

AGENDA

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE

Jefferson County Courthouse
320 S Main Street, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549

April 8, 2013 @ 2:30 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland, Mike Kelly, Rick Kuhlman, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. Review of the Agenda
5. Public Comment
6. Approval of the March 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes
7. Communications
 - a. Attend Your Spring Hearing
 - b. County Parks Have Shelters for Rent
 - c. County Open Space Plan Meeting set – Fort Atkinson Daily Times – Jefferson Advertiser
 - d. Dog Park Donation
 - e. Dorothy Dash Email
 - f. Assembly Panel Likes Idea of Rock River Scenic Route – Watertown Daily Times
 - g. Economic Development Corridor May Soon Grow – Beloit Daily News
 - h. Letter from Senator Tim Cullen – Rock River Scenic & Historic Route
 - i. Guided Bird Walk Slated at Dorothy Carnes Park – Daily Union
 - j. Jefferson County Parks to Undergo Improvements – Daily Union
8. Discussion and possible decision to authorize Snowmobile Program Application for Outdoor Recreation Aids Grant Resolution
9. Discussion and possible decision to authorize application to County Fish and Game Project Grant
10. Discussion and possible decision to authorize acceptance of grant for a Handicap Fishing Wharf on Blackhawk Island
11. Discussion on Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update Public Meeting
12. Discussion and possible decision on Korth Park Playground fundraising event and consideration of naming rights
13. Update on Parks Department Staffing discussions
14. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) project
15. Update on Rock River Trail Initiative (RRTI)
16. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for: May 6, 2013 at 1:00 pm
17. Adjourn

The Committee may discuss and/or take action on any item specifically listed on the agenda.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator at 920-674-7101; 24 hours prior to the meeting, so appropriate arrangements can be made.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

320 S Main Street, Rm 202

Jefferson WI 53549

April 8, 2013 @2:30 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland, Mike Kelly, Rick Kuhlman, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Borland at 2:30 p.m.

(Note: The meeting was held in Room 112 because of construction noise)

2. Committee members present included: Borland, Kuhlman, Nass and Tietz. Others present: Joe Nehmer, Jane Stanger, Kevin Wiesmann, Kim Buchholz, Phil Ristow, John Molinaro, Margaret Burlingham, Anthony Schadt, Karen Schadt, Donald Hepp, Ken Carpenter, and Hope Oostdik. Absent: Supervisor Kelly.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law – In compliance

4. Review of the Agenda – Approved

5. Public Comment

Anthony Schadt, Town of Milford, inquired about the final draft plan for the Watertown-Waterloo Bike trail. Nehmer informed Mr. Schadt the item is not on the agenda, it was taken off the agenda by the request of Supervisor Kelly.

Hope Oostik, Town of Lake Mills commented on the Harvest Gardens at Korth Park and thanked the Parks for developing the garden.

6. Approval of the March 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Kuhlman, seconded by Tietz, to approve the March 4, 2013 meeting minutes. Carried 4-0.

7. Communications

- a. Attend Your Spring Hearing
- b. County Parks Have Shelters for Rent
- c. County Open Space Plan Meeting set – Fort Atkinson Daily Times – Jefferson Advertiser
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- i. Guided Bird Walk Slated at Dorothy Carnes Park – Daily Union
- j. Jefferson County Parks to Undergo Improvements – Daily Union

13. Update on Parks Department Staffing.

Nehmer discussed what the Parks Department has worked out for staffing for the next 5 years. This is what the Parks Department thinks is necessary. The Parks Committee is agreeable to what the Parks Department has come up with and said we should go forward with our recommendations on staffing.

14. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project

Nehmer updated the committee on the Watertown to Waterloo bike trail. We are waiting for final draft. We have received the Memorandum of Understanding back from the DNR and it is being reviewed. Tietz reported he has formed a group to help with developing Horse Trails for the GHA and the first meeting was attended by 10 people. This group will meet again next month.

15. Update on Rock River Trail Initiative (RRTI)

Nehmer announced the Rock River Trail has now become a National Water Trail.

16. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for May 6, 2013 at 1:00 pm

17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 3:40 p.m. made by Kuhlman, seconded by Nass. Carried 4-0.

MADISON — Legislation to create a highway route through 11 Wisconsin and Illinois counties to promote the beauty and history of the Rock River was warmly received Tuesday by an Assembly committee.

The Rock River Scenic and Historic Route already is a canoe and kayak trail spanning the 320-mile length of the Rock River, and plans are to add motor and bike routes, too.

The city of Watertown has supported the Water Trail route that opened last fall and Mayor Ron Krueger looks forward to the motor route being established.

"The motor route is important because in addition to the paddlers on the river, we feel many others would want to drive the scenic route, and incorporated into that route would be many of the historic areas of the city. That would bring in tourists to our businesses, and we've been working hard to get this done," Krueger said.

