



Friends of Dodge County Parks

May 2016

Volume 19, Issue 1

Board of Directors

President

Glenn Daily

Ixonia (2016-19)

Vice President

Butch Guenther

Brandon (2015-18)

Treasurer/Secretary

Tim Galvin

Horicon (2015-18)

Directors:

Bob Weiss

Juneau (2015-18)

Delores Weiss

Juneau (2016-19)

David Birschbach

Beaver Dam (2014-17)

Sherri Gysbers

FondDuLac (2014-17)

Don Schwandt

Juneau (2014-17)

Harvey Gysbers

FondDuLac (2016-19)

Kim Thrane

Iron Ridge (2016-19)

Rae Geb

Burnett (2015-18)

Barb Gassen

Beaver Dam (2015-18)

Brigot Gysbers

Burnett (2016-17)

Dodge Co Liaison

Bill Ehlenbeck

Dodge Co Parks

Manager

Newsletter Editor

Melissa Sette-Lake

From Your President

Hello To All,

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc. Because of your generosity, your Parks and Trails are looking better than ever.

Spring is the start up of another busy year for Dodge County's Parks and Trails. Folks are already hiking and biking the trails and campers are getting an early start on their favorite pastime. People will notice some changes in Dodge County's Parks and Trails. Some good things due in part to the Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc.'s participation. And, some things that are different due to Mother Nature's rearranging of things through storms.

All in all, this year is shaping up to be another record breaker for numbers of people who are getting out to enjoy all that Dodge County's Parks and Trails have to offer. Each facility is unique in its own way, and you are sure to find out for yourself if you want to invest the time.

Get your calendar out and pick one day a month from June through October. Visit a different park each month to discover all it has to offer and enjoy the relaxing beauty and wonder of the great outdoors. For information and locations of Dodge County's Parks and Trails, visit www.dodgeparks.com or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsofDodgeParks

Remember you are always welcome at our monthly Board meetings the first Thursday of every month in the County Administration Building in Juneau at 5pm.

SEE YOU AT THE PARK!

~ Glenn

PS—I am always available
for your calls 262-370-3224
or emails at: gpdaily57@gmail.com

FODCPI: 920-386-3700
parks@co.dodge.wi.us
PO Box 72, Juneau, WI 53039

www.facebook.com/friendsofdodgeparks

or follow the Facebook link at

www.DodgeParks.com

2016 Membership, Donations & Memorials

Thanks to everyone who has joined the FODCP group with a paid membership for 2016. We appreciate your support! Join any time by submitting a newsletter form with payment. Your extra donation can help grow the Endowment Fund or fund a specific project in your favorite park. We also welcome funds for honoring individuals or memorials OR supporting the cost of our newsletters. We will recognize your newsletter donations of at least \$75 in the next issue.

Winter Fest ~ February 2016

The day was cold, but the sun was shining, and the winds were light, which made for a good day to do some winter activities. Those who ignored the weather forecaster's predictions of doom and disaster, found a great day to enjoy the outdoors at WinterFest. The event goes on regardless of weather, and this year was no exception. The sled dogs pulled their hearts out. The horse drawn wagon rides ran all day for those in attendance. Families did the scavenger hunt and got some outdoor exercise in the process. Dirty Kettle had his tipi up and invited folks in to experience a winter life of the past.



Inside the clubhouse, great entertainment played, kids had a blast making crafts and doing games, and there was plenty of hot food and home baked goods for folks to purchase and enjoy. The Bucket Raffles ran all day and the Silent Auction had some awesome deals on a great selection of items.

Even with the low attendance, the event made a little over \$4,000.00, to be used for improvements to Harnischfeger Park. Thank you to all of the hard working Volunteers who made the event possible. Thank you to all the hearty souls who braved the odds put out by the weather forecasters and proved them wrong. To those of you who missed the event, we missed you, and hope you make it to the next GREAT day at Harnischfeger Park.

