

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT OCTOBER, 2017



Mission Statement:

To preserve natural resources for public use and conservation, to operate and maintain a parks system with resource oriented recreation, trails and specialty parks; and to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of Jefferson County residents.



The Jefferson County Parks Department manages a system that includes 19 County Parks. The Park System is primarily nature based. In addition, it also includes a dog park, Indian Mound & Trail Park, and a nature preserve.

We also manage a comprehensive bike trail and water trail system. These trail systems have grown to become some of our most popular offerings.

The Parks Department administers the Public Snowmobile Program in Jefferson County.

We manage the grounds of all county owned properties. This includes comprehensive landscape services at the Courthouse, MIS building, Highway Department, Fairgrounds, Human Services, Workforce Development/University of Wisconsin-Extension, Sheriff's Department annex and Potters Field.

The Parks Department also manages 122 Flood Mitigation properties.

Current Grants & Donations

- 2016-2017 WiDNR Snowmobile Grant
- 2017-2018 WiDNR Snowmobile Grant
- WiDNR Stewardship Grant – Interurban Trail
- Rec Trails Grant – Interurban Trail
- Greater Watertown Health Foundation Interurban Trail Grant
- Anonymous Donation – Interurban Trail
- Citizen Donations – Interurban Trail
- Rotary Club Trailhead sign – Interurban Trail
- Jefferson County Bicycle Club Donation – Interurban Trail
- Jefferson County Bicycle Club Donation – Glacial River Trail
- Jefferson County Bicycle Club Donation – Glacial River Mountain Bike Park
- Anonymous Donation – Glacial River Mountain Bike Park
- NRCS Grant for Monarch Butterfly Habitat Improvement at Carnes East
- Tree donation at Carlin Weld
- County Conservation Aids Grant – Garman Nature Preserve
- Donation – Sign Plan – Garman Nature Preserve
- Donation – Vegetative Restoration & Management Plan – Garman Nature Preserve
- Natural Resources Foundation Endowment Funds
- Natural Resources Foundation Annual Tree Funds

Fundraising Events

- Brew with a View
- Mason Farm Jamboree
- Dog Dayz of Summer
- Corgi Annual Picnic

Private/Public Partnerships

We are always striving to respectfully expand our private/public partnerships

Community Outreach/Special Event Participation

- Partnered with Lake Mills Wellness Coalition for the Korth Park Candlelight Ski/snow shoe
- Dog Dayz of Summer - In cooperation with the City of Jefferson Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department the department hosted the annual Dog Dayz of Summer at the Jefferson Aquatic Center.
- Dog Park Events include: Lure Coursing & Educational Outreach Programs
- Mason Farm Jamboree, Carnes Park – The 5th annual Mason Farm Jamboree
- Tour Da Goose, Watertown, WI - participated on the planning team for the Tour Da Goose bicycle ride. The ride brought in nearly 350 riders with the last leg of the route on the Glacial River Trail between Johnson Creek and Watertown.
- Lake Ripley Ride, Cambridge, WI – participated on the planning team for the Lake Ripley CAP bicycle ride.
- Brew with a View – in cooperation with Tyranena Brewery, the department hosted Brew with a View at Korth Park as a fundraiser for the department.
- Canoecopia Participation
- Hosted a Rock River Sweep in partnership with UW-Whitewater, September 2016
- Rock River National Water Trail grand opening paddle – June 3

Friends of GHA & Friends of Rose Lake

Both friends groups continue to recruit and manage volunteers on projects, organize outdoor activities in our parks including bird walks, winter recreation activities, education, paddling outings, help with funding small park projects, and staff our parks department booth at events and fundraisers.

Glacial Heritage Area

The department continues to work in partnership with the Friends of GHA and many others on a variety of projects within the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA).

Glacial River Trail

- Runs the length of the County – 31.5 miles

Glacial River Trail Mountain Bike Park

- The Jefferson County Parks Department and numerous volunteers continue to build the trail system.

Cappie's Landing

- Park improvements completed
- Campsites Licensed

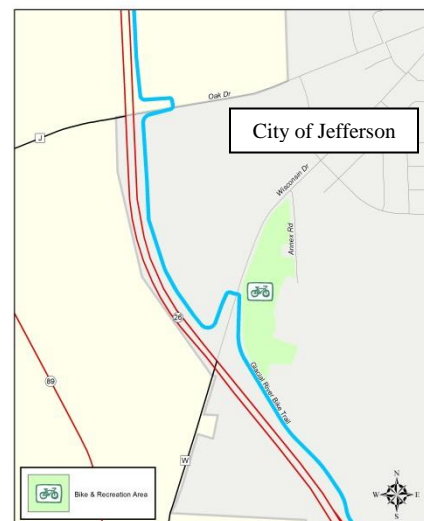
Carlin Weld Park

- Paving at Carlin-Weld Parking Lot October 2016
- Carlin Weld Open – Disc Golf Tournament
- Electricity Installed at Shelter

Dorothy Carnes Park

- East – Parking Lot Completed
- Campsites Licensed
- Jones Lane ownership transferred
- First Female Youth Hunt Participant to harvest a deer at Carnes Park November 2016
- Bidding farmland in conjunction with the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department

Garman Nature Preserve



- Sign Plan complete
- Vegetative Restoration Management Plan

Interurban Trail

- Moving forward – 1st bridge expected to be built in 2018

Jefferson County Dog Park

- Very Heavily Used – 1,810 Annual Tags Sold

Rock River Park

- Boat Launch Improved

Professional Engineering Services

- Selected a preferred provider

Flood Mitigation Properties

- Working to compete a Flood Mitigation Property Management Plan

Historic Sites Preservation Committee

- Provide Support Services

Thank you!!!