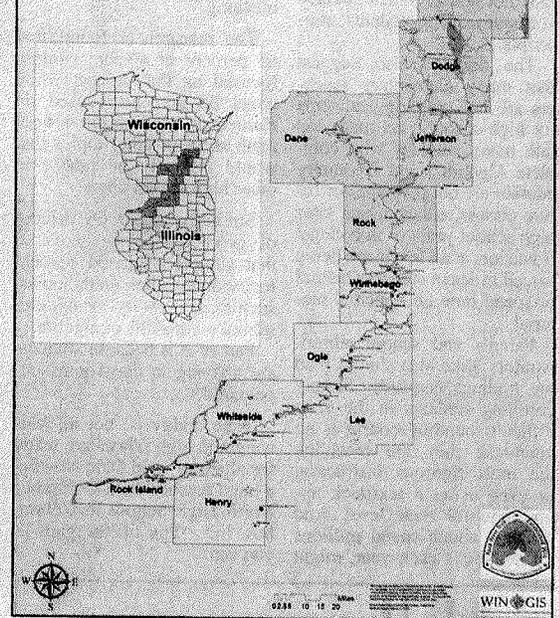
Businessmen like John Raub understand how enhanced recreational facilities can foster economic development. Raub owns 2 Rivers Bicycle and Outdoor Shop in Fort Atkinson and now plans to open one on Main Street in Watertown.

Krueger said the new business is an example of the payoff that comes from the investment communities in their natural resources.

Gregory Farnham, volunteer coordinator for the Rock River Trail Initiative, the group that spearheads the trail-creation effort, has met with Illinois and Wisconsin Department of Transportation officials to get the motor route designated on a turn-by-turn basis.

In Watertown, the motor route would traverse streets including Church, West Milwau-

Rock River Trail



A map of the Rock River Trail details the Wisconsin and Illinois counties along the route.

kee, South Water, West Main, North Sixth, East Madison, North Fourth and Park View Lane before exiting the city on Boughton Street.

Watertown put on several signs for the Water Trail marking canoe access to the Rock River and once the legislation is approved Krueger anticipates the city "doing whatever we need to," to get the motor route signs installed.

Assembly Bill 55, introduced by state Rep. John Jagler, R-Watertown, requires contributions to fund the cost of making and installing the signs. Farnham is counting on municipalities, individuals and founda-

tions to finance the cost.

The trail initiative is a 501(c) 3 corporation, headquartered in Hustisford and Rockford, Ill. It raised thousands of dollars necessary to sign the water trail but signage for motor route will be significantly more due to its many twists and turns.

State Rep. Keith Ripp, R-Lodi, expects the Assembly Transportation Committee he chairs to advance the bill to the Assembly on March 26.

"This bill supports economic development and that makes it a go these days," Ripp said.

A similar bill sponsored by state Sen. Timothy Cullen, D-

(Continued on back, col. 6)

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River

(Continued from page 1)
Janesville, hasn't been to committee yet.

The Illinois Legislature is expected to approve a bill creating the Rock River Scenic Trail motor trail soon, said Farnham.

By Kevin Murphy
for the Daily Times

ASSEMBLY PANEL LIKES IDEA OF ROCK RIVER SCENIC ROUTE¹

MADISON -- Legislation to create a highway route through 11 Wisconsin and Illinois counties to promote the beauty and history of the Rock River was warmly received Tuesday by an Assembly committee.

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In Watertown, the motor route would traverse streets including Church, West Milwaukee, South Water, West Main, North Sixth, East Madison, North Fourth and Park View Lane before exiting the city on Boughton Street.

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the legislation is approved Krueger anticipates the city "doing whatever we need to," to get the motor route signs installed.

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"This bill supports economic development and that makes it a go these days," Ripp said.

A similar bill sponsored by state Sen. Timothy Cullen, D-Janesville, hasn't been to committee yet. The Illinois Legislature is expected to approve a bill creating the Rock River Scenic Trail motor trail soon, said Farnham.

County parks have shelters for rent

The Jefferson County Parks Department has a variety of shelters within its various parks that are available to rent.

So, persons thinking of holding their family reunion, wedding, birthday party, graduation party or other special event at one of the Jefferson County Park shelters should contact the department to reserve their date.

The Jefferson County Parks Department also reminds citizens that if they are hosting an event at a county park where over 20 people will be in attendance, a group permit is required. There is no charge for this permit.

The notification assists the Parks Department with its planning and notification of repairs and construction, etc., that are occurring in the parks.

Shelter reservations for any of the 12 park shelters can be made by contacting Jane at (920) 674-7260 or janes@jeffersoncountywi.gov. Park shelters may be reserved on a daily basis during daylight hours for a fee.

The rental fee varies by shelter size and amenities offered.

The Jefferson County Parks

Department has shelters at the following parks:

- Carlin Weld County Park in Palmyra.
- Cold Spring Creamery Park in Fort Atkinson.
- Dorothy Carnes County Park in Fort Atkinson.*
- Knox County Park in Ixonia.
- Korth County Park on Elm Point Road in Lake Mills.*
- Korth County Park on Korth Lane in Lake Mills.* **
- Pohlmann County Park in Helenville.
- Rock Lake County Park in Lower, Lake Mills.*
- Rock Lake County Park in Upper, Lake Mills.
- Rock River County Park in Johnson Creek.
- Rome Pond County Park in Rome.
- Welcome Travelers County Park in Whitewater.*

* Electric is available.

