



KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE



Our Story Continues

*Help Write the Next Chapter
for an Enhanced Discovery Center*



Our Story Continues

PROGRAMS PARTICIPATION

KVR Visitors: More than 15,000/year

Youth Education Programs

- School groups: 5,000 students/year
- Summer Camps: More than 11 weeks of programming

Adult Education and Recreation Programs: More than 2,100/year



“The KVR is a place of connection. It’s where I find the solitude I remember from my youth, it’s where I now introduce guests to the wilderness that comprises the spirit of the Valley, it’s where I can point to cooperation and community between the First Nation people and people of the Valley. It is literally the place where I connect with hope and joy.”

LUKE ZAHM
owner, Driftless Cafe

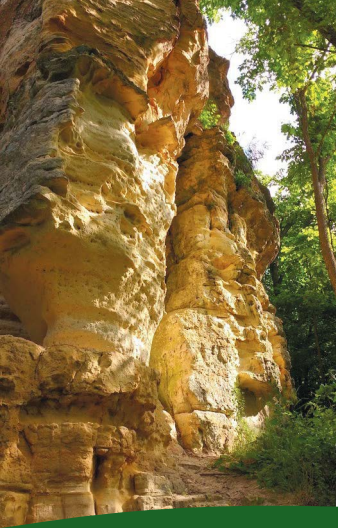
The Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) is an ecological gem within the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin. The Kickapoo River threads its way through the KVR’s 8,600-acres of forest, wetland and prairie ecosystems, which are home to archeological sites, threatened habitats and endangered species. As the Kickapoo Valley Reserve continues to evolve as an attraction for educational and recreational opportunities, it is vital to tell this story of people and their relationship to the land.

The exhibit space in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center has served us well since 2004 but it’s time for an upgrade and revival. The enhanced Discovery Center will offer visitors exciting new ways to experience the KVR.

IMAGINE . . .

...the current space redesigned to tell our stories of ecology, geology and human history with new technology and insight to engage, inform and encourage outdoor exploration and appreciation.

A thorough study was conducted by Bluewater Studios of Milwaukee in 2018 to evaluate the current exhibit space and provide options for improvements. The Upgrade Plan identified some of the displays as cornerstones not to be replaced. Reimagined exhibits with state-of-the-art technology will engage the senses and encourage imagination to learn and explore more. Hands-on and dynamic, new displays utilizing touch, sound and stunning visuals will stimulate discovery and lead to outdoor exploration of the KVR’s awe-inspiring geography.



IMAGINE . . .

...telling meaningful stories about the unique landscape, flora and fauna; the history of native peoples and early settlers attracted to this area; the compelling story of the La Farge dam project that never came to be; and the one-of-a-kind management of a public property through joint agreement with the Ho-Chunk Indian Nation and the State of Wisconsin.

"The Kickapoo Valley is one of Wisconsin's environmental gems that provides a natural playground that heals the mind and soul!"

