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For Immediate Release
December 9, 2020

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Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Receive Grant

MADISON – Friends of Governor Dodge State Park has been chosen to receive a \$45,000 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The funds will be used to develop an equestrian trail, camping facility, and other related amenities at the park.

“Governor Dodge State Park is an Iowa County treasure. Visitors come from across the state to enjoy horseback riding, biking, hiking, hunting, and a variety of other outdoor activities,” said Novak. “Since the start of this project, I have had the opportunity to be a resource and an advocate for these improvements. I appreciate the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park group who worked hard to obtain matching funds for this project that will improve park facilities for its many visitors.”

The Recreational Trails Program utilizes federal funds to provide reimbursement to eligible organizations for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized use.

In addition to the RTP grant, Friends of Governor Dodge State Park was awarded a \$20,000 Knowles-Nelson Friends grant towards completion of phase two. Each year, \$250,000 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is set aside to fund grants to friends groups and nonprofit conservation organizations to improve state properties.

The project will be completed in three phases. The awarded grant funds are being used to complete the second phase with an expected price tag of \$350,000. The second phase will include completion of the full campground road, 10-12 camping pads, and a group campfire area. The total cost for the entire project is estimated at \$650,000.

To raise matching funds for these grants, Friends of Governor Dodge has held annual recreation events, sold raffle tickets and trail passes, and launched an original fundraising campaign called “100 Extraordinary Women” asking donors to pledge \$1,000 in honor of an extraordinary woman in their life.

Phase two of the project is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2021. Phase three is anticipated to begin in 2022.

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