** Kitchen is available at an additional cost.

For additional information about the Jefferson County Parks System, visit the website: <https://www.jeffersoncountywi.gov> and click on the Parks Department.

County open space plan meeting set

JEFFERSON — The public is invited to provide their input for an update to the Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at the Fort Community Credit Union building in Jefferson, located at 100 N. Main St. (at the intersection of State Highway 26 and Highway 18) in downtown Jefferson.

Parking is located in back of the building.

The Jefferson County Parks Department updates its comprehensive park plan every five years to remain eligible for grant funding. An extensive planning and public involvement process was conducted for the 2007 version of the Park Plan that set the course that the Parks Department continues to follow.

During the current planning phase, the Parks Department is celebrating the successes of the last six years, informing residents about the Glacial Heritage Area in Jefferson County and seeking the public's opinion on the direction the Parks Department is taking.

Meeting participants will receive the new Parks Department brochure that summarizes the features of Jefferson County Parks, lists short-term goals and visions for the future, and describes the Glacial Heritage Area.

A short presentation will cover the brochure and recent park activities. The public then will have an opportunity to comment on the direction the Jefferson County Parks Department is taking and ask questions.

The Parks System consists of 16 county parks that cover 945 acres and 17 miles of paved bicycle/pedestrian paths.

For more information, contact the Jefferson County Parks Department at (920) 674-7260.

Jefferson County parks to undergo improvements

By Lydia Statz
Union staff writer

JEFFERSON — Jefferson County Parks will undergo a lot of improvements during the next four years, according to the parks department's new five-year plan.

A public hearing Thursday brought a chance for parks officials and the public to interact, hearing suggestions from residents and a presentation from parks officials on what to expect in the county's recreational areas in the next few years.

Many improvements already have been made at several area parks, and they have proven popular with county residents. They largely were part of the county's 2005 master plan that the Jefferson County Parks Department updates every five years to remain eligible for grant funding.

An extensive planning and public involvement process was conducted for the 2007 version of the plan that set the course that the Parks Department continues to follow in its new 2012-17 five-year plan.

Margaret Burlingham of Lan-Design, a parks planning consultant who has been working with the county, presented many of the recent improvements and the progress that will continue to be made.

"This is not a large redo," said Burlingham. "Our purpose is to review and reaffirm what we've done, while updating for demographic changes."

Many parks have received new signage, historical markers or interpretive panels in recent years, giving them an overall cohesive

look. The Glacial River Trail network that winds through the county has been expanded to stretch 34 miles, and more bike trails are planned to connect the cities of Lake Mills, Waterloo, Watertown and Oconomowoc.

Two rustic campsites recently have been added at Dorothy Carnes County Park west of Fort Atkinson, along with new shelters in Korth Park overlooking Rock Lake in the Town of Lake Mills and the Bicentennial Dog Park south of Johnson Creek. Restoration was completed on all

22 conical Indian mounds at Garman Nature Preserve near Waterloo, as well as an extensive invasive species removal at Indian Mounds and Trail Park south of Fort Atkinson.

She noted one of the major features of Jefferson County's parks is their focus on conservation.

"The parks don't really have ballfields and stadiums," she said. "Instead, they're these really beautiful natural areas where people can just go and experience nature. And that's something

(Continued on page 7)

Jefferson County parks improved

(Continued from page 1)
we're really going to keep focusing on."

One of the tenets of the department's plan is to "restore prairies, wetlands, savannas and woodlands," and the department will continue to seed native grasses and wildflowers at area parks.

Another major project for the department will be the addition of the Holzheuter farm to the parks system. It is located between Waterloo and Watertown, on one of the highest points in the county.

"It's really beautiful and nobody knows about it," said Burlingham. "I mean, on a clear day, you can see Holy Hill in one direction, and all the way to White-water in the other. The views on

the top of that hill are just spectacular."

The park could be a potential site for the development of new mountain biking trails due to the hilly terrain.

At Dorothy Carnes County Park, the Mason Homestead log home restoration is well under way, she noted. The home has been dismantled and volunteers are working to hew logs and reconstruct the home with period tools and materials.

Eventually, the farmstead will be a learning site for residents to view a pioneer home, and the team hopes to have made significant progress by the second annual Mason Jar Jamboree celebration in the fall.

The county also will seek to add more accessible features to

county parks and continue cultivating partnerships with cooperating agencies. A number of the county's park and trail systems are operated in cooperation with neighboring counties, states and the Department of Natural Resources, so a good working relationship is crucial for good management.

Jefferson County currently operates 16 county parks that cover 945 acres and 17 miles of paved bicycle/pedestrian paths. The system is part of the Glacial Heritage Area.

A brochure outlining the county's new five-year plan, as well as proposed expansions to the park system, is available for residents to view. For information, contact the Jefferson County Parks Department at (920) 674-7260.

