

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



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FRIENDS OF
DANE COUNTY PARKS

Summer 2018
Newsletter

Contact Us
friendsofdanecountyparks@gmail.com
[Facebook.com/friendsofdanecountyparks](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofdanecountyparks)

Friends of Dane County Parks

About the Friends of Dane County Parks, Inc. and the Endowment

The Dane County Park System has grown to more than 15,000 acres of parks, trails, wildlife and natural resource areas as well as two working farm parks, seven dog parks and three cultural sites. Additionally, the system receives over 2.5 million visitors per year. The park system is run by dedicated professional staff and supported by a legion of over 4,000 volunteers and 16 active parks Friends groups.

The Friends groups are composed of people who love the parks and are willing to help support the parks. These Friends groups are the main stewards of our natural resource areas, helping to restore native landscapes, creating and maintaining hundreds of miles of trails, and providing over 150 public education and outreach activities for visitors.

In 2013, the County Board and Executive authorized the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment to provide a permanent, self-sustaining non-supplanting fund, to support these Friends groups and volunteers. The fund is held and managed by the Madison Community Foundation. With the financial support of individual private donations, the fund has grown steadily each year. Currently it has raised nearly \$500,000 and the goal is to grow it a million dollars over the next years.

Friends groups that support county parks include:

- Indian Lake County Park,
- Capital Springs Recreation Area,
- Schumacher Farm Park,
- Pheasant Branch Conservancy,
- Donald County Park,
- Anderson County Park,
- CamRock County Park,
- Festge County Park,
- Silverwood County Park,
- McCarthy Youth Conservation County Park,
- Stewart County Park,
- Walking Iron County Park,
- Lake View Hill County Park,
- Friends of Halfway Prairie,
- Prairie Moraine County Park.

But the money is not sitting idle; a portion of the interest is already supporting the Friends and volunteer program.

The Endowment has funded and supported:

- Training and capacity building workshops
- Purchase of a large special events tent and tool trailer for volunteer projects, supplies and equipment
- Volunteer appreciation and summit events,
- The formation of a non-profit 501 c3 Friends of Dane County Parks, Inc. to enhance our fund raising and the
- Co-sponsor of the Parks and Trails Unite Festival to be held June 2 at Lake Farm County Park and McDaniel Village Park in McFarland. This free festival will highlight the role of parks and trails uniting communities.

In addition to enhancing our quality of life, our parks and trails are major economic assets to Dane County, drawing thousands of visitors and tourists. They provide significant physical and mental health benefits, as well as overall recreational and educational opportunities. The Friends and volunteers are the backbone of support for these parks and breathe life into many of them. They need financial support for their work, and the Friends of Dane County Parks through the endowment wants to provide that support. Please consider a small donation to support the endowment and help us provide for today and create a legacy for tomorrow.

1 Million

\$750,000

\$500,000

\$250,000

Our Giving Tree

How To Donate:

Make a tax-deductible donation by check or donate online:

www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org/danecountyparks
Madison Community Foundation
111 N. Fairchild Street, Suite 260
Madison, WI 53703

PARKS & TRAILS UNITE FESTIVAL

Help us celebrate our amazing parks and trails at an event designed to bring us ALL together!

June 2, 2018

Dane County Parks is teaming up with The Friends of Dane County Parks, Inc. and United Madison to host a one of a kind Parks & Trails Unite Festival from **10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 2.** This free community event will encourage unity, give us the opportunity to lift each other up to better understand and learn from each other, and celebrate our amazing parks and trails and the community connections that they provide.

The festival will take place in BOTH **Lake Farm County Park** and **McDaniel Park**, which includes the new **Lower Yahara River Trail** and its mile-long boardwalk bridge that connects the two parks and provides an off-road trail connection between Madison and McFarland that didn't previously exist. The festival will include live music, food carts, motivational speakers, educational and cultural displays, live demonstrations, local TV and media personalities, activity stations for adults and kids, pontoon rides, a biergarten, and other activities too numerous to list.

The funds raised from the event will be stretched far and wide to benefit our community in a way never done before. A majority of the proceeds will help build the capacity of Dane County volunteers and the 16 friends groups that support individual county parks. The work that these individuals do for the betterment of Dane County Parks and our communities is essential. Last year the parks had over 3,500 volunteers that put in an unbelievable 66,880 hours. That equates to well over a \$1 million in labor. This will be accomplished through Dane County Parks and the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment. A portion of the proceeds donated by event sponsors will benefit local nonprofit partners as well as supporting United Madison in their effort to support a unified, thriving community for EVERYONE.

We hope you will join us at this festival on National Trails Day to celebrate and support the parks and trails you love and help lift up and unite our community!

Did You Know?

Private philanthropy has provided nearly 20% of the Dane County Parks.

You Can Still be a Sponsor!

If you are interested in contributing to sponsoring the festival please contact Darren Marsh, Dane County Parks Director at (608) 224-3766



Festival Volunteers Needed

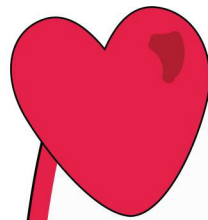
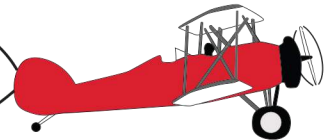
Want to help out at the Parks & Trails Unite Festival? Volunteers are needed to fill nearly 100 spots throughout the weekend at Lake Farm County Park. To sign up for volunteer shifts at the festival area or biergarten, visit danecountyparks.com/unite-festival.

Volunteers must check in at Lussier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison, a minimum of 30 minutes before their shift starts. If volunteers drive, they can park at the Heritage Center and will be shuttled to the park after they check in. Volunteers can also walk to the park (15 minutes) or go bike if they brought a bike. Volunteers can remain parked at the Heritage Center after their shift if they would like to stay and enjoy the festival. Additional information will be provided to volunteers prior to the festival.

Access to the Festival



To learn more or sign up to volunteer, visit us at danecountyparks.com/unite-festival.



Health Benefits of Parks and Trails

- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Studies show that when people have access to parks they exercise more.

- Medical journals regularly publish articles on the role of parks in enhancing health.
- Recent research shows the benefit of parks for people with dementia.