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Board Update: We spent the first half of November working with the City of Sutherlin and the Parks Advisory Committee on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design Services for the Ford's Pond Master Plan. The RFP was advertised beginning on November 30, with proposals due January 31. The City plans to award the contract in February. To view the RFP, please visit http://www.ci.sutherlin.or.us/residents/bids_and_proposals/index.php, or access under the Business tab on the City's website www.cityofsutherlin.com.

This RFP involves a public planning approach called Placemaking, which "identifies local assets, inspirations, and potential to create a public space that promotes health, happiness, and well-being." This community-based process has been used in many successful projects world-wide, and a quick Internet search will yield hours of reading during the long, winter nights. The RFP also requires a plan for revenue generation, both during construction and long-term, as this park must be self-supporting.

The News Review ran two stories on Ford's Pond, the first on the Master Plan RFP and the second on the wastewater plant upgrade. Just to clarify, the plant upgrade article stated Ford's Pond is being used to store treated wastewater. This is not the case, all the water in the pond is runoff. The City will use Ford's Pond only after the plant upgrade is completed.

We received one donation in November (this donor preferred to remain anonymous) and registered the Friends of Ford's Pond with Amazon Smile. Log into Amazon through Amazon Smile and select our organization, and 0.5% of most sales will be donated, at no cost to you.

As we reflect on 2016, we thank all of you for helping us work towards making Ford's Pond a place for our community to use and cherish, for many years to come. We will be assisting with public input meetings, workshops, and other community outreach as we go through the Master Plan process to solicit ideas and comments. Stay tuned!

We respectfully ask you to consider the Friends of Ford's Pond in your year-end charitable giving. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, your donations are tax-deductible. Donations by check should be made out to Friends of Ford's Pond and mailed to: PO Box 99, Sutherlin, OR, 97479. Donations may also be made on our website www.fordspond.org via PayPal (we pay the processing fee).