

Acknowledgements

Dane County Park Commission

Donald/Woodburn Family
James Donald Woodburn
Robert Donald Woodburn

The Deer Creek Sportsmen's Club

The Friends of Donald Park

William & Cynthia Haack

David Hughes

Patricia Hitchcock

The Mount Horeb Historical Society

Sugar River Horsin' Around Club

Trout Unlimited

Brian Bigler

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1993, Delma Donald Woodburn donated 105 acres to Dane County Parks that would be the beginning of what is now known as Donald Park in the Town of Springdale. In 1997, the Dane County Board approved Resolution 150 to accept a donation from the Woodburn family to complete a Master Plan for Donald Park. A graphic plan for the park was prepared by a landscape architecture consulting firm in 1999, however, a written report that provided necessary details to implement plan recommendations was never completed. Since the completion of the 1999 plan, the park has grown to nearly 700 acres and a very active Friends group has evolved. As additional park land development and acquisition has occurred, it has become clear that an update to the 1999 effort was necessary. The 2004-05 master planning process included multiple meetings with the Friends of Donald Park, periodic updates to the Dane County Parks Commission, and a presentation to the Town of Springdale.

The cultural and natural resources of Donald Park are rich and diverse. Brian Bigler, formerly of the Mount Horeb historical society, was contracted by the Woodburn's to provide a detailed family history that is included in the plan. The Hitchcock farmstead is also discussed as a significant contribution to the creation of the park. Donald Park is located within Dane County's driftless or unglaciated area, the park's terrain is characterized by many hills and valleys with significant rock outcroppings. The park is within the Sugar River watershed, and includes stretches of Mount Vernon, Fryes Feeder, and Deer Creek. Deer Creek and Fryes Feeder Creek are classified by state statute as Exceptional Resource Waters, Mount Vernon Creek has the highest classification rating within the park, an Outstanding Resource Water, meaning it has excellent water quality and high quality fisheries. Portions of Mt. Vernon Creek are also classified as Class I trout stream by the DNR, meaning that brook, brown and rainbow trout are native and can successfully reproduce in the stream. Vegetative communities of the park include historic Civilian Conservation Corps pine plantations, oak savanna and woodlands, and multiple prairie restoration areas.

Donald Park is intended to be a passive recreation park, linking and preserving environmental and historic resources through education and recreation. The 1999 master planning process identified the following recreation uses that could be developed at the park; picnicking, fishing, rustic camping, nature hikes and study, sight seeing, environmental education, cultural resource protection, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, historical interpretation, hunting, archery, and agricultural education. There was a strong desire by the stakeholders to minimize the impacts of trail and park facility developments on the existing natural and agricultural landscapes throughout the park. Hiking trails will be limited to 3' widths on a 1 year trial basis, with the Friends providing the additional maintenance necessary to keep them from growing shut. A detailed action plan was provided at the request of the Friends to guide preparation of their annual work plans. An acquisition plan identifies future lands needed for parkland development and resource protection.

INTRODUCTION

The need for a Southwest Dane County regional park is documented by Dane County Parks as far back as the *1970 Dane County Plan for Parks and Open Space*. Specifically, the plan referenced a rock formation called "picture rock" and recommended acquisition of approximately 250 acres of the surrounding rugged topography, wooded tracts, interesting rock formations, and trout streams. Picture rock has since been renamed Donald Rock in recognition of the Donald Family who, in 1952, donated the rock and the immediately surrounding two acres to the Department of Transportation to enjoy as a scenic wayside.

Subsequent Dane County Parks and Open Space Plans through 1995 continued to justify the need for a scenic recreation area in the southwest portion of the County. The realization of the need came in 1993 when Vernon Valley Farms, Inc., Delma (Donald) Woodburn's family corporation, donated approximately 105 acres to Dane County Parks just south of Donald Rock for the establishment of Donald Park.

Donald Park master planning has had the benefit of many contributors through the years. Jason Wilke's 1996 University of Wisconsin capstone senior project in Landscape Architecture was the first master planning effort for the park and has proven to be an excellent site inventory and analysis resource for subsequent planning efforts. The Woodburn Family made a substantial monetary donation to continue the planning process in 1997, which was accepted by the Dane County Board of Supervisors in Resolution 150, 1997-1998. Dane County Parks retained the consulting firm, Landscape Architects, Inc. in September of 1998 to compile a master plan for the park, which was adopted by the County Board in July, 1999 by Resolution 67, 1999-2000. The Landscape Architects, Inc. Master Plan is based on Wilke's previous planning efforts, input from the Donald/Woodburn Family, a public participation process, and contributions from stakeholders and neighboring landowners. The 1999 graphic Master Plan is presented under Appendix 1.

Dane County Parks and the Friends of Donald Park have since begun developing facilities within the park. There have also been a number of acquisition projects that have increased the park size to almost 700 acres protected through ownership and conservation easements. Since completion of the 1999 planning process, it has become apparent that an updated Master Plan that builds upon the 1999 graphic plan should be compiled to provide a common vision for all who work on development and acquisition projects at Donald Park.

Mission Statement

Donald Park is intended to be a passive recreational park, linking and preserving environmental and historic resources through education and recreation.

PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

The recommendations set forth within this Master Plan Report were guided by:

- ✓ environmental and cultural resources found within the park;
- ✓ physical limitations of the park;
- ✓ covenants agreed to upon acquisition and donation of lands and money;
- ✓ citizen needs as determined by public meetings of the 1999 planning process;
- ✓ meetings with members of the Donald/Woodburn Family
- ✓ Jason Wilke's University of Wisconsin Landscape Architecture Capstone Project;
- ✓ Landscape Architect, Inc.'s 1999 Master Plan;
- ✓ Donald Park Goals as identified in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan;
- ✓ Friends of Donald Park and Dane County Parks staff.

The 1999 master planning process included 3 public meetings, a walking tour of the site, an open house presentation to the Town of Springdale, and a public meeting with the Dane County Parks Commission. Dane County Parks has worked closely with several stakeholder groups in the planning of Donald Park. These groups include the Donald/ Woodburn Family, local residents and neighbors, surrounding communities and units of government, recreational and conservation organizations, the Dane County Historical Society, and Parks staff. Continued discussions and cooperation with these groups are essential to achieving the objectives set forth in this plan.

The 2004-06 Master Plan planning process included meetings and periodic draft plan reviews with the Friends of Donald Park, the Dane County Park Commission, and a presentation to the Town of Springdale. A copy of the draft plan was also mailed to all property owners adjacent to the park for their review.

PARK INVENTORY

DONALD/WOODBURN FAMILY HISTORY

The nucleus for Donald Park can be traced to one family that became permanent mid-nineteenth century settlers in the Springdale Township valley - a family that would make its mark on local, state, national and international affairs.

A calling to Wisconsin to serve Presbyterian charges at what would become Mt. Horeb, and a small group of Scotch settlers meeting in homes at Verona, caused the Rev. James Donald, pastor of a church at New Scotland, New York, to pack up his possessions and in the spring of 1855 bring his wife Margaret Strong and their three sons William, Robert and John to a farm site located conveniently between the two parishes. Donald purchased two forty acre parcels, one containing a small log house, from another early land owner, William Dryden, and received final title to them on November 14, 1855. The family spent their first years in the log structure

while a two story frame home was planned and executed in 1859. This house, with its late nineteenth century additions, is still standing on the Donald Farm. Reverend Donald passed away on October 6, 1866, and is buried in the Mt. Horeb Cemetery, the site of one of his original parishes.

James and Margaret's eldest son William became a doctor and is believed to be the first regular doctor to practice and live in nearby Mt. Vernon. After an injury, which left him in need of crutches, he received a patent for slip-proof crutch tips and built up a small business manufacturing and selling them. After the death of his first wife Adeline he moved to Tomah, Wisconsin. Robert, the second oldest son went East to school, and for a time he was principal of Peekskill Military Academy. His mother, Margaret, went to live with him after the death of his father. Youngest son, John Strong Donald, took on the farming responsibilities. In April 1868, John married the neighbor girl, Ellen Sweet, with whom he made many trips to church with as a young man. This was not a long union as John died six months later on October 9th from typhoid fever, three months before the birth of his son John Sweet Donald, on January 12, 1869. Ellen was later remarried to John Jones, the operator of a mill at Mt. Vernon.

Rev. James Donald

John Sweet Donald grew up on the family farm, attended nearby Malone School, graduated from Northwestern Business College - Madison in 1887, from Valparaiso University - Indiana in 1894, and the Chicago Dental Collage in 1897. During these years Mr. Jones, his stepfather, acquired the Sweet and Mc Cord farms located on either side of the original Donald farm and died the spring of John's graduation in 1897. John, fearing loosing the farms, gave up the notion of practicing dentistry to operate them. In 1898 he married Vona De Crow of Valparaiso, Indiana and they settled into the Donald home. They had three children, Delma, born on June 2, 1899, Robert, born on August 1901, and Dora, born June 3, 1903. Only Delma survived.

John became successful raising and selling purebred Percheron horses, winning awards at county and state fairs. He raised shorthorn cattle and sold purebred Berkshire hogs. His business schooling instilled a keen sense for innovative farm practices, such as applying lime to hay fields to increase production, and for operating the farms on a 50/50 cooperative share farm rental, insuring that many

young farmers would get a start at farming. John went about adding new structures to the three farms. Vona also became active in farm matters, as well as community betterment. She championed progressive ideas on rural education and became involved in causes of her day, including the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.).

In 1892, at the young age of 23, John became the assessor for Springdale Township, a move that set him on a long path in politics. John became Town Chairman of the Board of Supervisors from 1899 to

"Split Log" Drag

1902. In state politics he served in the Assembly from 1902 to 1907, the Senate from 1908 to 1911, and spent two terms as Secretary of State from 1912-1916. Among his accomplishments as Senator was the introduction of the "Good Roads Bill" which gave state aid to highway improvements and created a commission to establish the state highway system. In 1918 John withdrew candidacy for the US Congress to serve in France as an A.E.F. Secretary for the YMCA. After the armistice he remained with the Army Educational Corps in France, organizing classes in agriculture for the boys in the Army of Occupation. It was during these later years of political involvement that the family left their Springdale farm for Madison. While still carrying on the 50/50 share management of the farms, Donald joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture as a farm management expert. It was here that he pioneered new farm record keeping methods, traveling to local and state fairs promoting his farm record keeping books under the slogan "a farm without records is like a clock without hands."

John was active in numerous organizations which promoted human welfare, especially those involving the appreciation of the environment. He established the Forest of Fame on the public square in Mt. Vernon, Wisconsin, a park where trees from the homes and birthplaces of notable individuals were planted. He served as president and one of the founders of the Friends of Our Native Landscape, a group dedicated to preserving the natural environment, and as Secretary of the Dane

County Agricultural Society. John died at his home in Madison on January 10, 1934 and was buried in the family plot at Mt. Horeb.

