

# Sun Prairie Dream Park: Where Dreams Happen

*By Rebecca Ketelsen, President of the Dream Park*

**K**nown throughout the community as the “Sun Prairie Dream Park,” Firemen’s Park in the Prairie was born from a small idea over 12 years ago and grew into something way bigger.

Under the guidance of Anita Holcomb, Scott Johnson, Heather and Travis Jones, Rebecca Ketelsen and Tommy Sanders, the concept grew into a city-wide collaboration that included playground design ideas gathered from over 3,000 Sun Prairie Kids and the hard work of over 1,500 volunteers. For seven days from 7am until 10pm, those volunteers worked with Leathers and Associates to create an 11,000 square-foot dreamland nestled under 200-year-old oak trees. It is cherished far and wide and was most recently voted *Madison Magazine’s* 2017 “Best of Madison” for best playground.



in working order. We could not be celebrating our 10 year anniversary without those people and their donations of time and money.”

In addition to celebrating 10 years of great accomplishments, this event will serve as a fundraiser for the park’s next big project – a shelter. There will be food

trucks, a dream park birthday cake and a chance to make a \$5 decorative tile with your child to be installed on the future dream park shelter.

Please plan to attend this family-friendly event, celebrating a great landmark in Sun Prairie. For more information, visit the newly-designed dream park website at [www.sunprairiedreampark.com](http://www.sunprairiedreampark.com) or *Like us* on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information.

This year marks the ten-year anniversary of the Sun Prairie Dream Park, which has

***Dream Day at the Park***  
**Sat. Sept. 23**  
**Noon – 4pm**  
**Firemen’s Park**  
**(415 Park St., Sun Prairie)**

brought our community together and has provided endless hours of joy, laughter, and smiles to countless children and families. To celebrate this milestone, the Sun Prairie Dream Park is hosting an event, Dream Day at the Park, on Saturday, September 23rd from noon until 4pm.

The event’s theme is the celebration of children’s dreams, which will be portrayed through booths representing different dream careers. Children will get to explore various occupations, such as: firefighters, artists, racecar drivers, princes/princesses, singers/musicians, veterinarians, superheroes, scientists and more, with hands-on activities throughout the day.

Sun Prairie High School DECA students are partnering with Rebecca Ketelsen, President of the Dream Park, and Lisa Wilkins from Two-Fold Marketing to plan, organize and run the event. DECA members Katherine Schuette and Hallie Wilkins are co-chairing this event with the help and guidance of their advisor, David Rippl, to organize these booths and solidify sponsorships.

“The goal of these activities is to give kids a better idea of the career they dream of and for them to learn from these activities,” said Hallie Wilkins. “We’re really wanting to make this a fun event for families to enjoy together at the park.”

“I was almost six years old when the Sun Prairie Dream Park was built, and I remember going there and loving the play structure and all the trees,” said Katherine Schuette. “I hope we can share that fun with kids in Sun Prairie that maybe haven’t gotten to enjoy the park yet.”

Rebecca Ketelsen knows firsthand how much work and dedication it takes to keep the Dream Park going. Because the playground is not maintained by the city, the dream park relies 100% on volunteers and donations from people that love the park. “It’s those volunteers that keep the park clean, care for the trees, and keep the bathrooms