



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friends of Wyalusing Create Endowment for State Park

(Bagley, WI) Wyalusing State Park has received a big boost from its friends.

The Friends of Wyalusing State Park recently created an endowment to provide permanent support for the Park's educational, interpretive, recreational and natural resource needs. This is the first endowment established by a local state park friends group through the Natural Resources Foundation. The Foundation, a nonprofit based in Madison, helps individuals and organizations direct private dollars to meet public conservation needs throughout the state.

"The Friends of Wyalusing State Park has made an historic step in ensuring the preservation and protection of the park for future generations" says Brian Hefty, park superintendent.

"Future park users will look back at this moment and be thankful that the members of the friends group had the foresight to start an endowment."

Wyalusing State Park, located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers in Bagley, Wisconsin, encompasses over 2,620 acres of swampy bottomlands, stunning vistas, and bluff top forests. The park is home to hundreds of species of plants and animals including 284 distinct bird species. The park provides an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, camping, fishing and canoeing to over 200,000 visitors each year.

"The park is a special place in many different respects because of its historical and geographical features as well as the diverse flora and fauna it protects," explains Kathy Paske, secretary of Friends of Wyalusing. "We created this endowment to ensure that future park lovers have the means to continue our conservation and education efforts."

"The friends group wanted to create a fund that would last forever," says Hefty. "This endowment is a gift that will keep on giving to help promote the needs of the park well into the future. I'm very proud to be a part of a group of individuals that are willing to make it a priority to set aside funds now from which all future users will benefit from."

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

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