

Treeways

2020 -5

Friends of Musser Park

Here is the problem:

Musser Park needs Friends. Musser Park has a huge woody invasive species problem. Buckthorn, Amur maple and honeysuckle are by far the predominant woody plant species present in the park. In much of the park's woodland it is not an exaggeration to say that the woody invasive species make up 90%+ of the total trees and shrubs and in some areas virtually 100% are non-natives. Native trees and shrubs and wildflowers are still there and could have a resurgence but not without consistent long-term suppression of the non-native invasives and planting of assertive native tree and shrub and wildflower species to replace them. The City of Sunfish Lake does not have substantial uncommitted public money that can be directed toward Musser Park improvements.

Here is the idea:

Sunfish Lake has great people with great ideas and the vision, energy and ability to commit to a long-term effort for our common benefit.

Sunfish Lake's **Musser Park needs Friends** to work toward long-term improvement goals.

Also, **Sunfish Lake needs a new annual community celebration.**

Here is a suggested plan:

1. Each fall about October/November coordinate an invasive species removal event. Work in an area up to about 200' X 200' (about 1 acre).
2. Try to get a local Boy Scout troop involved.
3. Cut all woody invasive species from that 1-acre area and stack into a bonfire piles to dry.
4. Treat all cut stumps with brush killer to prevent regrowth.
5. Plan a "New Years" potluck and bonfire celebration at Musser Park and invite the whole community to attend.
6. On potluck day set up a tent and tables for the celebration.
7. At the potluck start the bonfire, serve the food, give speeches, present awards, sing songs.
8. Repeat every year for a whole generation!!!!
9. Plant new trees and shrubs and wildflowers at the next spring Arbor Day event.

If some of this interests you, contact your City Forester to become a **Friend of Musser Park.**