



Friends of Dodge County Parks

June 2017

Volume 20, Issue 1

Board of Directors

President

Glenn Daily

Ixonia (2016-19)

Vice President

Tim Galvin

Horicon (2015-18)

Treasurer

Bridgot Gysbers

Burnett (2017-2020)

Secretary/Historian

Butch Guenther

Brandon (2015-18)

Directors:

Bob Weiss

Juneau (2015-18)

Delores Weiss

Juneau (2016-19)

Sherri Gysbers

FondDuLac (2017-2020)

Don Schwandt

Juneau (2017-2020)

Harvey Gysbers

FondDuLac (2016-19)

Rae Geb

Burnett (2015-18)

Barb Gassen

Beaver Dam (2015-18)

2 VACANT SEATS

Dodge Co Liaison

Bill Ehlenbeck

Dodge Co Parks Manager

Newsletter Editor

Melissa Sette-Lake

From Your President

Hello To All,

As I compose this letter, I cannot help but to think of a phrase that was used on a T.V. commercial many years ago. "TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!" You can take this phrase, and apply it to all of Dodge County's parks and trails. Every park and trail is unique in it's own way. Go out today or this weekend, as well as any time of the year and discover why people from all over come to our parks and trails every year and enjoy the beauty, relaxation, and amenities found there. For information and locations of Dodge County's parks and trails, visit:

www.DodgeParks.com

You receive this newsletter because you are a member of the Friend's of Dodge County Parks Inc., whether it is through a paid up membership, or you have made a monetary contribution to us that warrants a membership. Thank you to all! Your continued support is crucial to the success of the Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc., and continuous improvements to the facilities. We look forward to many more years of partnership with you to help us, help the County maintain the quality of Dodge County's parks and trails.

Don't forget, you are always welcome at our monthly Board meetings, mostly held the first Thursday of every month in the County Administration Building in room 1F at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend one or more, please contact me to confirm the date and location. I am always available for your calls 262-370-3224 or emails at: gpdaily57@gmail.com

SEE YOU AT THE PARK! ~ Glenn

2017 FODCPI Elections

Elections for the four open Board positions were held on May 4, 2017 at the Annual meeting of the Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc. Incumbent Directors Sherri Gysbers, Don Schwandt, and Bridgot Gysbers were all elected to three year terms from 2017 through 2020. David Birschbach declined nomination, and the fourth seat remains vacant. Anyone who is willing to fill this vacancy is encouraged to contact Bill Ehlenbeck @ (920) 386-3702 or Glenn Daily @ (262) 370-3224 to let us know of your interest.

Your 2017-2018 Board Officers that were elected in May are:

President – Glenn Daily, Vice-President – Tim Galvin, Treasurer – Bridgot Gysbers, Secretary/Historian – Butch Guenther.

FallFest 2017 Planning Underway

This year's FallFest at Harnischfeger Park will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will again have the regular favorites going on as well as some exciting new things to do. We started planning for this year's event in January, to get an early start on adding new, entertaining, and educational features to our already great lineup of events. [See the newsletter insert for event details.](#)

A lot of work is going into this year's event, and many hands are needed as we work to make FallFest come together. We have a great start with a small group of enthusiastic folks already making plans and preparations. Please consider volunteering a few hours of your time to help plan, solicit donations, and or to help us on the day of the event. Contact Glenn Daily by Call/Text at 262-370-3224 or E-mail gpdail57@gmail.com. **See you on September 30th!**

Help Us Help Harnischfeger Park

Is Harnischfeger Park a place you enjoy? Would you like to see even more improvements and amenities? Can you spare just a few hours here and there between now and September 30th? We are in need of people to go out and solicit donations for our silent auction and bucket raffles for this year's FallFest. This can be accomplished as you regularly shop at your favorite stores and businesses, without adding too much time to your trips. We have the tools you need. We can provide you with donation request letters and event flyers. No contribution is too big or too small. Monetary sponsorships are always needed to help cover the costs of providing some of our events like wagon rides, barrel train ride, kids craft supplies, and supplies for the concessions. We also have need of larger auction items as well as many small items for the bucket raffles.

Businesses willing to help sponsor events at FallFest with a monetary contribution, please make checks payable to *Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc.*, and mail them to FODCPI at P.O. Box 72, Juneau WI, 53039. Businesses with donations of products or service/certificates can contact Glenn Daily, Just call/text: 262-370-3224 or E-mail: gpdaily57@gmail.com if you are willing to donate or help.

