

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I wrote these words one year ago:

"When I was first elected to the Board of Directors for the Friends Of Dodge Parks, Inc. (FODCPI) in 2010, I never dreamed that 13 years later, nine of them as President, I would still be where I am."

Now, another year has passed as I pen this letter, and I sit in the same chair. Some things have changed for the better, a few for the worse, and most are "Business As Usual". 2023 was one of continued growth in the FODCPI. As you will read in this edition, all of the various committees continue to move forward in 2024 with their projects to provide continuous improvements for all of the parks and trails.

I draw your attention to the FODCPI Facebook Page. We are blessed to have Erin Johns as our main administrator and contributor. Erin keeps our content current, fresh and engaging. See Erin's article in this edition and check out our Page.

The Pelican Path Trail Committee continues to meet regularly and have made some forward strides in the past year. Go to their website for information on the 2024 Annual Wild Goose Chase bike ride fundraiser for the Pelican Path Trail. https://www.pathofhustisford.com/featured-project

With the mild weather, I had the privilege of helping several members of the Nitschke Mounds Park Advisory Committee with buckthorn removal in the park on two different days this past winter. These folks along with other Volunteer groups are making amazing progress in returning Nitschke to the prairie/oak savannah that it once was. Next, garlic mustard removal season which is right around the corner.

Throw in FallFest 24 at Harnischfeger Park on Saturday, September 28th and we have a full score card of fun instore for 2024!

I close as always with my plea for help in any capacity you can provide. Please give thought to Volunteering some of your time to our cause. The opportunities are endless, and I am sure that we have something for whatever your skill sets may be. I am reachable by phone or text at (262) 370-3224, or Email: gpdaily57@gmail.com . If you call, please be sure to leave a message on my voicemail so that I can return your call.

See You at The Parks!

Glenn P. Daily, President Friends Of Dodge County Parks, Inc.

NOTICE OF FODCPI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

Friends Of Dodge County Parks Inc. (FODCPI) Annual Membership & Elections Meeting THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024, AT 6:00 PM

Dodge County Administration Building – 1st Floor Auditorium

ON THE AGENDA: Election of open Board of Director positions

Review FODCPI financial status

Learn about 2023 County Park highlights and what is ahead for 2024 and beyond!

All paid members in good standing are eligible for nomination to the Board and eligible to vote. For questions or comments contact President Glenn Daily at (262) 370-3224 or email at gpdaily57@gmail.com

GSMT PHASE 2 FINAL DESIGN & ENGINEERING TO START

The Design and Engineering work on Phase 2 by MSA Professional Services is set to begin by the end of April and expected to be a 12-18 month process to complete. Unfortunately,



the Design and Engineering costs are significantly more than originally planned for, resulting in need for an additional \$23,000 in local funds. The

Federal TAP grant is covering up to 80% funding for design and construction. Thus every \$1 donated is being matched by \$4 in grant funds up to the total cost estimate of \$1.3 million to

complete the project. Construction will take place once design/engineering and federal requirements are complete in either 2025 or 2026. The Friends group is being asked to raise a total of \$73,000 for Phase 2. About \$33,000 has been raised to date, specifically for this phase. Help us fill the gap.

PHASE 3 FEASIBILITY & PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Phase 3 (Wild Goose Trail to Beaver Dam) was awarded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds by the County Board to conduct preliminary design and analysis of the route needed for filing grant applications. A consultant selection process recently resulted in the selection of MSA Professional Services for the work. Contract negotiations will take place with a commencement of work expected by May. Final design and construction will be dependent on the timelines needed for sufficient grants and donations. Total project cost estimates are \$4.5 - \$5 million. Grants could cover as much as 80% - 90%. Significant grants and donations will be needed to fund this largest segment of the Gold Star Memorial Trail. A fund for this phase was established a few years ago to receive the needed donations.

Donations can be made online at www.goldstarmemorialtrailwi. org via Venmo, Paypal or credit card. Donations can also be sent via check to Friends of Dodge County Parks, P.O. Box 72, Juneau, WI 53039. Make sure to indicate Gold Star Memorial Trail and what phase you are donating to.

