

Board of Park Commissioners Project Summary

Gren Park Healing Orchard Memorandum of Understanding

Project Approval Request

Scope of Work: This request is for approval of an initiative to install and maintain an orchard at Gren Park.

Board Approval/Summary: Sheathed, Inc. is a nonprofit initiative created through the collaborative efforts of passionate community members who share one common goal- serving our community. It is their mission to provide access to free or reduced artistic and/or healthy living activities to indigent persons, struggling with addiction, poverty, or mental health, who are otherwise financially incapable of obtaining such services.

Sheathed was recently awarded a Faith Action Tree Equity grant from the Faith in Place organization to plant a Healing Orchard in Gren Park. Following the awarding of the grant, Park staff have worked closely with Sheathed, Inc. in developing an agreement to realize the project as imagined. In the words of Gabrielle Hull, Trauma Support Specialist with Sheathed: "We aim to establish a collaborative partnership to create and sustain the orchard as a space for healing, educational workshops, community engagement, and horticulture lessons."

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will not be responsible for any funding associated with this project, nor will we require payment for any associated work.

The MOU defines responsibilities for both parties, and includes a graphic illustrating the proposed project layout within Gren Park.

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation and the Board of Park Commissioners met to host their regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting on **August 14, 2025**, to approve the above-referenced project and MOU as described in the attachment.

We, the Board of Park Commissioners, on the date stated, do ATTEST, sign the above-referenced and attached documents, and approve as presented.

Justin Shurley, Commissioner

Cory Miller, Commissioner

Richard Briley, Commissioner

Jenna Jauch, Commissioner

Steve McDaniel, Director, Board Secretary

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
SHEATHED, INC. AND
THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into this 4th day of August, 2025, by and between Sheathed, Inc. and the Parks and Recreation Department by and through its Board of Park Commissioners regarding the Healing Orchards Project in Gren Park. This agreement is to remain in effect throughout the life of the associated improvements unless otherwise terminated by either party with written notice. This MOU will be reviewed by all parties within a minimum of (24) months.

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners owns, operates and maintains the property where Gren Park is located; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners and Sheathed, Inc. agree that the Healing Orchards Project is a beneficial project; and,

WHEREAS, Sheathed, Inc. has secured funding for the project.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Park Commissioners for the City of Fort Wayne and Sheathed, Inc. do hereby resolve the following agreements and understandings with respect to the Healing Orchards Project in Gren Park.

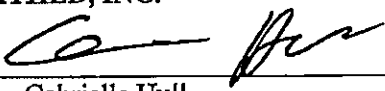
Sheathed, Inc. Obligations:

- Sheathed, Inc. will provide funding, material procurement, and installation for the project.
- Sheathed, Inc. will provide a proposed site plan and work plan, illustrating and outlining physical site improvements, preparation and installation prior to work being performed.
- Sheathed, Inc. will provide regular, consistent maintenance for the project, including but not limited to watering, pruning, weeding, harvesting and reseeding.
- Sheathed, Inc. will be responsible for project management and any necessary third-party contracting associated with the project.
- Sheathed, Inc. will secure all necessary permits to successfully complete the project.
- Sheathed, Inc. will protect and restore any existing site features that may be disturbed during any activities associated with the project.
- Sheathed, Inc. will provide consistent communications with Parks and Recreation representative(s) regarding project progress and/or changes.
- Sheathed, Inc. will agree to waive any and all liability for volunteers working on-site.
- Sheathed, Inc. will submit graphics for review by Parks and Recreation Department prior to any installation. Sign production and cost will be the responsibility of Sheathed, Inc.

Parks and Recreation Department Obligations:

- Parks and Recreation Department will provide access to the site.
- Parks and Recreation Department will provide access and guidance for any required restoration or replacement of lawn, landscaped areas and/or park elements.
- Parks and Recreation Department will provide guidance on the determination of project location, size and scope.

SHEATHED, INC.

BY: 
Gabrielle Hull

DATE: 8-4-25

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Justin Shurley, Commissioner

BY: _____
Cory Miller, Commissioner

BY: _____
Richard Briley, Commissioner

BY: _____
Jenna Jauch, Commissioner

BY: _____
Steve McDaniel, Director/Board Secretary

DATE: _____



November 20, 2024

Dear Faith in Place,

We are writing to express our support for a tree planting project through the nonprofit organization, Sheathed, Inc.

Planting trees can enhance our local environment and fosters an inclusive community project. This project can significantly improve air quality, enhance biodiversity, and provide shade to our surroundings, all contributing to the overall well-being of those who live nearby. This is also an opportunity to host educational workshops for the community through collaborative partnerships.

As the property owners of Gren Park, located at 2699 Clifton Hills Dr., Fort Wayne IN, we gladly welcome the chance to grow our urban canopy and provide educational events for the community.

Please accept the signature below as acknowledgement and permission for the project team to proceed with implementation of the tree plantings at the above location, as described in the grant proposal submitted to Faith in Place for the Faith Action Tree Equity grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Shaw", written in a cursive style.

Chad Shaw, PLA ASLA
Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape
Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation