

Friends of Hoyt Park Newsletter – Mar. 2024

Message from the Chair

Greetings from the Friends of Hoyt Park! We are excited to update you with this inaugural quarterly newsletter. We plan to communicate with you more often. We hope you find our new condensed format informative and engaging.

Our 2023 fundraiser and membership campaign was a smashing success. We added almost 50 new members to the Friends. Because of your generosity, we raised enough money to fund 2 conservation rangers with City Parks in 2024. One ranger continues to work with us and City parks is setting up interviews for the second position. Both rangers will be solely dedicated to Hoyt Park projects. Thank you to all who supported us.

Since January, we have been working on community engagement as well as removal of problematic species and erosion management. Our work in the Park will pick up this Spring with planning already underway. We will also join the City of Madison Parks to celebrate Earth Day 2024. Come and join us on Saturday April 20th. You can read more in the next section of this newsletter.

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you in the park.

Rich Jablonski
Chair, Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc.

Hoyt Park Earth Day Celebration 2024

Come join the Friends of Hoyt Park as we join in the [Madison Parks 2024 Earth Day Challenge](#). We will be in the park at 10 am on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The City of Madison Parks has a sign-up process online <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earthdayChallenge.cfm>. Or you can just arrive at the Main Parking lot by 10 am! We will be sprucing up the park and removing any invasives that have started to grow. The event will be co-hosted with the Wild Ones Nature Group. They plan to conduct a short, guided nature walk to observe some of the park's early spring flora around Noon and serve light refreshments after the walk. See you there!

Website Buildout

Please continue to visit our website at www.hoytpark.org as we add new features. There is a volunteer form to fill out if you are interested in meeting new people and volunteering your time to help to make the park a better place. We welcome all.

Natural Areas Committee Update

The Natural Areas Committee has largely spent the winter months planning our activities for the rest of the year. We are selecting native plant seeds and seedlings to plant in our restoration areas. These will be planted on some of our workdays that occur on the third Saturday of the month from

10 AM to noon. Come join us if you can. This work improves the diversity of plants in the park and provides better habitat for all the animals that call Hoyt Park their home.



We managed two brush pile burns this winter. The unusually warm weather limited the opportunities to get this work done.

Contact us at <mailto:volunteers@hoytpark.org> if you have ideas for how to improve the natural areas in the park.

Donation Tributes

We would like to acknowledge and thank those individuals who have made a donation to the Friends of Hoyt Park in memory of someone dear to them.

- In memory of Jay Florian: “We care for this park because of the opportunities it gives us to think of Dad/Poppypeed on our Jay walks. So much love in this natural space.” (made by Gina LeMense)
- In memory of Judy Ficken (made by Jill Maidenberg)
- In memory of Flo (2015) and Josh (2020) Chover: Their son David of Ocala, FL writes- My donation is “to honor my mom and dad who built a home on DuRose Terrace in 1967. They raised a great family and Hoyt Park was a part of this. I remember walking on Bluff St. to go to Hoyt Elementary school...I walked it a thousand times between 1st and 5th grade.

As kids we were in awe of the (Hoyt Park) ski jump. As we walked up the asphalt (service) path (towards the school) you could see it to your right high on the hill, intimidating was an understatement. Afraid to try...we never did.

I moved away from Madison in 1990 (but) I always came back to visit family and see the park. It was a part of me. Always was and always will be....I felt that this (park) should continue... and so it has. Hopefully my donation will improve a little of this special place.”

Friends of Hoyt Park Board: Rich Jablonski, Chair; Glenn Teschendorf, Treasurer and Tim Astfalk, Secretary; The Vice Chair office remains open. Members at large: Vaughan James, Chris Wendt, Mark Hazelbaker and Deborah Lawson