



Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
Parks Division

Joleen Stinson, Parks Director
Laura M. Hicklin, LWRD Director
Melissa Agard, Dane County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dane County Park Commission

FROM: Joleen Stinson, Parks Director

DATE: May 14, 2025

RE: Approve Endowment Distribution Request from the Madison Community Foundation for Collaborative Friends Grant Awards

I am writing to respectfully request the Park Commission's approval for two related actions concerning the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment held at the Madison Community Foundation (MCF):

1. Approval of Collaborative Friends Grant Awards

The Friends Grant Program remains a valuable tool for empowering community groups to support the stewardship and enhancement of Dane County Parks.

I request the Commission's approval of the Collaborative Friends Grant awards, as recommended by the review committee and outlined in the attached table.

The program is titled the *Collaborative* Friends Grant Program in recognition of the Foundation for Dane County Parks, which plays a lead role in fundraising to grow the endowment. The Foundation also has representation on the grant review committee.

The total proposed funding for this year's grants includes \$6,000 from the Dane County Parks operating budget, with the remainder to be funded through an endowment distribution, contingent upon approval of the request below.

2. Authorization to Request MCF Endowment Distribution

I am also requesting authorization from the Commission to request a \$9,043 distribution from the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment at MCF to fund the balance of this year's grant awards. Combined with the county contribution, this distribution will enable us to fully fund the proposed projects submitted by our Friends groups, so long as the projects met grant eligibility criteria.

Additional endowment funds remain available, and I anticipate submitting a second distribution request later this calendar year.

2025 Spring Friends Grant Application Summary

The Foundation for Dane County Parks and Dane County Parks collaborative grant program is open to Dane County Parks Friend Groups and partner organizations to lead educational programs, implement small projects, and purchase equipment for volunteer workdays. This collaborative grant program can fund a full or partial project/program between \$250-\$2,000. This year's grant application period ran from February 20, 2025 to March 24, 2025.

Applicant	Recommended Award	Description	Dane County Parks Property
Anderson Park Friends	\$300	Purchase and installation of 20 markers to help hikers identify trees in the Arthur Sholts Memorial Forest	Anderson Farm County Park
Capital Off Road Pathfinders	\$2,000	Develop a new website to enhance community engagement, improve trail condition reporting, and increase volunteer participation	Badger Prairie, CamRock, Seminole Mountain Bike Trails
Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor	\$860	Purchase equipment for volunteers to use for land restoration. Also posts and fencing to protect 25 newly planted trees.	Ice Age Trail Junction Natural Resource Area
Friends of Donald Park	\$2,000	Purchase equipment for volunteers to use for land restoration. And replace a tractor used for equestrian trail maintenance.	Donald County Park
Friends of Halfway Prairie Schoolhouse	\$400	New curtains for the schoolhouse.	Halfway Prairie Park
Friends of Lower Mud Lake	\$1,880	Purchase equipment for volunteers to use for land restoration	Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area
Friends of Silverwood Park	\$1,500	Compost education / local fuel for volunteers	Silverwood County Park
Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society	\$325	Lighting for Beer Cave	CamRock County Park
Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy	\$1,236	Music and Memories in Nature for adults with dementia	Pheasant Branch Conservancy
Prairie Moraine Friends, Inc.	\$2,000	Purchase a 200 gallon water trailer to water newly planted trees & and supplement prescribed fire equipment	Prairie Moraine County Park
Southwest Chapter of Trout Unlimited	\$1,330	New electric chainsaw for volunteers to use for land restoration	Dane County Parks Trout Stream Easements
Upper Sugar River Watershed Association	\$1,212	Create 6 backpacks that will be at the Verona Public Library for checkout to explore parks with lessons and equipment	Badger Prairie Park, Prairie Moraine Park

\$15,043