

# PARKVIEWS

A Publication of The Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

Published Winter 2021

## FRIENDS OF DONALD PARK - ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

**“There is strength in the hills and peace  
in the valleys”**

*Delma Donald Woodburn, Donald Park co-founder*

During these extraordinary times, Delma Donald Woodburn’s words about the land she loved so much never rang more true. For so many people during 2020, visiting and exploring Donald Park became a positive way to get through difficult times.

The following pages honor those whose contributions this year helped make Donald Park sought-after as a safe haven—whether for recreation, discovery, gathering safely with others or enjoying the beauty of the land in solitude.



### MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Donald Park, Inc. promotes and supports the development and passive use of Donald County Park through programs and activities that provide education, restoration and preservation of cultural, natural and historical resources representing Dane County’s rural heritage for present and future generations.



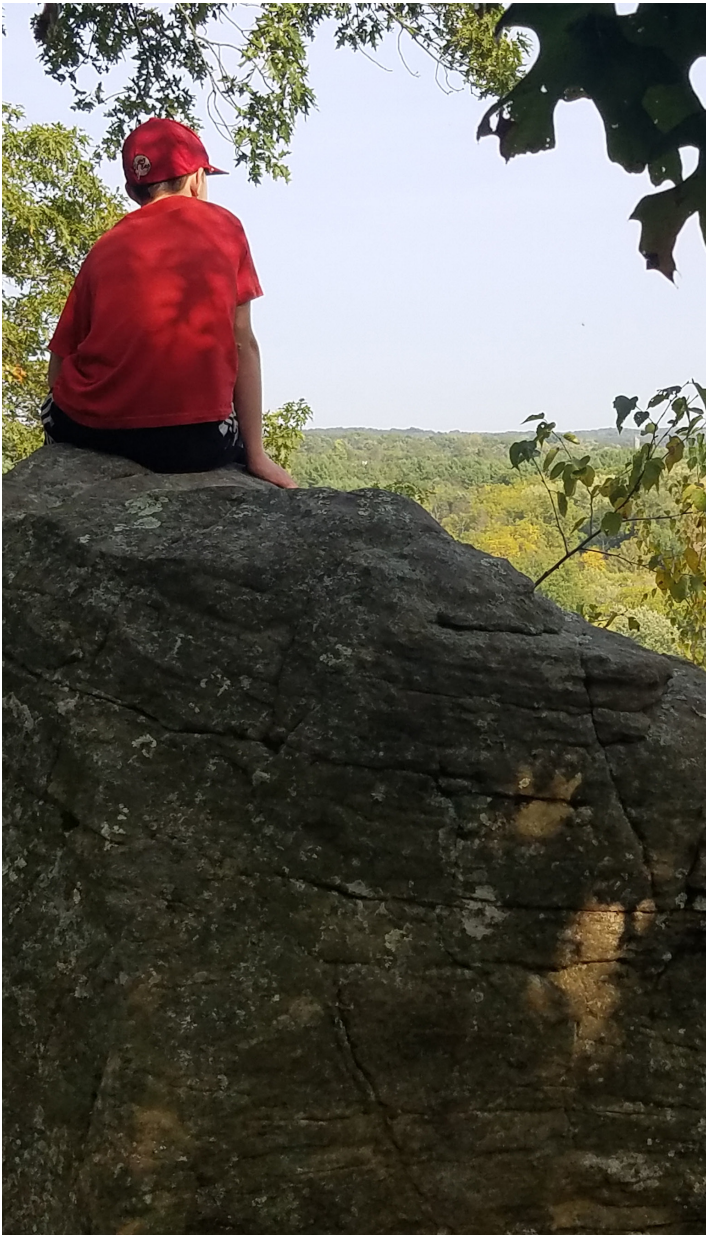
Message From Friends’ President Roger Parr

What a year this past year has been! Business and school closures, social distancing and masks, all in the hope we get through these trying times that very few people have seen before.

One bright spot in this pandemic has been folks going to all the parks across this country that have been waiting for people to rediscover the joy and health that the outdoors provides to us! Donald Park has seen more visitors this year than we’ve ever seen before, all out to enjoy the splendors of the area and receive the benefits that hiking and visiting with friends outside can offer. Even now that winter has come, our skiers and snowshoers are filling the trails daily.

