

In the winter of 2013, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) adopted Lower Schuette Park in Manitowoc. The park is situated on 65 acres of land along the scenic Manitowoc River. Since the adoption, FMRW has worked hard to bring people back to this park, and continues to maintain, improve, and plan for future work in the park. This report is to update you as to the current state of the park.

As part of the Adopt-A-Park program, FMRW schedules monthly walk-throughs of the park. Reports are then submitted to the city to let them know about any major things that need to be addressed, but it also gives the city and FMRW gentle reminders of things that need to be done, or things that people would like to see done in the park. Those reports let us know when it is time to do some trail trimming, or if there is something obstructing a trail, if “doggy doo” bags are needed, or if vandalism has occurred. This summer was the first time there was a “Port-A-Potty” made available to the park, so our friendly walk-through volunteers kept an eye on that for us as well. Volunteers also often pick up trash while walking through the park.

In the spring of 2016, an ADA compliant kayak launch was installed in Lower Schuette Park, giving our city a place to have organized paddles and a great place to host events that bring people to the park. A bench and kayak rack have also been donated to the park by FMRW, as well as garbage and recycling receptacles. The spring of 2017 brought the addition of a boardwalk that makes for easy access to the launch from the parking lot. A railing is in the process of being added to the boardwalk. We have had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the kayak launch, and the local television show “Discover Wisconsin” came down to the park and the kayak launch this summer to film a segment about paddling opportunities in Manitowoc County.

A wish list has been made for the park, and many things have already been accomplished. The stairs within the park have been a huge concern for a long time, and this summer, there were repairs made to some of the areas that needed it most. Benches that needed painting have been painted. Potholes and ruts in the trails continue to be filled. Lighting has long been a safety issue in the parking lot, and last month, large light posts were added. FMRW has worked with the city to allocate funds for future projects, like trail mapping and informative signage for the trails. There are plans to start addressing areas of the park where invasive species are an issue with “Project Red”.