Like her father and mother Delma was very community minded. Proud to have voted in the first election for which women had achieved this right, she was strong willed in her convictions to public matters. Delma spent her high school years at Madison and was one of the first graduates of Wisconsin High School. She received her BA in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1921. Delma was married to James G. Woodburn in 1923. James was a professor of civil and hydraulic engineering. Her husband's career took them to locations beyond Madison, including Washington, Michigan and Germany. The busy couple raised two sons, James and Robert. In 1937 Delma and her husband moved into the family home at Madison. Along with her mother, Delma became increasingly involved with the operations of the family farms, and served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Friends of Our Native Landscape, Wisconsin Roadside Council, and the Wisconsin Women for Agriculture. It was a joyous moment when the Woodburns took a day off to picnic at their Springdale farms and when a picnic was suggested, the word was "let's go out to Pop's Knoll" named for professor Woodburn who was fondly called "Pop." The picnic site at Donald Park was named for this.

Delma Donald Woodburn

Delma was proud and very interested in her family history, especially that of the Donald Farm. Brian Bigler of the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society guided Delma to get the farm listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 for being associated with significant persons and guided son Bob to add a second listing in 2000 for its architectural significance. Throughout her years Delma got her sons and grandchildren increasingly involved in the operations of the farms. In 1983, the farms were incorporated with the entire family managing them. Her family's love of the land, her deep roots in the history of the area around the family farms, her desire to honor the accomplishments of her father, and her many years of civic involvement prompted Delma to establish a legacy to her family that could be shared by many. Ken Clark, former City of Madison planner, was aware of Dane County's desire to create a park in the southwest corner of Dane County and planted the seed of a possible donation with the Woodburn family. Delma followed through by offering the initial acres for what has become Donald Park - a legacy that she was extremely proud of. Delma passed away November 8, 2001 at the

age of 102, survived by her son James and his wife Merle, and son Robert and his wife Nan. She is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
HITCHCOCK FARMSTEAD

The Hitchcock farmstead has changed hands frequently through the years. The topography and nature of the fields has made it always difficult to farm. Christian Summerdale was the first to own the land in 1841. Peter and Hilda Larson moved their family to the farm in 1945. Harold Larson was one of 7 children and spent 20 years living and working on the farm and helping to care for his parents. Harold was very hard working and spent much of his time milking, mending fences, canning, gardening, cooking, and haying, but his greatest joy in life was fishing.

By 1966, Harold was ready to retire from farming and sold the farm to John and Pat Hitchcock in 1967. Harold moved to a small house in Mt. Horeb and spent his time fishing and visiting with friends.

Larson's Pond

The Hitchcock's moved from Los Angeles to escape the smog and life in the city. John's academic career took them to Nepal for two years and the farm was managed by renters. They moved back in 1969, and Pat began to take a strong interest in a "new" farming concept called organic farming. Pat was very interested in chemical free farming, crops included alfalfa, corn, oats, and hay. She also raised beef, horses, and chickens. John taught at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and was very excited about his commute to work through the rural farmlands. In 1970, a pond was dug on the property to provide for swimming and fishing. Pat started working with a Christian outreach program in 1976 called "Young Life." The group ranged in size from 15-35 kids and they met in the bunkhouse. Pat organized an outdoor curriculum for the kids that included cross country skiing, maple sugaring, trips to Tyrol Basin ski area, and hiking in the surrounding hillsides. The bunkhouse has a long history as a meeting place for both youth and adults, and it should be considered to continue serving this function when the Lodge program area is developed. John Hitchcock loved to ride horses and if snow obliged, cross country skiing. The Hitchcock's developed an extensive trail system on their property and enjoyed having friends out to hike, ski, and get

away from hectic city life at their farm. Today, buildings include the farmhouse, barn, milk house, chicken coop, horse shed, bunk house, and cottage. There is also a CCC pine plantation on the Hitchcock property, which was planted in the 1930s. Dane County now owns the Hitchcock farmstead, however Pat Hitchcock has a private lease agreement with the county and still resides in the farmhouse. A deed restriction on the property states the pond north of the house be named with a plaque as "Larson Pond," and that a cross country ski loop be developed on the parcel named after John Hitchcock including signage at a trailhead about his life.

In 1999, Maja Zarini interviewed Pat to find out what her vision was for future development of Donald Park. Regarding the farmstead, she would like to see the barn preserved as some kind of a social gathering place, perhaps for barn dances. It could also be used for equipment storage, or possibly horse boarding. Pat definitely wants the "spirit of the place to be one of quiet, a chance to be isolated, a chance to be close to the environment, rustic." It is very evident throughout the interview how much Pat wanted the park to be a place of quiet where one could "restore their soul." She envisions the park to have as little motorized traffic as possible, that people would walk into the park rather than "drive all over the place." Pat also suggested that a few more cabins be developed similar to hers that could be rented for over night stays.

Pat believes that bowhunting can be incorporated into the recreation use of the park. She also planted a number of sugar maples in 1974 that she would like to see people learn how to make maple sugar by hand from, "the old fashioned way." Pat has a strong interest in park being a place where kids could come out and learn to live with the land, "on it and off it without destroying it." A place to learn outdoor skills, camping, "how to start a fire and hang things over the fire." She would like to see a strong connection between the programs available at the Lussier Family Heritage Center and Donald Park. This could be incorporated into the Hitchcock Lodge.

Pat continues to be an active member of the Friends of Donald Park and regularly hosts workdays and school tours from the farm. The bunkhouse is often used as a meeting place for both the Friends and youth groups that come to visit the park. Poetry trails have been developed throughout the prairie restorations that surround the farmstead.

LOCATION

The park is about 20 minutes from Madison off of STH 92. It is located near the community of Mt. Vernon in southwest Dane County, Wisconsin, in the Township of Springdale, along Mt. Vernon Creek. Map 1 shows the park location.

Map 1 -- Location

GEOLOGY & SOILS

Being located in the driftless area, the park's terrain is characterized by many hills and valleys, interesting rock outcroppings and resultant scenic views. Valley wall slopes can exceed 20%, with sheer drops at rock outcroppings.

About 500 million years ago, advancing and retreating seas deposited sandstone, dolomite and shale, so that when the last seas retreated, 100 foot deep rock deposits were left behind. As with the entire unglaciated "driftless area", erosion has shaped the land ever since. Rivers and streams such as Deer Creek, Fries Feeder and Mt. Vernon Creek eroded the top layers of Platteville and Galena dolomites to expose the St. Peters Sandstone. The outcrop located at Town Hall Road and STH 92, called Donald Rock, and other outcroppings such as the Mt. Vernon Rocks at the southeast end of the park are of the St. Peters Sandstone. These outcroppings are thought to have been formed some twenty to thirty thousand years ago.

Three types of topography: upland, hillsides and valley floor, generally characterize where the major soil types are found. The uplands, with a Dunbarton-New Glarus-Seaton association, are characterized by well and moderately well drained, shallow, deep and moderately deep silt loams that are underlain by sandstone. The hillsides, with a Basko-Elkmound-Gale association is characterized as being moderately well drained to excessively drained, with moderately deep and shallow silt loams and sandy loams that are underlain by sandstone. The valley floor has an Otter-Orion-Troxel association, characterized by poorly drained to well drained, deep silt loams underlain by silt loam. Besides the series association, each series has suitability attributes. Tables 1 and 2 of Appendix 3 show selected suitability limitation characteristics for each series found in the park. Map 2 presents the soil types of the park.

The woods of Donald Park contain numerous other smaller rock outcroppings. One of the Donald family's favorite outcroppings was removed from the park and placed in the backyard of a Woodburn residence in Madison. This was done to protect it from increasing vandalism by souvenir hunters. Ultimately, Delma Woodburn had said she would like to see it returned to the park when adequate park supervision is available.

HYDROLOGY

Donald Park is in the Sugar River watershed. Deer Creek flows through the park from the west. Although habitat has recently been improved, runoff problems exist. The DNR and Dane County Land Conservation Department is engaged in stream bank stabilization and enhancement to improve habitat. Fryes Feeder flows into the park from the north, Deer Creek from the west. Where Deer Creek and Fryes Feeder join, Mt. Vernon Creek begins. It flows in a southeasterly direction through the valley. The streams are fed by two cold water springs and intermittent streams. The largest spring is located just south of Mt. Vernon Creek along the property line of the park and DNR lands. Another spring is located just north of Highway 92 at the intersection of Messerschmidt Road. There is also an artesian well on the Hitchcock parcel. Some areas along the streams have wet soils that may support wetland restoration projects in the future. There is a spring fed, manmade pond located on the Hitchcock parcel, east of Sutter Road, named Larson's Pond to commemorate Harold Larson, a previous property owner. Map 3 presents Hydrology of the park

Map 3 -- Hydrology

VEGETATION

The combination of northern exposure, the hydrography and topography provide conditions suitable for species that would be found in more northerly sites. Such species include Paper Birch, Red Maple, lichens, and ferns. In December, 2001, a team of University of Wisconsin-Madison forestry students (Scogsbrucks & Associates) did an extensive inventory and analysis of the vegetative communities of Donald Park. According to the Scogsbrucks analysis of vegetation, mature mixed hardwood stands consist of Red, White and Black Oak. Other mature species include Black Cherry and Walnut. Less mature Elm and Black Cherry are also present. Small groups of Sugar Maple, and Basswood can also be found.

Oak regeneration is limited and oaks are being replaced by more shade tolerant species such as Basswood and Sugar Maple. The woodland understory consists of Gray Dogwood, Elderberry, Blackberry, Red Raspberry and Black Raspberry. A Red Pine plantation is located on the Hitchcock parcel. Prairie restoration has been occurring for several years at sites throughout the park. Cedar trees planted along the streams have recently been thinned because they were planted too close together in the 1950's.

WILDLIFE

Diverse habitats result from the varied terrain, vegetative types and streams. Although not a complete list, Coyote, Red Fox, Whitetail Deer, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Muskrat and Squirrel are present. Also, Red Tail Hawk, Pheasant, Turkey, Blue Jay, Chickadee, Crow, Downy Woodpecker, Piliated Woodpecker, Junco, and Grouse have been observed (Jack Northrup, 2001).

The DNR classifies trout streams by their ability to sustain natural populations without stocking efforts, with Class 1 being the highest quality stream and Class 3 the lowest having only marginal trout habitat and annual stocking required to provide trout fishing opportunities. Donald Park offers excellent trout habitat. Deer Creek is classified as a Class 2 trout stream by the DNR, with brook and brown trout listed as native. Fryes Feeder is also classified as a Class 2 trout stream for 1.5 miles of its length, and is stocked with brown trout. Mt. Vernon Creek is a **Class 1** trout stream for four of its eight miles, including within Donald Park, and a Class 2 trout stream southeast of Mt. Vernon. Brown, brook and rainbow trout are native and successfully reproduce in the Class 1 portion of Mt. Vernon Creek.

VIEWSHEDS

Perhaps one of the greatest attributes of Donald Park is the outstanding viewsheds at multiple locations throughout the park. Several vistas are located within the wooded hilltop ridges along the southern boundary of the park. Environmentally sensitive trails should be built to popular overlook locations to prevent erosive unauthorized trails from occurring. Scenic views are not limited to high points at Donald Park. The vast open views of the Mt. Vernon/Deer Creek bottom running east west through the park should be preserved in some form of open space (organic practices/prairie) with as little park development as possible. This agricultural landscape tells the story of the cultural and geologic history of Donald Park.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL/CULTURAL

Map 4 presents the location of historical/cultural sites within the park.

