

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cross Plains Lions Club Launches Major Fundraising Campaign for Community Pavilion at H.M. Zander Park

Cross Plains, WI – As the village of Cross Plains gears up for the 40th anniversary of its community “Trout Days” festival on May 4, the Cross Plains Lions Club proudly announces the launch of a capital fundraising campaign to support the construction of a new pavilion in H.M. Zander Park. This initiative, part of the Lions Legacy Project, aims to enhance community life by providing a versatile new venue for recreation and gatherings along the scenic Black Earth Creek. The project is in collaboration with the Village of Cross Plains and the Gateway to the Driftless organization.

Kevin Engelen of the Cross Plains Lions Club expressed his enthusiasm for the project's potential, stating, "This pavilion represents the final step in our longstanding commitment to improve community spaces. It's more than a building; it's a place where memories will be made, where our community can come together to celebrate, learn, and grow."

The pavilion is designed to be a centerpiece of the downtown Cross Plains revitalization plan, supporting a variety of activities including art and cultural events, music, wellness programs, outdoor education, and private functions. Mike Axon, the Park and Recreation Director for Cross Plains, highlighted the importance of the pavilion, "This facility will be a hub for year-round activities, significantly enhancing our community's quality of life and supporting local businesses."

Donations can be made online at lionslegacypavilion.org and will go towards the \$500,000 needed to break ground on the pavilion in 2025. The first \$100,000, or 20% of the project, has already been raised by the Lions Club. The website also hosts a detailed history of the project, including completed plans, approvals, and partnership efforts.

In a show of progress and community engagement, a new sign will be unveiled at the pavilion's future location during the Trout Days festival on May 4th, allowing residents to visualize where the pavilion will be constructed. Additional signage will be placed at the intersection of Highway 14 and Hwy S to track fundraising progress.

"The Lions Club has always been at the forefront of community service," said Engelen. "With the support of our residents and partners, we are excited to turn this vision into reality."

About Gateway to the Driftless Gateway to the Driftless is a nonprofit organization that plays a vital role in conserving and promoting the unique natural resources and cultural heritage of the Driftless Area. Through their efforts in environmental stewardship, community partnerships, and educational programs, they aim to preserve the region's

scenic landscapes and enhance community development. Their collaboration with the Cross Plains Lions Club on the pavilion project underscores their commitment to creating lasting community assets that benefit both people and the environment.

About the Cross Plains Lions Club *The Cross Plains Lions Club is dedicated to community service and the betterment of Cross Plains and Wisconsin. Through various initiatives and partnerships, the club continually strives to enhance local living and community cohesion.*

For further information, please visit lionslegacypavilion.org or contact the Cross Plains Lions Club at crossplainslions@gmail.com.



Rendering of the new Pavilion in H.M. Zander Park (courtesy of Snyder & Associates)



Actual location of the pavilion site in H.M. Zander Park (courtesy of Marty Gustafson)