoor space
8 hardwood courts
6 pickleball courts
6 community rooms
4 party rooms
3 multi-purpose rooms
2 sheets of ice
1 full-size turf field
1 elevated walking track



FARGO PARKS
SPORTS CENTER

Connect. Compete. Create.

REWRITING THE RULES OF A SPORTING FACILITY

One of the largest recreational facilities in the Midwest, the Fargo Parks Sports Center is now open and serving both Fargo residents and surrounding communities. The facility expects to host more than 20,000 local youth annually and 20-plus local organizations on a regular basis. It will also serve as a premier tournament destination for a variety of sports.

The facility was intentionally designed to accommodate non-sports related programming as well. The Park District recreation department has been busy planning both sports and non-sports events and programming to ensure the Sports Center is a place everyone can call home.



RAISED TO DATE: \$1.5 MILLION

\$1.5 MILLION

ISLAND PARK POOL

KEEPING IT COOL SINCE 1941

The Island Park Pool project, is a transformative community project, is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2024 and open for public use by summer 2025. The project stands as a testament to the Fargo Park District's commitment to community vitality and progress. The updated Island Park Pool will prove to be a blend of cherished tradition and modern amenities.

The current pool, a central Fargo fixture since 1977, will undergo a visionary renovation to better cater to the evolving needs of the growing community based on extensive community research and input. The new facility will boast a 50-meter competition pool, diving boards and platforms, a leisure pool, lazy river, and FlyTyme and tube slides.



Timeline

**SPRING
2023**

Construction
Began

NOW

Currently
Fundraising

**SUMMER
2025**

Facility Grand
Opening





High Impact Giving

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fargo Park District strives to serve the needs of all citizens regardless of income level with the help of the Fargo Park District Scholarship Program, which was established in 1998.

Support of the Scholarship Program helps create a healthy community and build a foundation of wellness for local youth.

325+

SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED

\$20,960

DONOR SUPPORTED SCHOLARSHIPS



Leave a Lasting Legacy

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES & ENDOWMENTS

Honor the special moments and people in your life with a lasting tribute through the Fargo Park District Foundation. A commemorative bench or tree within our parks is a meaningful way to celebrate cherished memories or milestones. These enduring tributes not only create a personal legacy but also enhance the beauty and vitality of our community spaces, enriching the lives of all who visit.

In addition, consider creating an endowment to support the Fargo Park District Foundation's mission. Endowments provide a sustainable source of funding for programs, scholarships, and park enhancements, ensuring your contribution makes a lasting impact for generations to come. Whether it's supporting youth recreation, preserving natural spaces, or expanding community initiatives, your endowment helps create a legacy of enrichment and connection.





Celebrating community impact

The Fargo Park District Foundation had an exciting year in 2024, celebrating milestones and the generosity of our supporters.

In May, the Fargo Park District Foundation Golf Classic Fundraiser achieved a record turnout, raising \$19,460 to support the Fargo Parks Scholarship Program and its mission to make recreation accessible to all. In June, we welcomed donors to an exclusive VIP Fargo Parks Sports Center event, celebrating their contributions to this remarkable new facility. Guests enjoyed appetizers, live music, and self-guided tours, experiencing firsthand the impact of their support on this state-of-the-art community space.



Aaron Hill
Abby Swegarden
Adam Pankow
Alden J Hvidston
Alex Silbernagel
Alex Stern Family Foundation
Alexis Swenson
Allison Larson
Amanda Kosior
Amber Blomberg
Amy Barglof
Amy Cusher
Andrea Haugen
Angela Skyberg
Angels Hockey Club
Ardell Olson
Arnold Stebleton
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Ashley Gunkelman
Ashlynn Wagner
Autumn Branca
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Dave Leker
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Denise Musland
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Trisha Bothum
Tyler Brandt
Vicki & Steve Dawson
Wesley Braunberger

Thank you to our donors




 Craig Bjur | Executive Director

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