Donald Rock/Archaeological Sites



Located at the corner of Town Hall Road and STH 92 is a large St. Peters sandstone formation left sitting exposed to the elements and erosion more than 450 million years ago after the last ice melt and ensuing driftless area of the Springdale Valley. The rock formation was most certainly an important landmark to the native cultures that visited the valley, especially to the Ho Chunk (Winnebago) tribe. Descendants of early area settlers wrote of a Ho Chunk family that annually camped at nearby Malone Valley as late as the 1930s. Other pre-European settlements have been identified near Donald Rock, including possible campsites or village sites and more than one potential work station. Rock art that precedes the advent of the Ho Chunk Indian Tribe can also be found. Numerous relics discovered on area farms and early mappings of mounds in the valley are further evidence of extensive pre-European activity.

Depending on whose land Donald Rock was located on, or what practical use the outcropping created, the formation has been known by several names. In 1876, Andrew L. Dahl, a DeForest, Wisconsin photographer, traveled through the area snapping photos of settlers and places of interest to be sold back to potential customers in the form of stereoscope cards. His photographic offerings titled the outcropping as "Preacher's Cap," as well as "McCord's Rock," named for Elihu K. McCord, owner of the farm where the rock was situated. Later, commercial post cards list the place as "Vernon Valley Rock," or "Picture Rock" appropriately named as many individuals posed for photos while on a picnic or outing there, as evidenced in the photographic collections of the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society. When John Jones, and later the Donald family, took possession of the former McCord farm from Isaac G. Brader they simply called it "Big Rock," while their neighbors referred to it

as "Donald's Rock." A pool of water that was often formed in a natural basin at the top of the rock was called the "Devil's Wash Basin" by locals and visitors. The rock formation received its more permanent name of "Donald Rock" in 1952 when John S. Donald's widow, Vona, gifted the rock and its 3 acre site to the State of Wisconsin for use as a wayside and as a memorial to her late husband who had long wished for its preservation. Donald Rock wayside dedication took place on June 27th, 1954 with 300 in attendance. The wayside was eventually closed in July of 1976 due to vandalism and maintenance concerns.

There are several more Wisconsin State Historical Society registered prehistoric campsite/village sites located within the park. One is near the old mill pond site at the east end of the park, another near Deer Creek, and still more exist near Pop's Knoll. A future comprehensive archeological survey of the park may be a useful long term planning tool to insure these sites remain intact during future park development projects.

Quarries

There have been two quarries on the Donald Park lands. Dane County Parks has restored the quarry on the Haack parcel near Mt. Vernon, just west of CTH G into an equestrian access area. The other quarry is located west of the Donald farmstead and northeast of the Sweet Farm. This quarry is privately owned and still remains active.

Significant Residential Sites

Several residences and public buildings have been built through the years around the park. The Malone School was constructed of local quarried lime stone on a section of the original Sweet Farm in 1905. Vona DeCrow Donald had influence on its design which was thoroughly modern and spacious for its day. This school replaced a nearby wooden structure of earlier, more simple construction. The building is now used as a residential dwelling. The William and Sally Sweet farm, acquired in 1853, with the family moving there in 1855, is intact with its many late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures. This farm is now owned by family heirs Bob & Nan Woodburn. The Donald farmstead, on the National Register of Historic Places, is of particular significance because it was the home of politician, John Sweet Donald. Existing buildings on this farm include the farmhouse, built around 1859 with late 19th century additions, the cooling well, buggy shed, horse barn, cow barn, pump house and hog house.

The Rock View farmstead, originally owned by the McCord family, was later added to the collection of farms operated by John Jones and Ellen Sweet Donald, and operated on 50/50 shares by Ellen's later heirs. The current structures were constructed by the Donalds in the early 20th century and consist of the house and barn. The hog barn, presently used as a horse stable, was built by Bob Woodburn in 1954. The farm is under the ownership of the Vernon Valley Farms, Inc.

Cabins



There are several cabin sites within the park. The Foy Homestead stacked sandstone foundation can be found south of Mt. Vernon Creek, above the "big spring". The Foy cabin was possibly the first cabin in the

Sweet Farm Barn Raising-Circa 1925

Mt. Vernon area. The Jones cabin location is now in the form of a rectangular pit, just south of Deer Creek, on the Donald property. A Finnish style, oak log cabin was built in 1986 on the Hitchcock property northwest of the farmstead for recreational purposes.

Four other cabins are no longer visible. The Donald cabin was located northwest of the existing house. The original Sweet log cabin built in 1853, was located in the flat between the current house and the creek. Recently widowed, Ellen Sweet Donald returned home to the cabin from the Donald Farm to be with her family and to deliver her baby, John Sweet Donald. The McCord cabin was located just east of the Rock View farmstead and northwest of the spring. Another cabin is believed to have been north of Donald Rock, in the northwest corner of the pasture.

SITE ANALYSIS

Donald/Woodburn Family History

Opportunities

- ✓ Historical significance of the Donald Woodburn Family establishes a cultural sense of place within the region and the park.
- ✓ Historic Donald Farmstead could provide an example of a working farm for visitors of the park.
- ✓ Historic Donald Farmstead could become a working museum of the pre-tractor farming era (approximately 1855-1925).
- ✓ Demonstration area for water quality improvement and eco-compatible farming to conserve soil and foster long-term productivity.

Constraints

- ✓ Museum or working farm may be cost/staff prohibitive.

Location

Opportunities

- ✓ Park is located within a short distance of a large population center and is easily accessed by county and state highways.

Constraints

- ✓ Development pressure from surrounding communities may fragment viewsheds from the park and trails that lead outside of park boundaries.
- ✓ Development pressure from surrounding communities may deteriorate water quality of the creeks running through the park, diminishing fishing and wildlife observation opportunities.
- ✓ Close proximity to a large population center could lead to user-conflicts and to over-use of park amenities.

Geology & Soils

Opportunities

- ✓ Areas of rugged terrain and varied topography offer opportunities for interpretation and education of driftless area geology.
- ✓ Large portions of the park and surrounding area are suitable for building equestrian trails.
- ✓ Rugged terrain and hilly topography offer scenic viewsheds and trail layout options.

Constraints:

- ✓ On-grade development may not be suitable on organic soils surrounding the creeks and in areas of steeper terrain.

Hydrology

Opportunities

- ✓ Large spring offers educational opportunity and may be accessed via a boardwalk.
- ✓ High quality trout streams offer fishing opportunities.
- ✓ Man-made pond could provide fishing access for children and people with disabilities.

Constraints

- ✓ Stream crossings may be prohibitively expensive.

Vegetation

Opportunities

- ✓ Areas of oak woods, prairie and wetland have restoration potential.
- ✓ Wetland/prairie restoration along the streams would provide buffers that reduce sedimentation and protect the trout habitat.
- ✓ Agricultural fields within and bordering the park preserve the rural character of the landscape.
- ✓ Opportunities to practice and demonstrate modern, non-polluting, non-erosive farming practices and row crops.

Constraints

- ✓ Invasive species are prolific in many areas.
- ✓ Chemical spray drift from agricultural fields may have a negative impact on area trout streams, however streambank buffers have greatly lessened the runoff potential.

Wildlife

Opportunities

- ✓ Outstanding bird/wildlife viewing opportunities.
- ✓ High quality trout streams offer fishing opportunities.
- ✓ Hunting may be possible on a limited basis.

Constraints

- ✓ Hunting may cause seasonal user conflicts.
- ✓ Deer overpopulation may be destructive to native woodland understory species.

Viewsheds

Opportunities

- ✓ Multiple scenic overlook and long view observation points exist throughout the park.
- ✓ Purchase of conservation easements from neighboring landowners would help preserve rural character of the landscape surrounding the park.

Constraints

- ✓ Construction of man-made features, trails, etc., on visually prominent locations can detract from the natural setting.

Archaeological/Historical/Cultural

Opportunities

- ✓ Provide interpretive/educational information on Winnebago pre-settlement areas in the park at Donald Rock.
- ✓ Hitchcock farm buildings could provide a centrally located park office facility.
- ✓ Potential to provide a living/working museum that highlights late 19th and early 20th century farming practices.
- ✓ Historic buildings could be renovated into park facilities, such as a visitor center.

Constraints

- ✓ Restoring and maintaining historic buildings can be cost prohibitive.
- ✓ Providing information that is site specific may lead to souvenir hunting, theft or vandalism of artifact sites.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

RECREATION

The 1999 master planning process identified the following recreation and educational uses that could be developed at the park:

- ✓ picnicking
- ✓ fishing
- ✓ rustic camping
- ✓ natural hikes and study
- ✓ sight seeing
- ✓ environmental education
- ✓ cultural resource protection
- ✓ cross-country skiing
- ✓ horseback riding
- ✓ historical interpretation
- ✓ hunting
- ✓ archery
- ✓ agricultural education

An updated and expanded overview of recommended passive recreation uses of the park follows:

Horseback Riding

Dane County Parks and the Friends of Donald Park have entered into a formal agreement called the Dane County Equestrian Trails Program, approved by the Dane County Board of Supervisors, that covers the operation, maintenance, and liability issues related to the outside of the park horse trails. This agreement is being piloted as a model for other trail programs. The program is intended to be very similar to the State snowmobile program in that the clubs

John Hitchcock-Circa 1972

will do all of the negotiations with private landowners to obtain easements on lands outside of the park for equestrian trails. Trail layout, construction, and maintenance are all carried out by the local clubs on trails outside of the park; Dane County only provides periodic oversight to insure the trails meet County development standards and are being maintained properly.

The equestrian heritage of the Donald/Woodburn family began more than a century ago on the John Sweet Donald farm that raised Percheron draft horses. The Sweet farm was the first to try a horse drawn "split log" drag for maintaining roads running past the farm. The Hitchcock farmstead also has a long equestrian history. John Thayer Hitchcock loved horses and was a ribbon winning rider. The Donald and Hitchcock family equestrian history combined with the vast rolling topography of the terrain make it an excellent park for developing a horse trail system both inside and outside of the park. The CTH G Equestrian Access would provide the only truck/trailer access for daily users of the park. Larger daily special event parking or group equestrian camping may be accommodated on a permit basis in the large open field through the woods and west of the trailhead. It would be the responsibility of the organizing group to coordinate the one way traffic access to and from the parking area during an event.

Picnicking

This update to the Master Plan calls for group picnicking to occur at four locations in Donald Park; CTH G Equestrian Access (Old Quarry), the Lodge (currently Hitchcock farmstead), and Pops Knoll (formerly Delma's Ridge Picnic Area), and the Farmstead picnic area.

CTH G Equestrian Access

Some facility development has already been completed to accommodate picnicking at this site including a small gravel parking area, vault toilet, and kiosk. An open shelter with a group grill similar to the one to be developed at Pops Knoll would be built on the level pad immediately north of the kiosk. An ADA accessible crushed limestone path would connect the parking area, shelter, and vault toilet. Because this area is the primary equestrian access to the park, several hitching posts would be located near the vault toilet and northwest of the shelter pad. Landscape improvements may include planting of trees for shade in parking areas and also to screen the residence south of the parking lot. Horses should not be allowed in the immediate vicinity of the shelter.

The Lodge

As the Lodge area develops, it is anticipated it will become a primary entrance for a variety of park users. The grounds around the buildings will accommodate a small picnic area of 4-5 tables with a group grill, perhaps beneath the shade of the existing white pines. The Lodge would provide shelter/restroom/park information to visitors and picnickers alike.