Mark your calendars! FallFest 2016 will be on Saturday, September 24, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Gold Star Memorial Trail

The Gold Star Memorial Trail (GSMT) is a proposed, 5-phase, east-west trail project which will link the cities of Mayville, Horicon, and Beaver Dam to the Wild Goose State Trail, Nitschke Mounds County Park, and Horicon Marsh. The trail will be for non-motorized use, primarily biking and hiking, and will provide opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter months.

PHASE 1: The final push is on for Phase 1 Mayville to Horicon Marsh Education Center fundraising. Over \$450,000 of the \$650,000 goal has been raised to date through grants, cash and pledges. Thanks to a gracious \$100,000 challenge grant from the Bachhuber Foundation in Mayville, your donation to GSMT is now matched. Less than \$100,000 now remains to be raised by the end of 2016. Watch for events in the area that will be contributing to the Gold Star Memorial Trail and show your support. Design work on the trail is planned to start this summer and construction could begin in 2017.

PHASE 2: A Federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant application was filed for Phase 2 City of Horicon to the Wild Goose State Trail. If successful the grant could cover almost \$530,000 of the \$755,000 estimated cost for design/construction of this segment of the trail. This estimate is subject to modification based on final trail alignment which is currently focused on the right of way of Hwy E. Fundraising for this phase has also started.

The trail will serve as a memorial to fallen service members of Dodge County and Wisconsin. Updates can be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GoldStarMemorialTrailWI and on our website: GoldStarMemorialTrailWI.org Follow the links on the website to donate online, sign up to volunteer or purchase GSMT clothing.

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

Outdoor Pizza Wagon: Friday, June 17, 10:30am-6:00pm & Saturday, June 18, 9:30am-5:30pm at Piggly Wiggly, Mayville

Horicon Bank Racing for the Red, White & Blue: Sat, June 18 at Disher Park, Horicon. 8am-Registration, 9am-Race

Mischler's 14th Annual Mystery Ride: Saturday, June 26 Call 920-887-8125 for more information.

Mayville Rock 'n' Boom: Sunday, July 3 at Firemen's Park, Mayville

Mudslide & Friends Jam Fest: Saturday, July 9 from 12pm-9pm in Mayville

Astico Park Windstorm ~ Update

Although some brush piles still remain from the estimated 500-600 lost trees in the park resulting from the July 2015 windstorm, the primary cleanup of the park is complete and camping and day use facilities have returned to pre-storm levels. Thanks to a DNR forestry grant, tree replanting has started with over 20 trees planted this spring behind campsites 1-4. More planting is expected in Fall. The grant will also assist in developing a tree inventory for the park to better plan plantings and maintenance. The destroyed picnic shelter #3 is not planned for replacement, so ideas on how to redevelop that area are being sought. Let us know what you would like to see in this area by sharing your ideas with the park staff, or Email: parks@co.dodge.wi.us

Danville Camping Area Rehab

The Danville campsites could be reopened in June thanks to reconstruction of the road to the Danville campsites being completed this spring by County Highway crews. Included in this rehab work was the accessibility improvements and parking area for the toilet building. Paving of the road has not yet been approved for funding, so gravel and compacted asphalt will have to suffice. Due to floodplain issues, reconstruction of the campsites could not be completed at this time. Electrical improvements are slated to be completed prior to reopening.

Wild Goose Trail Horse Trail Clean-Up

In 2015, Dodge County Horsemen's Association worked closely with the FODCPI to rehab the Wild Goose Horse Trail. The group started work at the trailhead on HWY 60 in Juneau and worked north along the trail clearing downed trees, overgrown brush and limbs that presented a danger to riders on horseback. The trail was cleared to mile 9, which is just south of Hwy E. Members of DCHA will again this year continue their efforts on the trail.

