

**From:** Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails friendsscandiaparks@gmail.com   
**Subject:** Spring News!  
**Date:** March 7, 2021 at 6:25 PM  
**To:** friendsscandiaparks@gmail.com  
**Bcc:** friends@parksandtrails.org



Apologies if you just received a bare bones edition- now with photos!



Hello Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails!

We traditionally send a newsletter at the end of each year to let you know what we've been up to in the preceding year. This year we thought we'd let you know what we plan to do in the coming months instead!

We plan to continue our speaker series as soon as it is safe to do so. We are hoping to be able to host some speakers this fall.

We will continue to improve the pollinator garden at Lilleskogen. The pesky soil issues at the site have made it hard for the plants to get a foothold, but each year brings stronger root systems and more vigorous growth. This summer we were very appreciative of help from students at Forest Lake High School!





In late summer we plan to repeat the pollinator survey that we did at William O'Brien State Park in 2019. We all learned a lot about our local pollinators and had a ton of fun meeting some of you!





In the midst of the pandemic, we were able to partner with Great River Greening and the City of Scandia to apply for grant funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to do ecological management at Wind in the Pines Park. The management will be primarily buckthorn control. We received preliminary approval and hope to get final approval from the state legislature this spring.

We also plan to host our own work days to address buckthorn at targeted parks in Scandia as we have been doing for many years.





Throughout the year we will continue to stay informed about progress of the Gateway Trail extension in Scandia. Progress was stalled last year by the pandemic, but work is afoot to keep the trail in the forefront of the minds of our legislators. We will be sure to let you know what you can do to support those efforts.

Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails has been instrumental in Scandia's membership in the [Green Steps Cities Program](#). We continued to support the city's efforts to advance in the program and are currently assisting the city on acquiring [Step 4](#) status for Scandia.

We hope you will all continue to follow us on [Facebook](#) and let us know what gets you out in and on Scandia parks and trails! As always, if you have thoughts about activities we can do, please reply to this email, we love to hear from you!

If you'd like to donate, please visit our page on the [Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota](#) where you can easily donate online.

Thank you to all of you, and may we all have a joyful spring and summer in which to enjoy our parks and trails!

*Mary Hooley, Karen Schik, Lisa Philippi, Lisa Schlingerman, Leila Denecke, Brad Borg, Tom Vogen, Rich Burton, Kristin Tuenge and Cristina de Sobrino*