Pops Knoll

Facilities have been developed at Pops Knoll picnic area including picnic tables with individual fire rings, a kiosk, and vault toilet. An open shelter is proposed to be built in 2005, the architectural style should be consistent with the kiosk and vault toilet. Dane County Public Works will work with the Friends to generate plans and specifications for the shelter, that may then be bid out for construction or built by a

combination of Dane County Parks staff and volunteers. Dane County Parks will provide a group grill for the shelter. Interpretive signage will be developed at the site with input from the Woodburn family. Two horse hitching rails would be located at the foot of the hill below the picnic area that would enable equestrians to ride and picnic. Horses should not be allowed beyond the hitching rails within the picnic area.

Farmstead Picnic Area

The 1999 Master Plan calls for a 3.5 acre mowed picnic area at the small wooded knoll west of Sutter Drive and south of STH 92; however it did not identify how the site would be accessed. This update to the Master Plan proposes a gravel access road that would extend west from Sutter Drive to two small 5 car parking areas. Road construction would include relocation of the Donald Park historical sign approximately 100' to the south and installation of a gate that would allow access to close seasonally. The parking areas would provide access to a small picnic area with 4-5 picnic tables and group grill on the south side of the knoll. The parking and picnic areas would be located in a manner to minimize visual impact from the proposed tower trail overlook directly south. Visual buffering may include planting of trees and shrubs as well as utilizing existing native vegetation to the extent possible. The picnic area would provide access to a short hiking trail loop that includes a cleared overlook area with outdoor Donald/Woodburn family heritage interpretive signage. The parking areas would also serve as a trailhead to the proposed Woodburn Heritage Hiking Trail and would include a hitching rail for equestrians riding from the proposed North Access Trail. A wooden bridge across Deer Creek would connect this picnic area to the Sweet Farm Trail. This picnic area would be very lightly developed and not include shelter or restroom facilities. The lands surrounding this site are currently in private ownership and being actively farmed. This picnic area would not be developed or identified on the graphic Master

Plan until the lands came under Dane County Parks ownership. Development of this program area is anticipated to co-exist with current farm land uses.

Note: The 1999 Master Plan proposed picnic areas to be located along a trail that would parallel Deer Creek. This update to the Master Plan recommends elimination of this picnic area for the following reasons:

-Deer Creek has a streambank easement in place that is intended to provide a vegetative buffer adjacent to the stream for both habitat and water quality reasons. The stream corridor should remain as natural as possible with very little facility development other than a possible trail.

-The picnic area would be a considerable distance from any proposed parking or walk in areas that could deter use and make routine maintenance difficult.

Fishing

The creeks in Donald Park offer excellent trout fishing opportunities. Mount Vernon Creek and its tributaries have a very longstanding history as a premier destination for avid trout anglers. Many of the stream banks within Donald Park are included in easements that provide 75' vegetative buffers to enhance water quality by reducing sedimentation. Current trout stream management data is now suggesting that periodic mowing of taller vegetation along the streambank may actually benefit trout populations. Although this will provide for easier angler access to approach the stream, these mown banks should not be considered designated hiking trails in the park. Rather, trails proposed to parallel the stream such as the Woodburn Heritage and North Access trails should be located at the outer fringe of vegetative buffers to minimize human impacts on streambank ecosystems. As funds are available, creation of accessible fishing areas should be considered at locations to be determined within the park. The Friends and Dane County Parks should consider working with Trout Unlimited to investigate the potential of creating an accessible fishing area along one of the streams within the park. Larson Pond could also offer fishing opportunities for children and persons with disabilities.

Rustic Camping

The 1999 Master Plan calls for camping at two locations in Donald Park, Hillside Meadow immediately south of the proposed Lodge, and Steep Terrain camping on the rock outcrop south and east of the Lodge. These sites have been further examined by staff and this update to the Master Plan will propose alternative sites for the following reasons:

-The Hillside Meadow camping area was proposed to be located in the open field immediately south of the proposed Lodge. As the park develops, this location will become one of the primary accesses to the park. It would not be desirable to have group camping in the immediate viewshed and vicinity of the Lodge for both campers and daily park users.

-The location chosen for the proposed Steep Terrain camping is also visually prominent to day users throughout the park. This site would also not allow for ease of providing toilet facilities or routine maintenance.

Generally, camping opportunities at Donald Park should be located to have the least amount of impact on daily park users. This update to the Master Plan recommends the following two potential rustic group camping sites.

Hitchcock Rustic Cabins

This update to the Master Plan recommends investigating development of a rustic cabin for rental in the vicinity of the existing Hitchcock cabin, with the possibility of an additional 3 or more pending on the success of the program. Due to code compliance issues and Dane County building standards, it is not anticipated the actual Hitchcock cabin would be utilized for overnight camping. Small rustic cabins and yurt rentals have become a very popular form of camping at state parks and national forests. The Hitchcock cabin site would offer an excellent location for this program development as it is segregated from daily park users yet could easily be connected to the park trail system. Cabin sites would be located by Dane County Parks staff. A group council ring and vault toilet would be centrally located among the cluster of cabins. Cabins could include individual fire rings, wood stoves for cooking and heat, and parking for a vehicle. Dane County Parks would work with the Friends to develop an agreement to address operation, maintenance, and monetary issues associated with the program. This site may be used for group camping until/while cabin program is developed.

Sugarbush Group Camp

Proposed Rustic Cabin Development Area

There are two small draws south and east of the proposed Lodge that could accommodate a limited amount of group camping sites. The campsites would be accessed by a gated gravel service drive from the Lodge that would end at two small 5 car parking areas immediately south of the mature stand of white pines. From here, campers would need to carry-in supplies and equipment. A service road from the parking areas would allow maintenance vehicle and trailer drop off access

for larger groups. There would be two group camp sites, the southern area would accommodate up to 40 campers, and the northern site up to 20. Some grading and tree removal will be necessary to divert water around camp pads. Each site would include 1 fire ring. The south group camp site would include 3 picnic tables, the north site would have 2 picnic tables. Campsites would be accessed internally by natural surface trails as well as connected to the multi-use trails within the park. Paths and campsites should be located outside of the drainage swales running through the draws. Additional planting of a mix of trees and shrubs should be considered to completely buffer group camping activity from daily trail users. A double vault toilet would be centrally located between the camp areas. Dane County Parks staff will work with the Friends to determine the exact location of sites and layout.

Hunting

Archery hunting for deer has currently been the only hunting that takes place within the park boundary. The DNR currently owns acreage designated for public hunting adjacent to the park. The County should consider a lease agreement with the DNR that would allow public hunting on County owned lands west of the existing public hunting grounds to Fryes Feeder Creek and north of Mt. Vernon Creek. The DNR in turn would lease the wooded property currently under public hunting to the County for trail development. The County land is partially in wetland and also being actively cropped. Eventually cropped lands could be converted to grassland that would provide upland bird habitat. The proposed leases would allow for better operation and management of the land and expand similar and compatible recreational uses of the park. Further hunting opportunities may be explored within the park in the future, however should follow a public decision making process through the Dane County Parks Commission.

Nature Hikes and Study

The 1999 Master Plan proposed a number of pedestrian/snowshoe trails. These trails are not designed to standards that would allow for winter grooming to accommodate nordic cross country skiing. Instead, they are intended to offer park users a more rustic access to experience the parks natural environment first hand. Because these trails are proposed to travel through some of the most rugged, natural environments Dane County has to offer, extreme care must be taken not to overdevelop them. Trail corridors would be cleared to a 3' width with natural

surface treads. This width is considerably narrower than what Dane County typically develops for hiking trails due to maintenance issues. There was strong interest by the FODP to provide a more rustic experience while hiking in the park. The Friends have agreed to accept the extra maintenance responsibilities of keeping the trails open on a trial basis in 2006. At the end of the season, Dane County and the FODP will evaluate the results and decide whether or not to continue maintaining the narrower trail widths.

The Friends have developed a number of multiple use trails throughout the eastern half of the park. These existing trail alignments vary somewhat from the proposed regional trails shown on the 1999 Master Plan. Also, the park boundary depicted on the 1999 Master Plan was inaccurate, and has expanded since completion of the plan. This update to the Master Plan will propose hiking trail alignments based on existing multi use trails, 2005 Friends and Dane County Parks staff field visits, and the current park boundary configuration.

Deer Creek Trail

This trail would extend along the north side of the Trout Unlimited easement from the wooden bridge, west to the Sutter Drive road right of way. From here, hikers would either cross Sutter Drive and continue west along the south side of Deer Creek, or travel north to the Donald Rock Trail across STH 92.

Mt. Vernon Rocks Trail

This hiking trail would be a natural surface spur off of the existing multi-use trail just west of the CTH G Equestrian Access parking area. Exact layout of the trail will be provided by Dane County Parks. The trail will approach a large rock outcrop through a wooded area, and eventually terminate at a small overlook platform on top of the formation. Trail construction may require fabrication of primitive stone steps at ledge transition areas. A horse hitching post would be located at the intersection of the existing multi use trail.

Big Spring Trail

This hiking trail would travel through the wooded bottoms paralleling Mount Vernon Creek. Features along the trail include a large natural spring and remnants of the Foy Homestead. Trail design must be extremely sensitive to the protection of these resources. A boardwalk viewing platform with rails should be constructed at the spring site prior to developing this trail to deter trail users from creating erosive volunteer trails on the steep slopes adjacent to the spring. Interpretive signage could be included at the viewing platform regarding the hydrology of the site. At the Foy Homestead site, the trail should be routed to allow easy viewing of the cabin foundation but discourage direct access. A rail fence between the trail and foundation is recommended to further designate non-access areas. An interpretive sign regarding the history of the Foy Homestead could be incorporated onto the rail fence posts. A horse hitching rail would be installed at the intersection with the multi use trail nearest the spring site.

This trail will also require field staking by Dane County Parks staff and also compliance of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DNR for the portion of trail that falls within the state public hunting grounds.

Woods Edge Trail

This update to the Master Plan proposes to relocate the trail from the original alignment shown on the 1999 plan in an effort to keep the old growth oak forest in a continuous tract and minimize human impact to the ecosystem. The new trail alignment would be limited to the eastern fringe of the woodlot.

Hitchcock Trail

Part of the agreement with Pat Hitchcock from the 1996 acquisition of her property included a deed restriction that included naming of a cross country ski/hiking trail in memory of her husband, John Thayer Hitchcock. There has already been some poetry/hiking trails developed by the Friends throughout this area. The trail would travel through existing prairie areas north of the Lodge on both the east and west sides of the road and by Larsons Pond. The originally proposed boardwalk would be relocated to provide access through the wetlands immediately south of the Deer Creek Parking lot and travel along the perimeter of the oak savanna, eventually intersecting with the multi-use trail north of Larsons Pond. The boardwalk would include educational signage regarding the transition of landscapes from prairie, to savanna, to wetland and the functions they serve. Interpretive signage about the both Harold Larson (near the pond) and the Hitchcock homestead would be found along the trail. It is anticipated that the Hitchcock trail will continue to include poetry works as is seen now throughout the prairie. Access to this trail for hiking would occur at either the Lodge or the Deer Creek parking lot, although cross country ski access could only occur from the Lodge because of the boardwalk. Pat Hitchcock has already developed a number of trails in this area; Dane County Parks staff will work with Pat to identify desired trail alignments.

