



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LVII, NO. 1

friendsofrosevilleparks.org

January, 2026

From your President, Laura Peterson

Greetings FOR Parks members and Happy New Year. My name is Laura Peterson. My family has lived in Roseville for nine years. We moved here from Saint Paul, Midway. Our daughter attended preschool in Roseville and continued her education years K - 12 in District 623. It has been a wonderful experience for us all. We reside near Central Park, a lovely park with so much to offer. We feel very fortunate to spend time in that park almost daily. The fact that Roseville has 33 parks makes me feel like we won the "park" lottery. I joined Friends of Roseville Parks in 2022 after a referral from a friend. There was zero hesitation when she explained that our volunteer work is entirely for our parks. I instantly thought of my love for Central Park, Evergreen, Reservoir Woods, Cottontail, Lexington, Acorn . . . should I keep going?

A sincere THANK YOU to outgoing President, **Linda Carlson**. Linda graciously offered to serve as our Board President for the last two years. Under her leadership, we continued to raise funds through our Designer Handbag Bingo Events and Tapped & Uncorked. She also took on the role of Archivist making sure all of our records are in digital form, and recently took on the task of updating our Bylaws. Thanks again!

Kudos to board member, **Holly Anderson**. Holly was able to acquire a \$2,000 board member service donation as an employee of 3M. In addition, 3M matches hours volunteered by donating additional money to nonprofits on an annual basis.

This is a great reminder to all community members that when you volunteer at a nonprofit, your organization may donate based on your hours of service. Thanks again, Holly.

We would love to see more FOR Parks members attend and promote our fundraising events. A community that comes together never lacks in positivity. I sometimes miss those sidewalks of community we had in St Paul but am aware that there are other ways to build community. Volunteering in the city you live in brings out a sense of community from almost day one.

We are thrilled to welcome four new board members this year, **Jessica Etten, Alicia Sandy, Kristen Tran and Jodi Walker**.

Thank you in advance for your commitment and enthusiasm!

We are busy working on a list of projects we would like to support in 2026 and beyond. Please reach out with any ideas you would like us to consider.

Our parks are valuable to so many of us Roseville residents. Let's keep up the good work.

(651) 214-1314
loloj23@icloud.com

2026 FOR Parks Board Meetings

Our meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:00pm in the Fireside Room at the OVAL/Skating Center, unless otherwise noted. All FOR Parks members are encouraged to attend.

Monday, January 5
Monday, February 2
Monday, March 2
Monday, April 6
Monday, May 4
Monday, June 1

Monday, August 3
Monday, September 14
Monday, November 2 - *Autumn Grove*
December TBD - *Cedarholm*

2026 FOR Parks Board

Laura Peterson	651-214-1314	<i>President, Membership</i>
Debby Willmus	612-865-7655	<i>Vice President, Acting Secretary</i>
Linda Carlson	763-350-5638	<i>Past President, Archivist</i>
Nancy Robbins	612-516-7304	<i>Treasurer</i>
Kori De Jong	612-508-2632	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Sara Stafford	612-868-4831	<i>Newsletter</i>
Maria Sabetti	651-368-1245	<i>Technology Resources</i>
Holly Anderson	651-278-3035	
Jill Anfang	651-646-7160	
Chelsea Brandt	651-323-7735	
Jessica Etten	651-765-6364	<i>New Board Member</i>
Mary Holt	612-723-9292	
Midge McLean	651-633-0640	
Leslie Norsted	651-484-8980	
Pat Pedersen	612-644-8083	
Robin Prochazka	651-983-0395	
Alicia Sandy	651-246-8803	<i>New Board Member</i>
Karen Sweet	612-270-7979	
Kristen Tran	651-230-3691	<i>New Board Member</i>
Jodi Walker	651-270-2433	<i>New Board Member</i>

Parks & Recreation Staff

Matthew Johnson	651-792-7101	<i>Director</i>
Carrie Anderson	651-792-7102	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Danielle Christensen	651-792-7103	<i>Department Assistant</i>

Membership Report, Laura Peterson

Help Grow Friends of Roseville Parks!

Keep your membership active and invite friends and neighbors to join.

- Pay annual **Membership** (individual/\$25, family/\$30, corporate/\$75 and have a voice in how funds are directed)
- **Volunteer** for fundraising events and/or help with membership tasks
- Serve on the **Board** to help plan fundraising events and have voting rights

We are pleased to share that we are **167 members strong!** We had **9 new members** join in 2025 (3 who served on the Board in 2025 and 3 who just joined the Board for 2026). THANK YOU!