The original 9 miles worked last year will again be looked at to be sure no damage was done over the winter months and then we will continue North on the trail with the hopes of finishing the rehab project in 2016. We would like to send a Big Thank You to all the dedicated groups and individuals who have helped maintain the WGST.

If you have a group or are an individual who would like to help with trail clean ups or would like more information about the WGST, please contact Kim Thrane (720-291-1361), Rae Geb (920-344-9541) or Dodge Co. Parks in Juneau (920-386-3702).

Glacial River Trail Open

The paved path adjacent to Hwy 26 is now open for biking and hiking from Hwy CJ near Clyman, south to Second St. north of Watertown. This off road path is part of the 54 mile, multi-county Glacial River Trail that extends from the Wild Goose Trail parking lot at Hwy 60 to the City of Janesville utilizing a combination of off-road and on-road trails and routing.

Watch for the trail brochure to be available later this year.

2016 Events & Activities

June 4	<p>Horicon Marsh & Wild Goose Trail Tour de Marsh Bike, Hike, Auto tour 8am-1pm <i>Special stops & programs along the route more info at www.horiconmarsh.org</i></p>
June 18-19	<p>Astico Park Dirty Kettle & Jacques living history All day Saturday & until 1pm on Sunday <i>Old Time Stories/Fry Bread/Games/Activities Tour a replica of an 1800's Cheyenne Plains Indian Tipi, & Drum Circle Saturday night</i></p>
July 9	<p>Mudslide & Friends Jam Fest 12pm-9pm GSMT Fundraiser Music, Food and Fun in Mayville</p>
Sept 24	<p>Harnischfeger Park Fallfest 8am—5p <i>Pancake breakfast, buckskinner rendezvous, wagon rides, & more family fun in the park</i></p>

For more details on above events, check
www.DodgeParks.com
or contact the Parks office at
(920) 386-3700
(events subject to change)



Applications are currently being accepted for Volunteer Campground Hosts at Astico Park for 2016.

Duties include greeting park visitors, assisting park staff with camper check-in, firewood sales, canoe rentals, providing extra “eyes and ears” for staff, and being a great model camper and park ambassador. Hosts will receive free campsite and firewood in exchange for these services. A minimum of 6 consecutive weeks of service required, but a full season is preferred.

For more information contact the Parks office at : 920-386-3700 or parks@co.dodge.wi.us

Park information can be obtained at: www.DodgeParks.com

Bequeath to Dodge County Parks

Help support Dodge County Parks and Trails for future generations. Leave a legacy gift behind by including the **Friends of Dodge County Parks Endowment Fund** in your will. As with any legal matter, always consult a lawyer and accountant to make the best choices for your estate. Contact the Dodge County Parks Office for more information.

Dodge County Parks Experience Record Attendance & Revenues

Thanks to donations from the Friends group, vehicle counters are being installed in the parks to track activity levels; including Derge Park this year. In 2015, the average vehicle/day counts for Ledge Park average with 93 and Harnischfeger had 52 vehicles/day from May 18 – Sept 7. Astico Park averaged 55 vehicles per day from August 30 – November 2, after the windstorm until close of the camping season.

Despite the loss of camping at Astico Park for six weeks, the Dodge County Parks experienced the most campsite rentals in a season at 6,346. Those rentals translated to \$133,079 in revenues exceeding the previous high by almost \$18,000. 2016 looks to be as good as or better than 2015.



It's So Easy!



Did you know that you can make a donation to the Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc. by shopping at Amazon or designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars?

Amazon Smiles--If you shop at Amazon, consider donating to FODCP by selecting us as your charity of choice (at smileamazon.com) by entering our name in the search window. We will receive 0.5% of each buyer's purchase.

Thrivent Choice Dollars--if you are a Thrivent Financial insurance policy holder and eligible, you can also designate the Friends group as a recipient. We have received over \$700 since our inclusion in the program last year. Thanks to our Thrivent members!

