

THE OFFICIAL HILLMOOR COMMISSION UPDATE

Newsletter Snapshot

1. Stargazing on Hillmoor: GLAS returns with big skies.
2. From skatepark to splash pad? Help shape Zone 1.
3. Access gets easier: new path, new bridge, cleaner trails.
4. Keep grants flowing: the Knowles-Nelson vote affects us.

September Event on Hillmoor

1. STARRY NIGHT

WHEN: Thursday, September 25 • 7:30pm * Raindate Monday, September 29

WHERE : Park in the lot on Main Street / Hwy 50. Bring a flashlight and a chair if you want one.

ABOUT: The gang from GLAS (Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEAM) is bringing their telescopes to Hillmoor again! Join us to watch the stars and learn the stories behind the constellation names while viewing distant worlds.

Look who is playing at Hillmoor



The Thirteen-lined ground squirrel is also known as a striped gopher. They are related to the common Chipmunk but prefer open fields whereas Chipmunks can also be found in wooded areas. There is a growing colony on Hillmoor. Stop by to see them playing around near the HWY 50 entrance doing their show before they are gone for the season which usually ends late October-November.

Did you know that they can hibernate for up to 6 months?



Your Voice Matters:

Share your ideas with the Hillmoor Commission; attend a meeting or use [Hillmoor Commission's public comment form](#).

3 BIG Continuous Improvements at Hillmoor

Thanks in most part to the efforts of the dedicated staff of our Public Works Department, improvements continue to be made on the Hillmoor property.

1. The old cart path wooden bridge over a drainage swale in the disc golf area was recently replaced. People can now walk safely across the swale.



2. A new paved path was installed around the main gate along the HWY 50 entrance to allow easier access for people with mobility challenges.



3. Public Works continues to make progress clearing overgrown brush and removing invasive plants in the southeastern corner of the property along HWY 50 frontage.



Hillmoor Commission Recommends Considering New Projects for Zone 1 Conceptual Architectural Planning Phase.



This fall and winter the Hillmoor Commission will begin working with professional landscape architects and land planners to develop a park plan for Zone 1 of the Hillmoor property. Zone 1, named as the White River Corridor, is adjacent to the City's skate park, behind the Utility Commission offices on Main St., and behind Eastview Elementary School. It is currently used as a dog park and a disc golf course.

At its July 24, 2025 meeting, the Hillmoor Commission voted on various projects or amenities to be included in the planning process of Zone 1. The list of projects they considered came from ideas gathered at prior public input meetings. The projects include expected items like picnic tables, park benches, improved walking and biking paths, and picnic pavilions. But it also included some new items like a splash pad water feature and an outdoor amphitheater/bandshell.



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Hillmoor Commission Seeks Proposals for an Ecological Restoration Plan for the entire property.

One of the first steps in turning the Hillmoor property into a beautiful park for our residents to enjoy is to remove the invasive plant species that have taken over the property. The goal is to reestablish healthy habitats in the different ecological zones that are on the property. At its August 21st meeting, the Commission reviewed the habitat restoration RFP. In addition to removing invasive plant species, it will involve planting native plants and others that will increase vegetative diversity and climate resiliency. It was approved by the City Council at its recent September 8th meeting and the RFP was formally issued on September 10th. The restoration plan for the entire 200+ acre site is expected to cost around \$20,000 and will take almost a year to complete.