Karis Lysne	Alicia Sandy
Shelley O'Brien	Karen Sweet
Kelly Olmstead	Kristen Tran
Pat Pedersen	Jodi Walker
Maria Sabetti	

For those of you who haven't had a chance to renew for 2026, we have included a personalized membership brochure and return envelope with this newsletter. Please check the form for your address and current email and send us any changes. If you prefer, please go online to renew, and share the link with potential new members - that would be awesome. Thank you.

friendsofrosevilleparks.org/join



2025 Financial Review

Full financial information, including the yearly summary, is available to members upon request.

Our stock portfolio has increased its holdings with a donation by Adele Kaufman of 3 shares of Alphabet (Google), added to our 5 shares of Amazon and 12 shares of Apple. Our RBC Wealth Management account is currently valued at approximately \$5,260. Please contact me if you would like more information about stock donations and estate planning to FOR Parks.

Treasurer's Report,
Nancy Robbins

Meet your new FOR Parks Board Members

Jessica Etten

Jessica has lived in Roseville with her husband Jason since 2004. They have two kids (one in college, one a senior in high school at RAHS) who have played in nearly every Roseville Park during their childhood. They even helped build a few! Jessica has been working at the University of St. Thomas for 10 years and is currently the Associate Vice President of Advancement. Prior to St. Thomas, Jessica worked at The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra for 15 years in marketing and fundraising. She walks with friends in our Roseville parks several times a week and is so grateful to be part of a community that has supported its parks for many decades. She is excited about the opportunity to volunteer with FOR Parks!



L to R: Alicia Sandy, Jodi Walker, Jessica Etten, Kristen Tran

Alicia Sandy

Alicia has been a teacher for 17 years and is currently working in the Mounds View District as a STEAM specialist. Alicia's three children went to and currently attend Roseville schools. Volunteer work includes Roseville Lutheran Church with the confirmation group and mission and outreach programs, RAHS boys and girls soccer boosters; Falcon Heights Elementary - PTA member and the hospitality committee, and FMSC. She loves to walk her dog, travel with friends and family, play cards and read good books. She has a deep appreciation for nature and wildlife.

Kristen Tran

Kristen grew up in Roseville. With a love for the area, she and her husband remained close to home. Their son (currently a junior in college) attended Roseville schools. With summer programs, sports, concerts and walks, Roseville parks have served as a special place for their family. Kristen has been teaching for 15 years; she is currently a co-director and preschool teacher in St. Paul. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, sewing, gardening and time with friends and family.

Jodi Walker

Jodi grew up in a small town in North Dakota. She began working at Roseville Area Middle School right out of college as a special education teacher. This is year 36 and retirement is just around the corner. She loves spending time with friends, her 91 year old dad, her 29 year old daughter, and her dog, Piper. Jodi enjoys reading, clean sheets, the cool side of the pillow, riding her e-bike, baking/cooking, ice cream and water of all kinds...but for different purposes.



Congratulations to Board member, **Sara Stafford** and her husband Bruce Johnson on becoming first time grandparents to George Patrick Stafford (Andrew and Emily) in May 2025.

We are saddened to share that

- Lifetime member, **Lynette Marten** passed away in December 2023
- Lifetime member and past President **Joanne Cushman** passed away in June 2024
- Member **Maria Vincze**'s, husband Zsolt Vincze passed away in October 2025

Dear Friend of Roseville Parks,

I hope you've had a great start to the year. While winter often slows things down in Minnesota, our parks remain active, vibrant places—even in the coldest months—and we're grateful for the continued support that makes that possible.

Looking forward into 2026, we're excited about several upcoming investments that will continue to improve our park system and the experiences it offers our community.

At **Rosebrook Park**, we will be implementing planned improvements including a new playground, replacement of the wading pool with a modern splash pad, improved parking, and enhanced trail lighting.



This year, we'll also be engaging the community in conversations about replacing several of our older, more worn-out playgrounds. One of the highest priorities is **Autumn Grove Park**, which is home to many of our recreational programs, and vital connection point for that neighborhood. Community input will be a key part of shaping these projects, and we look forward to sharing more details as they come together.

Finally, as I write this in mid-January, I'm reminded of how in challenging times, the role of parks feels more important than ever. Our parks connect people, give us space to breathe, and remind us of what matters beyond our screens. I recently learned that a popular phrase for stepping away from the virtual world is to "touch grass." Here in Minnesota in January, that might be better said as "touch snow" but as I watch hockey

players at Lexington Park, skiers at Cedarholm, and walkers in Central Park—even in sub-zero temperatures—it's clear just how vital our parks are to the health, resilience, and connection of our community.

Thank you for everything you do to support Roseville Parks. Your partnership makes these spaces welcoming, inclusive, and unique, and I hope to see you out enjoying them—no matter the season.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Johnson".

Matt Johnson, Director, Parks and Recreation
matthew.johnson@cityofroseville.com