Woodburn Heritage Trail

This hiking trail was proposed in the 1999 Master Plan. This update to the Master Plan will recommend development of a trailhead at the Farmstead Picnic Area that would provide access to the trail. The trail would traverse along the north side of the Deer Creek streambank easement and throughout the borders of the agricultural fields. Interpretive signage will explain Donald and Sweet Farm heritage and changes through the years of progressive agriculture. Additional lands will need to be secured either through fee or easement to develop this trail. After the proposed Sweet Farm Trail south of Deer Creek is developed and as funding allows, a bridge would link the two trails. Again, the lands surrounding this site are currently in private ownership and being actively farmed. This trail would not be developed until the lands came under Dane County Parks ownership. Development of this trail is anticipated to co-exist with current farm land uses.

Tower Trail

This hiking path is included in the 1999 Master Plan as the "Tower" and would be accessed off of the proposed Sweet Farm Trail. The trail would include two overlook areas that have built platforms with benches. Future trail development may include an ADA accessible switchback trail that would lead to the eastern observation platform overlooking the Donald Farmstead if funding allows. A horse hitching area would be located at the east trail intersection. Additional acquisition will be necessary to complete this trail.

Multi Use Trails/Equestrian Trails

These trails were originally designated as "Regional Trails" on the 1999 Master Plan. Again, considerable development of these trails that has already occurred and revisions to the park boundary necessitate the need for a revised and expanded discussion of proposed multi use trails. Nearly all of the existing multi use trails developed east of Sutter Drive were built to DNR Class A Equestrian trail building standards. The wide trail corridor widths (20') will accommodate equestrian trails and equestrian cart-driving. It will also allow for the possibility of grooming for cross country ski trails in the future if desired.

Donald Rock Trail

This trail would be a loop through the woods north of Donald Rock. A small parking area and trailhead would be located off of Sutter Road. Trail alignment should provide vantage points of Donald Rock to the south. Trail alignment should also take into account access for active forest management of this parcel. Due to the extreme sensitivity of the vegetative communities, loose sandy soils, and presence of archeological resources, trail development and/or public access is not recommended anywhere near Donald Rock. Additional acquisition of land will be necessary to complete this trail.

North Access Trail

This trail would be developed within the park primarily for equestrian access to a proposed outside of the park trail north of STH 92. This trail would also include access to another proposed outside the park equestrian trail that would travel east across Fryes Feeder Creek and travel outside the park north of STH 92. Development of this trail would be contingent. Hiking would also be allowed on the trail within the park boundary to Pops Knoll. The trail would originate at the wooden bridge and traverse north to Pops Knoll, then west to the intersection of Sutter Drive and STH 92. Eventually, the trail could be connected to the hiking/cross country ski/snowshoe trail along Deer Creek that is included as part of the Trout Unlimited easement agreement. Spur trails would allow equestrian access to Pops Knoll and the Farmstead picnic areas, and a potential outside the park regional equestrian trail east of Fryes Feeder Creek. This potential trail linkage would require further investigation with the Department of Transportation for the STH 92 crossing, and also must be able to co-exist with future State management

of these lands. Two hitching posts would be located at the base of the Pops Knoll and riders would be expected to walk into the picnic area. A hitching post would also be located near the parking lot at the Farmstead picnic area.

Southwest Loop

This trail is located on top of the hill southwest of the Lodge. A portion of the trail follows the rim of a valley offering long views into the park. Views could be enhanced by selective clearing of vegetation on the slope. The upper field would eventually be converted to prairie.

The Lodge Loop

This trail would circle the Lodge and offer access to several trails as well as the Lodge similar to a roundabout traffic flow.

Sweet Farm Trail

This trail would travel into the northwestern portion of the park and end in a loop just south of the Sweet Farm. Eventually this trail may provide access to an outside the park equestrian trail.

Archery

The 1999 Master Plan called for creation of an archery range north of STH 92 in an abandoned quarry site. The quarry has since become active again and would not be available for this use unless future acquisition occurred. The archery program could be developed and managed with the assistance of a local conservation or sporting club.

Historical Interpretation/Agricultural Education/Environmental Education

Interpretive and educational opportunities are found at several locations throughout the park, some of which are prior mentioned in this plan. An interpretive signage plan for the park should be completed with the assistance of a person or firm specializing in this type of work. All signage should be weather and vandal resistant to the highest standards budgets allow. Design of signage should be consistent throughout the park to further "brand" the sense of place. Opportunities for more in-depth historical/cultural signage and displays may occur in the future within a historical district along STH 92 and at the proposed "Lodge". This program development would have to be totally funded and managed through the Friends of the Park (or Historic District), volunteers, grants, and private contributions.

Snowmobiling

This recreation use was not discussed in detail during the 1999 master planning effort. Dane County Parks supports and is actively involved with the county snowmobile program. To minimize potential future trail conflict, consideration should be given to relocating the snowmobile trail to travel north on the east side of Fries Feeder Creek in the park, across STH 92 to the County owned lands, and then

northwest across the woodlot north of Donald Rock. This realignment would need to further review and coordination with the local snowmobile chapter, the DOT, and area landowners if necessary.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Dane County Parks and the Friends of Donald Park have already begun working on several park development projects at the park. The Master Plan should be reviewed as future facilities are planned for development.

Any park development projects that are proposed in this plan on lands that are currently being actively farmed would not occur as long as agriculture was the desired land use. Some trail development projects may be able to be implemented within areas being cropped by utilizing existing field access roads, fence rows, etc.

Roads and Parking Areas

Entry roads and parking areas have been constructed at Pop's Knoll and the County Highway G Equestrian Access on the east end of the park. Roads and parking areas should be built to follow existing topography to the greatest extent possible thereby minimizing visual impact to the natural terrain. Roads and parking areas that follow existing grades (where practical) also minimize the need for culverts that channelize water and may cause erosion problems. Allowing stormwater to sheet flow across roadways and parking areas without creating ditches is the preferred alternative.

The roadway immediately south of the Deer Creek fishing parking lot on Sutter Drive should be reconstructed to allow better sight lines. Burial of all overhead utilities servicing the Lodge should be coordinated with this project. Dane County Parks would work with the Highway Department to complete plans for the roadway realignment.

Structures

Generally, park buildings (shelters, toilets, etc.) should be built at locations that minimize visual impact to park users. This can sometimes be achieved by building slightly below ridge lines and high points as opposed to on top of them. Utilizing existing vegetation to soften hard architectural lines of buildings or partially conceal them is another strategy to lessen the visual impact of man-made structures within the park. The location of the vault toilets at Pop's Knoll and the County Highway G Equestrian Access area are examples of how this can work.

Architecturally, shelters, toilets, kiosks and other structures preserved or constructed within the park should maintain or mimic a rural, agricultural character to the greatest extent possible. Additional structures built should follow the post and beam styles that have already been constructed within the park.

All facility development within the park must be reviewed and approved by Dane County Parks (and possibly Dane County Public Works) prior to construction.

Trails

Construction of the major multi-purpose hiking and equestrian trails within the eastern two-thirds of the park has been completed. Additional trail development should follow routes identified within this updated Master Plan.

Variation from the plan to the actual layout may occur as site specific conditions dictate. Also, some selective removal of dead, invasive, or windblown vegetation may be considered to enhance views from vistas and overlooks. All trail development within the park must first be walked and approved by Dane County Parks staff before construction begins.

The Lodge

The 1999 Master Plan effort called for the eventual conversion of the Hitchcock homestead into an area called "the Lodge". It is anticipated that Sutter Drive and the Lodge will eventually become the main park entrance and headquarters area. The Lodge may include restroom facilities, a public telephone, camper registration services, water, and informational brochures and maps about Donald Park. It may also serve as a base camp for the trail steward and volunteer programs. The Lodge presents an excellent opportunity as a place to learn more about outdoor skills, the environment, and the historical and cultural history of the area. Parking would be provided by several clusters of smaller parking areas rather than a single large lot. Roadway circulation at the Lodge should accommodate school bus traffic and allow space for on road parking. A detailed site development plan that takes into account parking needs, user circulation, stormwater management, picnic areas, etc. should be completed prior to development of this program area.

The Donald Park 2005 Updated Master Plan presents major park development recommendations.

ACTION PLAN

To implement recommendations of this plan, a time specific schedule is not of value. In addition, it is not recommended that any park facilities be opened for public use as long as the Hitchcock homestead is occupied.

This update to the Master Plan will seek to chronologically list a facility development schedule for east and west Donald Park that may assist the Friends in preparing their annual work plan. Actions that are listed as "immediate" are tasks that could be carried out in the next 1-2 years. "Pending" actions should occur within a 3-5 year timeframe, and "future" should be considered lower priority and carried out as funding and staffing conditions allow.

Donald Park East is defined as lands east of Sutter Drive, Donald Park West are lands west of Sutter Drive with the exception of the Sugarbush Group Camp.

DONALD PARK EAST ACTION PLAN

TASK	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	PROJECT SCOPE	COMMENTS/COST
Construct Big Spring Overlook	Immediate	FODP/DCP	Construct treated overlook platform with composite decking, approximately 200' of 6' wide boardwalk with rails.	DCP will review MOU and possible lease exchange options with DNR prior to construction, DCP will provide plans and oversee construction. Material Cost: \$2500-3000
Clear Big Spring Trail Corridor	Immediate	FODP	Clear 2100' of 3' wide natural surface trail, install rail fence at Foy Cabin, hitching rails at intersection nearest multi-use trail.	DCP will review MOU and possible lease exchange options prior to starting, DCP will field stake centerline of trail corridor. Material Cost: \$300
Construct open shelter at Pops Knoll	Immediate	DCP/FODP/Public Works	Construct 20'x30' open shelter with concrete slab floor, group grill, may require construction of 60'x1.5' limestone retaining wall.	Dane Co. Public Works will provide bid documents for Spring '05 Construction Cost Range: \$30,000-40,000
Install Hitching Rails at CTH G Equestrian Access	Immediate	FODP/Eagle Scouts (?)	Construct (5) horse hitching rails	Locations have been field staked. Material Cost: \$300-400
Tree Planting at CTH g Equestrian Access	Immediate	DCP/FODP	Plant 20-30 native shade trees throughout the parking areas and on hill side	DCP will field stake tree planting locations. Material Cost: \$2000-3000

Develop North Access Trail	Immediate	Sugar River Horsin Around Club/DCP	Grade, seed and mulch 4300 feet of equestrian trail from wooden bridge to STH 92/Sutter Drive intersection	Timing contingent upon completion of trail outside park, DCP will grade and seed as necessary within the park, SRHAC will sign. Material Cost: \$400-500
Develop Deer Creek Trail	Immediate	DCP/FODP	Grade, seed, mulch 4600 feet of hiking trail along the northern edge of the Trout Unlimited easement	Develop trail east of Deer Creek Parking lot first to enhance fishing access Material Cost: \$300-400
Develop Mt. Vernon Rocks Trail	Pending	FODP/DCP	Construct 850' of 3' wide natural surface trail, 12'x12' overlook platform	DCP will field stake alignment and assist Friends with technical elements of trail construction (stone steps, overlook platform) Material Cost: \$1000-1200
Develop Woodland Trail	Pending	FODP/DCP	Clear 1300' of 3' wide natural surface trail	DCP will field stake centerline of trail corridor, Material Cost: \$200-300
Construct Open Shelter at CTH G Equestrian Access	Pending	DCP/Public Works	Construct 30'X40' open shelter with concrete slab floor, group grill, create mown natural surface path to multi use trail	Priority could be increased to "immediate" pending availability of funds. Cost Range: \$50,000-60,000
Develop Donald Rock Trail	Future	DCP/FODP	Construct approximately 5700' of natural surface trail	Additional acquisition will be required to develop this trail, DCP will field stake centerline of trail Material Cost: \$700-800