Friday, March 23, 2013

Daily Union

Come see what's in your back yard!

Guided bird walk slated at Dorothy Carnes Park

The Friends of Glacial Heritage Area and the Madison Audubon Society are teaming to invite persons to a guided bird walk at Dorothy Carnes Park West on Sunday, March 24, at 9 a.m.

Members expect to be in the area until about noon. Experienced and knowledgeable birders, Brad Webb, vice president of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club, and Karen Etter-Hale, of the Madison Audubon Society, will be on hand to identify birds and answer questions.

Scopes will be set up at the observation deck overlooking Rose Lake for those who want to bird-watch from a single location, while those who wish to explore the area will be led through the woodland and prairie trails.

This is the beginning of the migratory season for wildlife and a variety of ducks, geese (including greater white-fronted), sandhill cranes and other shorebirds who just might be passing through depending upon snow and ice conditions are possible show stoppers. It would not be surprising to see red-winged blackbirds, eastern bluebirds and meadowlarks crossing our path at this time of year as well.

The week of March 18-23 also is National Wildlife Week as pro-

claimed every third week in March by the National Wildlife Federation. This year they are celebrating trees and what they do for us.

"Not only do trees benefit wildlife at all stages of their lives — by providing shelter, nesting places, food, and hiding places for predators and prey — trees also are the lungs of the Earth, because they renew our air supply by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen for us to breathe," Webb said.

From their canopies to their roots, trees are essential for thousands of wildlife species — from woodpeckers that drill on the trunks of mature trees, to beavers felling trees to build their homes, and to huge moose eating tree leaves and sprouts in the forest. Buds for leaves and flowers are beginning to show at this time of year.

Each month, the Friends hosts a hike to explore the parks, wildlife areas and state natural areas in the newly-designated Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) which includes most of Jefferson County, and parts of Dane, Rock and Dodge Counties. There are more than 27 locations within the GHA providing a multitude of outdoor recreational activities that include biking, wildlife view-

ing and bird watching, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, sledding, fishing, hunting, trapping, paddling, picnicking, and exploring archaeological and historical sites.

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to enjoy the wildlife areas in your own backyard! Individuals with knowledge of the park, the habitat or wildlife, or personal experiences in the area are invited to come and share their stories.

Remember to bring your binoculars, cameras, scopes and hiking poles, and to wear sturdy footwear. The weather forecast looks promising for a little warmer day but most likely it will be a bit muddy. All ages are invited to participate.

Be sure to check the Jefferson-Dodge Birding Group website at www.theropod.org/walks.html or the Glacial Heritage Area website at www.glacialheritagearea.org.

For more information about the hike or the Glacial Heritage Area, contact Clare Carlson at FriendsofGHA@gmail.com or (608) 513-3252 or Frankie Fuller at (608) 445-0809.

Persons can mark their calendar for the Saturday, April 20, walk which will be held at 9 a.m. in Korth Park.



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Jane Stanger

From: Joe Nehmer
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:28 AM
To: Jane Stanger
Subject: FW: Dorothy Dash

Agenda.

From: Joe Nehmer
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:27 AM
To: 'heather.hartwig@thomsonreuters.com'
Cc: Jane Stanger
Subject: Dorothy Dash

Hi Heather,

Thank you for contacting us again about fund raising for Dorothy Carnes Park. We are honored to be partners with you and the girls. It puts a smile on my face when I think about the girls presenting the donation to the Jefferson County Parks Committee members. You most certainly have our permission to donate the funds to the park.

1

Thank you,

Joe Nehmer, Director
Jefferson County Parks Department

From: Walt Christensen [<mailto:wmchris@idcnet.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 9:17 PM
To: Barb Frank
Subject: Constituent comment

Hi Barb,

I am pasting a comment I got today about Dorothy Carnes Park. Is this worthy of including in the next meeting correspondence?

On 2/10/2013 7:20 PM, Craig Ficenec wrote:

Thanks for the offer, Walt. I should have been planning ahead better as I ended up at Dorothy Carnes with Calvin on skiis (first time... he liked it) and Miles in snowshoes (he liked it too but we didn't like how he likes to walk on your skis and poles!). Didn't coordinate in time to have Cynthia on snowshoes too.

Its really makes a difference in quality of life here, having a park of the quality of Dorothy Carnes park so close by. You can take that to the rest of your county board member too!

