

# LOWER SCHUETTE PARK

State of the Park - Present and Future

January 2016



## REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to:

- Present current state of Lower Schuette Park
- Present “wish list” for future projects
- Start dialog on funding and accomplishing some of the projects

## FMRW adopts Lower Schuette Park

In the winter of 2013, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW), along with Bethany Lutheran, Dream Academy, and the Sunrise Optimists Clubs, adopted Lower Schuette Park in the City of Manitowoc on the Manitowoc River.

Opportunities - With over 65.17 acres (combined Upper and Lower Schuette Park),

this park has a lot of potential. The Ice Age Trail runs through the park, a new kayak launch has been installed, and there is abundant access to the Manitowoc River. A goal would be to draw more people to the park.

Concerns - Graffiti and vandalism are prevalent in the park and there are no rest room facilities in the lower portion of the park.



Lower Schuette Park sign, with the parks adopters.

## Highlights of Park

- ADA Kayak Launch (More info on page 2)
- Ice Age Trail
- Excellent Access to the River for Fishing
- 6 miles of Hiking/ Biking Trails
- Scenic views of the Manitowoc River





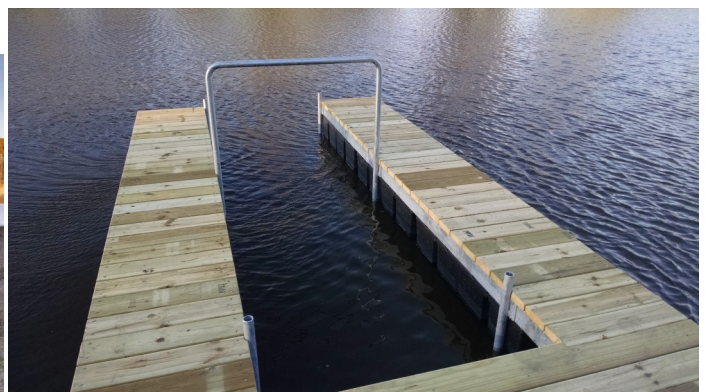
Map of Henry Schuetz Park. (source: City of Manitowoc Webpage).

## KAYAK LAUNCH INSTALLED

An American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant kayak/canoe launch was installed on the Manitowoc River in Lower Schuetz Park for a trial run in the Fall 2015. It will be installed in the Spring of 2016 for the paddling season.

The launch will make it easier to get in and launch their vessels, especially for those with disabilities and children.

The launch was funded through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Wisconsin DNR, FMRW, and LNRP. It was installed by and will be maintained by the City of Manitowoc.





# Areas of Concern

## Stair Cases Need Repair



The set of stairs leading from Lower to Upper Schuette Park are in need of repair and are currently closed. A railing would be a bonus! Other than car, there is no safe way to get between the 2 parks.

The stairs pictured are located at the star on the map on page 2. They are very difficult to use. Some of the logs have turned forward, causing a tripping hazard, especially when they are wet. The height between the steps is very inconsistent, making it hard to get down and harder to pull yourself up.



## Additional Projects

- Graffiti - Needs to be cleaned off benches, signs, and pavement (Pictures 1 and 2)
- Exercise Course - Is falling apart and unusable. Probably should be removed for safety reasons. The sign in Picture 2 is an example of the condition of the entire course.
- Ruts in Trails - There are deep ruts in many of the trails (in these pictures they may be filled with leaves). (Pictures 3, 4, 5, and 6).
- Benches are in need of repair and painting. (Pictures 4 and 7).
- Not utilized by the public to its full potential. What sorts of activities appeal to the public and keep the park's natural landscape?





## Wish List

- Improved garbage and recycling bins
- Restroom facilities, permanent or Port-a-Potty
- Gravel Approach - Install a direct gravel approach (maybe even car accessible to drop off kayaks and kayakers). A straight approach located at the photo at right would be ideal. This project would require an expensive wetland delineation and require raising funds.
- Kayak Rack - Install a kayak rack for temporary storage of vessels while enjoying the park.



## Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age Trail is a 1,200 mile trail system across the state of Wisconsin. There is a section of the trail running through Schuette Park. There is potential to team up with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to maintain this section of trail and bring in more hikers walking the trail.

The boardwalk is an area that is very overgrown in the summer months. Many of the trails become extremely overgrown as well. Both need to be better maintained during the summer months.



## Volunteer Opportunities

- Trail maintenance, improvements, and brush trimming
- Invasive species mapping and removal
- Native plantings
- Moving gravel to fill trail ruts

## Contact FMRW

Contact us today to get involved with the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed or to help us improve Lower Schuette Park.

We always love volunteers, whether for one project for an hour or two or a larger commitment.

Email Us : [fmrwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fmrwinfo@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at [www.inrp.org/friends-of-the-manitowoc-river-watershed](http://www.inrp.org/friends-of-the-manitowoc-river-watershed)