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DONALD PARK WEST ACTION PLAN

TASK	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE FOR	PROJECT SCOPE	COMMENTS/
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		IMPLEMENTATION		COST
Reconstruct the vertical alignment of Sutter Drive south of Deer Creek Parking Lot	Immediate	DCP	Reconstruct 1300' of 24' wide bituminous roadway, bury overhead wires	DCP will coordinate design/construction with Highway Dept. Cost Range: \$80-\$100,000
Develop the Lodge Loop trail	Immediate	FDOP/DCP	DCP will grade, seed 2000' of trail, FODP will sign	DCP will field stake centerline trail corridor. Material Cost: \$200-\$300
Develop the Southwest Loop Trail	Immediate	DCP/FODP	DCP will grade, seed 5500' of trail, FODP will sign	DCP will field stake centerline trail corridor. Material Cost: \$300-\$400
Develop the Hitchcock Trail	Immediate	DCP/FODP	DCP will provide any necessary grading , FODP will mow/sign	DCP will work with Pat Hitchcock to determine exact trail alignment. Material Cost: \$300-400
Develop Sugarbush Group Camp Area	Pending	DCP	Construct 12' wide gravel access road, parking, clear and grade 3 camp pad areas as necessary, vault toilet. Install 2 fire rings and 3 picnic tables per camp site.	DCP will construct road, parking area, vault toilet, FODP will assist with clearing, connector trails. Cost Range: \$25-27,000
Develop the Lodge	Pending	DCP/FODP	Create several small parking areas, picnic area with group grill.	DCP will create a detailed site plan prior to development of this program area. Cost Range: to be det'd.
Develop Farmstead Picnic Area	Pending	DCP/FODP	Construct 1200' of 24' wide gravel access road, 2 (5) car parking areas, and picnic area with 4-5 tables. Relocate historical marker to entry drive.	Will require additional land acquisition to develop this area. Material Cost: \$7-8,000
Develop Woodburn Heritage Trail	Pending	DCP/FODP	DCP will grade/seed trail tread as necessary, FODP will provide interpretive signage	Interpretive signage will require DCP review/approval. Cost Range: \$2-3,000
Develop Eastern ¼ of Tower Trail	Pending	DCP/FODP	Construct 1400' of natural surface trail, including overlook	Project includes a segment of the Sweet Farm Trail to where

			platform, DCP will grade/seed trail tread as necessary. Includes hitching rail.	the Tower Trail will spur off. DCP will field stake the center of the trail. Material Cost: \$2000-2500
Develop Rustic Cabin Program	Future	DCP/FODP	CP will construct access roads/parking/vault toilet, FODP will construct council ring.	Program will require further research and County consideration.
Develop Sweet Farm Loop	Future	DCP/FODP	DCP will grade, seed 3900' of trail, FODP will sign, includes bridge connection to provide connection to Farmstead Picnic Area.	DCP will field stake centerline trail corridor. Will require additional acquisition to complete the trail. Material Cost: \$1500-2000
Develop Remaining Tower Trail Segment	Future	DCP/FODP	Clear 1900' of natural surface trail, includes west overlook platform	DCP will field stake centerline trail corridor. Will require additional acquisition to complete the trail. Material Cost: \$1800-2000

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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Vegetation management for Donald Park is divided into specific management units. The Dane County Naturalist has prepared a map of area units and management recommendations for each unit. (see Appendix) Vegetation management would be completed in partnership with volunteer groups, such as the Friends of Donald Park along with other governmental agencies such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. All vegetation management activities in the park must be coordinated through the Dane County Parks Naturalist.

Forest management is also expected to occur at several sites within Donald Park. Removal of select trees is required to sustain long term, diverse oak forests. Dane County Parks should work with the Friends and State Forester in the future to develop a forest management plan for the entire park. Forest management may also result in revenue that could be used for future park planning, development, or staffing needs.

RECREATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Management of recreation resources at Donald Park has been done in large part with the help of the Friends of Donald Park. Many of the Friends members live adjacent or near the park and have been actively helping with operation and management tasks such as mowing and mulching trails, opening and closing gates, and overseeing a trail steward program. Dane County Parks should continue working with the Friends of Donald Park on recreation management at the park and investigate how this relationship may be broadened as more facilities are developed.

Hunting was a recreation use of the park that was identified in the 1999 adopted Master Plan. Dane County Parks has started to allow archery hunting for deer to take place at Donald Park in response to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources efforts to reduce the herd to control Chronic Wasting Disease. The archery hunt is managed by Dane County Parks and should be reviewed on an annual basis to investigate potential improvements to the system.

PARK OPERATIONS

Special events at the park are managed by the Dane County Parks Operation Manager. A special event permit application is filed with the Operations Manager and a permit is issued with attached conditions.

Special events that require large open field parking should be done in areas that minimize impact to other park users.

Facility maintenance inside the park is done jointly by County and Friends of Donald Park staff. Facility maintenance is based on County policies, guidelines and or budgets. The County is responsible for all major or regular maintenance activities. Equestrian trails located outside the park boundary will be developed and maintained by the FODP and will follow the County Equestrian Trail Program guidelines. County trails open May 1st, and close on October 31st each year.

All County park rules and regulations will apply at Donald Park unless they are specifically noted and posted. Any change in policy or park ordinances will require County approval.

ACQUISITION

The 1996-2000 Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan called for creation of a "regional park" totaling 400-600 acres "in southwest Dane County." Through the original 105 acre Woodburn donation and subsequent acquisition projects with the Woodburn family and other willing landowners, Dane County Parks has been able to create a park just over 500 acres in size with almost 225 acres of additional lands preserved through conservation easements. There still remain several proposed acquisition projects to complete the objectives of this park master plan.

Acquisitions to date were made with the specific intent of incorporating existing and viable agricultural lands into the park experience. Dane County Parks has worked closely with the Woodburn family to place conservation easements on lands south of Hwy 92 with the intent that these lands will remain in agriculture until it is no longer viable. Additionally, the Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited holds a twenty-year stream bank easement along the creek corridor south of Hwy 92 for the purpose of restoring and managing the stream habitat and for allowing public access. Both the conservation easements and the Trout Unlimited stream bank easement were guided by Delma's vision for Donald Park and have proven to be as critically important to the Park's success as those lands owned in fee by Dane County Parks.

Proposed Easements

Conservation easements or purchase of development rights are ways by which landowners can receive compensation for agreeing to leave their lands in open space by deed restriction; thus preserving the rural landscape. These easements usually do not allow for public access.

PRIORITY ONE

Highway 92 Corridor

Agricultural and wooded property on the north side of STH 92 from Donald Rock extending west just past Deer Creek to the highway should be considered for purchase of conservation easements. This corridor includes the Donald and

Rockview farmsteads and is in the immediate viewshed from several vistas within the park including Pops Knoll.

PRIORITY TWO

Southwest Boundary Buffer

Existing agricultural and open space lands south of the Donald Park border and north of Colby Road, as well as east of Sharpes Corner Road, should also be considered for conservation easement projects. There is a natural ridge line that defines the extent of views looking south out of Donald Park. Preservation of this open space would ensure an undeveloped horizon view from the park looking south.

Fryes Feeder Creek

Fryes Feeder Creek is listed as Exceptional Water Resource and Priority Stream in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan. Conservation easements that may allow public access should be considered over privately held stretches that would allow for streambank restoration and habitat improvement.

Note: All proposed conservation easement areas may also be considered for fee acquisition if cost or landowner preference justify.

Proposed Fee Simple Acquisition Projects

Fee simple purchase is preferred for lands that offer both high resource value and potential recreation opportunities.

PRIORITY ONE

Donald Rock

Donald Rock is currently still under Wisconsin Department of Transportation ownership. Dane County Parks should consider purchasing this approximate 3 acre site to allow future development of a trailhead and vegetation management to occur.

Woodlot Northwest of Donald Rock

Acquiring the wooded areas northwest of Donald Rock would provide forest cropping opportunities and expand recreation use potential on lands north of STH 92. Short term recreation development would include construction of multi-use trails. Future development of a group camping area may be explored in the future.

PRIORITY TWO

Lands Immediately South of the Western Park Boundary

An isolated section of the park currently exists along the western edges of the park. This area is removed from the rest of the park by Deer Creek and is bordered to the north by both existing and proposed easements along Highway 92. Acquisition of approximately 40 acres south of the isolated section would expand recreational opportunities at the park and create a contiguous management unit. Acquisition of

a conservation easement over these 40 acres would also be desirable if a fee acquisition is not possible.

PRIORITY THREE

Existing and Proposed Easements Along Highway 92 Corridor

Agricultural properties currently under conservation easement protection south of STH 92 and north of Deer Creek should be considered for fee simple acquisition for park development purposes if the lands are ever taken out of agricultural production.

Proposed conservation easements purchased north of STH 92 may be eventually considered for fee simple acquisition to create continuous tracts of public ownership that would link to the proposed Donald Rock acquisition project. The Donald Farm may also be considered for purchase as a future working farm museum if made possible through a Friends or volunteer group similar to Schumacher Farm. The existing quarry site could be considered for future acquisition to serve as an archery range as identified in the 1999 Master Plan.

Proposed acquisition projects are presented on the Acquisition Recommendations map.

STREAMBANK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A stream bank protection initiative was started in 1990 by Bob Zimmerman, Kevin Connors, Scott Stewart, and Bob Woodburn. The Deer Creek Sportsman, under Bob Zimmerman's direction, worked regularly for nearly three years clearing vegetation from the banks of Deer Creek downstream from the Sutter Drive bridge. The Dane County Land Conservation Department secured a \$250,000 grant from the DNR for stream restoration activities. To improve angler access, Vernon Valley Farms granted a 20 year stream bank easement to Trout Unlimited that allowed access by foot, snowshoe, or ski within 75' of the bank of the stream. Around 1999, both Deer Creek and Frye's Feeder Creek banks were reconstructed that included removing vegetation, stabilizing the banks, and narrowing the channel to increase flow rates. These measures all help to reduce deposition of sediment over critical trout spawning areas. Two hundred "lunker structures" were built by volunteers and installed in the streams to provide for trout habitat.

Currently, the stream banks are being maintained by Dane County Parks staff and volunteers. Vernon Valley Farms is expected to make the stream bank easement permanent with the provision of requiring maintenance of the banks that will allow easy access for bank fisherman. Control of vegetation along the banks by grazing may be considered.

SUMMARY

The Donald/Woodburn agricultural history combined with the rugged driftless landscape truly make Donald Park a jewel in the Dane County Parks system. Recommendations found within this plan are intended to serve as a guide, and should be revisited in the future as necessary.

Implementation of this Master Plan should provide for preservation and appreciation of both the natural and agricultural landscapes that define this region of the County.