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.

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.

Phase 1 Update:

Thanks to a flurry of end of the year donations and a special donation from Korean War Vet, Lyle Lidholm of Watertown, the original \$650,000 fundraising goal was accomplished by the end of 2016! Unfortunately, with completion of the design engineering this spring, it was discovered that a couple major design issues resulted in unanticipated components to the project that are likely to add significant costs over what was originally raised. Roughly 550 feet of boardwalk will be needed to traverse some wetland areas and additional rock riprap will be needed for erosion control along the steep hill on the trail. Stone quarries and lumber companies are being asked to consider material donations to help offset much of the anticipated cost gap. Additionally, we plan to organize some volunteer crews to help with the construction of the boardwalks. Interested in helping on the volunteer crew? Contact Bill Ehlenbeck, Parks Manager (920-386-3700) or email parks@co.dodge.wi.us.

With design engineering completed on phase one of the trail, the last public information meeting was held on Monday, April 24, 2017. There were 12 to 15 interested citizens that came to the meeting to see the final draft designs and ask questions of the design consultant. Currently permitting is in process and bidding out of the project is anticipated in June or July with potential start of construction late summer or fall. It is expected that the final paving and completion of the trail would be in early 2018.

Jam Fest 2017

The 2nd Annual Mudslide & Friends JamFest will be **Saturday, July 8, 2017 (2 to 8 pm)** at Lion's Point in the Fireman's park in Mayville, WI. The event is a fund raiser for the Gold Star Memorial Trail - Phase 1 project. [See the newsletter insert for event details.](#)

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

- 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: _____

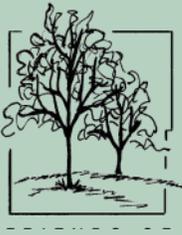
Address: _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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



FODCPI 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 is 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 Second Street near Watertown. This connects the Wild Goose Trail and the City of Watertown via road routes. It 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 unique scenery and views .

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 and improved accessibility.

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, this 132 acre park 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, and more.

Ledge Park ~ Located near the Horicon Marsh, this 83-acre 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 more parking, trail and accessibility improvements, and an overlook observation deck.

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.

In Progress: Gold Star Memorial Trail ~ The newest proposed East-West trail system will link Mayville, Horicon, and Beaver Dam to the Wild Goose State Trail. The trail will serve as a memorial to WI military service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Funding Campaigns are underway to build this trail.

A Warm & Heartfelt

THANK YOU to David Birschbach

Back in 2002, David Birschbach and his wife Donna joined the Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc. After 15 years of dedication and service to the Board of Directors, including 4 years as President, 2008 to 2011, David has decided to step down from the Board to pursue the next chapter in his life. Through his years on the Board, David has always been quick to volunteer for the many fundraisers. Always a quick smile, interaction with the Board on decisions to be made, as well as his ability to share his life experiences in all of his different endeavors through the years, have helped mold and create the organization you see today. We are who we are in part to David's contributions.

The best to you David and Donna as you continue life's journey, and please know that you will be missed. We hope you drop in from time to time, and look forward to seeing you if life should allow. Your input and guidance are always welcome. With Sincerest Gratitude and Appreciation,

~ The FODCPI Board of Directors

Derge Park gets ADA Kayak Launch

Thanks to a partnership between the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association (BDLIA), the Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. (FODCPI) and Dodge County, Derge Park now has a state of the art ADA kayak launch, through use of funds from the Randy Fiegel Estate. With paddling becoming the fastest growing lake sport, the County Land Resources and Parks Department and the FODCPI were approached this past year by BDLIA, about partnering with us to install a kayak launch at Derge Park. FODCPI unanimously agreed to provide additional funds for a fully ADA compliant kayak launch. The new launch was installed this spring. Along with the new launch, there will be updated signage at the boat launch area, covering the rules of the lake, as well as DNR size and bag limits, invasive species warnings and care guidelines and other information consistent with other launch sites on the lake. Signage is expected to be completed and available for installation by the end of June.

The BDLIA sponsors an event on Beaver Dam Lake known as "The Great Beaver Paddle Festival" to be held on **June 10, 2017, from 9am to 3 pm**. For more details, go to bdlia.org or call 920-356-1200.

