

CAPITAL SPRINGS NEWSLETTER



❧ A Late Summer's Greeting... ❧

We hope you are having an enjoyable summer, and we look forward to seeing you at the Park this fall! There are many different ways to enjoy the outdoors at Cap Springs as the temperatures begin to cool. For you bird watchers out there, it's hard to beat this time of year, as fall migrants descend upon the Madison area. We've got some great bird-viewing areas at the Park: the MMSD Wildlife Observation decks, the Lake Waubesa shoreline, and the park's prairies, just to name a few. Of course, it's also a great time of year to hike or take a bike ride, as the arriving cool temperatures make it very comfortable and the trees and grasses put on an autumn color show all their own. Whatever you choose to do, we hope you'll pay us a visit at Capital Springs.

6th Annual Harvest Moon Festival 2010: Friday, September 24!!!

We also look forward to seeing you at our 6th annual Harvest Moon Festival on Friday, September 24th, come rain or shine! Festivities begin at 6 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Our popular torch-lit trail will meander through the park grounds again this year, along with interpretive presentations along the way. Expect to see live owls and bats, stargaze with UW's "Universe in the Park" and "Space Place" astronomers, learn about bears, and more! There will also be tasty treats for sale, or if you'd rather kick up your heels, come listen to blue grass musicians play next to the "Howlin' Bonfire". In addition, local artisans and businesses generously donate items to our **silent auction**, located within the Lussier Family Heritage Center on the night of the Festival. See the **flyer inside** this newsletter for more details.

The Harvest Moon Festival is **our major fundraiser for the year**, so it is critical that we have a successful event. Amounts raised at past events have enabled our **Friend's group** to provide funds to support a variety of projects at the Park throughout the year, including various improvements to the **Lussier Family Heritage Center** and the design and placement of interpretive trail signs. Fund-raising also supports events at **Cap Springs**, including the **Jenni & Kyle annual fishing event** held in July each year and the **National Trails Day event** held in June each year, as well as to provide refreshments to volunteer work groups involved in Park maintenance. In addition, we plan to use a portion of the amounts raised at this year's event to fund **environmental educational programming at the Park in 2010**, as well as to establish a **permanent endowment through the Natural Resources Foundation**, providing future funding in support of the Park (see details on Page 3).

If you would rather donate your time as a Harvest Moon volunteer, we would be more than happy to have your help. Please contact Rhea Stangel-Maier at 224-3601 or at Stangel-Maier@co.dane.wi.us. If you prefer to donate directly to the Friends, you may do so at any time by contacting Linda Mittnacht at 224-3604, or by Mittnacht@co.dane.wi.us. Volunteers will be on hand to take direct donations on the night of the Harvest Moon event as well. All donations are tax-deductible, and all proceeds and donations go toward the recreational facilities and educational programs at the Park. Thank you for your interest in Cap Springs and we hope to see you at the Park soon!

— Matt Carlson, President of the **Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, Inc.** Please feel free to contact Matt at mccarlson@michaelbest.com with any questions regarding the Friends.



The Jenni & Kyle Preserve, pictured above, provides an accessible natural space in which visitors, in particular those living with disabilities, may experience the beauty of surrounding area.

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September 24th, 6 p.m.
Come Join the Fun!

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- ♦ **Friends' New NRF Endowment Fund**
A new way to give to our park, helping to ensure the future

- ♦ **New Garden at Lussier Family Heritage Center**

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We hope you'll visit us online

- ♦ **Park Information**
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➡ Prefer an email newsletter, or interested in becoming a Friend? Go to www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/, contact Linda Mittnacht at 224-3604, or at Mittnacht@co.dane.wi.us for more information. Thanks!

Capital Springs Recreation Area Master Plan:

An Interview with Dane County Planner Chris James

Interview By Clare L. Carlson, FOCSRA Newsletter & Website Editor

Pending final state approval this fall, the Capital Springs Recreational Area will soon have a Master Plan in place. To provide more details about the plan to our Friends, I sat down with one of the plan's coordinators and asked him a few questions about the Master Plan, the decision-making process, and its impact on Capital Springs.

