

## **THE HISTORY OF TOWN OF OMRO PARKS**

### **Town of Omro Parks and Recreation**

In 2006, the Town of Omro Planning Commission created the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee. Volunteer members were appointed by the Planning Commission. The original members were Barbara Meyers, Wayne Schmick, and Barbara Stanek (chairperson). This committee was directed to research ways to implement the Town Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation (COR) Plan. Written in 2007, the plan includes goals for parks and trails in the Town. The COR Plan was updated by the Planning Commission in 2012.

Wayne Schmick resigned from the Committee, and Chris Musha took his place in 2012. The Planning Commission directed that that the Committee also be responsible to the Town Board. The Committee changed its name to Town of Omro Parks and Recreation. It developed a logo in 2015 and formulated a Mission and Vision statement.

The following parks have been created under the direction of the Town of Omro Parks and Recreation.

### **Schnyder-Wendt Park**

This 22 acre park was opened on October 3, 2010. It is located behind the present Town Recycling Center on Hwy FF. The name of the park recognizes both Harve Wendt, who sold the land to the Town, and Art Schnyder, a past Town Chairman and longtime naturalist who would be pleased by the creation of a park.

The park location originally the location of the old town dump. Harve Wendt sold the land to the Town for a dump. Harve also worked at the site for many years. The dump was open on Saturdays. Town residents would drive in to the dump area and throw their garbage into the large pit. At the end of the day, the garbage in the pit was burned. When the pit was full, it was covered over and a new pit was dug.

In 1990's, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offered grant money to help Towns close dump sites and open Recycling Centers. The red clay needed to cap the dump pit was taken from a part of the current Schnyder/Wendt Park. A pond was created as a result of removing the clay.

After the pits were capped, the caps were seeded, and the current meadows in Schnyder/Wendt are a result of that seeding. In addition to the meadows, the park includes woodlands and a wet meadow with native plants. A mowed grass trail invites visitors to walk the .72 of a mile perimeter of the park. Benches along the trail offer opportunities for visitors

to rest and enjoy Nature at her best. Schnyder/Wendt Park is a “Leave No Trace” park; visitors are asked to take out what they bring in.

Improvements to the park include two blue bird houses and an evergreen tree.



October 3, 2010, Grand Opening – Left to right Wayne Schmick, Barb Meyers, Barb Stanek

### **Our Park**

2012 saw Our Park added to the Town of Omro. Located at 4006 Reighmoor Road, the park includes a parking lot, a walking trail, and a soccer field with goals. Open from dawn to dusk, Our Park is a “Leave No Trace” park. Visitors are asked to take out anything that they bring into the park.

The soccer field offers a recreation area for local youths, and the parking area accommodates 28 vehicles. Toward the back of the park, visitors will find a walking trail and bridge through prairie grass.

Our Park has been created and is maintained by Town of Omro neighbor, the Algoma Sanitary District. Call 920-426-0335 with questions or to check the soccer field availability.

### **Priske Park**

March 17, 2015, saw the establishment of Priske Park at the end of Fenceline Road in the Town of Omro. This 15 acre park includes wood and a 3 acre plowed field. Plans for the development of Priske Park are being formulated.

### **Town Hall Park**

The Town of Omro Town Hall caters to group events where kitchen access for food preparation and restrooms are a priority. The Town Hall provides picnic tables, volley ball equipment, and a native plant garden to enjoy.

To contact any member of the Town of Omro Parks and Recreation, call the Omro Town Hall at 920-685-2111.