DODGE COUNTY PARKS VEHICLE COUNTS-2016

MONTH	TOTAL VEHICLE COUNTS - 2016				TOTAL Vehicles	Est. Visitors (May - Oct)
	ASTICO	LEDGE	HARN	DERGE		
MAY	2,417	4,792	1,545	NA	8,754	17,508
JUNE	3,446	3,958	1,825	NA	9,229	18,458
JULY	2,384	2,748	1,943	NA	7,075	14,150
AUG	3,013	2,310	2,123	NA	7,446	14,892
SEPT	1,706	2,750	1,477	NA	5,933	11,866
OCT	1,593	2,581	834	570	5,578	11,156
TOTALS	14,559	19,139	9,747	570	44,015	88,030

Welcome New Astico Camp Hosts!



Gerald (Gerry) & Ellen Koester will be your camp hosts for this summer at Astico County Park. They are really excited about the opportunity!!! Gerry & Ellen love camping and have been traveling around our beautiful

state and found Astico Park and knew it was perfect for them. They are looking forward to spending the summer at the beautiful 100 acre park, at the riverfronts fishing, and canoeing, as well as cooking out, watching wildlife, and sitting by campfires. Most importantly, **MAKING NEW FRIENDS WITH ALL OF YOU!**

Wild Goose State Trail

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

Nitschke Mounds Park Tour

On Saturday, April 29th there were two guided tours of the Nitschke Mounds Park. The first tour was attended by 17 people doing a Field Trip put on for Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. An information session about some of the history of the mounds was given by Kurt Sampson and then a tour of the mounds and trails of the park was led by FODCPI Board Member, Harvey Gysbers.

The second trails tour was offered by The Friends of Dodge County Parks for members only to learn about the mounds. Dr. Kira Kaufmann, archeologist, who has done a number of digs in this park as well as other mound areas in the Midwest, led the tour.

Thanks to Kurt Sampson, Dr. Kira Kaufmann, and Harvey Gysbers for sharing their knowledge.

Next year we plan on another tour during a dig that will be led by Dr. Kira Kaufmann in early May. Nitschke Mounds Park is setup for self-guided tours with interpretive signs providing information on the history of the mounds.

Friends of Nitschke Mounds Forming

Those interested in Nitschke Mounds Park, is invited to share their interest by becoming a member of a new Friends group committee proposed for NMP park. A dinner meeting (DUTCH treat) with speaker is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 29th (no Packer Game that day!) Please call Harvey Gysbers 920-539-1785 for information.

Friends Group Funding Plans 2017 & Beyond

The Friends group plans to contribute to these and other park improvements in 2017:

- Gold Star Memorial Trail design & construction
- Harnischfeger Park Tree planting & damaged kayak replacement
- Harnischfeger Park North Barn/Silo restoration work
- Doggie waste bags/stations at 4 locations
- Lockable display boards / kiosk rehab and Interpretive signage

These projects need major donors to make happen:

- Ledge Park Overlook boardwalk / viewing area
- Harnischfeger Park: Basketball court rehab/ redevelopment; Gazebo/band shell, and Clubhouse Addition

Please send all donations to:
Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc.
PO Box 72 Juneau, WI 53039

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2017 Membership, Donations & Memorials

Thanks to everyone who has joined the FODCP group with a paid membership for 2017. 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.



It's So Easy!



Make a donation to FODCPI by shopping at Amazon or designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

Amazon Smiles--If you shop at Amazon, select us as your charity of choice at smile.amazon.com. Only purchases made at smile.amazon.com will count toward donations. Search and select FODCPI 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!

2015-16 Financials

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

Fund Accounts	2015	2016
Administrative Fund	\$ 2,066	\$1,749
Astico Park	\$ 1,766	\$1,766
Derge Park	\$ 5,005	\$5,437
Ledge Park	\$ 435	\$439
Wild Goose Trail	\$ 4,890	\$4,955
Nitschke Mounds Park	\$ 2,808	\$2,906
Harnischfeger Park	\$ 24,426	\$26,658
Gold Star Memorial Trail	\$ 19,366	\$89,189
New Park Acquisition	\$ 245	\$245
Endowment--Temp Holding	\$ 155	\$74
Undesignated General Fund	\$ 5,336	\$4,930
TOTAL ALL FUNDS (as of Dec. 31st)	\$66,498	\$138,349
Total Revenues	\$ 37,538	\$101,510
Total Expenses	\$ 11,605	\$28,604
Endowment Fund (Balance Dec. 31st)	\$ 18,385	\$20,913