It’s been really nice to hear all the good things visitors have had to say about Donald Park and the beautiful things they see here. That’s all due to our wonderful volunteer group that has been dedicated to making the park what it is today! Since 2009, much of that thanks goes to the leadership of Bob Dettweiler. In fall, Bob semi-retired as crew leader of the Tuesday natural areas volunteer group. If you see Bob please be sure to thank him for his years of hard work and dedication to Donald Park. We will miss his leadership!

I hope things start to get back to normal this year. For now, please continue to keep yourself and others near you safe by following safe practices. The outdoors is a great place to beat cabin fever and relax and unwind.



2020 Team Leaders

We gratefully recognize the leaders of our volunteer teams:

- Kyla Charles, Jenn Tzeng and Barb Hartman---social media, website
- Bob Dettwiler—trails/natural areas
- Ray Glew---bluebird restoration project
- Barb and Don Hartman---events and outreach
- Matt Marty---cabin at Little Spring
- Roger Parr—horse trails
- Donna Thomas—interpretive program
- Greg Wiegand—organizer, Donald Dash Trail Run

*Special thanks to Barb Hartman, our Friends administrative assistant!*

Key Partners

Partnerships with the following groups and organizations help the Friends accomplish so much!

- Adaptive Restoration
- Madison Astronomical Society
- Madison Community Foundation
- Mount Horeb Area Historical Society and the Driftless Historium
- Mount Horeb Cub Scouts, Pack 62
- Mount Horeb 3rd Graders
- Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
- Wild Harvest Nature Connection

2020 ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

**Although we were disappointed to be unable to hold public programs this year, one positive outcome for our organization during the 2020 pandemic was making new friends. As more people visited the park, a number of folks joined the Friends, volunteered and/or sent gifts in appreciation of our work.**

**New Initiatives:** Over the past two decades, the Friends have focused in large measure on park infrastructure development---trails, kiosks, maps, shelters. With these elements well established by 2019, the Friends made a major financial commitment to supporting two ecological restoration initiatives---a 30-acre grassland restoration project in the southwest section of the park and development of a Forest Management Plan. Work on these projects continued through 2020, in partnership with Dane County Parks and Adaptive Restoration.

**The Friends ended the year with 90 members, an operating budget balance of \$58,035.26 and \$127,613.45 in the endowment fund at Madison Community Foundation. We held our Annual Meeting with good attendance on January 21 in the lovely meeting facilities of the Mt. Horeb Driftless Historium, before pandemic restrictions were in place. The popular Donald Dash Trail Run, a major fundraiser for the Friends, had to be called off but many runners stepped forward to donate their entry fees, so that we were still able to realize \$3,900 from this event and race organizer Greg Wiegand’s efforts were not in vain. And throughout this challenging year, our dedicated volunteers continued with many tasks behind the scenes.**

Bluebird Restoration Project

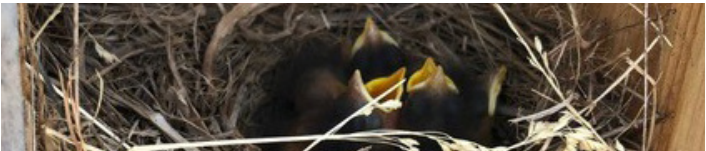
By Ray Glew

Thank you to the great group of volunteers that join me in keeping the bluebird nesting boxes monitored (2 trails, 32 boxes): Susan Eisele, Aimee and Steve Gauger, Katie Haag, Barb Hartman, Sharon Hughes, Liz McBride, John Shaw, Jenny Sievert and Gail Van Haren. The issue we noticed this year was the wrens that showed up. We thought house sparrows were going to be the problem but instead, wrens tripled their presence from 2019. Bluebirds had 60 fledglings and wrens had 56! We also had 22 tree swallows.

