



Foundation for Dane County Parks
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Foundation
Supporter
Spotlight



President's Message

This year we are celebrating 30 successful years of our Parks Volunteer Program. The Foundation wants to recognize the critical role volunteers and Friends groups play in helping to sustain and support our Dane County Park System.

There are three types of donations people can make to our Parks: land, money, or volunteering time. Each component is important for a healthy and sustainable system, and our County Parks have been fortunate to have received the benefit of all three. However, the one that often gets less public attention is volunteering one's time and energy. One might argue it is the most valuable because, once gone, time and energy can never be replaced.

Dane County Parks has one of the best programs for volunteers in the Midwest. The Volunteer Program's beginning 30 years ago was humble. It started with Parks Director Ken LePine and Parks Commissioners Bud Morton and myself, William Lunney. LePine coined the name "Adult Conservation Team," and before long the first staff, Louise Goldstein, was hired. Within a few years, volunteers were active in many of our parks, and the benefits were realized, and we have never "looked back."

Goldstein was followed by Rhea Stangel-Maier and now the recently hired coordinator Claire Lamberg, and each have added immeasurably to the program. The program has grown to over 1,600 volunteers a year representing over 47,000 hours of work supporting the parks. This is truly remarkable. Volunteers contribute outdoor work such as prairie planting, invasive species removal, trail clearing, education and interpretation programs, recreation events, and spring and fall cleanups -- many of the elements needed to make a truly impressive and vibrant park system.



One of the major segments of our volunteers are the Friends groups. Our parks have 19 formal Friends groups supporting their individual parks. They provide programming, land management activities, and financial support. Bolstering those groups is a partnership between county staff and the Foundation for Dane County Parks, which together provide training sessions for the Friends and partners. In addition, the Foundation through the Endowment has already awarded approximately \$50,000 in grants to Friends groups to help with their supporting efforts.

Together, Parks staff, the volunteers, and the Foundation are creating an integrated web of support which will sustain and grow our Dane County Parks in the future. They are the true champions of the parks.

Thank you to our volunteers and the staff that support them. "Volunteers don't get paid, but it's not because they're worthless; it's because they are priceless."

Accessible Piers Funding at Babcock and Fish Camp County Parks

Raising money to install accessible piers and kayak launches has been a priority of the Foundation for several years. In April 2022, the Foundation gave \$42,725 to Dane County Parks in contributions from our donors and private grants to fund accessibility improvements at Babcock and Fish Camp County Parks. Both parks are popular for boating and fishing, and making them more accessible to people who are differently abled is an important goal of the Foundation and the Dane County Parks department.

Foundation President
Bill Lunney presents
the funds to DCP
Interim Director
Joleen Stinson.



Fish Camp
County Park.

Fish Camp County Park will have an accessible kayak launch installed to replace one of the existing fishing piers along the Yahara River. The kayak launch is expected to be installed by fall of this year.

Babcock County Park improvements will include three accessible fishing piers, two accessible lifts, and an accessible kayak launch. Designs and planning for the project are underway, and installation is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

Part of the donation for Fish Camp County Park came from the Estate of Donna Hilgendorf. The Foundation is grateful for the support of the Hilgendorf family and their passion for accessibility in our parks.



Accessible Public Shoreline Opportunities

Dane County Parks and several partners are planning improvements to increase accessibility for lake access and fishing opportunities at Babcock County Park and throughout the Dane County Parks System. This poster provided by a generous grant from the Madison Community Foundation. For more information visit: www.danecountyparks.com/Accessible-Fishing-Boating

① ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIERS



② CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH



③ ACCESSIBLE LIFT



④ SHERIFF BOAT MOORING

⑤ BENCHES

Babcock County Park

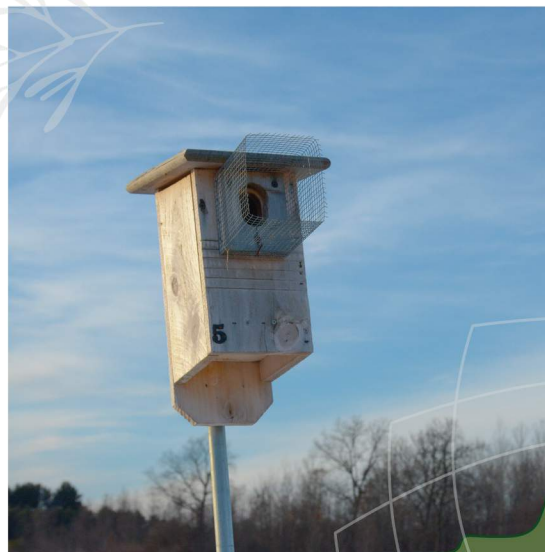


The map shows the shoreline of Lake Waubesa at Babcock County Park. It highlights several areas for improvement: 1. Accessible Fishing Piers (indicated by blue squares with the number 1), 2. Canoe/Kayak Launch (indicated by blue squares with the number 2), 3. Accessible Lifts (indicated by blue squares with the number 3), 4. Sheriff Boat Mooring (indicated by a blue square with the number 4), and 5. Benches (indicated by red squares with the number 5). The map also shows 'Open Space' areas and 'Accessible Parking'. A north arrow is located in the top right corner. An inset map shows the location of Babcock County Park relative to Lake Waubesa and the Village of McFarland. The address 2909 US Highway 51, McFarland, WI 53558 is provided.

