



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 27, 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 helps community groups support the stewardship and enhancement of Dane County Parks. I request the Commission's approval of the Collaborative Friends Grant awards, as recommended by Parks staff and outlined in the attached table.

2. Authorization to Request MCF Endowment Distribution

I am also requesting authorization from the Commission to request a \$7,707 distribution from the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment at MCF to fund this year's Friends Grant awards.

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

2026 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 was March 1 – April 19, 2026.

Applicant	Requested Amount	Description	Dane County Parks Property
Friends of Schumacher Farm	\$1,000	Purchase equipment for volunteers to use for land restoration.	Schumacher Farm County Park
Prairie Moraine Friends	\$1,000	Purchase/rent trail run special event supplies.	Prairie Moraine County Park
Ice Age Trail Alliance	\$1,000	Purchase materials to build a frame with plaque to preserve and interpret an area of exposed bedrock with visible glacial striations.	Badger Prairie County Park
CORP Trails	\$1,000	Install a second toolbox on the west end of Seminole Trails and purchase trail-maintenance tools.	Seminole Mountain Bike Trails
Friends of Donald Park	\$474	Purchase equipment for volunteers to use for land restoration.	Donald County Park
Friends of Lower Mud Lake NRA (Foundation as fiscal agent)	\$723	Purchase equipment and fuel for volunteers to use for land restoration.	Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area
Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy	\$550	Hold two "Make a Memory Day" programs.	Pheasant Branch Conservancy
Friends of Badger Mill Creek Conservancy	\$960	Purchase equipment for volunteers to use for land restoration.	Ice Age Trail Junction Natural Resource Area
Friends of Silverwood Park	\$1,000	Purchase equipment and fuel for volunteers to use for land restoration and maintain the park's labyrinth by adding limestone around the pavers.	Silverwood County Park

\$7,707