Could you please introduce yourself and your relationship to Capital Springs Recreation Area?

My name is Chris James and I am the Park Planner for Dane County Parks. I have been on the Capital Springs Recreation Area Master Planning team since 2001. My first visit to the recreation area was in 1986 as a college student on a field trip to the Nine Springs E-Way. We walked the property that would later become the Jenni and Kyle Preserve and learned about the future vision for that property and the E-Way. I have worked jointly with the State, local units of government and many stakeholder groups on a variety of park planning and development projects throughout the Recreation Area.

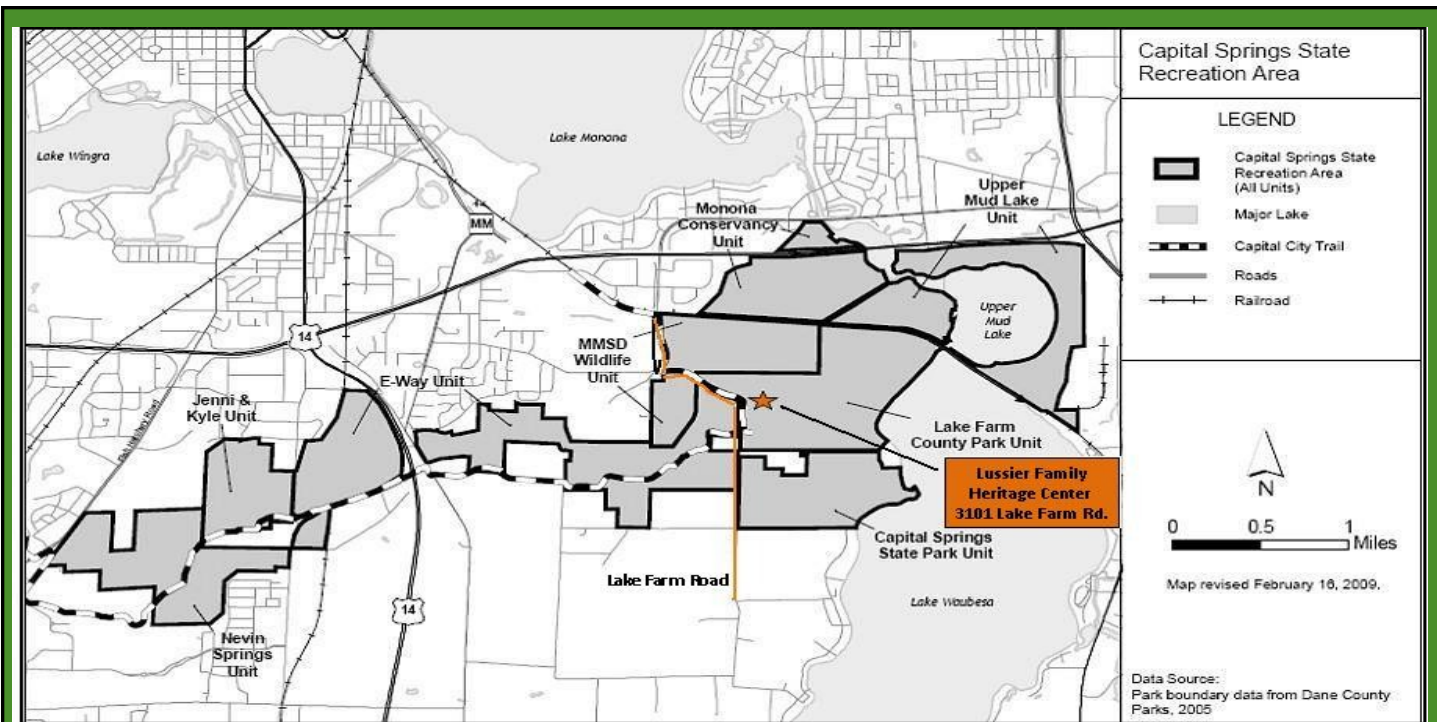
Why is it important that Capital Springs have a Master Plan?