Why the concern about the cute little wren? First, they are very aggressive. They show up about the time the bluebird has laid eggs; wrens pitch the eggs out or poke holes in them. They do not let up fighting for nest boxes! Tree swallows also give way to wrens. So what can we do? This coming year we will move some nesting boxes away from the overgrown, brushy areas which wrens love. Thanks again to all our volunteers who make the bluebird trails happen---and to those bluebirds, who brighten the skies at Donald Park!



**Grassland Bird Survey:** The Friends contracted with Kevin Thusius, Ice Age Trail Alliance Director of Land Conservation, to establish a repeatable methodology for counting breeding grassland birds in the Grassland Restoration Project area (see above, New Initiatives). Kevin’s spring counts documented meadowlarks and bluebirds. This work continues in 2021 and beyond with counts by citizen scientists, to look for changes in grassland bird populations as a result of the restoration work we are supporting.



**Kestrel Nest Boxes:** A project through Madison Audubon to establish kestrel nest boxes has been on-going at the park for several years, with boxes at the Hwy G entrance (removed in fall 2020) and just off Sutter Drive, south of the parking lot. The Friends began working with Patrick Ready, Jill Stevenson and Finn Rotherburg in 2020 to learn more about their work in this regard and will be reporting on the project in our 2021 newsletters.



Horse Trails

By Roger Parr

The 2020 riding season at Donald Park saw a large increase in horse traffic. It seems the time away from our work gave us time to spend with our horses and nature. With the increase in visitors to Donald Park, equestrians also had a much larger chance to encounter hikers on the trail. We stressed to equestrians that we’re all there to enjoy the trails and many of the hikers aren’t sure how to act when they come upon horses. We reminded equestrians that when encountering walkers, ask them to speak out so the horses know what they are and ask them to hold their dog (if they have one) as horses pass by---and thank them, it’s everyone’s park!

A bad thing about the health restrictions was that we were not able to have any workdays and we have a lot to be done on the park trails. Please see the insert page for ways equestrians can help with trails in 2021.

As always, many thanks to Jean Warrior for all the time and effort she devotes to selling trail passes. This year she sold 120 passes, with \$2,147 going to the Friends. This money helps with trail maintenance costs, including all mowing of the outside-the-park trails.



Landowner Thank Yous!

The following landowners lease their land for scenic trail riding outside the park. Their generosity makes possible a unique trail system with some of the most exceptional riding experiences in the region!

Devil’s Chimney Trail

- Kathy Cryan & CoCo Chaussee
- Deer Creek Sportsman Club
- Garfoot Families—David & Robyn, Duane & Sandy
- Bill Haack
- Curtis & Debra Herfel
- Reinhart Postweiler Family
- Glenn C. Reynolds

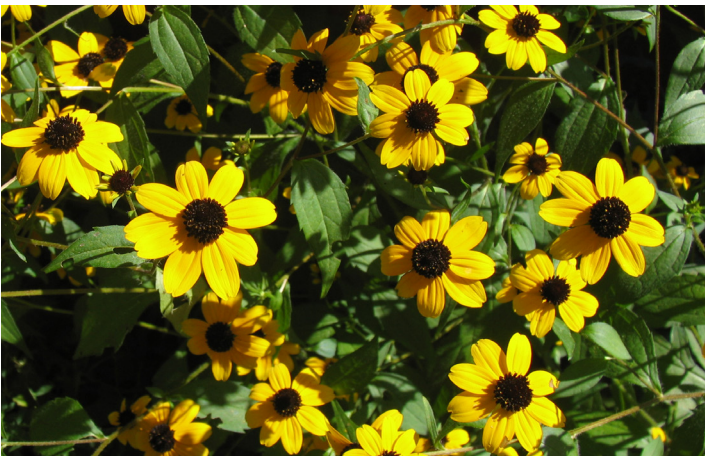
Preacher’s Cap Trail

- Art Sutter
- Matt Sutter & Julie Moubry-Sutter

Natural Areas and Trails

By Bob Dettwiler, Project Coordinator

Due to the pandemic, the Tuesday natural areas volunteer group shut down operations for a period in spring and again in late fall, although some individuals still came by to repair and maintain equipment (always an on-going task). When our dedicated crew was working, they spent a lot of time with the new walk-behind brush hog, keeping all the hiking trails widened. They also removed brush on Donald Rock and cleared brush from around many of the stately oaks near Pop’s Knoll. The crew repaired a number of spots on trails where water was a problem and constructed a short wooden bridge to enable access to the Prairie Experience trail near Larson Pond, which had become impassable due to water flowage. We have been very pleased to see so many people out enjoying and benefitting from the park, and we very much look forward to resuming our regular work in spring 2021!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Even with the pandemic limiting our programs, our volunteers still contributed an amazing 2,112 hours at Donald Park. Their service is valued at \$27,427---what a great gift!

