



friends of DODGE COUNTY PARKS, INC.

SPRING 2025 VOL 29, ISSUE 1

A
message

FROM
GLENN DAILY
PRESIDENT
FRIENDS OF DODGE
COUNTY PARKS, INC.

By the time this reaches you, another season in Dodge County's parks, and on its trails will have already started. The parks with camping will be opening in April and available for camping. It takes a lot of hard work and manpower to get all of the facilities ready for the public to enjoy. Ramping up for the summer is an arduous task,

and the dedicated employees and volunteers at the parks and behind the scenes always come through with top quality facilities just waiting for you to enjoy.

Please be sure to get out to your favorite park and take advantage of all of its amenities. The summer is long, so break away from tradition this year, be adventurous, and go and visit the other parks and trails in Dodge County as well. Each one is unique in it's own way, and waiting for you to discover it. Wherever you go, please be sure to say "Thanks!" to the volunteers, attendants, caretakers, and camp hosts for their work on your behalf.

The Friends of Dodge County Parks Inc. is always available to you. Do you have a comment you would like to share? Maybe you have a suggestion for improving something in a park, or on one of the trails. A question may come up

that you would like to reach out to us on. I am always available to take your call or text on # (262) 370-3224, or email: gpdaily57@gmail.com.

The members and public are always welcome at the monthly Board meetings, typically held the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the first floor Auditorium of the County Administration Building in Juneau. Please call or email me before attending to confirm that there is a meeting scheduled for the month you intend on attending.

Additionally, you can follow us on our Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/FriendsofDodgeParks
See You At The Park!

Glenn

NOTICE OF FODCPI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

Friends Of Dodge County Parks Inc. (FODCPI) Annual Membership & Elections Meeting
THURSDAY MAY 1, 2025, AT 6:00 PM

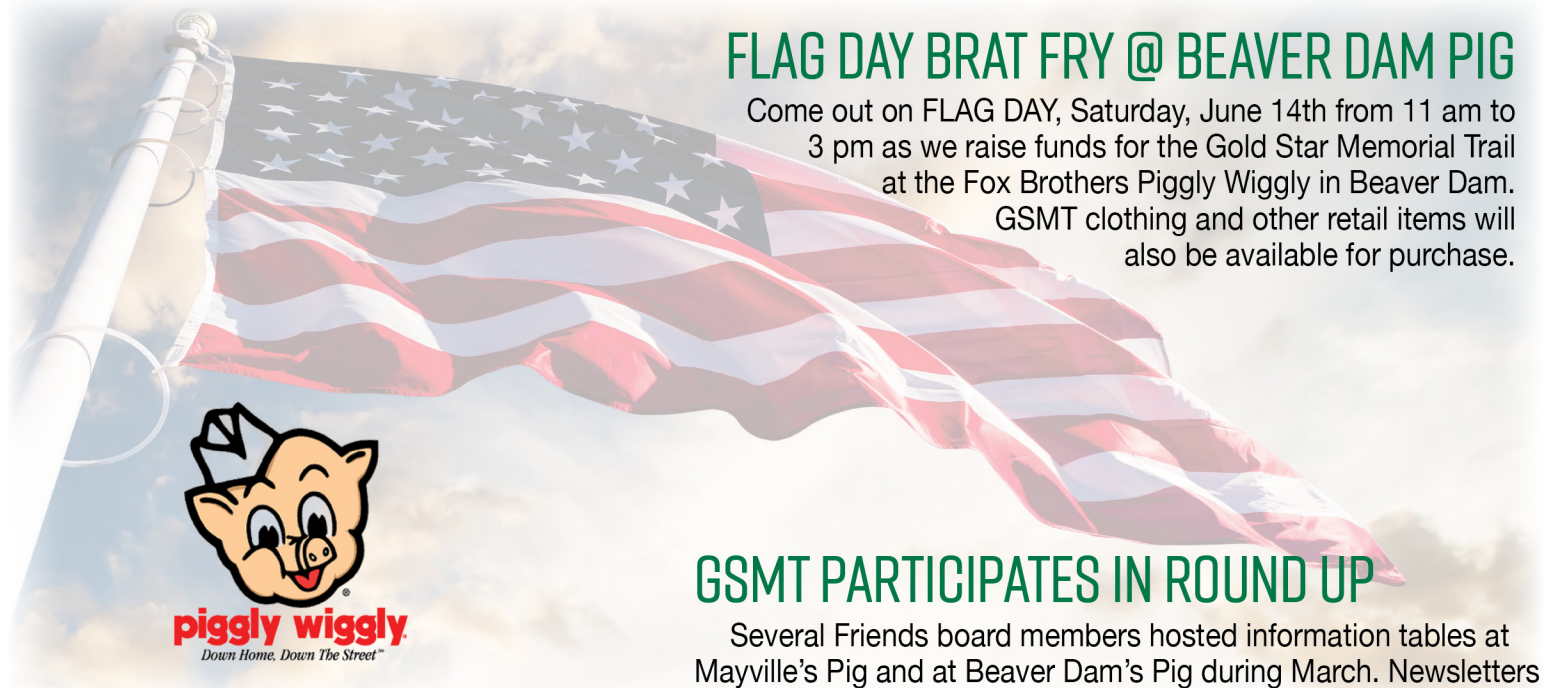
Dodge County Administration Building – 1st Floor Auditorium

