Dear Common Ground Friends,

The renovation of our Retreat Property at Prairie Farm is finally underway! I am so grateful for all the ways people in our community have stepped forward to help realize our vision of having a quiet country retreat. Our vision is simple: to support the deepening of wisdom and compassion through mindfulness and Buddhist awareness practices, so we can more skillfully engage our lives and world with greater ease and kindness. Retreating is a great gift to ourselves and to the world we inhabit. The development of our Retreat Property depends entirely upon the generosity of our community. It is inspiring how much time, expertise, money and good wishes have been offered for this project.

The budget for this renovation project is approximately $300,000 dollars, and about half of that money has already been offered. Beginning more than five years ago, the community’s gifts have allowed us to purchase the property for $243,000, add a new septic system, build a beautiful sauna, and add new appliances; all without taking out a mortgage.

The development of this retreat property is grounded in our community values of mindfulness, accessibility, non-harming, sustainability, and simplicity. Over the past 25 years, the growth of the Center has been a natural unfolding. Although our roots are deepening and spreading, we aspire to continue to operate in a simple and kind way as we support the awakening of all beings. Please consider how you want to be part of this beautiful retreat we are all creating at Prairie Farm.

With Gratitude,
Mark Nunberg

We welcome your support for the development of our community’s retreat property.

Thank you!

“...the simplicity of the retreat property; the farmhouse, the forest, the prairie, and the opportunity to be in nature, to study and to read, is so important for our practice. Creating a continuity between silent meditation and daily life enhances our engagement with the world when we return home.”

- Gail Iverson, Common Ground Teacher, Bookkeeper, and former Chair of Board of Directors
The Renovation

We anticipate the renovation to be complete by Fall 2019. Once it is done, we will have a beautiful retreat center that can be used by our community year-round. Here are some highlights we look forward to experiencing.

- A total of 9 bedrooms plus a multipurpose room. This means up to 13 people can stay overnight, along with room for a few campers. This allows for the possibility of small teacher-led retreats in addition to community group retreats and independent practice.
- A 1,200 square-foot meditation hall where groups can sit together, do walking & yoga practice, and bask in the light coming in the big southern windows.
- A sauna for mindful relaxation.
- Trails around the prairie and through the woods. The land has beautiful rolling hills and natural outlook points.

How to Contribute

Volunteer

Cory Clemetson, our Renovation Manager, and dedicated Common Ground community member, is always looking for people to help with construction. You don’t need any special skills—Cory is happy to teach you. We just ask that you have health insurance.

Working at Prairie Farm is integrated with mindfulness throughout, and there are three formal sits a day. In addition to people willing to do construction, cooks would also be helpful. You can reach out to Cory at clemetsonconstruction@gmail.com with any questions or to signup to help out.

Donate

With a credit/debit card: On the Common Ground website, go to the “Prairie Farm” tab and select “Contribute”. You can make one-time or recurring donations. commongroundmeditation.org/prairiefarm/contribute/. You can also use the iPad in the Common Ground Meditation Center lobby to make your donation.

With a check or cash: Leave your donation in the bowl at the Center or at the retreat property. Please write “Prairie Farm” on the memo line. You can also mail your gift to the Center: 2700 E 26th St. Minneapolis, MN 55406.

With regular deductions from your bank: Support ongoing retreat development by making monthly donations. Contact Gail Iverson at bookkeeper@commongroundmeditation.org for information.

Legacy gifts: Consider leaving a legacy gift by including Common Ground in your will or estate planning. Gail Iverson can also help with this. bookkeeper@commongroundmeditation.org

With Gratitude, Thank you.

See More On the Project

For photos and video of the renovation, a simulated walkthrough of the renovated retreat center, and more, visit: commongroundmeditation.org/prairiefarm/updates

Common Ground Meditation Center

Practicing together in the footsteps of the Buddha.

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