2021 Foundation Grantees

Each year, the Foundation for Dane County Parks awards grants to Friends organizations and Partner groups that support education, interpretation, and volunteerism within the Dane County Parks System. During the 2021 grant cycle, the Foundation funded nine wonderful projects that will be carried out by Friends Groups and partner organizations this year. The projects are:

- **Access Ability Wisconsin** - \$2,000 to fund a part-time staff person to manage reservations and use of the all-terrain wheelchair housed at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, and to train and educate volunteers.
- **Friends of Anderson Park** - \$1,750 to install an irrigation system for the park's food pantry and community gardens that serve food pantries in Oregon, Belleville, and Verona.
- **Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area** - \$1,769 for signage, binoculars, and other outreach event materials as part of their collaborative events with the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- **Friends of McCarthy Park** - \$2,000 for a snow roller/compactor, large trail mower, and signage to groom and maintain the park's cross country ski trails, snowshoe trails, and sledding hill.
- **Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy** - \$1,800 to cover programming costs, like rental of all-terrain wheelchairs, for their continued programming for underserved populations.
- **Friends of Schumacher Farm Park** - \$2,000 for purchasing specialty prairie seed for their "Ag to Prairie Conversion" project.
- **Friends of Silverwood Park** - \$2,000 to develop a "Silverwood Healthy Soils Workshop" that will educate adult learners about regenerative soil practices in cooperation with Dane County, UW-Extension, and others.
- **Friends of Stewart Park** - \$2,000 to rent timber harvesting equipment, purchase interpretive signage, and provide educational opportunities for an Operation Fresh Start Crew.
- **Prairie Moraine Friends** - \$2,000 for the "Bluebirds in the Park" project to install two interpretive signs and birdhouses that will support community education about the bluebirds that live in the park.



Endowment

\$1,000,000

\$900,000

\$800,000

\$700,000

\$600,000

\$500,000

\$400,000

\$300,000

\$200,000

\$100,000

Thank you to all of our Friends and Partner groups who do so much good for our parks, and thank you to all of the Foundation Allocations Committee members who helped review this year's grants. These grants are supported from the earnings from the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment, managed by the Madison Community Foundation. The Foundation looks forward to supporting education, interpretation, and volunteerism in the parks for many years to come.

Friends Groups Collaborate With Ho-Chunk Nation on Park Projects

The Four Lakes Region of Dane County, known as Teejopeja by the Ho-Chunk, is ancestral land of the Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN) and Peoples. Naturally, some of that sacred land is located in County Parks.

The Foundation for Dane County Parks (FDCP), Dane County Parks (DCP), and many Friends groups have worked on equity and inclusion plans. In our efforts, it has become extremely apparent that we need to bring the voices of the Ho-Chunk into partnership concerning the historical, cultural, and natural resources of our parks and trails.

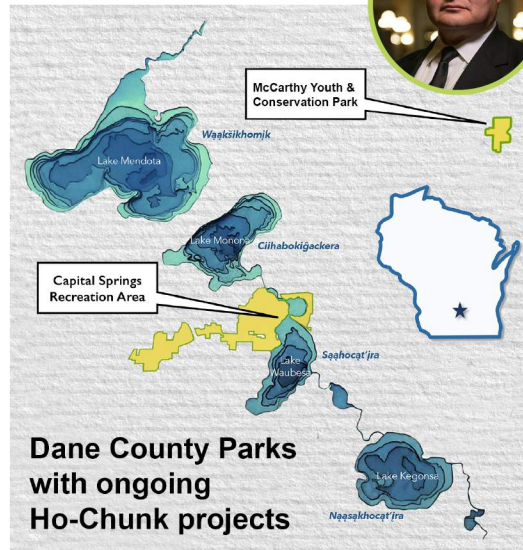
It is imperative to directly involve the HCN in interpreting their own history on a cultural landscape that is their ancestral homeland. The HCN has been connected to this land for millennia; and even though they were forcibly removed, with resilience many returned home. It is also important to consider how to best interpret Teejopeja for park visitors of diverse backgrounds in

order to educate them on this deep human history and ensure that the landscape is preserved for generations.