Thanks Barb,

Walt

--
Walt
Walter M. Christensen
Jefferson County Supervisor
Dist 30
W7057 Pond Road
Fort Atkinson WI 53538
920-723-1320
wmchris@idcnet.com

"It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory."
W. Edwards Deming



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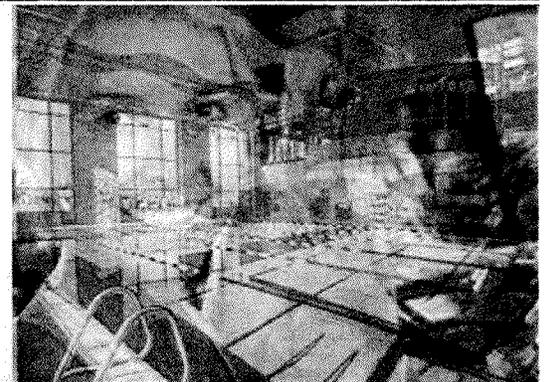
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Home News

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the ill

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WATER

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National Water Trail System Logo use

We approve the use of the NWTS logo by the designated [x water trail]. This permission is specifically for this purpose; it is not transferable. The NWTS logo can only be used for educational and promotional purposes; it cannot be used on items that will be sold for profit or on undesignated water trails. Please contact us with any questions or further needs.

Contact for further information:

Corita Waters, NWTS

202-354-6900

NWTS@nps.gov

National Water Trail System Logo directions

This zip file contains the NWTS logo in a high resolution jpg, pdf and png formats. I attempted to down size the logo less ~250kb but anything less then 900kb, the logo loses quality.

The NWTS color branding is on Adobe's site with multiple color codes. Follow the link and then click on the icon button that looks like an Equalizer located under the green color palette.

<http://kuler.adobe.com/#themeID/1735181>

Any problems, don't hesitate to call.

Contact for further information:

Ángel López

Visual Information Specialist

National Park Service

Angel_Lopez@nps.gov

303.969.2674

Jane Stanger

From: Kim Buchholz - Parks
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 8:15 AM
To: Jane Stanger
Subject: FW: Designation of Rock River Water Trail as a National Water Trail
Attachments: National Water Trail System Logo directions.docx; NWTS_Official Logo.zip

Kim Buchholz, Program Assistant
Jefferson County Parks Department
320 South Main Street
Room 204, Courthouse
Jefferson WI 53549
920-674-7452
kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us

From: waterdown waterdown [<mailto:waterdown@wildblue.net>]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 5:30 PM
To: dick@cityofwaupun.org; Ehlenbeck, Bill; David Schreiber; Joe Nehmer; Sheila De Forest; williaml@co.rock.wi.us; James Kerler; Tom Lindblade; Frank Schier; marynorm2@comcast.net; Bob & Sonia Vogl; Candice K. Holbrook; John and

1

Debbie Thompson; Loren Swartley; Dorothy Brown; Dean Mathias
Cc: Kim Buchholz - Parks; Kevin Wiesmann; inch0@mchsi.com; Matthews, Gregory K - DNR; Lin Vogl
Subject: Designation of Rock River Water Trail as a National Water Trail

Rock River Trail Initiative Council Members:

I have exciting news to share with everyone ... !

The Rock River Water Trail is now a National Water Trail!!!

Please read below the official email from the National Park Service-Washington, DC.

I appreciate your support, participation and assistance to see this wonderful project through to the achievement as a member of the National Water Trails System.

Sincerely,

Greg Farnham

From: NWTS, NPS <nwts@nps.gov>
Date: Thu, Apr 4, 2013 at 11:07 AM
Subject: Designation of Rock River Water Trail as a National Water Trail
To: frankschier@hotmail.com, waterdown@wildblue.net, Nathan Caldwell <nathan_caldwell@fws.gov>

I am proud to let you know that the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has designated the Rock River Water Trail into the National Water Trails System. We are sending out your official letter of designation and certificate, along with trail markers for your use.

We will populate the [national water trails site](#) with your trail information in the next few weeks. I've attached the NWTS logo files for your use. We approve the use of the National Water Trails System logo by the designated Rock River Water Trail. This permission is specifically for this purpose; it is not transferable. The NWTS logo can only be used for educational and promotional purposes; it cannot be used on items that will be sold for profit or on undesignated water trails.

Please do let us know of any events or celebrations on your trail. If you need any additional information or have any additional questions, please contact us. Welcome to the National Water Trail System!

Corita Waters, Coordinator

[National Water Trails System](#)

NWTS@nps.gov | [202-354-6900](tel:202-354-6900)

Attend Your Spring Hearing

A number of important issues will be on the ballot for this year's WDNR/Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings to be held in every county of the state on Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. The Natural Resources Board considers ballot results from the hearings, so your input is critical.

Attending the Spring Hearings requires only a small time commitment, as you can fill out the ballot and leave if you wish. All citizens can attend and voice their opinions on each wildlife and environmental issue question. The first half of the evening will focus on fish and wildlife questions proposed by WDNR. The second portion consists of Wisconsin Conservation Congress questions, many of which are forwarded to WDNR for rule consideration.

Yet More Hunting in State Parks

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is asking, in Advisory Question 70, whether there should be hunting opportunities in state parks beyond the expanded opportunities already approved recently by the Natural Resources Board.

Most citizens didn't find out about the recent expansion of hunting and trapping into our state parks starting



Bringing up the rear

April Meeting

Continued from p. 1

are responding to climate change and how that might slow down or hasten the future course of global warming.

