

Lions Memorial Park



Construction for the Lion's Memorial Park began on May 13th, 2006. Labor for the project was provided by volunteers including Lions members from across North Dakota. When the park is finished, it will measure twelve-thousand five hundred square feet. The central focus of the park is a sixteen foot gazebo. Within the walls of the gazebo will be the names of Lions members... memorializing these kind and generous souls for eternity.

The park moved from vision to reality status at the 2005 N.D. Lions Convention. The infamous North Star Lions of Bismarck, N.D. pledged one thousand dollars to the project. Their contingency being that another club or grouping of clubs had to surpass their one thousand dollar pledge. It didn't take long [a matter of hours] and the Grand Forks Lions rose to the occasion by hand delivering an oversized check for one thousand and one dollars. Good to their word, the North Star Lions presented a check equal to their pledge. The Capital City Lions rounded out the day with a five hundred dollar contribution of their own.

Since that time \$6,251 has been raised toward the project. The capital campaign target is \$10,000. Thank you Lions! We have nearly reached our goal.

Beyond memorializing and honoring Lions, the park is for our students, graduates and visitors to our facility. The park will be completely accessible. This area will give our students a place to relax, visit and enjoy those lovely North Dakota summer evenings. A split-rail fence with a natural border of shrubs will provide an open area for service dogs to chase a tennis ball. The park will be well maintained and guests to our facility will be welcome to use it.

May 13th, 2006 was this year's Volunteer Work Day here at the Great Plains Training facility in Jud, ND. The Lions Memorial Park was a focal point of this event. However, we had spring cleaning issues to contend with as well, such as scrubbing kennels, weeding, and gardening. Great Plains extends our immense gratitude to President of the Board Steve Powers, Vice President of the Board Rory Schlenker, and Contractor Lester Ehman for your hard work in planning and constructing phase 1 of the Lions Park. We are also grateful for the contributions of the North Star Lions, and to Joanie, Mitch, and Liz Kalmbach for your help with meal preparation and throughout the day.

Thank you to the Davenport Lions for volunteering your services to host a pitchfork fondue. At the end of the work day volunteers were treated to a very fine meal. We invited volunteers from near and far to join us for what was a fun and productive day here at Great Plains. Thanks to everyone who attended.