

Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Focus on the Future

For horse lovers in Wisconsin, the month of March is a time of preparation and anticipation. We eagerly await the end of winter, prepare for the Midwest Horse Fair, await the birth of foals, get our trailers safety-checked, plan for show season, look forward to celebrating horse trail opening day. The Governor Dodge Equestrians eagerly anticipate all of these as we slowly thaw out from another Wisconsin winter.



As members of the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, our group also takes a longer-range view. Since 2014 we have been working hard to ensure a lasting future for horse-based outdoor recreation at Governor Dodge State Park. The new equestrian campground (for which fundraising is nearing the halfway mark!) is one important step toward keeping the park's tradition of horses strong. Your support of the campground project, through our 100 Extraordinary Women campaign or otherwise, is a great way to participate.

But building the campground is just chapter one of the story. As Friends, we want to ensure that funds will always be available to keep the park's trails and equestrian facilities in tip-top condition. For that reason we've created the Friends of Governor Dodge Legacy Circle planned giving program.

What is "planned giving" and why does it matter? Simply put, planned giving means that you direct your estate to make a donation in your name after your death. A planned gift allows you to continue to give to causes you care about and organizations whose mission you support even after you are gone. You can direct your estate to make a planned gift through a bequest in a will, a provision in a living trust, or through a life insurance policy.



Iris Cooley

Planned giving helps good things happen in all kinds of ways. For example, a bequest from the estate of Iris Cooley, a devoted trail rider and lover of Governor Dodge State Park, remains the largest gift so far to the Governor Dodge equestrian campground fund! Although this is something Iris would never have imagined in her lifetime, her friends and family know she would be more than thrilled to see her gift leave such a lasting legacy.

The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park invite all readers to consider including our group in your estate plan. As a 501(c) 3 charitable organization, gifts to us MAY have tax benefits (we're not estate planners, so please consult your legal advisor about this) as well as giving you the satisfaction of knowing that a wonderful park will continue to enjoy your support. You don't need to be wealthy to make a giving plan that can have a great impact. No matter how small or large, planned gifts will help keep Governor Dodge State Park a wonderful resource for future generations. For more information about planned giving options and a simple form to let us know of your planned giving intentions, visit

www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com.