The process to create the plan provides the public, user groups, and private landowners with a forum to share input, ideas, and concerns with decision-makers. The plan provides a common

vision derived from a consensus-building process that stakeholders and the Friends can follow throughout future development and restoration of the State Park and Recreation Area. The plan also included a comprehensive inventory of cultural and natural resources that will enhance preservation and protection efforts. From a fiscal standpoint, the Master Plan assists partners with preparing capital improvement budgets and increases likelihood of obtaining outside grant and donation dollars for future restoration and development projects. Finally, the Master Plan provides a framework for operation, maintenance, and management agreements to follow.

Can you provide a brief overview of who was involved in the decision-making, and who will oversee the future developments outlined in the plan?

At the beginning of the process Ken LePine (Dane County), Brad Bates (Park Manager) Dana White-Quam (DNR), Tim Galvin (DNR), Mark Aquino (DNR) and Peter Biermeier (DNR) were the primary decision-makers. Many of these people have since retired or been reassigned to other areas. Within the last four years it has been myself, Jeff Prey (DNR), Darren Marsh (Dane County), Kevin Swenson (Park Manager), Kevin Connors (Dane County), Dave Borsecnik (DNR), Dan Schuller (DNR) and Lloyd Eagan (DNR). The Dane County Park Commission was also actively involved in decision-making throughout the entire planning process. I will oversee future developments on County-owned lands and Jeff Prey on State-owned lands.



For your own copy of this map in PDF, please visit our web site at www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/. For other maps of the park, visit the DNR website: http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/capsprings/maps/index.html.

❧ Capital Springs Recreation Area Master Plan: ❧

An Interview with Dane County Planner Chris James

What are a few recreational highlights planned for Capital Springs?



A disc golf course, dog exercise area, tent campground, amphitheater, observation tower, and many new hiking, biking, canoe, and cross country ski trails that will allow users to experience the Recreation Area at a very personal level.

In what way will the Capital City Bike Trail be affected?

Dane County Parks will be responsible for operation, maintenance and management duties on the trail as well as providing day-to-day public contact. The Friends will still be able to sell permits for the trail as they have done in the past. Dane County will collect revenues generated from permit sales and share a percentage with the DNR to cover administrative costs associated with the State trail pass system. In addition, there are a number of connector trails proposed in the Master Plan that will provide greater connectivity to Capital City Trail for neighboring communities.

Are there plans for restoration projects—for instance, prairie, savanna, or wetland—involving any of the newly-acquired parcels within Capital Springs?



Yes, at both the State Park and proposed dog exercise area properties there are large scale prairie planting projects that the Friends could potentially assist with similar to how the first phase plantings were done on the dog exercise area property. There are also pending wetland restoration/habitat scrape projects at the Jenni and Kyle Preserve and the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

Are there changes planned to the water access at Lake Farm Park?

There is an overflow automobile parking lot proposed on the new State Park land across from the lake access facility that should help to reduce car parking on Libby Road. There is also a bicycle pedestrian trail planned from the campground area that will allow non-motorized access to the launch site and shoreline trails.



How might area residents get involved and support the future plans set out for Capital Springs?

By contacting Rhea Stangel-Maier, Adult Conservation Team Volunteer Coordinator, and signing up as a volunteer for Dane County Parks. In addition to existing organized groups such as the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, there are many other opportunities to work on a variety of projects all throughout the Recreation Area. Rhea can be reached by calling 608-224-3601 and at stangel-maier@co.dane.wi.us. Folks can also learn about more County volunteer opportunities on line at <http://www.countyofdane.com/lwrp/parks/volunteer/> or at the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area at <http://www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/>.

