

New trail improvements at Governor Dodge State Park



Because of a new grant from the WI Course Council, there will be some improvements to the trails at Governor Dodge State Park.

Visitors enjoying the many trails at Governor Dodge State Park may notice some new trail improvements. Thanks to the Friends of Governor Dodge and a matching grant from the WI Horse Council, volunteers and park staff have worked together to complete two exciting projects in 2018.

New sign markers have been installed throughout the park's extensive trail system. The trail markers provide additional location information on all trails at the park. Trail users can now more easily find their location on the park map and can relay it to the park office in the event of an emergency, improving safety for a trail users.

The 15.3-mile Driftless trail traverses some of the most scenic and remote areas of the park. Equestrians often avoided this long trail because there was no good area to stop for a break. Now they will find a new rest stop on the southern section of the trail. Nestled in a lovely stand of mature maples and equipped with hitching rails, a picnic table, and mounting block, the new picnic/rest stop is a welcomed improvement to the trail system.

The northern section of the Driftless trail is home to the future Trails End Equestrian Campground, as originally identified in the park's 1984 Master Plan. Located near the old barn and adjoining the current horse day ride parking area, the first phase of this ambitious project is installation of a permanent vault toilet. The new toilet facility will initially serve equestrian day riders and the hikers and rock climbers who share the parking area and ultimately the new Trails End Campground. The project is the first ever capital fund drive of the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, a 501(c)3 organization. The group is working diligently on grant applications and fundraising events but also needs donations to successfully raise the estimated \$650,000 construction cost for the new campground. Since June, almost \$100,000 has been raised! Thanks to a generous \$25,000 matching grant, donations through the end of the year will be matched dollar to dollar. Donations will benefit the park now and for years to come. For more information or to donate visit <https://www.Gov-DodgeEquestrians.com/>