ON THE AGENDA: Election of open Board of Director positions
Review FODCPI financial status

Learn about 2024 County Park highlights and what is ahead for 2025 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



FLAG DAY BRAT FRY @ BEAVER DAM PIG

Come out on FLAG DAY, Saturday, June 14th from 11 am to 3 pm as we raise funds for the Gold Star Memorial Trail at the Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly in Beaver Dam. GSMT clothing and other retail items will also be available for purchase.

GSMT PARTICIPATES IN ROUND UP

Several Friends board members hosted information tables at Mayville's Pig and at Beaver Dam's Pig during March. Newsletters and GSMT brochures were distributed to the public and donations were accepted to support the trail. Almost \$350 was collected over three days. More information will come as we were one of three roundup groups for March 2025 promoted by Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly stores.

DONATE TO GSMT THROUGH BDACF

Support the Gold Star Memorial Fund 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 www.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	(2024-2027)
Secretary Assistant -		
Teri Salinas		
TREASURER		
Cindy Haerterich	Lake Mills	(2024-2027)
Shirley Rotta	Rubicon	(2022-2025)
Melissa Sette-Lake	Juneau	(2022-2025)
Sherri Gysbers	Fond Du Lac	(2023-2026)
Don Schwandt	Juneau	(2023-2026)
Rae Geb	Burnett	(2024-2027)
Arwyn Yarwood	Columbus	(2024-2027)
Andrew Johnson	Horicon	(2023-2026)
Michael Belongie	Beaver Dam	(2023-2026)
John Shabaz	Horicon	(2024-2027)

DODGE CO LIAISON
Jason Roy, Parks & Trails Supervisor



FALLFEST 2025 PLANNING UNDERWAY

by Glenn Daily

A meeting was held in February to discuss and determine if we would be able to keep the FallFest event at Harnischfeger Park going in 2025. Thanks to two new volunteers reaching out to us saying they would help, and 12 of the past volunteers on board with continuing, we are moving forward with holding FallFest on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This Committee is going to do its level best to put on the same quality event that it has been in past years. Crop planting plans will be

made at our March meeting, along with preliminary plans for all of the activities. The actual event will depend on how many volunteers step up on September 27th to help staff the activities so that everyone can enjoy the day!

Watch for the FallFest flyers to hit the parks & trails kiosks as well as bulletin boards in retail stores and on the Friends Of Dodge County Parks, Inc. Facebook Page. Scan the QR Code on the flyer for a complete list of all of the planned activities. This list will be updated as plans come together so check back from time to

time right up to September 27th for the latest.

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 the day of FallFest, or even a few hours of your time on September 27th to help us run this event. Contact Glenn Daily - Call/Text at 262-370-3224 or Email gpdaily57@gmail.com.

See you on September 27th!



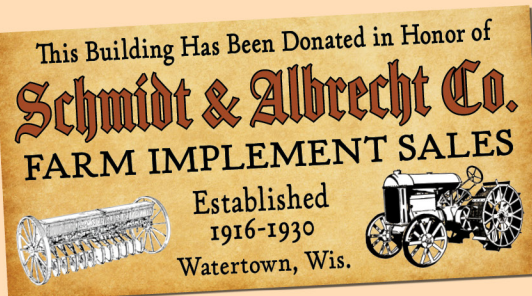
CALLING ALL VINTAGE EQUIPMENT ENTHUSIASTS!

FallFest welcomes anyone who collects and displays vintage equipment to bring your brags out to Harnischfeger Park on the day of FallFest on Saturday, September 27, 2025 and display them for the public. Besides Farm equipment, we have had small engine equipment ranging from Household, Woodworking, and Outboard Motors to Lawnmowers and Lawn Tractors. We have even had some vintage automobiles show up to show off! If interested in joining us, please contact Glenn Daily. Call or Text (262) 370-3224, or Email gpdaily57@gmail.com.