➡ To obtain a copy of the master plan, please visit our website at <http://www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/> or the DNR web site at http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/capsprings/.

❧ Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area Endowment ❧

The **Friends** are very excited to announce that our Board of Directors recently approved the creation of a **permanent endowment fund** to provide a perpetual source of funding to support the **Capital Springs Recreation Area**. The endowment will be managed by the **Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin**, which currently manages approximately 50 funds throughout Wisconsin that are committed to building perpetual and sustainable private funding for public natural resource conservation. The creation of the permanent endowment to **benefit Cap Springs** represents an important step towards sustainability for the **Friends group** and will provide a **permanent source of financial support** for the Park's educational, recreational and conservation needs. Individuals who want to help the Friends support the Park now, and for future generations to enjoy, will be able to make tax-deductible gifts to the endowment through donations to the Friends group or directly to the Natural Resources Foundation to be added to the Cap Spring's endowment fund. In addition, donors will be able to leave legacy gifts as part of their estate plans to support the Park. We will release additional details regarding the endowment later this Fall. In the meantime, please contact Matt Carlson at mccarlson@michaelbest.com or 257-3501 if you would like additional information regarding the endowment and other ways that you can help the Friends support the Park.



❧ New Garden at Lussier Family ❧ Heritage Center

By Linda Mitnacht, Dane County Liaison

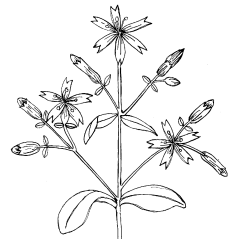
Our awesome new garden on the grounds in back of the Center had been completed for less than a week when the first wedding ceremony took place on the circular flagstone path. The bridal couple had planned to conduct their ceremony in the usual "wedding ceremony area" on the back patio until they arrived that morning to set up. They took one look at the new garden and immediately changed their plans. Several attendees from meetings in the lower level last week made a special point to let me know how nice lunch was on the patio, with the new garden in view.

Funding for this garden were made possible in part due to donations from users of the center and those participating in our brick campaign, as well as donations from the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area.

Because of the talented design and planning skills of Chris James and Alex Desmidt the garden turned out just beautiful. An additional thanks for this project goes to Paul Wipperfurth and Tom Pulvermacher who assisted with the roof drain hook up and to Jeremy Balousek and Josh Harder for their expert advise on rain gardens. Barnes Inc. did a great job installing the garden and Agrecol was kind enough to donate the plants for the rain garden, placed in the center area.



Please stop in next time you're out this way and enjoy the view!



❧ New! Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area Website ❧

<http://www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/>

By Clare L. Carlson, FOCSRA Newsletter & Website Editor

With the development of the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area website, visitors can now learn online about our beautiful park, just on the outskirts of downtown Madison. On our website, we've provided park maps, directions, things to do at the park, scheduled events, and trail pass forms. In addition, browsers may obtain archived FOCSRA newsletters, find out about volunteer opportunities, and read the Capital City Trail signs from the comfort of a chair. Of course, we've also provided an easy way that you may become a member, too!

As visitors to the park know, there are seven unique park areas within Capital Springs. In the near future, we plan to develop pages dedicated to each park unit, containing detailed descriptions, access, and recreation information. For example, the Lake Farm Park page will highlight the unit's various amenities, such as walking trails, picnic areas, water access, and the Lake Farm campground. The Lake Farm page will also provide shelter and campsite reservation links, park maps, and park staff contact information.

Please visit our site at <http://www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/> and contact our web site editor, Clare Carlson at bigmccarlson@hotmail.com with your ideas on how to make our website more useful to you!