DCP and Friends groups, including the Friends of McCarthy Park (FMP) and the Friends of Capital Springs

Recreation Area (FOCSRA), have had the opportunity to receive consultation and collaboration from Bill Quackenbush. Quackenbush is a Ho-Chunk Deer Clan Tribal Member, who serves as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Cultural Resources Division Manager for the HCN of Wisconsin. He was listed recently as one of Wisconsin's 39 most Influential Native American Leaders by Madison365. Quackenbush states that we have a grand opportunity with the following projects. "I think it's important to acknowledge how vital a role the various Friends groups play in assuring our parks receive the love and care they do,"

he wrote. These can pave the way for future collaborative efforts. We are grateful for Quackenbush's help.



Friends of McCarthy Park

McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park features 285 acres of prairie, wetland, and oak savanna that hug Koshkonong Creek in Cottage Grove. This setting beautifully integrates with the Ho-Chunk community cultural educational project that has been evolving there since 2014.

Today, visitors can experience self-guided trailside interpretive nodes, cultural learning opportunities, and

demonstration sites, including: a traditional garden at the agricultural lifeway site, a traditional ciporoke (round house) at the summer/fall camp site, a storytelling area (with a Little Free Library replenished with Native American books) at the landscape narrative site, and a young maple tree stand for future sugar-bushing at the spring camp site.

The community cultural educational idea within the context of a county park stemmed from the capstone



Game Playing in Ciporoke at Snow Day Event



Ciporoke Frame



2021 HCN Youth maple tree planting with Adam Alves DCP Forester Specialist



Amanda and Bill at McCarthy Park

continued hands-on community engagement, in which Bill has been instrumental in continuing to share his knowledge and perspective with the local community," Depagter said.

Over the years, the collaborative efforts to maintain these sites have included many partners, such as DCP, HCN, FMP volunteers, and local schools. This project "has been a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, which was part of Russel and Ellie McCarthy's goal for the park (when they donated the land in 1974)," said Karen Bailey, FMP President.

"It wasn't possible any other way than a whole lot of people putting their minds and hearts together to make it happen," Quackenbush said. "I find myself oftentimes staying well past dark on the property, as it serves as a form of medicine for one's soul after a hard day's worth of work has taken place."

project that UW-Madison student Amanda Depagter pursued under the guidance of Professor Janet Gilmore. Depagter was inspired by a Ho-Chunk presentation Quackenbush previously gave during her class with Professor Patty Loew. "The educational sites within the park are organic and, as such, lend themselves to

Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area

The Capital Springs Recreation Area (CSRA) features 2,500 acres of prairies, woodlands, and contiguous wetlands between the western shores of Lake Waubesa and west to Fish Hatchery Road. Within it are Native sacred spaces and archaeological sites, including effigy mounds and notably in Lunney Lake Farm Park, the Lake Farms Archaeological District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The entire lakeshore is one continuous cultural landscape, since oral traditions and archaeological investigations have verified that this area has been home to Native people since the end of the last ice age.

In 2021, FOCSRA held planning sessions and created an interpretive planning report with the following partners: HCN, Dane County Historical Society (DCHS), DCP, Lussier Family Heritage Center, and Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. Funding for this \$2,000 project was provided by a Wisconsin Humanities Council mini grant, with matching funds from FOCSRA and DCHS. The process was facilitated by Danielle Benden of Driftless Pathways, LLC.

The shared vision of the project partners, which also included Quackenbush, is "to preserve and protect the natural and cultural landscape within the Capital Springs Recreation Area for future generations; to

enhance the visitor experience through interpretation of these resources; to recognize the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and their ancestral ties to this landscape; and to collaborate on projects of mutual benefit for all stakeholders."

A part of this vision – to collaborate with the HCN and welcome the HCN to the park -- will soon begin, made possible through a 2021 FDCP Endowment Grant. FOCSRA received the \$1,769.76 grant that will go toward three initiatives related to inclusive education with the HCN: traditional-use plant interpretive signage, a collaborative HCN park event in June 2022 with Ho-Chunk youth, and a supply

of binoculars for nature exploration to be used at the event and for everyday visitor use. "FOCSRA cares deeply about presenting educational material to the greater community with inclusion and historical understanding," said Clare Carlson, FOCSRA Naturalist.



Capital Springs Planning Session



Bird Watching at Capital Springs

Read the full article on our blog!

Foundation Supporter Spotlight:

by Marian Timmerman and Bill McCarthy

County Park Blessings

During the pandemic and before gas prices went up, we took long, leisurely rides in the country. We first started with Rustic Roads in a three county area, took other back roads to see the countryside, and watched crops being planted, grow, and harvested.

