



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FRIENDS CREATE ENDOWMENT FOR GOVERNOR DODGE STATE PARK**

(Dodgeville, WI) Governor Dodge State Park recently received a big boost from its friends. The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park have established an endowment fund with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. The fund will support recreation, education and environmental stewardship at the popular southwestern Wisconsin state park.

Duane Deutmeyer, treasurer of the Friends group, said that their love of the park inspired the decision to create the endowment. "We all understand that our current activities are only temporary band-aids in the longer term need to protect and enhance the park," he said. "We share a desire to have our efforts carry on after we are gone," he continued.

The group created their endowment after meeting with members of the Foundation's staff. "Our group is small and our financial resources are somewhat limited," noted Deutmeyer. "The Natural Resources Foundation allowed us to launch our fund with a manageable annual investment - they presented us with the perfect endowment model for our goals," he concluded.

The Foundation offers individuals, non-profits and businesses the opportunity to create permanent endowed conservation funds for a region of the state, a special public site, or favorite species of wildlife, conservation program or organization. Charlie Luthin, executive director of the Foundation, joined the Friends group for a special signing ceremony in Dodgeville and was impressed with their enthusiasm. "Even in these tough economic times, several people came forward with generous gifts to help grow the fund on its first official day," he said.

Kathy Gruentzel, Governor Dodge State Park superintendent, praised the group for their commitment. "The Friends of Governor Dodge are truly forward thinkers - their enthusiasm and support of the park is contagious," she said. "And now with this endowment, they are ensuring that their support will continue so that future generations can enjoy the special place we know as Governor Dodge," she concluded.

Governor Dodge State Park is one of the largest in parks in Wisconsin. The area includes beautiful bluffs, hills, two lakes and a waterfall. Recreation opportunities at the park include camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, swimming and much more.

The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Endowment Fund is administered by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Contributions to the fund are tax-deductible and can be made by sending a check to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Attn: Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Endowment Fund, PO Box 2317, Madison, WI 53701 or by donating online at [www.wisconservation.org](http://www.wisconservation.org).

**Editor's Note:** A print-ready and royalty-free group photo of the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park is available upon request – contact Jeffrey Potter above.

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The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a 501c-3 non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. For more than twenty years, the Foundation has worked with citizens, businesses, non-profits and the government to promote the protection and enjoyment of Wisconsin's public lands, waters and wildlife. Learn more at [www.wisconservation.org](http://www.wisconservation.org)