Urbana Parks Foundation

2020 ANNUAL REPORT
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The Urbana Parks Foundation (UPF) was established in 2007 to help meet the growing need for supplemental Park District support by raising funds for district activities. UPF seeks donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations who appreciate the value of parks and programs, not just for their immediate aesthetic or environmental value, but for the impact they can have on future generations.

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A Message from the Board President

Fred Delcomyn, President

The year 2020 has been quite eventful, to say the least. No one who has lived through it could possibly fail to mention the enormous challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The toll on ourselves and our neighbors has been immeasurable. Disruptions to businesses have been significant and the need for expanded charitable giving has expanded greatly.

Yet even in the midst of a world-altering pandemic, supporters of the Urbana park system have helped the Urbana Parks Foundation achieved its goal of raising $2 million through the Campaign for the Next Century in support of Urbana Parks. This is not a trivial matter. Our foundation has only been in existence since 2007 and we launched our campaign in 2016; for an organization as young as ours to have raised so much in only five years speaks enormously well of the residents of the wider Urbana community and their support for Urbana parks.

But as many of you know, this is only the beginning. We are in the midst of an even more challenging fundraising drive – to garner $2.8 million in donations to help in the construction of a state-of-the-art Health & Wellness Facility in Urbana. As of May 2021, we are already more than half way toward that goal. Next year I fully expect to be able to detail our success in meeting our objectives. You can read more about this initiative elsewhere in this report.

In the meantime, join me in thanking our many generous donors and reflecting on an extraordinarily successful initial campaign.

Fred Delcomyn
President
Urbana Parks Foundation
The Campaign for the Next Century

The Urbana Parks Foundation completed a $2 million fundraising campaign titled, Campaign for the Next Century in November, 2020.

The Campaign for the Next Century campaign built upon more than a century of generosity from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations by supporting a variety of Urbana Park District (UPD) parks, programs, and activities. The campaign began in November 2015 and concluded in October 2020. During this five-year effort, the Foundation raised funds to help UPD strengthen the local park system and enhance the health and vibrancy of the community.

“On behalf of the Urbana Park District staff, the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee, and the overall community, we owe a great amount of gratitude to the Urbana Parks Foundation for saying “Yes” to leading the UPD in reaching our campaign goals,” said Timothy A. Bartlett, Executive Director of the Urbana Park District. “We really appreciate all of the support from ALL of our generous donors!”

“Speaking for the UPD Board of Commissioners and the residents of Urbana, I would like to thank the many donors who supported this campaign and the members of the foundation whose dedication and generosity made it such a success,” said Michael Walker, President of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners. “Our community will reap the benefits for years to come.”

With our objectives of the Campaign for the Next Century achieved, the Urbana Parks Foundation now turns its attention to a new effort that will fill a critical gap of accessible health and wellness in our community.

You can see our plans on page six of this report or on our website at www.urbanaparksfoundation.org/campaign.

The Campaign for the Next Century successfully surpassed its goal thanks to the generosity of over 200 individuals and over 30 businesses and corporations, including more than $600,000 in support by the Carle Foundation.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Foundation celebrated the successful campaign with a virtual Toast to the Next Century. Donors, Park District staff, and Foundation Trustees came together via Zoom to raise a glass to Urbana Parks, as shown in the photo below.

The Foundation also produced a fun Thank You video to celebrate the completion of the campaign.

We invite you to view the view by scanning the QR code to the right or visiting the UPF YouTube Channel.
The Urbana Parks Foundation financially supports the Urbana Park District through regular distributions of funds. These distributions support specific expenses which include operating expenses, youth scholarships and program support, and improvements to park facilities and park infrastructure.
In late 2020, the Urbana Park District and Urbana Parks Foundation launched a fundraising effort to build a comprehensive indoor health and wellness facility.

The goal of the Urbana Park District’s Health & Wellness Facility is to offer a welcoming and motivating environment that safely engages and benefits everyone in our community, in their journey to better health and wellness.

After an extensive community-focused planning and site selection process, Urbana’s Prairie Park rose to the top as the best location for this facility. The Health & Wellness Facility will be easily accessible to Urbana and the surrounding region, via Washington Street and other main thoroughfares, and directly located on a public transit route.

The Facility will connect to other Park District trails and amenities. It is in close proximity to the Urbana School District’s Prairie Campus.

The Urbana Park District has developed a site plan to include a variety of features that promote the health and wellness of the entire community. These amenities are based on feedback from the community and research of other facilities from across the midwest.

We invite you to join us as we create a unifying space that our entire community can be proud of. Scan the QR code to learn more or visit www.urbanaparksfoundation.org/campaign
2017-2020 Donation Summary

Dedicated Urbana residents and friends continue to promote nature and foster their city's health. Private generosity from individual donors, area businesses and corporations, and dedicated Foundation Trustees and Park Commissioners remains vital for Urbana Parks.
Our sponsors and donors provide generous financial and in-kind assistance, as well as contributing in ways that benefit the greater Urbana and Champaign communities. We thank our many partners and donors, who support UPF in a variety of ways.

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Carol Kathleen Augspurger
Gene and Helen Grandone
Pat Jensen

$10,000 - 24,999
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To Our 2020 Donors
Thank You
The Urbana Parks Foundation (UPF) is organized as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Gifts to the UPF are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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