But an unexpected pleasure – and something we had not consciously done before – was to visit most of the county parks in our area. The Foundation for Dane County Parks newsletter reminded us of the treasures in our own backyard.

Some parks we went back to several times, such as Silverwood County Park. Here we looked at the gardens and the fruit trees planted in the field along the entry driveway, admired the beautifully restored limestone farm house, and always drove between the two small lakes which provided fishing, kayaking, and canoeing pleasure for visitors.

We were impressed with the variety of activity options found in the Dane County Parks. All had hiking trails, many had bike trails, and some even had equestrian trails. There were vegetable and flower gardens, most had a stream, lake, or pond, and all had shelters or tables for picnics. We left each park with a sense of peace and renewal for us personally and excitement about the variety of activities available for Dane County residents.

Thank you to the Foundation and Dane County for giving us something so pleasurable to do during the last two years of isolation.



Bill McCarthy and Marian Timmerman, of Cambridge, on a recent visit to Silverwood County Park.



Welcome to Claire Lamberg!



The Foundation would like to extend a warm welcome to Claire Lamberg, the new Volunteer Coordinator with Dane County Parks! The volunteer coordinator role, recently held by Rhea Stangel-Maier until her retirement in January 2021, plays an important role in managing the thousands of people who volunteer in our parks each year and supporting our 19 Friends Groups.

Lamberg started as the Land & Water Volunteer Coordinator for Dane County Parks in January 2022, having worked in some capacity for Parks as both a volunteer and employee since 2019. She holds a B.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Agriculture from Warren Wilson College and deeply appreciates the ecology of our natural areas.

Originally from Massachusetts, Lamberg and her wife moved to Wisconsin in 2017 after spending time living, working, and biking in beautiful areas of Maine and North Carolina.

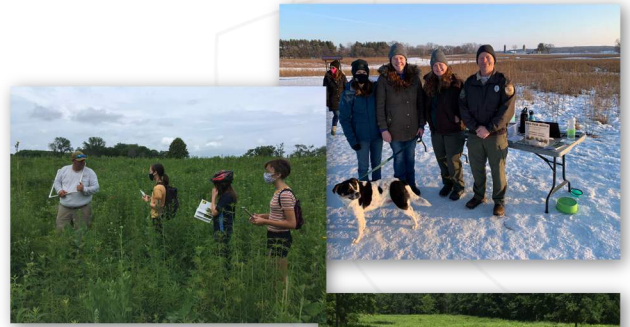
We look forward to working with Lamberg to support the incredible network of volunteers who contribute their time to Dane County Parks.

What the Foundation Has Been Up To This Year

It's been a busy few months for the Foundation for Dane County Parks, with all sorts of events, programs, and accomplishments taking place. Here are a few of the exciting things we've been working on recently.

January

- The Healthy Parks, Healthy You partnership that the Foundation has with Dean/SSM and Dane County Parks hosted a Doggy Play Day event in January at the new Anderson Dog Park to celebrate National Walk Your Dog month.
- The Foundation secured a grant from the American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation to fund a second year of the Dane County Parks Junior Naturalists summer program, which will now be expanded to include elementary school students.



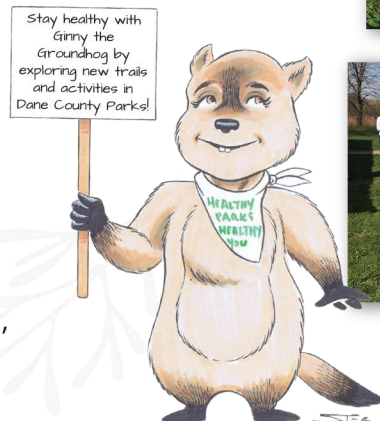
February and March

- The Foundation co-sponsored a series of volunteer training workshops, led by Parks staff, to help friends groups with volunteer recruitment and event planning. One of the workshops was about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our parks with a presentation from August Ball of Cream City Conservation.
- Dane County Parks received an Outstanding Park Design award from the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for the solar-powered park and campground at Lunney Lake Farm park.



April

- Healthy Parks, Healthy You is hosting an Earth Day event at Badger Prairie and Lunney Lake Farm Parks with face painting, scavenger hunts and prizes!



Mark Your Calendars For May 10th!

Dane County Parks will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic that the Foundation is helping to sponsor on Tuesday, May 10th. Volunteers and their family members are invited to join Dane County Parks staff to celebrate all the work and passion they've put into the parks. The event will be held at William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park at 5 p.m., after which you can mingle with fellow volunteers and parks staff while enjoying a catered meal and some music. For more information and to RSVP, visit danecountyparks.com/Event/Detail/1254.

