

Friends of Medina County Parks

Annual Report

2022-2023

The annual membership meeting of Friends of Medina County Parks was held on June 27 at 6:30 p.m. Forty-two members attended the meeting held at the Chippewa Yacht Club. Trustee President Hub Marquis presented the highlights of the activities of the Friends from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

The Granger Wetlands Covered Bridge project will be completed for a fall opening of the Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary. The project was undertaken by the Friends to enhance the entrance to the restored wetlands at the site. Over \$200,000 was raised for the project including funding from the Friends Endowment Fund.

Friends of the Parks became the owners of a historic property including seventeen acres on State Route 18 just east of Medina Hospital. The Brown-Trump Homestead (named after the previous owners) was gifted to the Friends along with a long-term care fund totaling just over \$2.7 million. The funds will be used to make immediate repairs to the historic homestead and to create an endowment to care for the property in the future.

The Friends entered into a lease agreement with Medina County Park District to manage the day-to-day operation of the property. A number of other Medina County non-profits are involved with the project including Cathy's House, Feeding Medina County, Hope Recovery, and Medina County Historical Society. While not open daily (in keeping with the donors' wishes), there will be periodic program offerings. Look for program opportunities at this site in the future. The Friends will, eventually, open an office at this location.

A number of grants were awarded over the past year for various projects throughout the park district including the following.

- A matching grant to the Chippewa Yacht Club for a picnic shelter, from the George Ayers Fund
- A grant to the Medina County Park District for a picnic shelter at Bluebell Valley, from the George Ayers Fund
- A grant to the Medina County Park District for a shelter at Holmesbrook Park, from the George Ayers Fund
- A grant to the Medina County Park District to construct handicap fishing access at Holmesbrook Park, from the Michael Bennett Memorial Fund

In addition, Friends supported various programs offered throughout the year including music programs, fishing programs, and grants to Medina County school districts to bring students to Oenslager Nature Center for nature education classes.

In May, Friends kicked off a joint project with Medina County Park District to raise funds for a number of capital development projects at various sites throughout the county. More information will be available in the coming months.

Friends has begun working on the development of a new website that will increase visibility of the organization and its mission to assist the park district. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Fiscal Year 2022 Highlights (as of 12/31/22)

Total Membership - 707	Endowment Fund Donations - \$42,480.34
General Income - \$15,489.42	Endowment Fund Total - \$239,665.78
General Expense - \$13,605.93	Non-restricted Funds Available - \$24,648.20



Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary Bridge