

Friends of Dane County Parks
5201 Fen Oak Dr.
Madison, WI 53718



Friends of Dane County Parks

Newsletter provided
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FRIENDS OF
DANE COUNTY PARKS

Fall 2018
Newsletter

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Thanks to all who participated in the Parks & Trails Unite Festival

Attended by an estimated 5,000 people, the Parks & Trails Unite Festival was held June 2 in both Lake Farm County Park and McDaniel Park. It highlighted the new Lower Yahara River Trail and a mile-long boardwalk bridge that connects the two parks and provides an off-road trail connection between Madison and McFarland.

To all who participated, we can't thank you enough! Whether you were an organizer, financial sponsor, volunteer, exhibitor, performer, vendor, or played another role, your participation made it possible for us to help host this amazing event.



Dane County Parks hosted the festival in conjunction with the Friends of Dane County Parks, United Madison, Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, and the Village of McFarland. Dane County parks

and trails unite communities by promoting healthy lifestyles through low cost or free recreational and educational opportunities.

Dane County has some of the best off road paths and access in the world. These trails help connect our communities and are an important component to our quality of life that attracts many people to move and live here.

A majority of the proceeds from this event will benefit the Dane County Parks volunteer program and Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment. A portion of the proceeds donated by event sponsors will benefit local nonprofit partners as well as support United Madison in their effort to support a unified, thriving community for everyone.



Dane County Board meets at Indian Lake Park's new shelter

The Dane County Board of Supervisors moved its Aug. 16 meeting outdoors to Indian Lake County Park, where the group enjoyed a potluck and met under the park's newly built shelter. Trees harvested from forest management practices throughout the park system were repurposed into the timber framing architecture of the new shelter and restroom, near the new playground at the 8183 Hwy. 19 entrance.

During the meeting, Bill Lunney, chair of the Friends of Dane County Parks and the County Parks Commission, gave a presen-

tation about the area and the importance of parks to our local economies and physical and mental health, as well as the challenges they face.

"A park is not just a piece of land; it is a vibrant part of a community," Lunney said. "But to meet the needs of our growing population, we need more land to maintain the quality of life for future generations."

Lunney explained how integral the 17 active Friends groups, partners, and volunteers are to the park system. They help build trails, clear invasive species, provide maintenance, fundraise, and support education programs that existing county resources cannot provide. He also gave an update on the Friends of Dane County Parks endowment, which is nearing \$500,000 and will help the Friends groups do their work more effectively.

"We have much to do and challenges to face, I am confident we will continue the bipartisan environmental tradition that we have had for over 80 years. That's what makes Dane County the special place we all cherish," said Lunney.



Bill Lunney

Lewis E-Way Earns Award

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association recognizes outstanding public places and spaces with its "Great Places in Wisconsin Award," which was awarded to Dane County's Lewis E-Way on October 9, 2018.

The E-Way is a six-mile long open space corridor protecting Nine Springs Creek from its headwaters at Verona Road and Dunn's Marsh on the west to its mouth at Lake Waubesa on the east. Located in Capital Springs Recreation Area, it includes wetlands, fens, woodlands, and rolling hills was identified as a high-priority area for preservation through the work of UW Professor Phil Lewis. Phil's wife, Libby Lewis, helped to implement the acquisition of the property through her long service on the Dane County Park Commission. In addition to Dane County, significant land areas were added to the E-Way by the efforts of the City of Fitchburg, Town of Dunn, City of Madison and Town of Madison.

Did You Know?

Dane County Parks was one of the first park systems in the nation to develop off-leash dog exercise areas (dog parks) and is recognized as a national leader.

Three Parks to view Fall Colors

As the seasons change from summer to fall, be sure to catch the leaves turn into their brilliant red, orange, and yellow hues. Check back for updates using the fall color report map at TravelWisconsin.com, which estimates that the Madison area will reach peak in mid-October. There are several spots throughout our Dane County Parks that we recommend for autumn color viewing, but these three stand out for their elevated, expansive views of the tree-filled landscape.

MORTON FOREST



Morton Forest
5169 Reeve Road, Mazomani

Photo Credit: Peter Gorman

Dane County's newest park, donated by benefactor Steve Morton, features nearly 114 acres in the Driftless Area with about two miles of year-round hiking trails. There are two scenic overlooks with bench shelters where you can take in the autumnal beauty overlooking Blue Mound, the highest point in the region. The view is absolutely worth the uphill hike!

