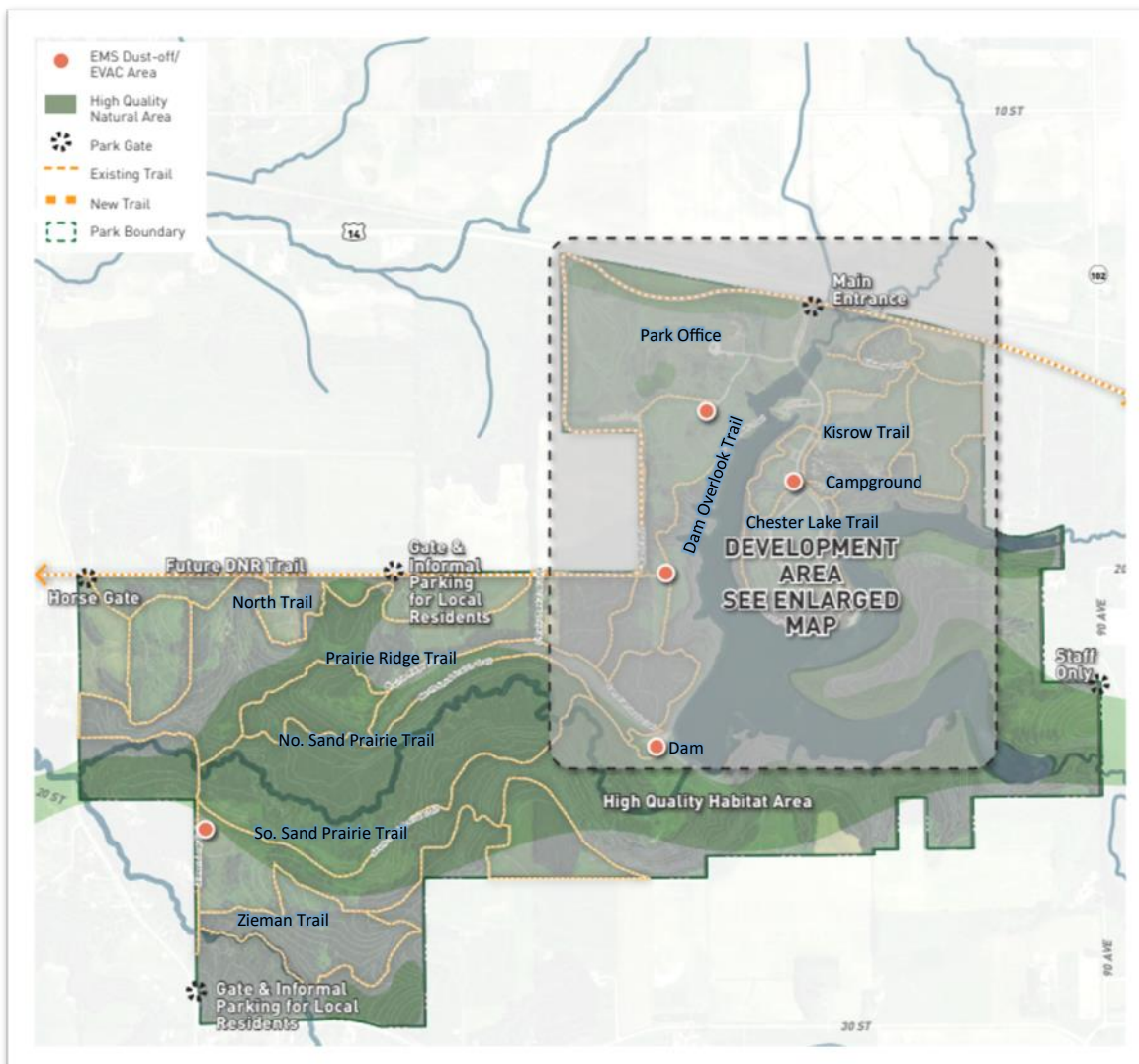


The ABCs of Chester Woods

This year, 2020, is the 25th Anniversary of Chester Woods County Park. The Friends of Chester Woods are planning a number of activities to celebrate this event. Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic and the social distancing that is required, these activities may need to be modified. The Friends of Chester Woods are offering a family activity to promote our beautiful Olmsted County Park, to encourage outdoor learning, and to explore new areas and the natural inhabitants of the park. This activity includes finding and exploring 25 highlights of the park.

Our English alphabet has 26 letters. We will only use 25 of them. The idea is to explore, research, and hunt for items or features in Chester Woods that begin with or are related to those letters. The following pages will give some examples for the letters.

In the boxes below, you can choose to investigate or find the suggested item, or you can substitute something of your choosing that relates to that letter of the alphabet. Some of the suggested items will encourage you to be on the lake with your own non-motorized watercraft or to rent a canoe or kayak from the park gate house. **We encourage you to not only check off an item or feature that you have identified, but to draw or take a picture along with additional information of what you have found. Use the back side of your sheets for more space.**



The Friends of Chester Woods would love to see the work you have done. **Upon completion of this ABCs of Chester Woods, you can turn in your completed project at the park gate house or office by July 19, 2020.** The Friends of Chester Woods will have a committee to select the top 4 projects. Prizes will be awarded. We will make sure that your project will be returned to you after we have completed the judging.

We hope that this family activity will encourage getting much more familiar with all there is to see and explore at Chester Woods.

A

How many Ares make up Chester Woods?

B

Find evidence of Beavers.

C

Find the newly installed Canoe-in Campsites.

D

Locate a Dragonfly. What can you learn about Dragonflies?

E

Find this letter shape in nature shape and point it out to someone or take a pic or draw it.

F

You can probably hear a Frog, but can you find it? Where did you find it. Are you sure it is not a toad?

G

What is unique about the flight of the Goldfinch?

H

Observe a Hummingbird at Chester Woods.

I

Measure the length of an Inch-worm

J

Spot an animal or insect that Jumps.

K

Locate a Kingfisher along the shore of Chester Lake. How did they get their name?

L

Find a cut Log. Count the rings.

M

Milkweeds and Monarch Butterflies have a special relationship. Find a Monarch.

N

What is your favorite activity in the Natural Playscape?

O

Find an Oak tree and draw the shape of the leaf.

P Locate the Prairie Maze Trail. Count the number of wildflowers you can see. This trail is close to the volleyball court. Draw a wildflower.

R Draw a Rock formation that you found.

S There are many species of plants in the park. Some are invasive. Why does the park work hard to get rid of these invasive species?

T Find a Tamarack Tree. What makes this tree unique?

U Lift up a fallen log. What are 5 living things you found under the log?

V Locate a vine growing on the ground or up a tree. How does it hang on to the tree?

W There are plenty of Walnut trees in Chester Woods. Count the number of leaflets on each leaf stem.

X Look up the word, Xylem. Why is it important for a tree?

Y What did you discover that makes you say, "Yikes!"

Z Hike the Zieman trail. The Zieman family were early settlers within the park boundaries. Why would this land be hard to make into a successful farm?



You can attach as many sheets as you need for this activity. Please identify the letter along with what you found or learned about that item. We hope you had a great time exploring Chester Woods and working on this project.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

You can drop off your ABCs of Chester Woods in front of the Gate House in the drop box . We will be sure to return your entry to you if we have your address.

Check here if you'd like to be entered into the grand prize drawing sponsored by Parks & Trails Council as part of their #MNscavengerhunt program. Their program is open from June 8-July 15.

? Email FOCWAdmin@friendsofchesterwoods.org