It turns out it's trickier to measure and predict these rates of photosynthesis and decomposition than one might imagine, especially when trying to go beyond the scale of a small number of trees. Desai's lab has helped pioneer long-term measurements of whole ecosystem carbon cycling that now form a global monitoring network.

In particular, Desai and others have a lot of interest in what's going on in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest, home to some of the world's most productive forests and landscapes that also harbor significant diversity in wildlife. Locally, the winters have gotten warmer and the summers have seen increases in extremes of severe storms and droughts. Come hear how these factors are affecting forests and wetlands regionally and globally, how those changes trickle down the food chain, and how Wisconsin landscapes might change in the future.

March/April 2013

Jan. 1, 2013 until months after the Sporting Heritage Act was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor because the provision was slipped in as an amendment to an unrelated bill. The intense public outcry from non-hunters whose use and enjoyment of the parks would be severely limited by the new bill forced the Natural Resources Board to scale back the proposal, opening the parks to all hunting and trapping but only from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, and from April 1 through the third spring turkey season. The board also allowed bow hunting from Nov. 15 through the end of the deer archery season in early January. The question on the April ballot will be whether to expand hunting opportunities in state parks beyond what was approved by the board.

Many citizens and organizations, including Madison Audubon Society, support limited hunting in Wisconsin's state parks, especially deer hunting, for habitat management purposes. Opening parks to all hunting and trapping disenfranchises the majority of park users, and is fundamentally at odds with the purposes of our parks. That purpose, according to Wisconsin statute 27.01, is "to provide areas for public recreation and for public education in conservation and nature study. An area may qualify as a state park by reason of its scenery, its plants and wildlife, or its historical, archaeological or geological interest."

Lead Fishing Tackle

WDNR Question 8 asks whether anglers should be required to use non-lead sinkers, weights, and jigheads if they are less than one inch long in any dimension and less than 1 ounce in weight on several lakes in Vilas County in order to protect loons and other water birds, and to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to water birds. Votes on the same question on the 2012 ballot were 1,646 in support and 1,703 opposed. Voting yes for this pilot project would be a small but important step in the right direction.

Additional Questions of Interest

WDNR Advisory Question 68 asks whether there should be "legislation to prohibit the use of dogs to hunt and training dogs to hunt wolves." Congress Advisory Question 82 asks whether all non-motorized boats in Wisconsin should be registered. And Congress Advisory Question 84 asks whether the state should allow hunting of feral pigs year-round with any hunting license (Currently, unprotected feral pigs, which cause serious agricultural and erosion problems in the state, can be hunted with a small game license only).

Please attend your Spring Hearing. The Dane County hearing will be at Sun Prairie High School; Columbia County at the Middle School in Portage; Dodge County at Horicon International Education Center; Iowa County at Dodgeville High School; Jefferson County at Jefferson County Fair Park; Richland County at Richland County Courthouse; and Sauk County at UW Baraboo Campus, Baraboo. To view the entire Spring Hearing questionnaire and list of county hearing locations, visit the WDNR website: dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html. For more information, contact me.

—Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary
Karen.Etter.Hale@madisonaudubon.org



TIM CULLEN
STATE SENATOR
15th District

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Testimony of Sen. Tim Cullen
Assembly Bill 55, designating the Rock River Scenic & Historic Route
Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 11 a.m.
417 North (GAR Room)

Good Morning/Afternoon. I'm Tim Cullen, the lead Senate author of this bill. Thank you, Chairman Ripp for holding this public hearing.

Assembly Bill 55 and its companion bill in the Senate (SB 41) designate a driving route roughly parallel to the Rock River.

The driving route starts at the Rock River's headwaters near the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County and wends southward through southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, where it flows into the Mississippi River at Rock Island.

The idea for the driving route came from an organization called the Rock River Trail Initiative. This organization was founded in 2010 by River enthusiasts in Wisconsin and Illinois who felt the Rock was under-used and under-appreciated.

The purpose of the Rock River Trail Initiative – and this bill – is to raise the profile of the 320-mile River as a recreation destination. We want to bring more canoeists, kayakers, boaters, anglers, bicyclists, and tourists in general to the River.

That will mean more tourism spending at the restaurants, gas stations, hotels, bike shops, and sporting goods shops along the River.

Among the communities that the River runs through or near are, from north to south, Waupun, Theresa, Mayville, Horicon, Hustisford, Watertown, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, Edgerton, my hometown of Janesville, and Beloit.

The first phase of the Initiative was to mark a paddling route. The current phase is to designate the driving route, and that is why we drafted this bill.

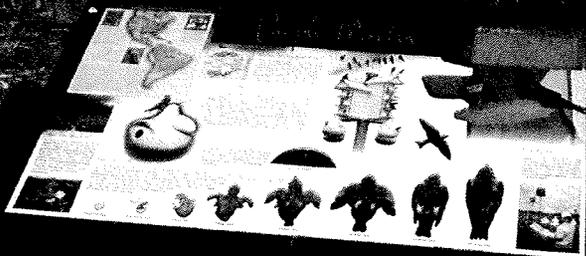
The signage and maps will show points to access the river, parking, camping, shelter, natural areas, historic sites, and other attractions.