DONATE TO GSMT THROUGH BDACF

Another option is by making your donation through the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation (BDACF)-GSMT Fund. Just scan the QR Code, make sure you signify that your donation is to the Gold Star Memorial Trail Fund in the BDACF's Family of Funds, and make your payment. Or, go to beaverdamacf.com online to make your donation using the same criteria.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT					
Glenn Daily	Ixonia	(2022-2025)			
VICE PRESIDENT					
Harvey Gysbers	Fond Du Lac	(2022-2025)			
SECRETARY / HISTORIAN					
Butch Guenther	Brandon	(2021-2024)			
TREASURER					
Cindy Haerterich	Lake Mills	(2021-2024)			

Rubicon	(2022-2025)
Juneau	(2022-2025)
Fond Du Lac	(2023-2026)
Juneau	(2023-2026)
Burnett	(2021-2024)
Columbus	(2021-2024)
Horicon	(2023-2026)
Beaver Dam	(2023-2026)
	(2021-2024)
	Juneau Fond Du Lac Juneau Burnett Columbus Horicon

DODGE CO LIAISON

Jason Roy, Parks & Trails Supervisor

Gold Star Memorial Trail items are a way to honor and remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for your freedom, and their families. At the same time, you are donating to help fund the next phases of the Gold Star Memorial Trail.





T-SHIRT S, M, L & XL - \$15; XXL - \$17 SWEATSHIRT L & XL - \$25; XXL & XXXL - \$28 ORNAMENT 4.5" x 4" Solid Aluminum \$20 STICKER 3" x 4" Clear Vinyl \$5

Cost of Shipping: To be determined for each order. To order, call or email Cindy at 920-285-0305 or haerterich1860@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

"ALEXIS" FAREWELL PERFORMANCE ~ GOLD STAR MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER

by Glenn Daily

Scott Hautamaki's vision is to honor both his late wife, Sandy, who passed away last year, and his Gold Star stepson, Marine Ryan Cantafio, KIA 11/25/04. What better way to accomplish this honoring than to do a fundraiser for the Gold Star Memorial Trail (GSMT)?

The GSMT was extremely important to Sandy, Ryan's mother, and so was her band, Alexis, a family band she headlined in for years. The Marines behind this effort with Scott are honored to line up behind Scott's vision for what is clearly a noble cause.



- Saturday, June 22, 2024, at Tower Lanes, 1660 N Spring St, Beaver Dam, WI 53916.
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Building up to Alexis's Farewell Performance, there will be an additional three musical acts:

- Joliana, Dan Braaksma & Al Muenchow, and the Wurlitzer Kings (featuring Beaver Dam's own Eddie Rivers)
- 50/50 raffles will be run during the event.
- An Information Table about the GSMT will be on hand and staffed for the event with GSMT merchandise for sale.
- AND MUCH MORE! Additional activities for this event are still in the planning stages so...MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

Follow the Friends Of Dodge County Parks, Inc. (FODCPI) Facebook Event Page for future details.



JUNEAU PIGGLY WIGGLY ROUNDS UP FOR GSMT

by Cindy Haerterich

The Juneau Piggly Wiggly's "Round Up Your Total for the month of June 2024 is being designated to the GSMT Phase Two from Horicon to the Wild Goose State Trail. As part of this fundraising effort, the Friends Of Dodge County Parks, Inc. (FODCPI) will be selling Brats & Hot Dogs at the Piggly Wiggly on Saturday, June 15, 2024. Please plan to come out and support this noble and worthy project going on in Dodge County. Status information on trail progress for the GSMT will be available at the Juneau Pig during the month of June.

PELICAN PATH TRAIL HAPPENINGS

by Carol Pfalz

Our committee received a unanimous vote from the Dodge County Supervisors to move forward with our trail plans. With that we notified the Village of Hustisford of probable changes to the original path. Our next step is to apply for grants for the design and engineering of the path.

A member of our committee has met with The Wisconsin Bike Federation to inform them of our goals and requested help from their group. They are very receptive to helping us in any ways that they can.

The Committee had a booth at the Bike-O-Rama event held the weekend of March 8-10th at the Alliant Energy Center New Holland Pavilion. We were able to reach out to a lot of people. Special THANKS! To John & Carol Pflatz for staffing the booth!

Anyone interested in assisting us with moving the Pelican Path Trail forward, please reach out to the Committee. Contact John & Carol Pfalz cjpfalz@att.net or Dave Matheus dmatheus100@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE & SIGN UP FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL WILD GOOSE CHASE BIKE RIDE

Saturday, June 8, 2024 To support the Pelican Path Trail!

This 70-mile gravel ride (shorter routes available) is a fundraiser for the Pelican Path Trail and you will receive the highly-sought-after Fourth Annual



Wild Goose Chase moisture-wicking shirt the day of the ride. All profits will go into the Pelican Path Trail account with the Friends of Dodge

County Parks, Inc. [a 501(c)(3) non-profit]. Please register before May 15, 2024 to receive a shirt. Registration instructions are on the Pelican Path website at http://www.pelicanpath.org.





