



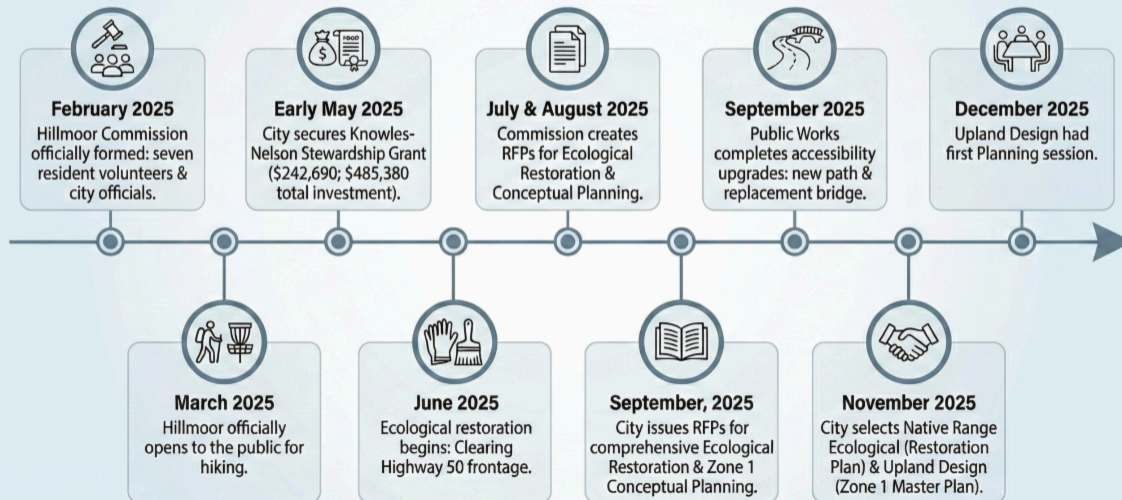
Hillmoor Newsletter

Issue 1 of 2026

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2025 Hillmoor Milestone Timeline



Hillmoor Moves Ahead in 2026



“The Hillmoor property is a very special property and together, we plan to make it an even more beautiful for the residents of Lake Geneva,” said Michelle Kelly, Principal Landscape Architect of Upland Design.

After an extensive selection process, the **City of Lake Geneva has hired Upland Design**, a landscape architectural firm, to develop a conceptual master plan for Zone 1 of the Hillmoor property. This initiative is part of the Knowles-Nelson grant project that the City secured last May.

The **scope of work includes developing three different layout options** for this section of the park, which residents will review before a final plan is created.



In early December, City Parks Director David Winger, along with Maria Blood and Michelle Kelly of Upland Design, toured Zone 1 of the Hillmoor property despite the cold and snow.

About Zone 1: The White River Corridor

Zone 1, known as the **White River Corridor**, currently includes the dog park near the skate park and the disc golf course. Some of the potential improvements recommended by the Hillmoor Commission for consideration are:

- A splash pad

- Picnic pavilions
- An amphitheater with band shell
- Park benches
- New paved paths

Funding for the new paved paths will come from the **Knowles-Nelson Grant**. Once the path locations are finalized, the project is expected to go out for bid in **late spring of this year**. The total length of paths to be built will depend on the bidding results and available funding.

[See all the Zones described in depth here.](#)

You Are Invited to Participate in the Hillmoor Planning Process!



The Hillmoor Commission invites all residents to share their input on the future of Zone 1, which follows the White River Corridor through the disc golf course.

Mayor Todd Krause who also chairs the Hillmoor Commission said, “The Hillmoor Commission wants to encourage maximum attendance to hear what our residents think. I hope to see everyone there.”

Initial Planning Session

Upland Design will present three draft layout options for the proposed park during four scheduled sessions:

- **Thursday, February 5:** 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- **Saturday, February 7:** 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Location: City Hall, Second Floor (Police Training Room). *Note: Each presentation is identical; you only need to attend one session.*

Next Steps

Following these meetings, Upland Design will incorporate your feedback to develop a **Final Master Plan for Zone 1**. Residents are also invited to attend the formal presentations of the final plan on the following dates:

- **Thursday, March 5:** Hillmoor Commission Meeting
- **Monday, March 9:** City Council Meeting

Can't Make It in Person?

Your Voice Still Matters!

The Hillmoor Commission is dedicated to an objective, fact-based planning process that reflects the genuine needs and preferences of our community. While we hope to see a maximum attendance at City Hall, we recognize that not everyone can attend the scheduled sessions.

- **Online Public Comment:** Those who cannot attend in person are invited to give their thoughts online in our [online Public Comment Sheet](#).
- **Continuous Feedback:** Written comments can also be submitted through the City at any time to be shared with the Commission

[The Official Hillmoor Commission FAQ is available here.](#)

Natural Preservation of Hillmoor Takes a Giant Leap Forward

Natural preservation is a cornerstone of the Hillmoor vision, and the City recently took a major step forward by selecting **Native Range Ecological** to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the entire 230-acre property.



The plan includes assessing the property's plant life before making recommendations to improve it. This includes identifying non-native, invasive species like buckthorn that dominate parts of the property creating a monoculture habitat which limits bio-diversity, not just in terms of plants but also wildlife ranging from insects to birds and other larger animals. **The restoration plan will include recommendations to remove invasives and to restore Hillmoor's natural ecology.** More information will be provided throughout the year.

Knowles-Nelson Funding in Jeopardy



For the first time in **35 years**, the Wisconsin legislature has failed to allocate funding for the **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**, a cornerstone of Wisconsin's conservation efforts. Over the decades, this program has supported more than a thousand projects to preserve and enhance green spaces across the state.

Last year, the City received a **\$242,000 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant** to fund trail improvements at Hillmoor and had planned to apply for additional funding upon completion of this project.

A final legislative effort is underway to restore funding for the program. Residents who value Wisconsin's outdoor spaces are encouraged to contact their legislators and express support for continued funding.

For more information, visit:

www.knowlesnelson.org

or

Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts, Madison

Winter scenes at Hillmoor



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