

Palmer Park Playground Project 2025-2026

Building a Playground for Everyone - Palmer Park Crandon, WI

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION (August 2024)

Over forty years ago Palmer Park, located near Crandon City Hall, was developed and named after George and Tom Palmer, who were tragically killed by a drunk driver when they were in their early 20's. The space includes two baseball fields, a playground, a basketball court, skateboard park, community garden space, and walking path. The park has served the community well but is in need of upgrades to make it safer and more accessible to the public. Northern Lakes American Legion Baseball is fundraising to upgrade the softball and baseball fields to Legion regulation size and Mary Sue Engebretson, along with help from the Palmer family and friends, is leading a fundraising effort to create a new playground space.

PLAYGROUND PROJECT SUMMARY

The playground space is being designed so that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy it together. It goes beyond accessibility by ensuring that everyone – children, adults, and seniors, including those with physical, sensory, or cognitive challenges – can participate in play and recreation. It will feature accessible playground equipment like ramps, swings with harnesses, and smooth surfacing. It will include sensory rich elements such as musical instruments and sensory play panels. Other features will include wide pathways and rest areas with benches and shade. The goal is to create a welcoming, safe, and engaging environment where the whole community can connect, play, and thrive together. The playground will be a phased project built in stages as funds are available and support continues.

FUNDING

Multiple funding sources will be needed over an extended period of time in order to see the project come to life.

- The project kicked off with a GoFundMe drive on social media.
- Currently there is a Shoe Drive Fundraiser taking place in the community. People are invited to drop off gently used shoes and boots at locations throughout the community.
- There is a donation fund set up at Co Vantage Credit Union in Crandon.
- Letters were sent out to potential donors and there are sponsorship levels in place.
- Several grants were submitted this Spring/Summer.

CURRENT STATUS (August 2025)

We are currently working with several playground equipment companies on designs and quotes. We will be purchasing the first unit this fall and will store it until next Spring when we will work on site prep and installation. A Facebook page was created to share information on progress, fundraising events, and sponsorships. Fundraising efforts will continue throughout the winter and beyond.