

The Park Pen



Friends of Peninsula State Park Newsletter
Summer 2024

From the President

As a Friends Group, we value your membership and all donations to the many projects and educational programs in the Park. Your generosity helps us to continue our focus on providing ways of accommodating visitors of all ages and abilities. It has been wonderful to see so many people utilizing the accessible [Eagle Tower](#) and canopy walk, the Nicolet Beach playground, and the trail-ready motorized trackchair at the Nature Center. Education has always been a focus of our group and this year, in collaboration with [Peninsula School of Art](#), we will be hosting two resident artists who will create art in the Park and provide educational opportunities for visitors.



Chris Holicek
FPSP Board President

Also exciting is our Trails Committee's efforts to improve trails for your hiking and biking experiences.

Please remember all of your donations to the Friends stay here in our Park. We hope to see you on the trails this spring and summer to enjoy everything our beautiful Park has to offer!



2024 Like To Hike: The Niagara Escarpment

The Like to Hike program is celebrating its 24th year and this year's focus is **The Niagara Escarpment**. Like To Hike promotes healthy & sustainable recreation for all. This year's pin features land snails, which are some of the Niagara Escarpment's rarest inhabitants.

[READ MORE](#)

From the Superintendent: Blazing New Trails & Creating New Ways to Experience Peninsula Park

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner! Frogs are out and many of our seasonal avian friends are here for the year. We're excited for our nature educational programming to begin soon and thanks to the Friends, we'll be having weekly animal encounter programming rotating between [Open Door Bird Sanctuary](#), [Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary](#), and the [NEW Zoo](#). Make sure to check the events page and calendar for our daily programming ranging from wildlife education, naturalist-guided hikes, and having guest experts like our DNR bat specialist. We've also got some exciting news that will be coming out very soon as the Friends are partnering with our neighbors, Peninsula School of Art, for a new Peninsula State Park Artist in Residency Program (more details to come soon)!



Eric Hyde
Park Superintendent

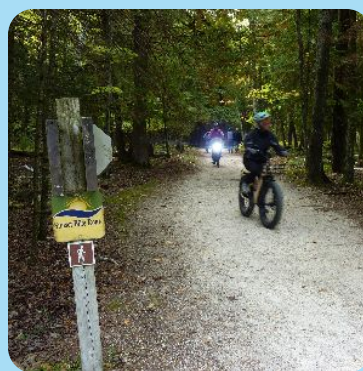
Over 20 million dollars has been invested in Peninsula State Park in the last 5 years, much of which has been infrastructure-related. This year is no different, as renovations to all five flush restrooms and shower buildings in Welckers and North Nicolet Campground will begin right after Labor Day Weekend. Don't worry, Tension campers... Tension restroom facilities will have major renovations and upgrades in 2025. Many of the waterlines and all of the water fountains will be replaced this fall, as well.

This past year was another exciting year for accessibility, as we were able to partner with [Kinect M1](#) & Friends of PSP to place a motorized trackchair here at Peninsula. Dozens of people with limited mobility were able to experience nature with friends and family, with ages ranging from children to at least one individual over 100 years old. We're also excited about some new universally accessible trails that will be built this year. My personal favorite being a loop starting by the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse that will take visitors along the shoreline with amazing views of the Strawberry Islands. This trail will feature educational signage so visitors can learn about the importance of the Great Lakes and the navigational history on the lakes.

More changes to the trail system will be coming this fall and in 2025 as the Friends and local community have raised **\$650,000** to deliver purpose-built mountain bike trails. These professionally designed trails will be narrow, sustainable trails that wind through the forest, utilizing existing topography to create a desirable and exciting trail ride for mountain bikers. The trails will feature rock gardens and some fun features, but to other park users, these trails won't be very noticeable as they have been designed to blend in with the park's natural features. Currently, the trails are going through a rigorous environmental review to ensure we are protecting species of concern and threatened and endangered species.

We hope you all have a great summer experiencing Peninsula State Park and all the other amazing open spaces in Wisconsin!

See our event calendar for more exciting adventures in the Park. [CALENDAR](#)



Volunteers Needed for Peninsula State Park's New Mountain Bike Trail System

The Friends of Peninsula State Park are thrilled to announce the launch of a groundbreaking project: the construction of a new mountain bike trail system within Peninsula State Park. Set to begin in Fall of 2024, this initiative aims to create 14-18 miles of purpose-built, sustainable trails, providing outdoor enthusiasts with an environmentally responsible recreational experience.

[TRAIL TALK NEWS HERE](#)

As the leading organization behind this project, the Friends of Peninsula State Park are seeking volunteers willing to contribute their time and resources to make this plan a reality. Whether through hands-on trail construction efforts or fundraising support, individuals passionate about this exciting project are encouraged to reach out.

"The development of the mountain bike trail system represents a significant opportunity to enhance Peninsula State Park's offerings and provide visitors with a unique outdoor experience," said Brian Fitzgerald, trail volunteer for the Friends organization. "We are calling on community members and outdoor enthusiasts to join us in this effort and help bring this project to fruition."

As of this announcement, the Friends of Peninsula State Park have successfully secured **50%** of the necessary **\$1.2 million** in funding. This is enough to support Phase 1 of the 2-part project which is scheduled to commence later this year.

To learn more about the mountain bike trail project and how to get involved, visit peninsulastatepark.org or contact Brian Fitzgerald at brianfitzgerald67@gmail.com.

YOU CAN BE A TRAIL BLAZER

The Friends of Peninsula State Park are offering a limited opportunity to leave your mark on Peninsula State Park by honoring your loved one or acknowledging a family or personal connection to the Park.

We are placing twelve benches on our new universally accessible trails. These trails are between Nelsons Point and Skyline Parking lot and around the lighthouse. We also have one bench still available at the [Eagle Tower](#). To learn more about this once in a lifetime opportunity see our website. [READ MORE](#)

Learn more about donating financially, volunteering your time and talent or becoming a Friend of Peninsula State Park.

[DONATE](#) [JOIN](#) [VOLUNTEER](#)



Copyright © 2023, Friends of Peninsula State Park, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 502
Fish Creek, Wisconsin 54212
Email Address: info@peninsulafriends.org
Phone Number: (920) 868-6256
Website: <https://peninsulastatepark.org/>

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

