

PARK NEWS

Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake

Friends Group Annual Meeting

May 17th at the maintenance building 12:00pm Potluck.

Trail Inauguration

The new trails will be officially opened May 17th 11:00 a.m. Aggie's Alley connects the playground parking lot to the new picnic pavilion above the beach. Piper Dutton, a Girl Scout Cadette created the Rain Garden at Homestead for her Silver Award project. She worked with The Phipps & its Artful Rain Garden Project. Thomas's Trace is a circle trail through the prairie restoration area. Both trails were named via a contest last summer. The names reflect the original homesteaders.

The Friends group has printed new park maps showing these trails.

Kid's Fishing Contest

Ages 6-12. Sponsored by FOPL/St.Croix Sportsmen Alliance . May 31 2-4pm. Entrance fee waived.



Homestead Education

E P Rock 3rd grade went to Homestead Parklands at Perch Lake May 29, 2013 where they learned about homesteading history, aquatic bugs, water quality, and groundwater contamination.

Former landowner Donna Seim assisted by her great-niece Elizabeth Ostendorf kept Mrs Kempfert's class enthralled with tales of what her late husband's grandparents had to do to prove up their homesteading claim for what is now the park. She concluded by pointing out the land had gone from the government to her family then back to the government; which was the students "so take good care of it".



Sports in the Park

Snowshoeing has become increasingly popular in the park. This Jan, 16 people took a snowshoeing class at Homestead. The county plows up to the gate parking lot.

Other popular events are kids' fishing contests(both winter & summer), swim meets, and the mini-triathlon.

The county is hoping to add a second paddle board, as this is gaining fans as well.

Milfoil Progress

To date, over 14,000 weevils have been raised and released in the lake. It was a delight to kayak the shoreline and see how much milfoil had been munched by the end of summer. Grants



have been applied for, to continue this project. Watch the FOPL board in the park for assistance opportunities.

Volunteer divers organized by St. Croix Scuba continue to keep the swimming area clear. Be sure to thank them. FOPL provides a meal after the last pull. Info TBA on FOPL board.

Fundraising

FOPL continues to raise money for the future Learning/Reception center. Ongoing fundraisers include [Pennies for the Park](#) via the Goodsearch website(now available for mobile devices). To date over \$450 has been raised via Good Search.

Still available are photographs of a [loon swimming underwater](#) in Perch Lake. These are donated by diver/photographer Ken Johnson. \$25 unsigned or \$40 signed. Contact FOPL president Donna Seim at 715-549-6587 to pick out an image.

Our [brat stand fundraiser](#) will take place 7/25&26. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus & RJ Meats for making this possible. Flyer will be posted beginning of July on FOPL board. Those wishing to volunteer for a 2-4 hr shift at the stand may contact Donna at dmdseim@aol.com. Appetites are always welcome.

[Are you crafty?](#) FOPL sells crafts at the St. Joseph Fall festival and the employee craft fair of one of it's members. Contact lruther1@comcast.net to donate items.

[Pooches in the Park](#). FOPL member/photographer will once again offer photo sessions with your dog in the park. For a \$50 donation to FOPL per dog receive a 30 min photo session with your dog on location in the park, an 8 1/2 X 11 print and a cd of print-quality jpegs of all photos taken on the shoot. Contact lruther1@comcast.net to schedule a session.

