



September 14, 2015

Dear Friends of Maplewood,

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the Friends of Maplewood State Park for the ongoing efforts being made toward realizing the goal to construct a maple sugaring facility at Maplewood State Park; the "Sugar Shack" as we have come to know it. The dedication of the Friends Group has been a consistent, driving force throughout the planning phase of the project. As you work toward achieving the fund raising goal necessary to complete construction of the new building, the DNR is working through the final design and plan review in anticipation of construction beginning soon, hopefully yet this fall. This is an exciting time for this project and has been a long time coming!

This will not be the first successful project our partnership has enjoyed. Through the generosity of the Friends of Maplewood there have been numerous projects completed, including: the purchase of the Baker Cabin, the electrification of the Main Campground, site preparation, remodeling and deck installation of the Trail Center, procuring directional signing for the park along county, state and interstate highways, and the addition of the first class Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter.

The maple sugaring interpretive program has grown into a huge success thanks to Friends Group and its dedicated and talented volunteers. We are looking forward to expand that program with additional demonstrations in a first class Sugar Shack. The 20 X 28 building with its cupola will be reminiscent of a traditional sugar house and fit in very nicely to its surroundings near the trail center.

We are looking forward to another success story to add to our treasured tradition of partnering and working together. In the meantime, we wish you success in completing the fundraising and preparing for construction.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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