Chuck Abplanalp  
Ken Anderson  
Jim Benson  
Kari Sherman  
Ken Bradbury  
Alex Britzius  
Steve Burns  
Kyla Charles  
Coco Chaussee  
Dan Clayton  
Mary Lou Clayton  
Sherry Crownhart  
Thom Crownhart  
Cathy Cryan  
Maran Danz  
Ann Cooper  
Bob Dettwiler  
Jeff Durbin  
Judy Dvorak  
Susan Eisele  
Larry Fass  
John Fochesato  
Dave Garfoot  
Aimee Gauger  
Stephen Gauger

Don Gay  
Ray Glew  
Katie Haag  
Lee Haag  
Brad Haley  
Barb Hartman  
Don Hartman  
Mike Healy  
Russell Hefty  
Wayne Hefty  
Barb Hogan  
Sharon Hughes  
Bert Johnson  
Carolyn Johnson  
Jim Keip  
Carrie Latham  
Jim Lesniak  
Kathy Lord  
Matt Marty  
Liz McBride  
Leslie Parr  
Roger Parr  
Peter Putz  
Kristi Ramsey  
Bob Ramsey

Jonathan Rooney  
Dan Rosseter  
Gwen Ruppert  
Russell Sacia  
Kevin Sadowski  
DuMont Schmidt  
Ross Shrago  
John Shaw  
Julie Shrader  
Jennifer Sievert  
Tabatha Smith  
Mary Spaay  
Linda Sweeney  
Tim Sweeney  
David Thompson  
Chet Thomas  
Donna Thomas  
Kevin Thusius  
Jennifer Tzeng  
Gail Van Haren  
Jean Warrior  
Monica Whitehouse  
Greg Wiegand

Thank You, Volunteers!

“We can do this!”  
*Pat Hitchcock, Park Co-Founder*





## Outreach and Education

Pandemic precautions caused the Friends to suspend public programs for a year---the spring Maple Syrup demo, annual Bring Your Pop to Pop’s Knoll Father’s Day picnic and August Stargazing. We also removed all brochures from the kiosk map boxes at the three trailheads and directed visitors to our website to download a park map. Visitors navigated trails successfully, thanks in large measure to the signage system we put in place several years ago.

We installed two interpretive panels, bringing the total number of panels at the park to 13. *Early Native Peoples* at the entrance to the Little Spring site details human activity in the area going back thousands of years. *Two Visionary Women* profiles park co-founders Delma Donald Woodburn and Pat Hitchcock; the panel was placed at the Hwy G trailhead to provide information about early park history to the increasing numbers of hikers and equestrians that use this entrance (another *Two Visionary Women* panel is at Pop’s Knoll).

## THANK YOU TO ALL 2020 DONORS!

We gratefully acknowledge all those whose financial gifts made it possible for the Friends to support Donald Park in 2020. The thoughtful generosity of these donors in turns benefits everyone who visits the park.

### Individual Donors

Jeff & Annette Anderson  
Dan Anderson  
Jim Lesniak & Shelly Armstrong  
Gina Barden  
Marsha Cooper  
Dolph & Brook Courchaine  
Thom & Sherry Crownhart  
Michael & Carla DiIorio\*  
Joe & Theresa Drapeau  
Ruth Dumesic/Madison Polo Club  
Judy Dvorak  
Dijana Dzamonja  
Ed & Jean Eloranta\*  
Hildy Feen  
Ronald & Anne French  
Daniel & Rachel Frye\*  
Don & Marilyn Frye  
Dave and Robyn Garfoot