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!

HARNISCHFEGER PARK VINTAGE FARM EQUIPMENT MUSEUM



Open
1ST SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH
1:00PM - 4:00PM
APRIL - OCTOBER

GSMT PHASE 2 DESIGN REACHES 60% COMPLETION MILESTONE

The Design & Engineering of Phase 2 from Horicon to Wild Goose Trail just hit the 60% Design completion mark which triggers WI Department of Transportation review and the start of Real Estate work. To reach the 60% Design benchmark, environmental, historical, archeological and geo-technical considerations had to be reviewed and addressed. The majority of the trail will be located within the existing right of way of State Hwy 33, however some temporary grading easements and a few permanent ones are required. The project is still on pace for Design/Engineering completion in Fall 2025 and construction bidding in early 2026. As part of the 60% Design milestone, cost estimates were updated. Estimated costs continue to rise, so there is still a great need for additional grants and donations over the next year.



FRIENDS OF DODGE COUNTY PARKS, INC. YEAR END FINANCIALS		
FUND ACCOUNTS	2023	2024
Administrative Fund	-1,851	-327
Astico Fund	9,105	8,999
Derge Fund	6,579	8,106
Ledge Fund	-26	12
Wild Goose Trail Fund	4,046	3,602
Nitschke Mounds Fund	7,823	9,131
Harnischfeger Fund	46,718	56,453
Gold Star Mem. Trail Fund	36,987	61,651
Pelican Path Fund	10,684	14,289
Future Park Fund	245	245
Endowment Fund – Temp	25	1,225
Undesignated General Fund	8,706	8,981
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	129,041	172,367
Total Revenues	42,354	57411
Total Expenses	16,565	13,760
Transfer to Endowment	500	325
NET REVENUE	25,289	43,326
Endowment Fund (Dec 31 Balance)	43,302	49,667
Beaver Dam Area Comm Foundation Fund (Dec 31 Balance)	965	5,299

GSMT PHASE 3 FEASIBILITY & PRELIMINARY DESIGN

The contract with MSA Professional Services for Phase 3 (Wild Goose Trail to Beaver Dam) feasibility and preliminary design/ route analysis was finalized toward the end of 2024. An initial kickoff meeting was held with County and

MSA staff in early 2025 to layout the process. The study will identify the most feasible trail alignment and identify the design requirements and needs to construct the Phase 3 trail. Final design, acquisition and construction will be mostly dependent

on funding and the timelines needed for sufficient grants and donations. Total initial project cost estimates are \$4.5 - \$5 million. Grants could cover as much as 80% - 90%.

CONSIDER PURCHASING GSMT SHIRTS, ORNAMENTS OR STICKERS OR MAKING A DONATION TO HELP WITH EITHER OR BOTH PHASES OF THIS PROJECT.

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.

Donations can also be made to the Gold Star Memorial Trail fund through the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation at www.fdlareafoundation.com/beaver-dam-area-community-foundation/.

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



SPRING 2025 PARKS REPORT

by Jason Roy
Dodge County Parks Superintendent

March weather gave us a roller coaster ride of highs and lows with snow. I'm personally looking forward to warmer days and the return of our seasonal park staff, as well as the familiar faces of our regular park and trail visitors. I'm also excited to meet new visitors and welcome them to our wonderful recreational spaces.

A key focus for us this year will be finishing the construction projects from last year. These include electrical and water upgrades at the campsites in Harnischfeger Park, as well as the new restroom/shower building, mound system, and shelter at Astico Park.

Projects and new park amenities to look forward to in 2025 are outlined here:

ASTICO PARK

- New restroom/shower building with mound system
- New shelter
- Gaga Ball pit
- Tetherball
- Selfie Stand



Harnischfeger site revamp



Ledge Firewood Shelter



Astico Shower Building Rehab

DERGE PARK

- ADA ramp to boat launch pier
- Gaga Ball pit
- Tetherball

HARNISCHFEGER PARK

- Campsite electrical (20/30/50 amp) and water upgrades
- Campsite renumbering
- Gaga Ball pit
- Tetherball
- Water bottle fill station on shower building
- New vault toilet for north parking lot

LEDGE PARK

- New firewood shelter by the restroom/shower building was completed
- Gaga Ball pit
- Tetherball
- Selfie Stand

NITSCHKE MOUNDS PARK

- Solar power upgrade to the pavilion
- Red Wolf Trail planning and construction
- Invasive species removal

GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL

- Multi-County planning for trail promotion

GOLD STAR MEMORIAL TRAIL

- Planning continues. Please reference Bill Ehlenbeck's article for further information.