COME ONE, COME ALL!

You do not have to wait for FallFest to see everything we have in the Vintage Farm Equipment Museum at Harnischfeger County Park. In conjunction with the Lebanon Historical Society and the Ashippun

Historical Committee, our facility will be open the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. April thru October. Stop in and check us out, and visit the other two historical venues as well!



SAVE THE DATE FOR



The 18th Annual FallFest at Harnischfeger Park will take place on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free Parking, Free Entry, and many Free Activities for the whole family! All of the same favorite demonstrations and activities as well as some new things to do, so, **SAVE THE DATE!**

P.S. Help Us Keep FallFest Alive!

Have you enjoyed the last 17
FallFests? Our Committee is in serious need of Volunteers to help us keep this yearly event alive for generations to come. People are needed to help plan the event, and many more people to help run the event the day of. Can you spare a few



hours for one day? Maybe spare four hours for a half a day or eight hours for the whole day? Help us put smiles on the kids faces, give them memories of

a great day at the park, and provide family quality time for all. Please contact Glenn Daily, Call or Text (262) 370-3224 or Email gpdaily57@gmail. com.





There is nothing like the smell of campfires, smores and being in the great outdoors. Welcome to another year of creating lasting memories at the Dodge County Parks. These memories may include stories and laughter with family and friends at your camp site or taking a blissful walk among the picturesque landscapes throughout our beautiful county parks and trails. Whatever your memory entails, we hope they bring you back for another memorable year.

This past winter, we were blessed with enough snow to get out those stored snowmobiles and enjoy many smooth miles on the freshly groomed trails. Special thanks to our dedicated snowmobile club volunteers. These conditions and the right timing allowed us to create an excellent snowmobile tourism video which is viewable on the Dodge County website. Staff also worked throughout the winter reviewing your feedback from park surveys, discussing future park and trail plans, and stayed busy taking camping reservations.

As we say goodbye to winter and greet spring, it is with mixed emotions. Those who enjoy snowmobiling, cross country skiing or snowshoeing on our trails or in our parks are sad to see the snow disappear. Those that enjoy bicycling, camping, fishing, and other outdoor activities are happy to welcome warmer sunny days ahead. We have many exciting new plans for this coming season ahead. We look forward to seeing you soon! **ASTICO PARK: Planning continues** for the combined restroom/shower building with an attached pavilion where Shelter 1 is currently located.

Construction is estimated to begin in fall of 2024. Currently the Park Attendant and Camp Host positions are vacant. The application process is open. A selfie stand will be added near the historic bridge on the east side of the park. This stand was constructed by the Industrial Arts students from Dodgeland High School and local businesses.

DERGE PARK: The electrical upgrades will be completed by April 15, 2024. Construction of the fish cleaning station/shelter in partnership with the Industrial Arts students from Beaver Dam High School and local businesses will begin in April, 2024 and should be completed by the end of May. HARNISCHFEGER PARK: Work

on the campsite pad revamp and improvements has begun. The sites have been surveyed and marked. Construction will be completed before the start of the camping season. Boardwalk repairs are scheduled to continue this season. Currently, the Camp Host position is vacant.

LEDGE PARK: A selfie stand will be added near the overlook area. This stand was constructed by the Industrial Arts students from Dodgeland High School and local businesses.

NITSCHKE MOUNDS PARK: Trail development and improvements will continue this season. The effort to remove invasive species from identified locations within the park is an ongoing process. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped and continue to help with this battle. A selfie stand will be added near the pond area. This stand was constructed by the Industrial Arts students from Dodgeland High School and local businesses.

GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL: Planning continues with Jefferson County and Rock County to promote usage of this multi-jurisdictional trail.

GOLD STAR MEMORIAL TRAIL:

Route planning and development continues for the over-all trail, connecting the City of Mayville to the City of Beaver Dam.

WILD GOOSE STATE TRAIL: Several bridges along the trail have been repaired and re-decked by park staff and Dodge County Highway Department staff. Three additional bridges are scheduled for repair in early spring 2024. A new vault toilet will be installed at the State Road 60 trail head parking lot. Bids are also being sought for the addition of a new vault toilet at the State Road 26 trail head parking lot. A selfie stand will be added near the State Road 60 trail head. This stand was constructed by the Industrial Arts students from Dodgeland High School and local businesses.