Finally, I would like to note that the Illinois Department of Transportation will pay for all of the signs on that side of the border. No Wisconsin DOT funds will be used for signs. The Rock River Trail Initiative plans to apply for grants and identify other funding sources to pay for the signs. Thank you.

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Item 17a

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-_____

Accept grant for Blackhawk Island fishing pier

WHEREAS, the Parks Department has applied for a grant to create a handicapped accessible fishing platform and a parking area on Blackhawk Island, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources has approved said grant # F-95-P-46 in the amount of \$49,800 as 80% of the cost of the project, and

WHEREAS, County Board approval is necessary to authorize execution of the grant contract and the expenditure of the funds, and

WHEREAS, the Parks Committee recommends approval of the grant contract,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Parks Director Joe Nehmer is authorized to execute grant contract # F-95-P-46 with the Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$49,800 for the construction of a handicapped accessible fishing platform on Blackhawk Island and the related parking facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2013 budget is amended by increasing Account 1801.421099 State Aid Capital, and Account 1801.594829 Capital Improvement Other, by the amount of \$49,800.

Fiscal Note: The total project cost is expected to be \$62,540. The County's share of \$12,740 shall be provided in kind through existing Parks Department staff and funds. As a budget amendment, this resolution requires twenty (20) affirmative votes for passage.

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSTAIN _____

ABSENT _____

Requested by
Parks Committee and Finance Committee

04-16-13

Phil Ristow: 03-25-13; 03-26-13; 04-11-13

As the GHA covers such a large area with diverse interests, we understand the importance of collaboration for its success. As such, we are now working with additional stakeholders in the community, non-profits such as the Rock River Coalition and the Cambridge Foundation, businesses such as McKay Nursery and 2Rivers Bicycle and Outdoor, and community leaders throughout the GHA. We are also speaking about the GHA in a variety of local forums, including the Jefferson County Tourism Council, the Fort Atkinson Rotary Club, Michael Clish's radio program, and other groups. These partnerships are crucial not only for the continued development of trail-building and land improvement, but also for creating awareness and building support by means of successful GHA events throughout the County.

In closing, The Friends would like to thank you again for your continued support of the Glacial Heritage Area. With the help of all stakeholders, we can make the GHA a successful endeavor. Please contact me, Clare Carlson, with your questions and comments about the Friends, or to join, at FriendsofGHA@gmail.com or 608.513.3252. Visit online at www.glacialheritagearea.org.

Warm Regards,

Clare Carlson, President
Friends of GHA

Dear County Board Member,

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

I am writing to thank-you for your continued support of the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) in Jefferson County and to provide a brief update of our activities as the Friends group of this unique project. Since we formed the Friends of GHA approximately eleven months ago, we have made great progress in growing our membership, and now have a database of over 300 email recipients who have expressed interest in receiving GHA news and information. With the continued efforts of Jefferson County, the DNR, and the Friends, we believe that our County will become a regional destination for outdoor recreation—whether it's biking, paddling, skiing, hunting and fishing, camping, or enjoying wildlife viewing and hiking trails. We are working hard to create awareness of the value of GHA properties and to build support for the development of interconnecting trails between these properties and our communities.

Creating awareness has been the focus of our monthly "Get to Know What's in Your Backyard" guided walk series. With this initiative, we invite the public to join us in volunteer naturalist-led walks at different GHA properties. So far, we've been to Rome Pond, Dorothy Carnes Park, and CamRock Park. Each walk has been unique and enjoyable, having experts on hand to help identify birds and plant species, examine beaver-felled trees and snail shells along a lake, leading discussion regarding cultural sites and property history, and more. These walks have been well-attended with new Friends' members at each outing. In the next few months, as spring migration begins, we will have bird experts on hand from the Jefferson-Dodge Birding Group and Madison Audubon to help attendees with bird identification.

Other Friends' events planned for the spring and summer include the return of the popular Bike and Hike with the Artists slated for June 29 as well as several other events highlighting the variety of recreational activities possible in the GHA. Last summer, bikers and hikers interacted with Lake Mills artists engaged in artistic creation along the Glacial Drumlin trail. This year, the event will include two artists groups from Lake Mills and Jefferson at two GHA locations, Korth and Pohlman Parks. As these parks are located near the Glacial Drumlin Trail, visitors will have an opportunity to bike to each location and interact with both arts groups. DNR staff will also be on hand to present an environmental education station. We are also working on a paddle- and-bird watch trip down the Bark River, co-sponsoring a Bioblitz event at Zeloski Marsh, and will sponsor a GHA Open House and Pot Luck on August 24th at Korth Park in Lake Mills. In addition, we were present at the well-attended Milwaukee Sports Show and Canoecopia in Madison the weekend of March 9 and 10. We plan to provide volunteers at this year's county fairs in order to help promote awareness of the GHA.