Steve & Aimee Gauger  
Lee & Katie Haag  
Mary Hampton\*  
Kevin & Diana Hanson  
Don & Barb Hartman  
Mike & Anna Healy  
Sharon & Mark Hughes\*  
Rachel Kennedy\*  
Vance & Betty Kepley\*  
Ed Mason & Cindy Koschmann  
Peggy Kratz\*  
Philip & Susan Krejci  
Matt & Kathy Marty  
Liz McBride\*  
Lucille McKee\*  
Monona Vet Clinic\*  
Rick Mundt\*  
Natural Resources Foundation\*  
Roger & Leslie Parr  
Scott & Connie Pernitz



Chuck & Jane Phillipson  
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Joan Schmidt  
Brian Schroeder  
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Irv & Judy Steinhauer  
Chet & Donna Thomas\*  
Steve & Kathleen Verrill  
Joan Ward\*  
Jean Warrior  
Price & Pam Widen  
Heidi Wittwer  
Gene & Donna Woller  
Alyssa Yogerst  
\* Denotes a gift of \$100 or more

**We can’t thank them enough!**

## Donors to the Friends Endowment Fund

Gifts to the endowment fund help create a reliable annual source of income that is available to support Friends programs.

Hildy Feen  
Thomas & Katie Heiber-Cobb  
Jay Huemmer  
Clare Radtke

### Donald Dash Donors

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Donald Dash, then donated their entry fees to the Friends when the race had to be cancelled. Their generosity brought in \$3,900, for use in trail maintenance.

Scott Anderson  
Kiersten & Justin Anderson  
Alex Applegate  
Michelle Austin  
Maria Avina Franco  
Holly Bender  
Samantha & Miguel Benson  
Sarah Bundidge  
Megan Bunkleman  
Rene Buys  
Tara Canfield  
Cynthia Carlson  
Joseph Cloute  
John Cole  
Camille Conway  
Michele Dahm  
Ryan Denu  
Kiera Depies  
Christopher Devick  
Kate Doty  
Joseph Eichenseher  
Jessica Elliott  
Wendy Ellis

Michael Falk  
Patrick Flannery  
Bruce Flynn  
Amy Foley  
Pam Foster Felt  
Jim & Emily Fountas  
Paige & Jonathan Fricke  
Liza Gatley  
Josset Gauley  
Ian & Sarah Glodich  
Lynn Glueck  
Marie Goddard  
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Stacey Gorman  
Scott Hackel  
Jeanne Hains  
Christine Hansen  
Andrew Hanson  
Jelly Hayes  
Mike, Anna & Henry Healy  
Shawn Heider  
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Mike Hruska  
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Nicole Kessinger  
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Logan Langley  
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Emily Lupton Metrish  
Jen Madon  
Christopher Mahoney  
Arne Malvik  
Lauren Mamantov  
Sarah Marcotte  
Lauren & Daniel Martin  
Kimberly Mast  
Alyson Mcginty

Lucas & Joseph McGuire  
Ronald Mexico  
Brian Miles  
Timothy Moermond  
Grace Nelson  
BJ Nichols  
Lisa & James Obrien  
Ryan Ogrizovich  
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Bryn Orum  
Hailey Paige  
Charles & Sarah Pearce  
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Erik Regis  
Alexander Ruocco  
Ryan Rysewyk  
Charlie Sanders  
Richard Schick  
Tim, Sophia & Mary Schmit  
Karen Schmitt  
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Nathan Swenson  
Lindsay Taylor  
John Tedesco  
Ender Tekin  
Jonathan Thom  
Brian Thorpe  
Logan Tretter  
David Urbanczyk  
Jeremy Van Maanen  
Levi & Beth Van Maanen  
Don Watson  
Becky Weum  
Nick White  
Jessica & Roy Wimer  
Daithi Wolfe  
Mark, Carolyn & Sam Wyse  
Jan Zimmerman





Friends of Donald Park  
P.O. Box 235, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572  
[contact@donaldpark.org](mailto:contact@donaldpark.org)