FODCPI **f** CORNER



HARNISCHFEGER PARK PHOTO BY KERRY OWENS

by Erin Johns

Each month we are doing a photo theme for FODCPI Facebook followers to share their photos at Dodge County Parks and Trails. March's theme was dogs, and it was a big hit. April's theme will be birds.

We continue to grow our Facebook page and are inching close to 2K followers.

We encourage you to follow and share our FODCPI Facebook page with friends and family.

ABOUT OUR PARKS AND TRAILS

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

ASTICO PARK ~ Located 3 miles east of Columbus, is a 100- acre park on the Crawfish River and features campsites, hiking trails, canoe/ kayak rentals, fishing access, picnic shelters, a naturalist program area, and more. Potential projects include trail expansions/improvements, playground upgrades, improved ADA accessibility, and invasive species vegetation control. **DERGE PARK** ~ Located northwest

of Beaver Dam, is a 13-acre park that provides access to the 6,600acre Beaver Dam Lake and features campsites, a boat launch, an ADA accessible kayak pier, and fishing access. Potential projects: new fishing/ docking pier, improved shoreline fishing access with benches & landscaping, and parking expansion.

HARNISCHFEGER PARK ~ Located along the Rock River is 8 miles east of Watertown. This 132-acre park contains a variety of terrain, vegetation, and facilities for multiple recreation opportunities. The park hosts the annual FallFest on the last Saturday in September. New to the park are Vintage Farming displays in the north barn & building. The park features a clubhouse and picnic shelters for group picnics and activities. There are hiking trails with boardwalks, campsites, canoe/ kayak rentals, fishing access, 9-hole mini-golf and 9-hole disc golf courses. Current and potential projects include mini-golf & disc-golf rehab and expansion, clubhouse improvements and expansion, a gazebo for general use, a future enclosed "Off Leash" dog run, an edible plants harvest naturalist

program, invasive species vegetation control, north barn restoration phase 3, homestead area repurposing phase 2, trail improvements and a vault toilet for the north end of the park.

LEDGE PARK ~ Located near the Horicon Marsh, is a 83-acre park that lies on and along the Niagara Escarpment and provides a breathtaking over-look of the Horicon Marsh. The park features campsites, hiking trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and an ADA accessible boardwalk to the edge of the ledge, overlooking the scenic Horicon Marsh. Potential projects include trail and accessibility improvements, invasive species vegetation control, pond boardwalk and more parking. **NITSCHKE MOUNDS PARK** ~ Located 4

miles north of Juneau and adjacent to the Wild Goose Trail, is a 54-acre park featuring 39 pre-historic Native American animal, conical, and linear effigy mounds, with hiking trails through the mounds and park, and an open-air picnic shelter. Current and potential projects include trail and interpretive

mound identification improvements, brush removal off of overgrown mounds, invasive species vegetation control and the Red Wolf Memorial Trail including a pond boardwalk.

WILD GOOSE STATE

TRAIL ~ This 34mile limestone trail on an abandoned railroad grade has a southern Trailhead on Highway 60 and links the city of Juneau to the city of Fond du Lac. Potential and future projects include parking lot improvements and invasive species vegetation control. **GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL ~**

This 3.5- mile trail is a paved hiking

and biking only path along HWY 26, running from HWY CJ near Clyman, south to 2nd Road near Watertown. It is part of the multi- county trail that runs south through Jefferson County and into Rock County. This trail connects to the Wild Goose State Trail via road routes to & thru Clyman, and then to the WGST southern trailhead at Highway 60.

GOLD STAR MEMORIAL TRAIL ~ To honor the fallen military, the newest East-West paved hiking & biking only trail system will eventually link Mayville, Horicon, and Beaver Dam to the Wild Goose State Trail. Phase 1 from Mayville's Theiler Park to Horicon Marsh, had its Grand Opening in June of 2019. A route to walk your bike through the marsh to Horicon has been established, and a signed city bike route through the city of Horicon is completed. Grant applications and funding campaigns continue to build this trail onwards to Beaver Dam. Phase 2 from Horicon to the Wild Goose Trail is the current priority.





RED WOLF MEMORIAL TRAIL (RWMT) FUNDRAISER

by Sherri Gysbers

The Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. (FODCPI) will be hosting it's second annual RWMT Fundraiser at the Iron Ridge Inn (131 S Main St in Iron Ridge) on Sunday, April 28th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's event will feature a Sunday Brunch and Silent Auction.

