

FAQ's: Friends of McCreery Park

2025-04-22

1. About Friends of McCreery Park

- **What exactly does Friends of McCreery Park do?**
 - Friends of McCreery Park works to make Saluda's downtown park more attractive, more usable, and more welcoming for everyone. As a volunteer-driven nonprofit, we partner with the City to improve park spaces, support community events, and create a place that brings people together—residents and visitors alike.
- **Is Friends part of the city government?**
 - No. FRIENDS is not part of the City government. We are an independent 501(c)(3) corporation with an all volunteer board. The Park belongs to the City, so we do not have the authority to make changes without the City's approval.
- **Where does your funding come from?**
 - Our funding is entirely from private and corporate donations. We don't qualify for some grants because we don't own the Park. However, we can collaborate with the City on grants for projects we both feel would enhance the Park.
- **How are project priorities decided?**
 - Project ideas are considered by the FRIENDS board and evaluated on several criteria including:
 - does it fall within our scope and authority or the City's,
 - our judgment about the project's impact on the Park's visual appearance and use by both children and adults,
 - the cost and our ability to raise the money for the project.
- **How can I stay informed about your plans?**
 - Our website is www.FriendsOfMcCreeryPark.com

2. Park Features and Amenities

- **Are there plans to update or expand the playground equipment?**
 - Yes. We're currently evaluating 3 proposals.
- **Is the park safe and shaded enough for kids to play during the summer?**

- A sunshade was recently installed over a new bench in the playground area. We are considering a shade feature in our Playground upgrade project.
- **Are restrooms available and clean?**
 - The restrooms are maintained by the City.
- **Are there walking paths or seating areas for those of us who aren't as mobile?**
 - The ADA-compliant path connects the Pavilion to the Playground with gentle slopes and several benches along the way.
 - The Scout Hut is ADA accessible from Maple Street.
- **Is the park dog friendly?**
 - Yes — absolutely — if on a leash. Bring your own dog dropping bags!
- **Are any of the plantings pollinator-friendly or native species?**
 - Yes. FRIENDS is publishing Plant Guides for each section of the park's landscaping.
 - The Plant Guide for the ADA path is currently available for download on our site. [\[LINK\]](#) ([↗](#))

3. Using the Park

- **Can we reserve the pavilion for birthday parties or school gatherings?**
 - Yes. Residents and Community Organizations can reserve the Pavilion and the Scout Hut once the remodeling is complete.
 - Reservations are handled by the town clerk, Pam Waters.
- **What kind of events will be happening in the concert area?**
 - Musical events are currently booked, but the space could be used for other purposes as well.
- **Will there be more family-friendly events like movie nights or kids' activities?**
 - Most of the activities organized in the Park are done by other Community Organizations. For example, the Summer Concert Series is organized by the Saluda Downtown Foundation.

4. Community Involvement

- **How do I suggest ideas or improvements for the park?**

- You can send suggestions to the City Manager or email to Info@FriendsOfMcCreeryPark.com
- **Who decides what gets added to the park, and how can we give feedback?**
 - The ultimate decision is always the City's because they own the Park. Ideas can come from anywhere. FRIENDS meets monthly to discuss new ideas and keep confirmed projects on track. Anyone can submit an idea by emailing Info@FriendsOfMcCreeryPark.com
- **Can I get involved or donate to help with future projects?**
 - Yes — and thank you for asking. Since we're a 501(c)(3), your donations are tax deductible. You can donate with a check made out to FRIENDS of McCreery Park or on our website using PayPal.

5. Upcoming Projects

What projects are next on your list?

- Finishing the landscaping for the area between the Pavilion and the Scout Hut.
- Upgrading the Playground Equipment — Several members of the community have lobbied strongly for upgrades. We are reviewing 3 proposals.
- More landscaping as needed to enhance the Park's visual impact.
- Discussing a bocce ball court on the wide path between the Pavilion and the Scout Hut.
- Discussing the addition of year-round outdoor sculpture from a local artist.
- We're anxiously awaiting confirmation that the purchase of the Saluda Grade Corridor is complete (expected in late July).
- This will expand the Park's footprint and enable more projects for FRIENDS.