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# Friends of Donald Park

Partners with the Dane County Adult Conservation Team



## 2020 FRIENDS BOARD

**President** .....Roger Parr  
**Vice President**.....Sharon Hughes  
**Secretary**.....Donna Thomas  
**Treasurer** .....Kristi Ramsey  
**Trustee**.....Don Hartman  
**Recording Secretary** .....Barb Hartman  
**& Administrative Assistant** *Non-Board member*

Website support: Kyla Charles, Barb Hartman  
Annual Review Editors: Donna Thomas, Barb Hartman

Graphic Design: Jenn Tzeng

Thanks to the following for photos in this issue:  
Donna Thomas, Jenn Tzeng, Courtney Laper

## THANK YOU, DANE COUNTY PARKS

Our deep appreciation goes to Dane County Parks staff for creating and maintaining the exceptional park system that contributes to the quality of life in our region, and for their unfailing support of our organization.

### Dane County Parks Staff:

Darren Marsh, Director  
Joleen Stinson, Deputy Parks Director  
Rhea Stangel-Maier, Parks Volunteer Coordinator  
Chris James, Park Planner  
Lars Higdon, Naturalist  
Sara Rigelman, Acquisition & Planning Specialist  
Bert Schwab, Operations Manager  
Shane Otto, Land Restoration Specialist  
Brian Berkan, Lead Park Ranger  
Chad Haanan, Park Ranger  
Thomas Klein, Asst Volunteer Coordinator



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photos by using the #DonaldPark hashtag!



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View our Facebook page for updates about our  
park. Invite your friends by sharing our events.  
<https://www.facebook.com/donaldcountypark/>



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW  
<http://donaldpark.org/>  
[Trail Maps & Directions](#)  
[Support our club](#)



# PARKVIEWS



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Winter 2021

## Calendar of Events

**Horse Trail Workdays:** From Roger Parr, trail coordinator: I'm thinking about having a monthly workday this next summer to get caught up on some outstanding projects and to start some projects we've been trying to accomplish for a few years. My thoughts were to meet the first Tuesday or Wednesday from 8 am till noonish. Please let me know if its sounds like something you might be interested in doing: 608-832-4410.

**Natural Areas/Trails Volunteer Workdays:** Tuesdays 8:30-noon. Other times by request. Call Barb Hartman 608-437-5210 for dates, locations.

**Friends Board of Directors:** Meets quarterly and additionally as needed. Contact Barb Hartman, 608-437-5210 for dates, locations.

**Sunday, June 20, 11am-2pm, Annual Bring Your Pop to Pop's Knoll Father's Day Picnic:** Bring a picnic lunch. Entertainment, hot dogs and root beer floats for purchase. Pandemic restrictions may affect the program. Check for details in spring newsletter and on Friends website.

**August, Date TBA—Stargazing Event:** With Madison Astronomical Society. Check Friends website or [madisonastro.org](http://madisonastro.org) for details. Pandemic restrictions may affect the program.

**Maple Syrup Event** will not be held this year

**Donald Dash Trail Run** normally held in May, is scheduled for September. Go to: [donaldparktrailruns.com](http://donaldparktrailruns.com) for information and updates.



## 2021 Equestrian Trail Passes Available now!

Dane County Parks annual horse trail passes are available through the Friends!

If you order passes from us, 100% of the purchase goes to the Friends for maintaining our equestrian trails. Passes are \$20 (\$12 for Seniors 65+).

**TO ORDER:** Mail your check, payable to Friends of Donald Park, to: Jean Warrior, 548 Linden Street, Verona, WI 53593. Questions? Call 608-770-3961.

## Friends of Donald Park Membership Form



☐ New membership ☐ Renewal membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please contact me about volunteering

☐ In addition to my membership, I am including a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_!

Please direct my additional donation toward: ☐ Endowment ☐ Hiking trails

☐ Horse trails ☐ Landscape Restoration ☐ Education/interpretation ☐ Where needed

### Friends Membership Levels

Individual - \$20

Household - \$30

Business & Professional - \$50

Non Profit - \$50

### Mail this form to:

Friends of Donald Park

P.O. Box 235

Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Please make checks payable to Friends of Donald Park. Membership and donations are tax deductible.