2014-2015 Financials

The FODCPI relies on memberships, donations, fundraising and endowments to fund their improvements for the Dodge County Parks. Please consider giving to FODCPI through one of these opportunities. For more info, please contact FODCPI.

Fund Accounts	2014	2015
Administrative Fund	\$ 2,347	\$ 2,066
Astico Park	\$ 1,745	\$ 1,766
Derge Park	\$ 4,430	\$ 5,005
Ledge Park	\$ 270	\$ 435
Wild Goose Trail	\$ 4,720	\$ 4,890
Nitschke Mounds Park	\$ 2,773	\$ 2,808
Harnischfeger Park	\$ 19,216	\$ 24,426
Gold Star Memorial Trail	\$ 183	\$ 19,366
New Park Acquisition	\$ 245	\$ 245
Endowment—Temp Holding	\$ 95	\$ 485
Undesignated General Fund	\$ 4,870	\$ 5,336
TOTAL ALL FUNDS (as of Dec. 31st)	\$40,895	\$66,828
Total Revenues	\$ 14,919	\$ 37,538
Total Expenses	\$ 19,645	\$ 11,605
Endowment Fund (as of Dec. 31st)	\$ 18,631	\$ 18,385

Friends of Dodge County Parks

Friends of Dodge County Parks is a volunteer organization that relies on memberships, donations, and events to raise money for the County Parks. The Board of Directors meet monthly to conduct the business of the organization. Meetings are typically held the first Thursday of each month at the Dodge County Administrative building in Juneau, Wisconsin. Meetings are open to members of the organization and the general public. The Annual Meeting is held the first Thursday in May for election of the Board Directors. The Board then elects the officers of the corporation.

Mission Statement

The Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit for the purpose of enhancing the quality of life in Dodge County by increasing opportunities for active and passive recreation and by preserving, protecting, restoring, and promoting natural resources, parks, trails, and recreation areas owned and/or maintained by Dodge County.



www.DodgeParks.com

Dodge County Parks Office

Phone: 920-386-3700

Email: parks@co.dodge.wi.us



www.facebook.com/FriendsofDodgeParks

Bequeath to Dodge County Parks

Help support Dodge County Parks and Trails for future generations. Leave a legacy gift behind by including the **Friends of Dodge County Parks Endowment Fund** in your will. As with any legal matter, always consult a lawyer and accountant to make the best choices for your estate. Contact the Dodge County Parks Office for more information.



FODCPI Membership Form

- Senior Citizen or Child** (\$10)
- Individual/School/Classroom** (\$20)
- Family** (\$25)
- Club, Agency, Organization or Not-for-Profit** (\$50)
- Municipality** (\$75)
- Corporation or Business** (\$100)

Membership Total \$ _____

General Donation \$ _____

Designate Purpose or Park:

Endowment Fund \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make Checks to: FODCPI
Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc.
P. O. Box 72, Juneau, WI 53039





Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. History

The Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. originally incorporated in 1987 as Friends of the Recreational Trail, Inc. The group was formed specifically to raise funds and support the development of the Wild Goose State Trail in Dodge County.

The group was charged with raising 100% of the trail development costs through donations and grants.

After successfully accomplishing this task, the group expanded its scope to encompass fundraising and support for all the Dodge County Parks in 2001.

In an effort to provide a means of perpetual park funding, an Endowment Fund was created in 2010 through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Half of the original fund was made possible through the estate of Frank Dumann, owner of The Bike Shop in Mayville in the 1990s, who supported biking and the Wild Goose Trail.

Annually up to 5% of the fund value maybe available for projects as directed by the Board of Directors.

www.DodgeParks.com

OPEN - Glacial River Trail This 3.5 mile trail is a paved path along HWY 26, running from HWY CJ near Clyman, south to 2nd Street near Watertown. This connects the Wild Goose Trail and the City of Watertown via road routes. Its is part of the multi-county Glacial River Trail that runs south through Jefferson County and into Rock County. This hiking and biking only trail is now open for use.

