

FRIENDS OF BLUE MOUND STATE PARK 2024 AT A GLANCE

The Friends of Blue Mound State Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are a group of volunteers working together to enhance and preserve the park's natural resources while offering activities and projects to improve the visitor experience.



CURRENT OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Greg Wiegand
Justin Gleicher

Treasurer

Holly Sledge

Secretary

Tom Hawes

BOARD MEMBERS

Alyson McGinty
Dave Zoromski
Jim Reynolds
Sharon Baldwin
Walt Hougas
Willi Van Haren

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \$94,000 donation to CORP to fund their Gneiss Mountain Bike Trail rebuild project
- Solar panels on park entrance station and utility shed, offsetting operating expenses
- Funding an Eagle Scout project to build updated kiosk signage within the park
- Upgraded merchandise sales process to accept credit cards and better track inventory

ONGOING INITIATIVES

- Music on the Mound Concert Series - over 550 people attended the series over the summer of 2023
- Investment in social media growth, Digital Media Coordinator funded through 2024
- Summer naturalist program (includes matching grant from Friends of WI State Parks)

IN-FLIGHT PROJECTS

- Outdoor amphitheater rebuild, upgrades include new seating and stage, modernized electrical, as well as being fully ADA compliant. Project is partially funded by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant.
- Embarking on 3-year Swain and Upper Walnut prairie restoration program
- Dirk Racine memorial trailhead gathering shelter
- Water & sewer for Campground Host site
- Electrical infrastructure upgrade at the top-of-mound, adding electrical event capacity to open-air shelter and surrounding area, building capacity for a future EV charger, and replacing the aging electrical panel. This upgrade will displace the imposing HHH generator rented each year
- Revamped firewood sales woodshed, with storage for a trackchair to improve trail accessibility

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

- The Horribly Hilly Hundreds challenge ride, established in 2003, has raised over one million dollars to support projects at Blue Mound State Park
- The annual Blue Mound Trail Run, part of the regional Savanna series of trail runs
- Recurring and annual memberships are a growing source of revenue
- Funds are also raised through selling firewood, ice, and merchandise at the park

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

- Financial endowments for sustaining financial support of key park initiatives
- Phase II mountain bike trail system rebuild with CORP (Capital Off Road Pathfinders - madcitydirt.org)
- Group campground | Beginner ski trail | Shelter parking lot lighting

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FRIENDS OF BLUE MOUND STATE PARK

The Friends of Blue Mound State Park is an entirely volunteer run organization, and relies on volunteers to take up small slices of the work of managing the organization to spread the load. While we are always looking for Directors to take on the major efforts of the organization, and ensure the organization continues moving forward, we have a significant number of smaller areas an individual could make an impact at the park and with the organization.

Volunteer



Email List

VOLUNTEERS share their passion for Blue Mound State Park, over 200 volunteers provided 588+ hours at our various events in 2023.

We have a volunteer mailing list where we coordinate volunteer activities, so if none of the commitments below look appealing to you, join the mailing list to stay informed by scanning the QR code on the left and sending the email it generates, or email volunteers+subscribe@friendsofbluemound.org.

- **Directors (5-20 hours/month)** - Join the board to direct the organization and its efforts.
- **Membership and Volunteer Coordinator (5 hours/month)** - Send welcome letters, manage the membership and volunteer databases, and solicit volunteers for events like the HHH, candlelight ski/hike, and Blue Mound trail run.
- **Communications and Marketing (1-5 hours/month)** - Write and develop online content for the website and social media, bolster the digital presence and communications of the Friends.
- **Horribly Hilly Hundreds** - Everything from pre-event and day-of coordination, being a volunteer or the top-dog manager of a rest stop, merchandise sales, food serving, cheer squads, communication management, task runners, and just about anything you can think of an event might need.
- **Firewood Splitting (you set the hours)** - The Friends supply the firewood for use at the park, and using the gas log splitter to split logs offsets the pre-split firewood we otherwise buy commercially.
- **Prairie and Ecological Management** - Volunteers to help with prairie restoration and ecological management work throughout the growing season. This can include your level of interest from volunteering in the field for invasive management to prairie seeding, or even program management.
- **Grant Coordinator (3-10 hours/month)** - Manage annual grant applications for our naturalist funding in addition to grants for capital projects like new/updated structures or major park initiatives like prairie and woodlands restoration. Help in sourcing grants to expand initiatives or fund new activities for the benefit of the park.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF BLUE MOUND STATE PARK

The single largest impact anyone can have on the organization and the park is by becoming a recurring member. Use the QR code on the right to join today, it takes less than 3 minutes.

Individual Friend of Blue Mound State Park	\$25
Family Friend of Blue Mound State Park	\$45
Business Friend of Blue Mound State Park	\$100