APPENDICES

- 1- Graphic Master Plan
- 2- Public Participation Summary
- 3- Soil Suitability
- 4- Vegetation Management Recommendations

Appendix 2- 1999 Public Participation Summary

The following is a summary of the meetings that took place during the 1999 planning process. This list may not be complete.

1. On October 2, 1998, Ken LePine and Jim Mueller met with LA, Inc., who was selected to design the master plan. The goal of the meeting was to familiarize LA, Inc. with the planning background of Donald Park.
2. On October 2, 1998, LA, Inc. conducted a phone interview with Bob Woodburn. The following issues were discussed:
 - Land south of STH 92 and east of Sutter's road is leased to a local farmer. The land would be a good addition to the park, but the farmer may oppose this use based on its being prime farmland. Bob Woodburn thought it would be nice if this land was a part of the park, but the neighbors should not oppose the transaction. Bob would be willing to sell the land for appraised value to Dane County Parks.
 - Adjacent owners should be contacted regarding the use of their land for equestrian trails.
 - A bike trail seems desirable to the family.
 - Bob would like to see the implementation schedule accelerated.
 - The family would like to know how Dane County Parks would incorporate the woodland north of the big rock. They wonder if they should harvest the timber or if Dane County Parks needs the woods as is. If harvesting, the timber may need to be harvested relatively soon because it is beginning to deteriorate.
 - The family wonders what is planned for Delma Woodburn's farmhouse and outbuildings. These are historic buildings, the Vernon Valley Farms buildings are not historic. Is a working farm museum planned as Jason Wilkie called for in his master plan? Would Dane County Parks manage it? Could a foundation be created to meet the cost of the development rights? Perhaps a working farm could be managed by the Mt. Horeb Historical Society. Bob thought a curator should live in the house. With the acreage being so limited, he believes it would not be profitable for the curator to live off of the farm. Bob envisions the farm as being a combination of farm and museum. The restoration should be to circa early 1900's.
 - Meetings should be held at the Springdale Town Hall and be publicized in the Springdale Association's newsletter.
1. On October, 7 1998, LA, Inc. conducted a phone interview with Jim Woodburn. The following issues were discussed:
 - Jim believes the land should be used as a multi-purpose park with trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and snowmobiling. Also, it could include hunting and educational areas.
 - Property exchanges could serve the interests of both Dane County Parks and the landowners.
 - Park trails should utilize existing trails.

- Equestrian trails external to the park usually become easements rather than outright acquisition.
- Trails should be located through the west boundary of the Sweet farm.
- Prime farmland should be kept as farmland. Steve Burns and Dave Powell are working the best farmland in Springdale. If Dane County Parks wants to have open space next to the park they should purchase the development rights to it.
- Dane County Parks should purchase the worst agricultural land first.
- Jim supports the donation of the land thus far, but doesn't support any further donation.
- Dane County Parks should work with the snowmobilers.
- Hunting in the park should be explored.
- At least some of the parkland should be accessible.
- Donald Rock should be incorporated into the park. The trees around it should be trimmed.
- Recent Dane County Parks acquisition efforts include the Vernon family farm and two lots on the Sweet farm, to occur by the end of this year or early next year.
- Homes should not be in plain view of STH 92, the corridor views need to be preserved.
- Jim would allow a 10 foot trail easement on the land along STH 92, to end at Malone Road.
- When STH 92 is widened, a tunnel should be built for safe crossing.
- East of Messerschmidt Road and south of STH 92 is "Mothers Little Acre". It could serve as an interpretive center on geology and glaciers.
- A picnic area could be located on a creek bluff, south of the rock and STH 92.
- It might be good to provide access to the springs but they need to be protected.
- A working farm museum may not be economically feasible. However, the horse barn could serve as a display area for different periods of farm equipment. Hours could be limited. A historic society could operate the museum.
- The house needs to be preserved.
- A widened road, on the south side of the creek would provide a turnaround before reaching Pat Hitchcock's home.
- Landowners need to be notified of meetings prior to public announcement of meetings.

1. On October 14, 1998, LA, Inc. met with the Dane County Parks Commission to review the plan progress.
2. On October 17, 1998, LA, Inc. held a walking tour and community meeting. Those that were invited include: neighboring landowners, Town of Springdale officers, State and County political representatives and County Park Commissioners. Of the 69 people invited, 18 attended. The purpose of the meeting was to review previous plans, examine the natural and cultural resources, discuss priorities, exchange ideas and create a list of recreational activities. Jason Wilke and Pat Hitchcock lead the tour. The walk provided LA, Inc. an opportunity to familiarize with the site. In particular, LA, Inc. noted topography, existing trails, vegetation, points of interest, current land uses and management practices. Comments made include the following by Delma Wooburn:
 - Mr. Sweet walked from Galena to his homestead, located on the northwest portion of the park.

- Years ago, trees that would fall would be used entirely, either as lumber or firewood.
- Although the DNR fenced in portions of Mt Vernon Creek for fishing, people would ask her for permission to fish on her land.
- Pedestrian bridges cross the creek.
- When she was young, Delma would picnic near the clear, cool springs found on their land.
- Delma would also picnic in an elevated prairie opening northwest of Donald Rock.
- The area north of Donald Rock has been labeled Black Walnut Forest resulting from Delma's father broadcasting a bushel of walnuts.
- The underside of many rocks are blackened from past prairie fires.
- There is a history of Indian artifacts being found in the valleys.
- Loose rock was put around the quarry located in the northwest area of the park.
- The stone harvested from the quarry was suitable for highway construction use and lime for fields, but not for building construction.
- Donald Rock: has Winnebago Indian writing on it, is surrounded by hazel brush, has exotic evergreens planted near it that Delma would like to see removed or pruned. It could be climbed if there was a new trail built on its north side. It has a 20 foot x 20 foot flat area on top and has a nice base area for picnics.
- Park wildlife includes Groundhog, Pheasant, Turkey, Brown Bear and Deer.

Comments made by others on the tour include:

- All support Donald park being a passive recreational park.
 - The majority of attendees want to prohibit ATV's and motorized vehicles.
 - A new 'equestrian only' trail should link to existing equestrian trails outside of the park.
 - The quarry would make a good equestrian trail head.
 - The Hitchcock entry road would work well as a prairie burn firebreak. However, it might be preferable for it to meander through the prairie.
 - The maple tree grove could be an educational display area.
 - The pine plantation could be used as a unique play area built with on-site materials.
 - Mt. Vernon's Forest of Fame Park is nearby and has baseball, a shelter, and restrooms.
 - The existing trails work well and should be used in the new plan.
 - Neighbors request parking areas separated from their homes.
 - Sledding has occurred on the area south of the existing barn.
 - In the valley south of Pat Hitchcock's house there is a natural well.
 - Hike-in camping could be located in the cleared valleys.
 - The remnant cabin foundations should be cleared of vegetation to provide greater visibility and trails should access these sites.
 - The pedestrian bridge should be incorporated into the trail system.
 - The trail system should access the springs that feed into Mt. Vernon Creek.
 - The master plan should identify neighboring parcels that are suitable for residential development.
 - LA, Inc. will review the Town's Land Use Plan regarding adjacent future land development.
1. On October 29, 1998, LA, Inc. met with the Sugar River Hors'n Around Trail Club at Pat Hitchcock's to discuss the club's interests and concerns. Proposed trails were

delineated. The following were present: Susan Ballbach, Bob Haack, Dave Hughes, Pat Hitchcock, Brian Kliesmet, Merle Woodburn and Jim Woodburn. The following issues were discussed:

- The club has been seeking 20 foot wide easements from local landowners. Future planning may wish to consider trails up to Madison School. LA, Inc. will be supplied easement information for planning purposes.
- Trails located on private property easements should minimize impact on landowners.
- Trails should avoid steep terrain and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Trails should not encroach on fishing areas.
- A tunnel suitable for horseback riding should be provided to permit safe crossing of STH 92. If close to the creek, the road would not have to be raised.
- The bridges should be multipurpose for cost effectiveness. However, compatibility needs to be maintained by having horses and skiers on opposite sides. Trail sections could also be closed to horses during the winter.
- Joe Par of the Wisconsin Horse Council will be contacted by LA, Inc.
- There are deed restrictions that exclude or limit motorized activities. Delma Woodburn's deed excludes motorized activity. Pat Hitchcock's deed excludes snowmobiles. However, they did feel snowmobiles should be permitted in certain areas of the park and match up with external snowmobile trails. The snowmobile club has previously paid local landowners to ride on their land.
- Jerry Lehnerr of the Mt. Vernon snowmobile club will be contacted by LA, Inc.
- Trails were proposed on aerial photo maps. 7 mile and 1.5 mile options are shown.
- An 80 foot x 160 foot fenced ring, with parking is proposed near the quarry. This would provide handicapped children with an opportunity to ride. Ray Antoniewicz of Oregon, Wisconsin will be contacted by LA, Inc. regarding handicapped children horseback riding.
- Sutter's road should be more meandering in form.
- Steve Albert (DeWett property) and Dave Lawrence are interested in the purchase of development rights on their land – i.e. a conservation easement. However they are concerned about noise from campers.
- Scoop ponds are located on the Hitchcock property. Aeration equipment would be needed for fish. Ice skating could be encouraged if there was a warming hut nearby.
- An interpretive sign should be located at Donald Rock, to discuss Winnebago Indian Tribe history.

1. On October 29, 1998, LA, Inc. met with the Woodburn family to discuss their wishes for the park and adjacent family owned property. (It is not indicated where the meeting occurred.) The following were present: Susan Ballbach, Brian Kliesmet, Merle Woodburn and Jim Woodburn. The following issues were discussed:

- Donald Rock should be physically separated from park users to protect it.
- Sutter Road should meander into the park. A parking lot should be located by the bridge.
- If the Sweet farm became part of the park, it could have a privately managed riding stable.
- LA, Inc. will contact Trout Unlimited to determine the full potential for the streams. (Trout Unlimited works with the DNR to improve streams.)

- Dane County Parks is attempting to purchase the land south of STH 92 at market value or purchase the development rights. (Thus prohibiting residential development.)
 - If Dane County Parks purchases additional land from the Woodburns, the family is seeking a sale price at highest development value. Time is not an issue for the Woodburn family.
1. On November 25, 1998, LA, Inc. conducted a meeting with the Woodburn family and Historical Society representatives. (It is not indicated where the meeting occurred.) The following were present: Susan Ballbach, Brian Bigler, John Dallman, Brian Kliemet, Joyce McKay, Jerald Ramey, Bob Woodburn, Delma Woodburn, and Nancy Woodburn. The following issues were discussed:
 - Dane County Parks would be willing to own the buildings for use as a museum. However, staffing a museum or operating it is not possible.
 - From Dane County Parks perspective, it would not need to be a working or living museum. It would be valuable to simply have a preserved dairy farm that practiced progressive methods. The State does not have a complete original farmstead. Furthermore, the character of the homestead would be compromised somewhat if a museum were to be added with the associated infrastructure, such as a parking lot.
 - Local museums generate interest. For example, Little Norway, Mount Horeb Museum have 22,000 and 7000 visitors, respectively, not including bus tours. Cave of the Mounds also has many visitors. Many tour busses visit these attractions on the same excursion.
 - Perhaps it is best to view the site on one's own, along a trail system.
 - While taking the necessary time to establish a museum, we must not neglect the restoration and maintenance required to the desired period. Bob Woodburn would like to see a windmill built on-site.
 - The Mount Horeb Historical Society board has approved cataloging of Donald family artifacts. Larger items could be stored on-site and smaller items could be stored in Mount Horeb until the farm museum is operational.
 - Jerald Ramey indicated the Dane County Historical Society may be able to staff the museum through volunteer efforts. Approval would be needed from the board.
 - Joyce McKay said the State Historical Society will assist creating legal covenants to preserve the historical aspects of the Donald farm.
 - LA, Inc. will propose areas to be nominated for Rural Historic Corridor or District designation. An historic corridor involves the general landscape and an historic district involves several properties such as farms or schools. Joyce McKay said the length of STH 92 between Donald Rock and the school has nomination potential as a rural district.
 - LA, Inc. will recommend sites for interpretive signage.
 - LA, Inc. will recommend which lands should have development rights purchased to preserve scenic quality.
 1. On November 25, 1998, Dane County Parks met with Trout Unlimited, the Land Conservation Department, Deer Creek Sportsmen Club and the local Snowmobile Club to review the plan and to gather comments from the representatives.