About Our Parks

Dodge County operates five parks and two recreational trails, providing a perfect year-round escape to the scenic rural countryside to relax or take part in one of the many recreational activities available. The County Parks are located at various vantage points around the County providing scenery and views uniquely Dodge County



Astico Park ~ Located 3 miles east of Columbus, this 100-acre park is on the Crawfish River and features campsites, hiking trails, canoe/kayak rentals, fishing access, picnic shelters, and more. Potential projects include trail expansions/improvements, playground upgrades, improved accessibility, and a naturalist program area.

Derge Park ~ Located northwest of Beaver Dam, this 13-acre park provides access to the 6,600 acre Beaver Dam Lake and features campsites, a boat launch, fishing access, and picnic shelters. Potential projects include improved fishing access, parking expansion, and improved landscaping.

Harnischfeger Park ~ Located along the Rock River is 8 miles east of Watertown. This park contains a variety of terrain, vegetation, and facilities for multiple recreation opportunities and hosts the annual Winterfest and Fallfest. The park features a clubhouse for group picnics and activities, hiking trails with boardwalks, campsites, canoe/kayak rentals, fishing access, mini-golf and disc golf courses and more. Current and potential projects include mini-golf rehab and expansion, clubhouse improvements, north barn and old homestead preservation, trail improvements, a wedding gazebo, basketball court reconstruction, and more.

Ledge Park ~ Located near the Horicon Marsh, this 83-park lies along the Niagara Escarpment and provides a breathtaking overlook of the Horicon Marsh. The park features campsites, hiking trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and scenic overlooks. Potential projects include trail and accessibility improvements, more parking, and an observation tower.

Nitschke Mounds Park ~ Located 4 miles north of Juneau and adjacent to the Wild Goose Trail, this 54-acre park features 39 pre-historic animal effigy, conical, and linear mounds with an interpretive trail through the park. Potential projects include trail and interpretive signage improvements, Master Plan development, and a possible mound reconstruction.

Wild Goose State Trail ~ This trail links the city of Juneau to the city of Fond du Lac. It is a 34-mile limestone trail on an abandoned railroad grade. Potential projects include parking lot improvements and invasive species vegetation control.

Proposed: Gold Star Memorial Trail ~ The newest proposed East-West trail system will link Mayville, Horicon, and Beaver Dam to the Wild Goose State Trail. Funding Campaigns are underway to build this trail.



Gold Star Memorial Trail

A trail system of **The Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc.**

Mail this form to: PO Box 72, Juneau, WI 53039 or

Fax to: 920-386-3979

Email to: goldstarmemorialtrail@gmail.com

Website: www.goldstarmemorialtrailwi.com

Like us on Facebook.com/GoldStarMemorialTrailWI

The Gold Star Memorial Trail is the newest proposed trail of the Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. This will be an East to West non-motorized trail system that will link Mayville, Horicon and Beaver Dam to the Wild Goose State Trail.

I am interested in knowing more about the Gold Star Memorial Star Trail

Main Contact First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailer Label to Read: _____

Example: Main Contact is Joe Smith - Mailer Label to read - Joe & Mary Smith

Organization/Company/Public Official /Elected Official : _____

Title: _____

Street Address: _____ PO Box / Suite / Apt#: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Main Phone: _____ Cell Phone : _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Check all that apply

Category:

- Supporter
- Donor
- Volunteer
- Gold Star Family
- Gold Star Memorial Trail Neighbor
(adjacent land owner)
- Other: _____

Interest:

- Running
- Hiking
- Biking
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Military
- Community Enhancement

- Grant Writing
- Fundraising
- Marketing/Promotions
- Tourism
- Social Media
- Healthy Living
- Website Development
- Other: _____

I am interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the GSMT

Send a check to:

Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc.
c/o Gold Star Memorial Trail
P.O. Box 72, Juneau, WI 53039

Pay online at:

www.goldstarmemorialtrailwi.com