

WINTER 2022-2023

HORIZONS

The Voice of Friends of Havenwoods

WINTER GREETINGS

The Friends of Havenwoods (FOH) State Forest was formed in 1975 to advocate for the restoration of land that was formerly home to a county House of Correction and to a 1950s-era U.S. Army missile base.

The open spaces were interspersed with buildings and structures that have since been removed. But when the Army declared the property surplus in 1974, a portion was wooded, and many city residents saw it as land full of hope and promise.

More than four decades later, thanks to the dedication and hard work of staff and volunteers, the 237-acre property is home to forest, prairie, wetlands and ponds that offer habitat for wildlife and solace and recreation for people.

Havenwoods' past is displayed on panels hung on the history wall inside the Nature Center. Costs of the panels were paid with a grant from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks awarded when Friends of Havenwoods stepped up with a matching grant.

Additional funding for the forest, staffing and programs are a constant need.

FOH received a \$25,315 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to provide funding for a seasonal educator and a diversity educator intern for the summer of 2023. Do you know teachers? Tell them they can contact Natural Resources Educator Mia Noel (mia.noel@wisconsin.gov) to schedule a field trip. And thanks to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for helping to provide affordable outdoor activities for our Milwaukee-area youth.

While our little organization does not have a large treasury, we have the power of supporters to advocate for forest needs. The FOH board and our neighboring businesses worked diligently with DNR administration for the return of the position of a full-time, permanent educator. Inside the newsletter, we are proud to introduce you to the new educator, Mia Noel.

www.facebook.com/FriendsofHavenwoodsStateForest



MEET THE EDUCATOR

Mia Noel is the Natural Resources Educator at Havenwoods State Forest. She is focused on engaging people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds in outdoor recreation. She plans field trips for school groups, summer camps, afterschool programs and Saturday programs, as well as drop-in activities and special events.

Mia describes the woods, prairies, ponds and creek at Havenwoods as "an entry point to nature for many people in Milwaukee."

She is a graduate of the Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Mia earned a bachelor's degree from Marlboro College in Vermont, and she has worked in education and outreach for the last 20 years. Prior to joining the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, she worked as a program manager for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

We asked Mia to tell us how she fell in love with the natural world and describe how Havenwoods benefits the public.

Where and when was your introduction to nature-based education?

The year after high school, I was an AmeriCorps volunteer and chose YMCA Camp Minikani on Amy Belle Lake in Hubertus, since I was a city kid and had never been away at camp. I had never slept in a tent or kayaked or gotten close with wild animals before. I worked at Minikani for two years.

What benefits does Havenwoods provide residents of Milwaukee's north side?

One lesson I learned from the pandemic is how essential green space is, not only for our health but also for our mental well-being. To be able to walk, bike, take the bus or drive a short distance to a state forest is an incredible opportunity. Havenwoods provides education, access to nature and wildlife, and recreation all in one place and often at no cost to participants.

What are your goals as an educator at Havenwoods?

I work to make Havenwoods' education and programming fun, welcoming and inclusive, especially for Black folks, people of color and other marginalized communities. I want each visitor to have adventures, build connections to the natural world, and establish a long-lasting relationship with this place so they come back year after year. I love seeing kids bring their families to Havenwoods after they've participated in a program. I try to end every program with the same message:

***Havenwoods belongs to you.
You are always welcome here.***



Supporting the Forest

Further support Havenwoods by donating at our website: www.friendsofhavenwoods.org/donate

Endowment Fund: FOH has joined other state parks friends groups in establishing Wisconsin Conservation Endowment funds with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Learn more about contributing a gift of cash or other assets: www.wisconservation.org

Havenwoods needs volunteers: You could help Havenwoods staff by sitting at the front desk once or twice a week to greet the public or lend a hand to organizing program materials. Contact Superintendent Angela Vickio (angela.vickio@wisconsin.gov)

You can help outdoors. Superintendent Vickio is ordering trees, prairie grasses and wildflowers for spring planting. If you want to be part of a habitat improvement project, go to <https://tinyurl.com/NatBackyard> and complete the volunteer interest form.

Open for Winter Recreation

- Snowshoes are available for use on the property Tuesday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (large groups please call 414-527-0232 to confirm).
- Look for signs of wildlife. Animal tracks are easy to spot on a blanket of snow.
- Join us for a guided hike or nature program on Saturdays. Check events posted on the [Friends of Havenwoods Facebook page](#) or on the [Events](#) page at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' website.
- Firewood permits are available year-round at the Nature Center. And for \$10.00 you can load up to a full cord of logs.

DNR Is Taking Job Applications

Seasonal Limited Term Employment jobs at all three Milwaukee State Parks (till 2/13)
and
Summer Student Diversity Interns (till 2/20)

<https://wisc.jobs/Pages/Agency/DNR.aspx?unit=37000>



Above: Richard Imp, LTE Natural Resources Educator, leads children on an animal habitat hike during Winter Fest.



Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.
6141 North Hopkins Street
Milwaukee, WI 53209

FOH Board of Directors

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Vice President: Melissa Cook
Treasurer: Dale Yerkes
Secretary: Rachel Jones

Board members: April Calvert, Jim Goetz,
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Nature Center Hours

8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.

Tuesday thru Saturday

The grounds are open 6 a.m.—8 p.m. If
you will need to enter the building
please call 414-527-0232 to make sure
the staff are not busy elsewhere.

Friends of Havenwoods Membership

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email _____
Amount _____

Individual Memberships

___ Single. \$20
___ Family. \$25
___ Lifetime. . . . \$400

Corporate Supporters: for information about
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Please send your membership check to:

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Milwaukee, WI 53209