WILD GOOSE STATE TRAIL

- New vault toilets at the trailhead parking lots at STHY 26/STHY 33 and STHY 60.

As always, thank you to the great staff we have who help keep the parks and trails safe, clean and well respected. A special thank you to all our parks and trails visitors. Our parks and trails are your parks and trails. Enjoy your time visiting us this season!



Vault Toilets for Harnischfeger & Wild Goose State Trail



Selfie Stand Sample



Gaga Ball Pit Plan for Astico, Derge, Ledge, and Harnischfeger Parks – Dodgeland Schools example picture



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 6,600-acre 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 34-mile 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.

T-Shirt Sale

Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc .
(FODCPI) T-shirts are here!!!





Ask staff for details

\$20 Small—XL | \$22 2X | \$23 3X

BUCKTHORN MANAGEMENT AT NITSCHKE MOUNDS

Did you know that February 24-28th was National Invasive Species Awareness Week? Don't feel bad if you didn't, I don't think many people were aware of it. However, this event is an attempt to raise awareness about the threat that invasive species pose around the country and what can be done about it. In Dodge County, we have many invasives in our woodlands, wetlands and even our backyards. Like elsewhere, if we don't know what they are and how to get rid of them, they continue to



Buckthorn burn piles

quietly and effectively take over these areas.

Winter is the best time to work on woody invasives. One of the primary invasives we target during the winter at Nitschke Mounds County Park is buckthorn. There are two types of invasive buckthorn in the park: Common and Glossy Buckthorn. What's wrong with buckthorn you

might ask? Don't the birds eat the berries? Well yes, the birds do eat the berries but rather than benefit the birds, they do the opposite. The berries have very little nutritional value and actually act as a laxative. Shortly after birds eat the seeds, they very quickly eliminate them from their system helping to spread the seed nearby. Buckthorn also has many other tricks that give it an advantage. It is allelopathic meaning it produces chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of other plants. It also has a longer growing season, leafing out earlier than our native plants and retaining their leaves longer. It is very aggressive and takes over areas, shading out native plants and competing for resources.

As you walk down the trails at Nitschke on the east side of the park you can't help but notice the piles of brush and the openness of the woods in the areas where buckthorn has been removed. Comparing this area to other parts of the park helps you understand just how aggressive and invasive buckthorn is and the impact it's had on the park.

March is generally the time when we stop working on woody invasive shrubs and start looking ahead to Spring. It's always exciting to see the budding of trees and emergence of Spring wildflowers. It's also a time where we shift to working on other invasives including garlic mustard and



More buckthorn burn piles



Clearing the fence line

Dame's Rocket. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, we could use the help. No experience needed. If you are interested in volunteering at Nitschke Mounds County Park, please contact Sue Knaack at sunnypt2@centurytel.net

FODCPI CORNER

It is with sadness that I find the need to write this article. We have been blessed to have Erin as our main administrator and contributor for the Friends Facebook page. For many years now, Erin has kept our content current, fresh and engaging and has grown our followers to over 2,000 people.

Like everything in life, nothing is forever. Erin has decided to let go of these duties and move on to something new to challenge herself. She has very graciously offered to stay on and help the new Administrator work into the job, offering her assistance and expertise as needed. The hope is to find someone willing to step in as soon as possible so that we can get Erin transitioned out by mid 2025. Anyone interested in taking on this volunteer position please contact myself, Glenn Daily, call or text (262) 370-3224 or email gpdaily57@gmail.com

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.



GSMT CORNHOLE FUNDRAISER - Our Gold Star Memorial Trail bags tournament planned for Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Tower Lanes in Beaver Dam has been **POSTPONED** indefinitely. Our contact lead person has changed jobs and is no longer working there. Anyone with experience sponsoring/helping with a cornhole tournament, please call Sherri Gysbers at 920-251-4441.



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.

2025 FODCPI MEMBERSHIP FORM

Online membership and donation options are available at our website <https://GoldStarMemorialTrailWI.org>

- ☐ 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)

Designate purpose or park _____

Membership Total \$ _____
General Donation \$ _____
Endowment Fund \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send completed form with check made out to:
Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc. • PO Box 72 Juneau, WI 53039