



Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

• www.friendsofgovdodge.org

Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship

SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at Governor Dodge State Park!!

Spring arrived at Governor Dodge State Park and The Friends have already been very busy and have several work days and projects scheduled throughout the spring and summer. Below are some of the many activities:

- ✍ We got an early jump on the Highway 23 clean-up due to some warmer days in March. All areas to the north and south of the Park entrance have been cleared of trash. Several Friends members also picked up trash along the Twin Valley Lake shore areas near the beach and picnic grounds.
- ✍ The DNR burned several prairies and Friends members have been busy clearing the prairies of invasive Autumn Olive trees. This is an extensive job and any herbicides needing to be applied must be done when rain is not forecasted. Unfortunately, April rains were abundant.
- ✍ We have plans to cut invasive cedar trees from specified locations in the park.
- ✍ A kiosk will be going up for "**Kids Don't Float**" on Twin Valley Lake (*article on next page*). This is possible due to a grant providing funds to build the kiosk and supply loaner life jackets to boaters needing them because they have fewer than necessary. The Friends installed a kiosk at Cox Hollow Lake 2 years ago.
- ✍ There are plans for construction of a canoe landing area between the private canoes and the rental canoes at Twin Valley Lake.
- ✍ We have plans for painting of some of the bath houses around the park.
- ✍ **The Friends are pleased to fund summer naturalist programs at the park again this year! Gayl Stewart** will return for another year of leading hikes and activities for summer visitors and she has a great series of Saturday evening programs planned at the amphitheater. **Check the kiosk by the park office** for information about weekly programs.

These are a few of the projects planned for the near future. As spring passes and summer progresses the park will continue to get busier and other projects will arise. We are always looking for helping hands. Workdays are typically the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9:00 am to noon. If you would like to join us on a workday or become an active FOGD member, stop by the park office and ask about becoming a member or helping on projects and workdays.

Friends Receive Grant For A New Pet Swim Area

The Friends are delighted to announce the receipt a \$12,824 grant from the Stewardship fund to construct a pet swim area to be located at Twin Valley Lake. The grant will be matched by the Friends group. This project means that pet owners and their 4-legged friends will have more room to enjoy Governor Dodge State Park! Plans and permits are being worked on this summer. We hope to open the new area next year.

Friends' Area At Cox Hollow Beach Concession Stand

What kind of bird is that? The Friends can help answer that question! **Be sure to check out the Friends' area** at Cox Hollow Beach Concession Stand. We sell field guides, laminated fold-up guides, sticker books and coloring books for kids of all ages. **We are excited about a new item this year - Trail Map Hankies!** Stop in and see these bandanas with the map of Governor Dodge printed on them. They come in a rainbow of colors. Never get lost in the park again!



Friends of Governor Dodge-Equestrians

With nearly 25 miles of riding trails, Governor Dodge State Park offers some of the most beautiful horseback riding opportunities in Wisconsin. The Friends of Governor Dodge-Equestrians, as part of the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, have a special focus on promoting and enhancing equestrian opportunities in the park. In recent years, the equestrians have funded several improvements for horseback riders, such as placing mounting blocks at key locations throughout the park, and providing a seasonal porta-potty at the horse day use parking area.

In 2017 the equestrian group will work to educate multi-use trail users about trail-sharing safety through trailside signs and educational handouts. Fund-raising and horse-related fun events will be held throughout the season, and work will continue on horse campground relocation.

In the midst of a rainy spring, June 4th dawned clear and sunny for the equestrian group's 3rd annual fundraiser. Over 100 paid participants rode or hiked trails in the the park, collecting poker chips at stops along the way which were traded for a poker hand upon completion. Cash prizes for the top hands, a picnic lunch and silent auction rounded out the days activities.

For more information about events, projects and helping, visit our website: www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com.

Kids Don't Float

The DNR awarded the Friends a grant to build a second Kid's Don't Float loaner station for the Park at Twin Valley boat landing. The purpose of this program is to promote safe boating by loaning life jackets, which are required by law, to boaters who do not have them. The loaner station contains life jackets and throwable PFDs for anyone who may need them. There are sizes for adults and children of all ages. Anyone in need of a life jacket can borrow one at no cost. Users are asked to hang the used jackets on the provided hooks to dry when they leave. The program is honor based. Construction was completed in May.



Amazon Smiles for Governor Dodge



You can now support the Friends' projects at Governor Dodge whenever you make a purchase on Amazon! Just log on to smile.amazon.com and select The Friends of Governor Dodge as the 501(c) 3 group you would like to support. A portion of your purchase will then be directed to our group. **What a simple way to make a difference!**



Friends Membership Renewal 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
- Additional donation \$ _____
- I am unable to join the Friends, but would like to make a donation \$ _____
- Please send me information about the Friends of Governor Dodge Endowment Fund.



All donations are tax deductible!

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

- Invasive species removal efforts
- Firewood preparation & sales
- Visitor education & interpretive programs
- Volunteer recruitment
- Nature Center planning and fundraising
- Other _____