BRIGHAM PARK

As the road curves near this entrance of this park, you'll be greeted by sweeping views and treetops of the Wisconsin River Valley. On a clear day you can even see the Baraboo Hills in the distance. The park also includes trails that weave around the campsites and into a mature sugar maple forest, so you're sure to find color by foot, car, and even bike.



Brigham Park
3160 County Hwy. F, Blue Mounds

LAKE VIEW HILL PARK

This park is home to the highest point on Madison's north side with gorgeous views of Lake Mendota and downtown. After meandering around the Dane County Human Services building (the former sanatorium) and checking out the newly restored fountain, you can also be surrounded by falling leaves on a short hiking trail through the neighboring woods.



Lake View Hill Park
1202 Northport Dr., Madison

Our Parks Are a Gift to Dane County:

Help us Reach \$500,000 By Bill Lunney

Our Dane County Park System has enjoyed a legacy of extraordinary private philanthropy from its beginning over 80 years ago. With over 15,000 acres, our county parks would not be the same without the generosity of the many conservation donors. Some donate land, others financial resources, and still others their time, expertise, and just plain hard work.

Four years ago, the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment was formed by a group of conservation minded citizens. In partnership with

the Madison Community Foundation and with the support of the County Executive and Board, the Friends are poised to reach \$500,000 of cash contributions for an endowment to provide for perpetual non-supplanting support for our parks and volunteer programs.

We have over 3,100 volunteers who work to support our parks system augmented by 17 parks Friends groups organized around particular parks. They contribute an estimated 65,000 hours of work a year. Additionally, last year they planted over 5,000 trees. But they need our help

to keep up and increase their work. That's what our Friends Endowment is going to do.

With your help we will reach our mark of \$500,000 this fall to continue the growth of support for these extraordinary volunteer teams. A park is not just a piece of land, it is a gift to the community, and the endowment to support our parks will be your legacy to the future.

To donate to the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment Fund at the Madison Community Foundation:
Make a tax-deductible donation by check or donate online:

madisoncommunityfoundation.org/danecountyparks

\$500,000

\$400,000

\$300,000

\$200,000

\$100,000

If you would prefer to talk to someone at MCF about any options, contact:
Ann Casey
608-232-1763
acasey@madisongives.org



Andy Lewis

other forms of contributions. For example, giving appreciated securities and mutual fund shares offers an immediate charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the donated assets, as well as avoidance of any capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you are 70½ or older, you are eligible to make charitable gifts directly from your individual retirement account (IRA). These gifts satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year and reduce your taxable income, all while allowing you to give pretax dollars to support our parks. For more information on the kinds of assets that can be accepted by the MCF to support our efforts please see:

The minimum monthly contribution is \$20. While your monthly contribution may not feel significant, a simple \$50 monthly contribution ends up being a \$600 annual contribution. It's a great way for average people to make meaningful contributions. And while many people think only wealthy people give to charitable causes, it's important to note that lower income households actually give a larger percentage of their income than wealthy people. The face of philanthropy is us. My procrastination ended today. I am now a monthly supporter of our endowment!

One of the reasons we established the Friends of the Dane County Parks Endowment with the Madison Community Foundation is because they have the staff and resources to manage our investments and assist donors with charitable contribution options. The monthly electronic funds transfer is one of the easiest options. However, the staff at Madison Community Foundation (MCF) can assist you with making

When it comes to charitable giving, many people have good intentions of supporting our Friends of the Dane County Parks Endowment but never follow through. From personal experience I can attest to the fact that it is sometimes difficult to write out big checks when you are on a fixed income. One of the least painful ways I have found to support the Endowment is to make a monthly contribution via electronic funds transfer.

The Madison Community Foundation makes this easy for us. You can simply download the form from their website and complete the required information. On the line reading, "As a contribution to the following Fund," simply indicate: The Friends of the Dane County Parks Endowment, Fund #1030301. The form is located here:

madisongives.org/file/documents/EFT-Form.pdf

madisongives.org/giving/ways-to-give