Harvest Moon Festival

6pm – 9pm (Come Rain or Shine)

☆Take a stroll on our torch lit trail under the harvest moon and discover the natural world through interpretive presentations on Wisconsin's owls, amphibians, trees, bears, bats and more! ☆Bid on silent auction items (until 8 pm) ☆Stargaze through telescopes with the UW's "Universe in the Park" and "Space Place" astronomers ☆Listen to Blue Grass Music and enjoy s'mores around the "Howlin' Bonfire"

Admission \$3.00/person (age 2 and under free)
\$5.00/person annual Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area membership includes free admission to this event

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Proceeds go toward the recreational facilities and educational programs at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, Capital City State Trail & Capital Springs Recreation Area. Please call 224-3604 or check out our website at www.fwsp.org/capitalsprings/ for more information.

Capital City Bike Trail Update: A New Segment to Explore!

By Bruce Lindsay, Vice President of the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area

In a few short months, you will be able to take the Capital City Bike Trail to Illinois. Well, sorta. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is completing the final link of the Badger State Trail, which will connect in Fitchburg with both the Capital City and Southwest Path. Over seven miles of the trail will be paved from Lovell Lane south to Purcell Road. When completed, it will complete the existing Badger Trail, which is 37 miles of crushed limestone all the way to the Illinois border.



The Badger State Trail has one of the longest and definitely darkest bike tunnels in the state named the Stewart Tunnel. This exciting portion of the trail has a small bend, blocking all sunlight. If you ride it, bike lights are strongly recommended.

The date for the Grand Opening has not been set, but the Friends are already planning a day trip. Watch for more details!

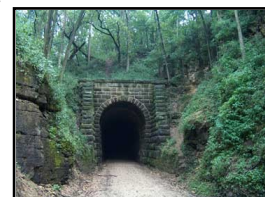


Figure 1. Trestle over Capital City Trail. Figure 2. Entrance to Stewart Tunnel

CAPITAL SPRINGS STATE RECREATION AREA INFORMATION

3101 LAKE FARM ROAD, MADISON, WI 53711

The Capital Springs Recreation Area just south of Madison encompasses about **2,500 acres** stretching from Fish Hatchery Road east to Lake Waubesa, including most of the Nine Springs E-way. There are many different areas of the park to explore, including the Lake Farm Park, the Jenni & Kyle Preserve, and Capital City State Trail which meanders through the park, connecting to other area bike trails and downtown Madison. Stop by the Lussier Family Heritage Center for additional information and a map.



Capital Springs protects more than three-quarters of a mile of undeveloped Lake Waubesa shoreline.

Hiking and skiing trails, picnic shelters, a boat launch, free bikes, and the Lake Farm Campground are just some of the activities and amenities available. For camping or picnic shelter reservations, contact Dane County Parks at 246-3896, or reserve campsites online at www.reservedane.com. For more information, contact our park manager, Kevin Swenson, at 224-3606 or at Kevin.Swenson@Wisconsin.gov.

Your support is vital to the continued growth and success of Capital Springs Recreation Area. Please consider volunteering your time, joining the **Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area**, or sending a tax-deductible donation to the **Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, Inc.** All funds received go directly to park improvements and **Friends** initiatives. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon at the park!

Park Directions: From Madison or Interstate I-90, take the West Beltline (US Highway 12/18) to the South Towne Drive Exit (exit 264) and go south. Continue for almost one mile and then

turn left on Moorland Road, which turns into Lake Farm Road after the road curves. The park is located about 1/4 mile past the curve at 3101 Lake Farm Road. You'll see the Lussier Family Heritage Center and campground on your left.

*The Capital Springs Newsletter is published by volunteers of the **Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, Inc.** as a benefit to its members.*

Friends Board of Directors: Matt Carlson, President; Anna Thomas Bates, Vice-President; Bruce Lindsay, Vice-President; Judie Pfeifer, Treasurer; Bill Lunney, Secretary.

Dane County Liaison: Linda Mittnacht

Park Manager and DNR Liaison: Kevin Swenson

Dane County Volunteer Coordinator: Rhea Stangel-Maier

Newsletter & Website Editor: Clare L. Carlson



Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, Inc.
3101 Lake Farm Road
Madison, WI 53711