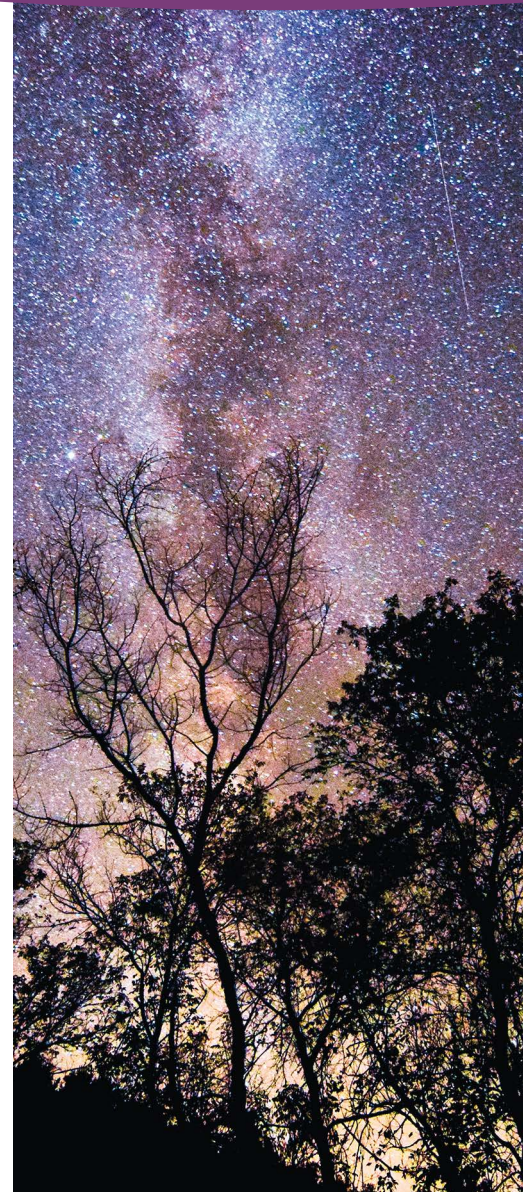
TINA BROWN

Department of Natural Resources, Ho-Chunk Nation

INNOVATIVE STORYTELLING

- Enhanced appreciation and thorough recognition of Native American history and ongoing connection to the land, and the Ho-Chunk Nation's co-operation in the management of the KVR.
- An indoor observatory for simulated stargazing and the unique opportunity we have to protect Dark Skies in the existing Story Fire area.
- Seasonal interactive displays about local ecology, highlighting the KVR trails system and exceptional opportunities for hikers, birdwatchers, paddlers, botanists, bikers, horseback riders, and fly anglers.
- Renewal, regrowth and resiliency exhibit to tell the story of repeated floods due to a changing climate and how communities and the land adapt to change.
- An interactive exhibit showing transition from historic geography, plant communities and human impact to current habitat restoration.
- Searchable archives of displaced landowners including historic photographs.
- Modification to the layout for flexibility to allow for special events and traveling exhibits.
- An outdoor classroom structure – restored historic building or unique, sustainable structure made from local materials – to be used as an educational demonstration site and place to accommodate growth in the Education and new Forest Kindergarten Programs (contingent on raising additional funds).

Visitors will come back time after time for seasonal, relevant and evolving displays and events designed to encourage participation and discovery of the natural world.



(Conceptual photos courtesy Bluewater Studios)



HELP WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER...

...in the story of this unique and important place.



Engaging displays are a vital teaching tool and historical record for visitors to the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, from students of all ages to families, local residents and vacationers. The Upgrade Plan led to the unanimous endorsement by Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve and the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board to set a fundraising goal of \$600,000 to revitalize the exhibits.

“The Kickapoo Valley Reserve is a technicolor triumph of nature over the hubris of man. Had plans succeeded much of what is now the Reserve would have been lost under water in our relentless drive to bend nature to our will. But wiser heads prevailed and so we all share in the light and shadows, the flora and fauna, the deep wooded valleys and magnificent vistas that is the embodiment of the unique and compelling Driftless Wisconsin.”

KAREN PARKER

County Line newspaper publisher and author

Will you help us to reach this goal?

Together we can create a Discovery Center that engages people indoors and plants the seed that leads to outdoor discovery. That recognizes the contributions of native peoples and previous settlers in shaping the history of this area. That looks to the future and provides assistance and insight as we face changes in our environment.

Donations large and small will help us continue to tell the KVR story for generations to come. You can leave a legacy for yourself, your family, your business or your organization by helping to support a Discovery Center exhibit. Support the area that is most meaningful to you and help inspire people of all ages, especially children, to learn the value of outdoor exploration and become stewards of the environment.

Many opportunities are available. Gifts in any amount are welcome and deeply appreciated. All gifts will be recognized, and can be pledged over three years. Visit www.kickapoofriends.org for more information.

We have an amazing opportunity. Please join us to make it happen.



Our Story Continues is a capitol fundraising campaign through Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve, a non-profit 501(c)3 entity in partnership with the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board.



Kickapoo Valley Reserve

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