

## **Equestrians Rise to the Challenge**



Fundraising efforts for a new equestrian campground at Governor Dodge State Park just received a major boost. A pair of long-time park supporters have stepped forward to offer the campground fund a \$25,000 matching challenge! Through their generosity, donations by horse enthusiasts and horse groups through 2018 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000! This gift is even more special because the benefactors are not horse campers and they rarely ride. The planned Trails End Campground will not benefit them personally, but they love Governor Dodge State Park and are offering this challenge as a way to say “thank you” to the park.

Located in Southwest Wisconsin’s unique Driftless area, Governor Dodge State Park features over 25 miles of scenic horse trails that are some of Wisconsin’s finest. With more trails than can be explored in a single day, riders wishing to camp at the park with their horses currently use an aging, crowded facility where they park side by side on a deteriorating asphalt parking lot. A new equestrian campground is badly needed and has been in the park’s master plan since 1984. A site has been identified and water and electricity are already in place.

Now, through the efforts of the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Equestrian committee, plans are in place to build a beautiful new campground at the site identified in the master plan. With a construction budget in the \$650,000 range and a target construction date of 2020, committee members are working diligently to raise the needed funds. “The challenge grant couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Equestrian committee co-chair Sandy Rogers. While the group is seeking support from a variety of funding sources, the challenge grant donors especially hope that their gift encourages horse users to contribute to the effort.

The planned Trails End campground’s 21 sites nearly double the number of horse campers who can be accommodated at the park. The nicely spaced and scenic sites will invite users from throughout the region to experience the beauty of Governor Dodge State Park and all the benefits of outdoor recreation.

The Challenge Grant is in place to double the value of donations. Now is the time to contribute to this ambitious project. Don’t delay – only donations made by December 31st will be matched. Donate today by visiting [www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com](http://www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com). The group’s online Donor Box makes giving easy and secure, and as a tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 group, gifts are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted for this, the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park’s first ever capital fund campaign.

# Rise to the Challenge!

You can help us build a new equestrian campground at Governor Dodge State Park!



*\$50 = \$100 \$100 = \$200 \$500 = \$1000 \$2500 = \$5000*

Your gift will benefit park users now and well into the future.

**Long Time Park Supporters Pledge to Match \$25,000 in Donations from Horse Enthusiasts through the end of 2018!**

**Donate NOW and DOUBLE the impact of your contribution!**

**Find out more at: [www.govdodgeequestrians.com](http://www.govdodgeequestrians.com)**

Sponsored by Friends of Governor Dodge, a 501(c)3 organization

## **Share the Trails Event at Governor Dodge State Park**

The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park hosted its second annual “Share the Trails” Open House on Saturday, August 25th. The event emphasized trail safety on multi-use trails.

Approximately 175 park guests stopped by the park’s equestrian campground to watch a video and get hands-on experience petting, grooming, and feeding the gentle horses owned by members of the Friends group.

Participants took home Trail Safety pamphlets provided by the Wisconsin Horse Council and enjoyed free ice cream cones compliments of the Dodgeville Kiwanis Club. Everyone agreed that it was a fun and very worthwhile afternoon.

For more information or to join, visit [www.friendsofgovdodge.org](http://www.friendsofgovdodge.org) or [www.govdodgeequestrians.com](http://www.govdodgeequestrians.com).

More pictures of the event can be found on the next page.





Share the  
Trails  
Event at  
Governor  
Dodge  
State  
Park

