

what do "Friends of the Park" do?

The Friends of the Park program offers many resources for people just beginning to explore park improvements and veteran park advocates alike. Our November 20 Friends of the Park Networking event highlighted some of the common issues that groups tackle:

- **Recruiting members**- Starting out and continuing to attract enthusiastic members can be a challenge. Try articles in community newsletters and word-of-mouth invitations to participate in scheduled meetings or events.
- **Park Maintenance**- Please report normal wear and tear, acts of nature or vandalism to your regional district maintenance supervisor. Park Pride can provide you with the name and phone number for the right person for your park.
- **Safety**- Many groups are tackling safety by improving the sight lines in the park with lighting or reducing undergrowth, increasing positive activity and building a working relationship with community police. Talk to your neighbors about this issue at NPU meetings and contact community leaders like your city council representatives.
- **Volunteer Days**- Community, student and corporate volunteers work throughout the year to beautify our parks. When you are planning a large or small volunteer project please contact Park Pride to coordinate trash removal, borrow tools and gain access to additional volunteers.
- **Programming**- Many parks struggle to bring positive activity into the park and find that planned activities like walking groups or holiday activities such as Easter Egg hunts bring senior citizens and children back to the parks. Be creative and talk to your community about ideas for your park.
- **Fundraising**- Many communities want to raise funds to build a new playground, make capital improvements or beautify the park in general. Friends groups have access to Park Pride's fundraising manual, the fiscal partners program and other resources to help during the process of fundraising.

Please contact Park Pride's Community Builder Ayanna Williams to strengthen your park by joining or initiating a Friends of the Park group in your neighborhood.