



Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533
www.friendsofgovdodge.org

Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship

Happy New Year from the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park!

Greetings to all Governor Dodge State Park Friends and supporters. With 2020 now behind us, we pause to reflect on the strangeness of the past year and eagerly anticipate good things in 2021. Since the start of the pandemic, Wisconsin residents spent less time visiting places like restaurants and stores, but *increased time spent in parks by almost 24%*! Governor Dodge was no exception, with record numbers of visitors enjoying the beauty of our wonderful park. Although many traditional Friends events were canceled due to pandemic restrictions, the Friends continued their efforts to improve and enhance park facilities.

Hikers, horseback riders, and their 4-legged companions avoided muddy feet thanks to significant improvements to several of the park's multi-use trails. Volunteers continued to maintain the Gateway prairie and flower beds throughout the park. The Friends equestrian committee moved full steam ahead with planning and fundraising for the equestrian campground called for in the park's **1984 Master Plan** with construction expected to begin this coming spring. Wow, how great to see this giant project become reality at long last! Also planned for 2021 is a brand new **Storywalk** installation, which we expect to be a popular enhancement for our youngest visitors.

We sincerely hope to resume annual events like Smokey Bear's Birthday party and the Share the Trails ice cream social in 2021. We are working to update our media outreach and invite you to visit us on our website www.FriendsofGovDodge.org, or our FB page for information about these and other fun events, resumption of workdays, naturalist programs and more. Finally, if you love Governor Dodge State Park and would like to help us in our mission of Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship at the park, please consider joining us or renewing your membership-see form below.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2021, and we hope that this year's journey around the sun sees you visiting Governor Dodge State Park often!

-----Friends Membership Form -----

Please mail this completed form along with your check to:

Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, 4175 State Highway 23, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Name _____

Address _____
street

_____ city/state/zip

Phone () _____
area code

E-Mail _____

Membership Options

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$20.00
- Corporate/business \$50.00
- Equestrian Friends** - ADD \$10 to Individual or \$15 to Family memberships to enhance equestrian projects
- I am donating \$ _____
- Please contact me about planned giving options



I would like to get involved with Friends projects. Please contact me about:

- Habitat restoration
- Volunteer recruitment
- Visitor education & interpretive programs
- Other _____
- Equestrian campground fundraising