

# Dynamic and beautiful Cam-Rock Park

By Janice Redford  
Special to the Lakes Edition

Cam-Rock County Park is nearly three miles long and located south of Cambridge off County Highway B. It includes three shelter areas for picnics and playgrounds, access to Koshkonong Creek (which runs through the center of the park) for kayaks and canoes, mountain bike areas and hiking trails for skiing and walking.

The original park was constructed in 1975 with

three separate shelter areas along Koshkonong Creek between Cambridge and Rockdale. Over the next 40 years, Dane County purchased adjacent land to connect the areas and build more trails for biking, skiing and hiking. Four new bridges over the creek were added at a cost of nearly \$700,000.

The newest land purchases included 80 acres of parcels off Highland Drive above Rockdale, a 1.4-acre site that was the

home of the former grist mill in the center of the Village of Rockdale, a large white home and land in Cambridge that will allow for a possible kiosk and trail entry, and, more recently, 48 acres under negotiations on the southern edge of the Village of Cambridge. The new land will allow expansion of offerings to mountain bikers and hopefully to off-leash dog owners and nature lovers of all kinds.

Cam-Rock Park has

various volunteer groups that build mountain biking areas, a friends group of naturalists that plant new trees and restore native prairies, and a team of citizen scientists that monitor the water of Koshkonong Creek.

The newest group that is currently being organized is making plans for an off-leash dog park.

With more than 600 acres to supervise, the volunteers are needed to assist the park staff in every way possible.



Trail in Cam-Rock Park. (File photo)

# Cambridge Museum offers treasure trove of history

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The Village of Cambridge has a treasure trove of history that is available free of charge two days each week at the village museum.

The 1906 restored school building located on

the 200 block of South Street (one block south of Highway 12) is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., from mid-May until mid-October. Docents are also available to open the building for class reunions and other special occasions. South Street

is under construction this summer, but parking is available on all adjacent streets.

The displays and artifacts are collections of the Historic School Foundation, which specializes in the history of the Village of Cambridge and Lake Ripley, and the

Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society, which covers the townships and municipalities of the Koshkonong Prairie that include: Deerfield, Rockdale, London, Utica and the rural townships toward Stoughton, McFarland and Cottage Grove.

Updated displays now include generations of Evinrude boat motors and the history of local inventor Ole Evinrude. The veteran's museum room includes Civil War, World War I, World War II and Korean Conflict items.

Rural agriculture is displayed in a large collection of items from the area and a one-room school is another popular addition because it contains actual artifacts from rural

schools arranged into a classroom setting and Cambridge High School annuals from more than 100 years, plus photos of many graduating classes from the 1800s into contemporary times.

The Koshkonong Prairie room has records from area churches that are available for genealogy searches of weddings, baptisms, funerals and cemetery maps, plus many family histories.



The Cambridge Museum is located on the 200 block of South Street. (Photo submitted by Janice Redford)

## Lions Club

Continued from page 133

on the parcel they own along the northern rim of Lagoon Road. With \$20,000 donated by two generous donors, the CALC purchased the land. They are still debating its development options, such as whether to offer camping or not, and what facilities to build.

"It's pretty much in the planning stages," Zimmerman confides.

However, all three are confident that much of the materials, time, and labor will come from club volunteers, like it did for renovating the clubhouse, which the Lions are leasing on a 99-year contract with the landowners, the Village of Cambridge. Some may remember that these transformed ponds were the old water treatment lagoons before an entirely separate mechanical facility was constructed, adjacent – but hidden from view – just to the northwest of the clubhouse.

Posorske stated, "We held our clubhouse grand opening on April 26, 2014, and we've held quite a few events out here since then, besides our regular meetings."

"In fact," Jorgensen added, "we want to call attention to renting our clubhouse."

"I don't think," says Zimmerman, "that many people know that we are willing to rent it out for any kind of social event – meetings, parties, gatherings of all sorts."

He continues, "We not only have a full bar, and plenty of meeting space with tables and chairs, we



One of the Lions' many activities is custom-making grilled pizzas at the Concerts in the Park series each summer at Veterans Park in Cambridge. (Photo submitted by Tristan McGough)

have a large screen TV, sound system, plus a full kitchen, including an ice-maker."

It would appear that the Cambridge Lion's in the wild have all the modern conveniences needed for hosting a grand social event.

Additionally, they have a country setting where land, sky and waters meet, inviting others to do so, as well.

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