Guest speakers and co-authors Kurt Sampson and Bill Volkert will present on their new book, Indian Mounds of the Horicon Marsh and Upper Rock River. There will be copies of the book for sale and the co-authors will be doing a book signing.

They will also be speaking to the importance of protecting and maintaining effigy mounds with particular attention to the mounds of Nitschke Mounds County Park.

Silent auction items include art, nature items and baskets donated by local volunteers and businesses.

Tickets for the event are \$35 payable at the door.

RSVP is required to reserve your spot. Please contact Sherri Gysbers at 920-251-4441 by April 26th.

NITSCHKE MOUNDS COUNTY PARK

by Harvey Gysbers

Spring has officially arrived! With the mild winter and early thaw, hikers may see more activity from the animals and plants in the park. The park is open from dawn to dusk to all hikers, with trails that go past and around some of the mounds, along the outside edge of the wooded area and near the pond.

Last year layout started on a new trail to be dedicated as the "Red

FRIENDS OF DODGE COUNTY PARKS, INC.				
YEAR END FINANCIALS				
FUND ACCOUNTS	2023	2022		
Administrative Fund	-1,885	1,184		
Astico Fund	9,105	8,100		
Derge Fund	6,579	5,952		
Ledge Fund	-26	-247		
Wild Goose Trail Fund	4,046	4,019		
Nitschke Mounds Fund	7,823	4,476		
Harnischfeger Fund	46,718	38,154		
Gold Star Mem. Trail Fund	36,987	31,920		
Pelican Path Fund	10,834	1,047		
Future Park Fund	245	245		
Endowment Fund - Temp	25	175		
Undesignated General Fund	8,706	8,728		
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	129,157	103,752		
Total Revenues	42,504	36,541		
Total Expenses	16,599	43,081		
Transfer to Endowment	500	500		
NET REVENUE	25,405	-7,040		
Endowment Fund (12-31 Balance)	43,302	35,738		
Beaver Dam Area Comm. Foundation Fund (12-31 Balance)	965	856		

Wolf Memorial Trail". We have been fundraising and writing grants so that we can start the work on this trail in 2024 which will include a boardwalk over the wetter areas of the trail. The trail will also include a storybook feature for kids.

We will once again be doing two Field Trip Tours for the "Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin" (NRF) on Saturday, April 27th. The first tour will run from 10am to 12pm with the second tour running from 1pm to 3pm. Tours are limited to 20 people per tour. NRF members can go to their website to register for these tours.

Future plans are being explored to place a parking area that can be used by Nitschke Mounds County Park and the Wild Goose State Trail. With the parking area, restrooms would also be added for use by both facilities. Additionally, the Nitschke Mounds Park Advisory Committee is brainstorming ideas for possible uses for the open field that is part of the park property between the mounds and the Wild Goose State Trail.

SPONSOR A MEMORIAL BENCH

Benches along the Gold Star Memorial Trail Phase 1 (Mayville to Horicon Marsh) and at Ledge Park (Ledge overlook platform), were installed this past year and are now ready for sponsorship at \$1000 each. Sponsorship includes up to 3 lines of engraving or a 9x12 sign



that can include a picture along with text. Sponsors can provide their own bronze or special plaque if desired. Requests for more information or for bench sponsorship can be emailed to parks@ co.dodge.wi.us with contact name, address, phone #, who the memorial is for, and which bench/location is desired. The Friends of Dodge County Parks Board will review all requests and will award sponsorship locations as they deem appropriate. Sponsorships are payable to Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. after requests are approved.

thrivent **CHOICE DOLLARS**

If you are a Thrivent Financial account holder you can have Thrivent Financial donate to the Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. through their Thrivent Choice program. Log onto www.thrivent.com and go to Thrivent Choice under the "Making a Difference" tab.



FODCPI 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.

2024 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

One FREE bundle of firewood at Derge, Ledge, Astico, or Harnischfeger Park One FREE round of mini-golf at Harnischfeger Park ~ One FREE FODCPI Sticker

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2024 FODCPI MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Online membership and donation options are available at our website https://GoldStarMemorialTrailWl.org	Designate purpose	or park
 □ Senior Citizen or Child (\$10) □ Individual / School / Class (\$20) □ Family (\$25) □ Club, Agency, Organization or Not-for-Profit (\$50) □ Municipality (\$75) □ Corporation or Business (\$100) Name(s): 	General Donation Endowment Fund Total Enclosed	\$ \$ \$
Organization:		
Address:		
City:		Zip:
Phone: Email	l:	
Please send completed form	with check made out to	:

Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. • PO Box 72 Juneau, WI 53039