

Governor Dodge State Park NEW Equestrian Campground

Shovels in the Ground in 2021

The next phase of the eagerly anticipated new equestrian campground at Governor Dodge State Park could be coming as soon as 2021. Phase I (new entrance road, kiosk, fountain, and vault toilet) was completed in 2019 at a cost of \$80,000. Now, the Friends of Governor Dodge and the DNR have agreed on a Phase II plan to build the campground road and 10-12 campsites as soon as 2021! Construction of the final 8-10 sites and the second vault toilet will occur as Phase III, with a target construction date of 2022. In the meantime, the Phase II sites will offer a dramatically improved equestrian camping experience that can be enjoyed by hundreds each season while fundraising continues for Phase III.



So what's next? The Friends "re-imagined" fundraiser (generating over \$10,000) and a \$45,000 grant award from the federal Recreational Trails Program means that \$100,000 is needed to reach the \$330,000 Phase II fundraising goal. And now, an AMAZING \$50,000 CHALLENGE GRANT by an anonymous donor puts the project just \$50,000 away from "shovels in the ground" in 2021! WOW! But to make this dream a reality, the Friends will need the help of horse lovers and park supporters like YOU from all across Wisconsin.

The Friends are expanding last year's 100 Extraordinary Women campaign, in which 51 people gave or pledged \$1,000 in their own name or to honor an extraordinary woman in their life, to 100 Extraordinary Friends. Celebrate or memorialize an extraordinary friend, family member, or even a cherished animal companion by giving \$1,000 in their name to the 100 Extraordinary Friends campaign. They will be permanently honored with a personalized brick at the new campground. Please take advantage of this opportunity if you can, or make a donation in any amount to the campground fund. Help meet the \$50,000 challenge match to "get it done in '21". Details on the project and giving options at www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com.



Governor Dodge Equestrians Keep the FUN in Fundraising

The Governor Dodge Equestrians September “re-imagined” fundraiser turned out to be the group’s most popular ever, with an amazing 149 registered participants! Instead of a one-day event, this year riders and hikers visited the park on their own schedules during a two week period to traverse a designated trail while searching for small hidden treasure discs and framing up great photos for the photo scavenger hunt.



The flexible schedule adopted in response to pandemic concerns allowed friends and families to attend when it best fit their calendars. Hidden trail treasures were tagged with sponsor names and earned prizes donated by local merchants for the lucky trail riders and hikers. Participants also took advantage of the opportunity to look creatively at the beauty of nature, submitting photographs in 6 categories to win prizes. As participant Viv Trace said, “it was a very cool finding things I had never seen before. I love learning new things! It was great.” The fun, custom designed T-shirts were a big hit with event participants, too.



The fundraiser also included the group’s first-ever online auction hosted by Badger State Auction Service. This turned out to be a great format, generating spirited bidding on 120 donated “lots”. Through a combination of generous business sponsorships, plentiful auction item donations, enthusiastic registered participants, and competitive auction bidders, the fundraiser generated a total of \$11,900 for the park’s equestrian campground fund! In addition to boosting the campground fund, many participant comments reminded us that their best “prize” was the chance to get out and ride/hike the beautiful trails at Governor Dodge State Park.

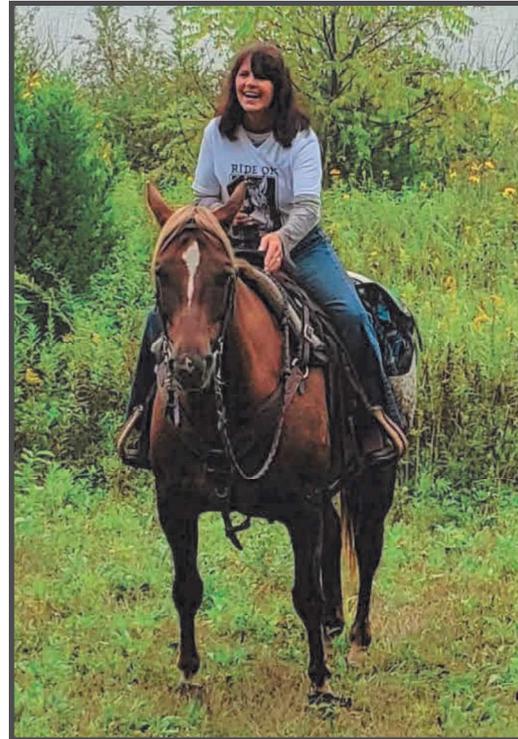
Thank you to all who helped to make the event the great success that it was. Visit www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com to see more photos from the event.

thank
you!



Governor Dodge Equestrians
Keep the FUN in Fundraising
Photos

Left: Brittany Pierpont of Avoca shows off her "trail treasure".



Right: Jill Cheney of Mineral point enjoying the recent fundraiser at Governor Dodge.



Left: Cindy Anderson of Milton, the lucky auction winner of the Generac generator.