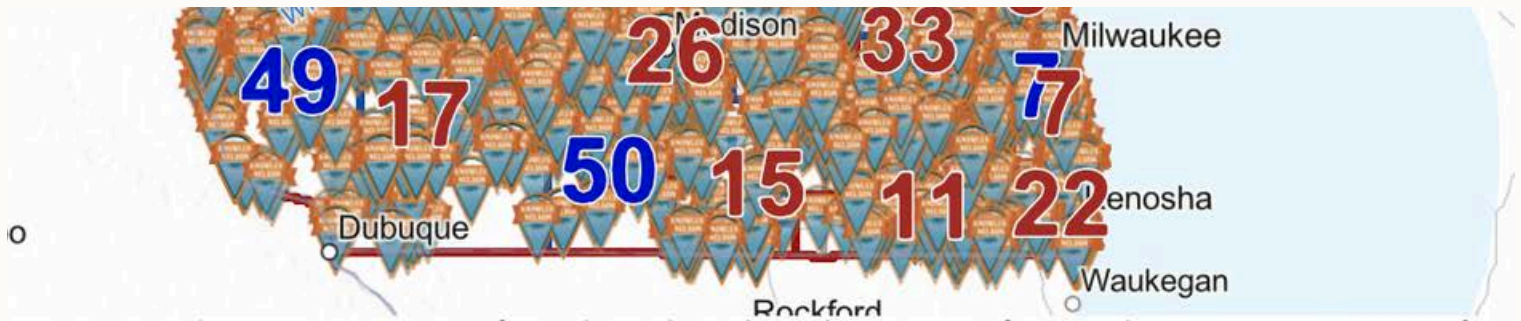
Fall Colors are here

As the days get shorter and the nights cooler, the leaves are starting to change color. We are fortunate to live in a climate with four seasons where the views are always changing, especially on Hillmoor. So take some time and get your daily steps in exploring the property and connect with Nature. It's still very green and lush after a summer of above average rainfall as shown in the photo below taken at the north end of White River near Haskins St. As the Goldenrod blooms and the bees keep busy, we hope all the fall colors will be spectacular this year.



Add your own pictures of what you see on Hillmoor or see more on Inaturalist.

Knowles-Nelson Program Needs Your Help



Sadly, during the normal budget process, the Wisconsin legislature failed to reauthorize funding for the program. Recently a new bill was introduced to fund the Knowles-Nelson program for another six years. It is supported by a wide majority of Wisconsinites who love their outdoor parks and wild areas.

For 30 years, the K-N Stewardship Program has been protecting lakes and streams, securing critical wildlife habitat, and providing world-class recreational opportunities for the residents of Wisconsin. It has funded over 10,000 projects across the state

You can view the image on the left for a snapshot of the projects, or explore the full [interactive map of Knowles-Nelson grants on their website](#).

Earlier this year, the City of Lake Geneva was granted \$242,000 in matching funds through the Knowles-Nelson program to help with the Hillmoor project. The City would like to apply for future grants, but it won't be able to, if the program is not funded by the legislature.

What can you do?

It is time to contact your state legislators and urge them to support funding for the Knowles-Nelson grant program because it supports not only our natural infrastructure that makes Wisconsin special for both residents and visitors, but the outdoor recreational activities that are a big part (over \$10 billion/yr.) of our state's economy.

Use "Wisconsin State Legislature | Who Represents Me?" to find and contact your state legislators.

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Highlight

Q: Is the YMCA planning to build a massive complex on Hillmoor?

A: No. The YMCA has expressed interest in building a new facility on a portion of Hillmoor, specifically in Zone 5, along Highway 50. Residents of Lake Geneva have shared concerns about a massive 30–60 acre project, AND as of May 2025, the YMCA is seeking a much smaller footprint of approximately 10–15 acres.

Nothing has been finalized, this idea is still in the early exploratory phase. The Hillmoor Commission would like to work collaboratively with the YMCA to explore if their smaller project makes sense and can work in Zone 5 of the property, especially after hearing from many residents who support a community-focused facility like the YMCA becoming a part of the Hillmoor Park.

The project has the potential to be a win-win for both the Y and the City, providing some of the amenities residents have asked for at Hillmoor. According to Mike Krajovic, Hillmoor Project Coordinator Consultant, "The project could provide significant benefits and cost savings to our City, but we won't know for sure until we can evaluate the project based on actual facts." He added, "Working with the Y, we can determine the project's actual size and whether it is feasible in Zone 5." He stated that if it works out, an architectural plan can be developed, at which time everyone involved - the City, residents, and the YMCA itself, will be able to review the plan and all of its costs and benefits to make an informed decision if the Y would be a good fit in the Hillmoor Park.

On behalf of the Hillmoor Commission, we extend our sincere gratitude to everyone in this community for sharing your voices, ideas, and support. Your engagement is invaluable, and we would not be where we are today without you.



Read all the FAQs as they become available and other Hillmoor information on the [Commission's webpage](#).