2. On January 15, 1999, LA, Inc. conducted a meeting with the Dane County Parks staff to present the draft master plan and receive feedback on the plan. The meeting occurred at the Dane County Parks office. The following were present: Susan Ballbach, Peggy Chung, Louise Goldstein, Doug Haag, Brian Kliesmet, Ken LePine, Darren Marsh, Jim Mueller, and Wayne Pauly. The following issues were discussed:
 - Swimming is not compatible with the character of the park. An expanded pond on Pat Hitchcock's parcel would damage the existing prairie restoration.
 - Trails should extend to the south, into the DNR land.
 - Dane County Parks will work with the equestrian club to discuss trail easements with local landowners.
 - RV camping should be explored.
 - The Wisconsin Off Road Bicycle Association (WORBA) should be invited to the open house planned for January 23, 1999.
 - An accessible route to the overlook on Pat Hitchcock's property should be considered. It would permit handicapped or elderly to enjoy the view.

1. On January 23, 1999, LA, Inc. conducted a public open house meeting at Springdale Town Hall to present the draft master plan and receive feedback on the plan. The following were present: Susan Ballbach, Doug Haag, Brian Kliesmet, Jim Mueller, community members and future park users. The following issues were discussed:
 - Attendees were pleased with the passive recreational nature of the park.
 - The consensus was that mountain biking and RV camping is not consistent with the character of the park.
 - The Wisconsin Horse Council wishes to be involved in trail construction. Trails should be mowed grass.
 - Steeper equestrian trail sections require switchbacks and/or split log construction which would preclude use as a ski trail.
 - The parking lot for equestrian trucks and trailers should have drive-through stalls.
 - For better traction, the parking lot for equestrian use should have a gravel surface.
 - The ability to accommodate handicapped horseback riders would be too costly and liability intensive.
 - Hitching post/rails should be provided throughout the park.
 - There was concern higher taxes would result from land coming off of tax rolls.
 - The suitability of hunting within a public park is a concern.
 - Snowshoeing should be included in the park.

1. On February 8, 1999, LA, Inc. presented the draft master plan to the Springdale Town Board and the general public at the Springdale Town Hall. The following were present: Doug Haag, Brian Kliesmet, Board Members and community residents. The following issues were discussed:
 - The park will not include RV camping and mountain biking.
 - LA, Inc. will review the amount of trails. There may be too many.
 - LA, Inc. will contact the ski club for their opinion on trail compatibility with equestrian use.
 - LA, Inc. will draft hunting regulation guidelines for staff and public review.

1. On March 12, 1999, LA, Inc. presented the final master plan and report to Dane County Parks at the Dane County Parks offices. The product was a visual master plan that would need a follow-up written report. The following were present: Susan Ballbach, Louise Goldstein, Doug Haag, Brian Kliesmet, Ken LePine, Elizabeth Lewis, Darren Marsh, Jim Mueller and Wayne Pauly.
2. On, May 11, 1999, LA, Inc. presented the final master plan to Dane County Parks staff at the Dane County Parks Department offices
3. On, May 26, 1999, LA, Inc. presented the final master plan to the Dane County Park Commission at Dane County Parks Department offices.

Appendix 3- Soil Suitability

Soil Type	Suitability for:			
	Septic Absorption Fields	Recreational Trails	Camp Sites	Picnic use
DpB	Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Severe
DpC	Severe	Moderate	Moderate	
Du D2	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Severe
DuB2	Very Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Slight
DuC2	Very Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
EdC2	Very Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
EhC2	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate
EhD2	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Severe
EmD2	Very Severe	Moderate	Severe	Severe
EmE2	Very Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
EmF	Very Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
GaB	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Slight
GaC2	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
GaD2	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Severe
HbC2	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate
HbD2	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight
NeB2	Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Slight
NeC2	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
NeD2	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Severe
Or	Very Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Ot	Very Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
PrC	Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
SmB	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Slight
SmC2	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
SmD2	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
SnC2	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Severe
SnD2	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
SoD	Very Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
St	Very Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
TrB	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
VwA	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
Wa	Very Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe

Area #1 This 11.6 acre area is along the restored trout creek. We should work with the appropriate volunteer groups and agencies to control box elder, cottonwood, willow and other inappropriate woody plants along the banks.

The area is dominated by reed canary grass, although the portion east of Sutter road has a nice stand of cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) and a few other native prairie species. It should be burned every year as late in spring as possible to tip the competitive balance against the reed canary grass.

Continue to control the parsnip and sweet clover with selective cutting.

The area west of Sutter Road is wetter and more shaded and dominated by reed canary.

Area #2 This 11.5 acre unit has a nice oak woods with a steep north facing slope. Clear out the non-native brush and trees and thin inappropriate densities of native trees such as black cherry and box elder; manage the area as an oak woods using occasional fires. Do a species inventory.

Area #3 This 7.4 acre prairie was planted in 1998, the knoll in the northeast corner has remnant native species such as flowering spurge. There is a significant invasion of crown vetch on the southern end coming in from the horse pasture to the south.

Burn this area every two or three years, more frequent fires would overly stimulate the Indian Grass to the detriment of the forbs. Keep the crown vetch patch covered with carpet and monitor for additional crown vetch. Investigate the use of Transline (chlorypyrid) for controlling the legume crown vetch. Plant competitive species such as mints to compete with it.

Area #4 This 18.6 acre area requires further evaluation and species inventories before deciding how to manage it.

Area #5 This 12.2 acre area is currently a horse pasture (???) and portions of it could be no-till planted to prairie after two or three years of herbicide treatment or cropping. If grazing is discontinued, then mow the area every fall to keep out the brush.

Area #6 This area is a 39.9 acre composed of prairie planted in 1998, a pond dug about 30 years ago, and several acres of oak savannas which have had box elder and cherry removed over the past five years. Fifty to seventy-five percent of the area should be burned each year. Native species have been seeded into the savannas.

The wet meadow to the northeast has remnant native species and we seeded additional species into the area after a burn. The prairie in the upland along the eastern boundary was planted in 2002. Parsnip, sweet clover, & Queen Ann's lace have been aggressively controlled in the entire area.

Firebreaks for burn units are inside wooded areas adjacent to planted prairies rather than between the prairie and woods; fires will create natural looking edge.

Burn the area every two or three years, more frequent burns could over-stimulate the Indian grass and disadvantage the forbs. Continue to monitor the savanna and prairie areas for inappropriate brush and trees and remove.

Area #7 This area is a 1.5 acre area is currently part of the horse pasture, but in the future should be included in the burn boundary of the Area #3 prairie and should be seeded with native species after each of the first two or three fires. Remove non-native shrubs.

Area #8 A part of this 19.8 acre area is currently a horse pasture and portions of it could be replanted with prairie. There are some significant concerns about invasive species such as multiflora rose, buckthorn, honeysuckle, crown vetch, parsnip, and Queen Ann's lace which the horses currently help keep under control. When grazing stops, the area should be mowed once each year, probably in August.

Research latest methods and institute a control program for Crown vetch and Multiflora rose.

The wooded area in the southeast should be inventoried for remnant species.

Area #9 This 1.3 acre area has some aesthetic rock outcrops where we should remove the invasive species to highlight the outcrops; inventory area for native species. Include in the burn boundary of Area #3.

Area #10 This 18.2 acre area should be inventoried for native species. There is extensive invasion of parsnip and other exotic forbs in the open field area. A 25+ year old stand of sugar maples was planted in the north-central portion of this unit. A remnant wetland to the north contains the old spring where former residents are said to have gotten their drinking water.

Start a program to control the invasive non-native forbs and shrubs. Thin the sugar maples to create healthy specimen trees for future possible use as a demonstration sugar bush.

Area #11 This 1.4 acre area is dominated by a 30 year old stand of white pine that was thinned in about the year 2000. Continue clearing invasive trees and brush until overstory pines reestablish dense shade. Tamaracks were planted along the southern edge of pines to block sunlight help shade out invasive exotic shrubs.

Area #12 This 6.4 acre area has a 30 year old stand of red pine and a 60 year old stand of red and scotch pine. There is some wind damage in the scotch pine. This could make an attractive walk-in camping area. Thin pines according to the county forester's guidelines. Clean out the inappropriate trees and shrubs.

- Area #13** This 2.9 acre old field is extensively invaded by parsnip and other exotic forbs & grasses. Start mowing program to control invasive species.
- Area # 14** Keep this 4 acre area open with annual mowing and some prairie restoration. Thin out trees and brush along the edges to create a natural looking transition.
- Area #15** This 31 acre area is being restored to prairie and open grassland habitat. The top of the hill will be planted to prairie over a 4 year period starting Fall 2003. The north slope has a thick invasion of multiflora rose mixed in with apple and cherry trees. This will be cleared with brush cutting equipment and sprayed for several years by a contractor to kill the resprouting brush.
- The north slope is saturated with multiflora rose seeds and restoration should not be attempted until roses are under control.
- Area #16** Clear inappropriate brush & trees in this 11.1 acre unit and manage with fire to stimulate the remaining native forbs.
- Area #17** This 91.4 acre woods needs a vegetation inventory. Monitor the area for invasive trees, shrubs and forbs and remove.
- Area #18** This 13.8 acre field should remain in agriculture to keep it open for future projects.
- Area #19** No restoration efforts are proposed for this 10.8 acre area other than mowing the area once each year to keep it open and removing the box elders.
- Area #20** Clear the seed producing box elders from around this 8.9 acre field and keep it open for possible future prairie restoration.
- Area #21** Monitor this 28.2 acre wooded area for invasive species and consult with county forester about appropriate management strategies to promote oak reproduction.
- Area #22** Inventory vegetation in this 2.8 acre area.

Donald Rock area

- Currently this 2.5 acre area is owned by the State Dept of Transportation and DCP has written permission to manage the vegetation including tree removal.
- Clear all box elder, buckthorn, green ash and honeysuckle around the Rock.
- Leave the pines to the north and west, thin as needed to retain a healthy stand of pines which produce shade dense enough to keep out invasive brush.
- Consider opening up the area at the southern base of the Rock for prairie flower planting.
- Remove a limited number of oaks on the southern face so the upper light colored rock is visible from Pop's Knoll.
- Consider fencing the area to limit access to the Rock.
- Occasionally run fires through the oak and prairie areas around the Rock.