We also feel it is important to help improve the lands within the GHA in any way that we can. For this reason, we will have our first work day in the GHA on Sunday, May 5 at 9 a.m. at Lake Ripley Preserve, located on the east side of the Lake Ripley in Cambridge. Our group will remove brush and invasive species that threaten the local habitat of this property. We will also co-host a work day at CamRock Park in May, removing buckthorn and other non-native plants. Other work days and locations are slated later in the year. We would appreciate your contacting us if you become aware of any other projects or properties with specific needs or groups that may assist us.

Jefferson County Parks Department

Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update Public Meeting

March 21, 2013 in the Puerner Room at the Fort Community Credit Union in Jefferson.

Public Input Meeting Comments

Present: 2 members of the public – Jim Varah and Beth Gehred; Lydia Statz from the Jefferson County Daily Union, Greg Matthews of the DNR, Steve Grabow from UW-Extension, and Director Joe Nehmer, Kim Bucholz, Kevin Wiesmann, and JR Klemment of the Jefferson County Parks Department; and Margaret Burlingham of LanDesign.

Margaret Burlingham of LanDesign presented a PowerPoint on the new Jefferson County Parks brochure that summarizes the Parks, Recreation and Open Space update, park improvements over the last few years, and the Glacial Heritage Area.

A discussion followed.

Public Comments:

1. Create and make available to the public prairie planting lists for each park and a list of native plants at each park for identification.
 2. Are more species going to be added to the Mason Farm prairie? Response: 800 lbs of prairie seed were collected with the assistance of Mark Martin at Goose Pond. Herbicide application to invasive Canada thistle created some bare patches that will be interseeded after burning the prairie. Increasing the density of prairie grasses should help crowd out weeds. The eastern-most hill at the Mason Farm has not been converted to prairie yet and is mostly non-native grasses.
 3. There should be a sign to Carlin Weld Park at the intersection of County Roads H and Z. There is a sign at STH 59 and County Road H.
-
1. I am a fan of public parks and bike trails in general and Jeff Co's in particular. I spend at least 2 hours per week in the parks year round.
 2. I am hoping, with the help of several citizens & e-mail groups, to bring a public-private orchard project to the County. Heart of the city is still interested in helping make this happen.
 3. I hope maintaining some parks that are primarily for habitat protection is in the master plan. I value nesting grounds for birds, and room for wildness in the County.
 4. I request that campsites at Dorothy Carnes (Mason side) stay primitive. Love the skiing at Mason Farm! What a treat.
 5. Please continue as many controls on terrestrial invasive species/AIS (aquatic invasive species) as possible. Contact TACRCD (Town and Country RC&D) 920-541-3208 if there is any wherewithal to create a CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) in this county – or breath life into the one we have.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-____

Establish donation requirement for playground naming rights

WHEREAS, the Parks Department has \$75,000 in the 2013 budget to put recreational equipment in various parks, and

WHEREAS, the goal is to raise private funds in addition to the budgeted amount, and

WHEREAS, naming rights have been considered as an incentive to obtain donations for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, the Korth Park playground is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000 of which the Parks Department seeks to raise \$37,500 from the private sector in the form of donations, and

WHEREAS, preliminary discussions have indicated that the ability to place the donor's name on the playground for the duration of the equipment's life cycle could generate as much as \$15,000 in a single donation (which may be spread over three years), and

WHEREAS, the Parks Committee has reviewed this concept and recommends the Board also approve,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks Department is authorized to offer naming rights for the future Korth Park playground upon a \$15,000 commitment, whether paid all at once or in increments over three years,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the naming rights shall be for the duration of the equipment initially installed.

Fiscal Note: The 2013 Parks Department budget contains \$75,000 for the purchase of recreational equipment. The Parks Department, in conjunction with the private sector, has set a goal of raising \$37,500 in private donations to make the Korth Park playground a reality. This would allow for the remaining levy dollars to be utilized in other areas of the park system.

AYES _____
NOES _____
ABSTAIN _____
ABSENT _____

Requested by
Parks Committee

04-16-13

Philip Ristow: 04-11-13

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-_____

Approve county fish and game project grant application

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin enacted legislation providing for allocation of funds to the respective counties on an acreage basis for county fish and game projects on the condition that the counties match the state allocation, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County desires to participate in county fish and game projects pursuant to the provisions of s. 23.09(12) of the Wisconsin Statutes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, that the Board is hereby authorized to expend the funds appropriated and the funds to be received from the State of Wisconsin for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, and to operate and maintain or to cause to be operated and maintained the projects for their intended purpose, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board authorizes the Parks Director to act on behalf of Jefferson County to submit a state grant application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for financial aid for county fish and game projects; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board does hereby appropriate a matching allocation for such project and such appropriations shall continue as long as state matching aids are available, or until this resolution is modified by this Board.

Fiscal Note: The County's 2013 state allocation is \$1,560. The County's match is for account labor to do the projects. This year's project will continue the woodland restoration at Carnes Park, providing nesting areas for wood ducks, ground nesting birds and song birds.

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSTAIN _____

ABSENT _____

Requested by
Parks Committee

04-16-13

Joe Nehmer and Phil Ristow: 03-25-13

