Dane County Parks

Always in Season

DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 29, 2022

Earth Day Celebration with Opperation Fresh Start
Stewart Lake County Park

NEW PARKS DIRECTOR

Congratulations to our new Dane County Parks Director, **Joleen Stinson**!

Joleen has spent the last 15 years working in parks and recreation management, including Sun Prairie, DeForest, Rock County and Waunakee and joined Dane County Parks in 2020 as the Deputy Parks Director. "I have been a Dane County resident for my entire life and I have always loved the Dane County Park system, so being named the next director is truly a dream come true."

Joleen has proven to be a dedicated, hard-working and compassionate leader and team member and we are excited to welcome her into this new role.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Friends of Stewart Lake County Park and Dane County Parks hosted an Earth Day event for Operation Fresh Start participants, youth ages 16-24 last Thursday.

The day will included spreading native prairie seed, clearing invasive brush, spending time learning about Stewart Lake, climbing trees with arborist equipment, learning about bluebird house maintenance, and transplanting native plants that were started from seed. These Earth Day activities educate and train OFS participants about conservation and land stewardship. Check out **more photos** from this event!

INDIAN LAKE PROPERTY PLAN

Dane County Parks will begin working on a property plan that will propose future management, recreation use and park facility development for Indian Lake County Park and the adjacent Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area.

Two public information meetings will be held to begin the planning process to gather public input:

- May 16 at 7:00 p.m. – Lussier Family Heritage Center and VIRTUAL
- June 6 at 5:30 p.m. – Town of Berry Town Hall Shelter

Visit the project website to learn more about this project and the public information meetings mentioned above. A survey will be added to the project website within the next few weeks as another option to provide input.

Learn More

JUNIOR NATURALIST

If you are between the ages of 9-14 and are interested in the outdoors, natural history, hands-on science, and wildlife data collection, then you should join our **Junior Naturalist** summer program.

In these sessions, we will explore, track bumble bees, conduct a bird survey, scout for berry patches, identify prairie plants, and assess stream health. All while adventuring through William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park! This summer we are offering sessions for two age groups (9-11 and 12-14).

Learn more and register online at:

Learn More

Nature Notes
from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
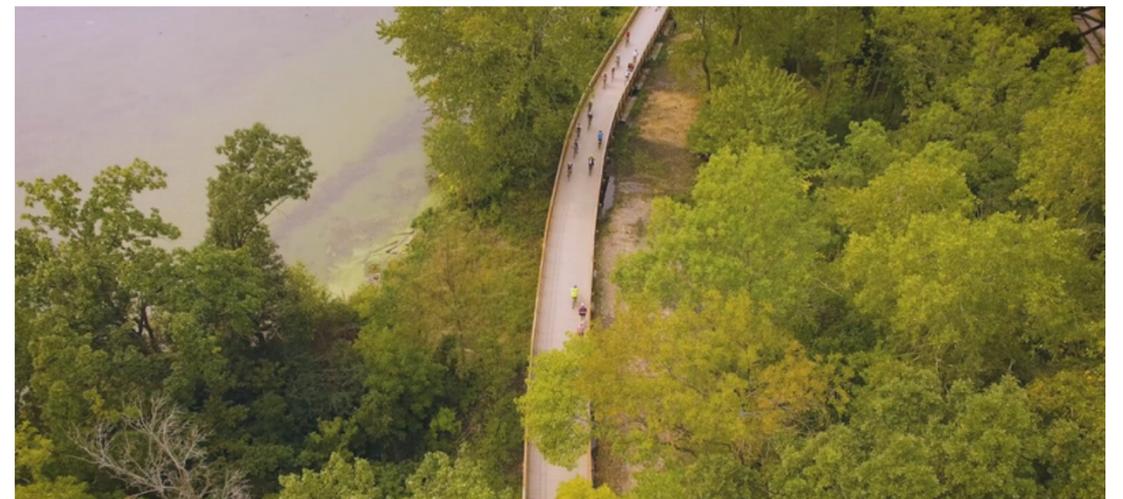a Dane County Parks Facility

WAUBESA LAKESHORE CLEANUP

The Lake Waubesa Conservation Association, in partnership with the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, Dane County Parks, Dane County Land & Water Resources, and the Village of McFarland invite you to Take a Stake in the Lakes! Volunteers will remove trash along the Lower Yahara River Trail boardwalk and the Lake Waubesa shoreline at William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park.

Date: Thursday, May 5 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

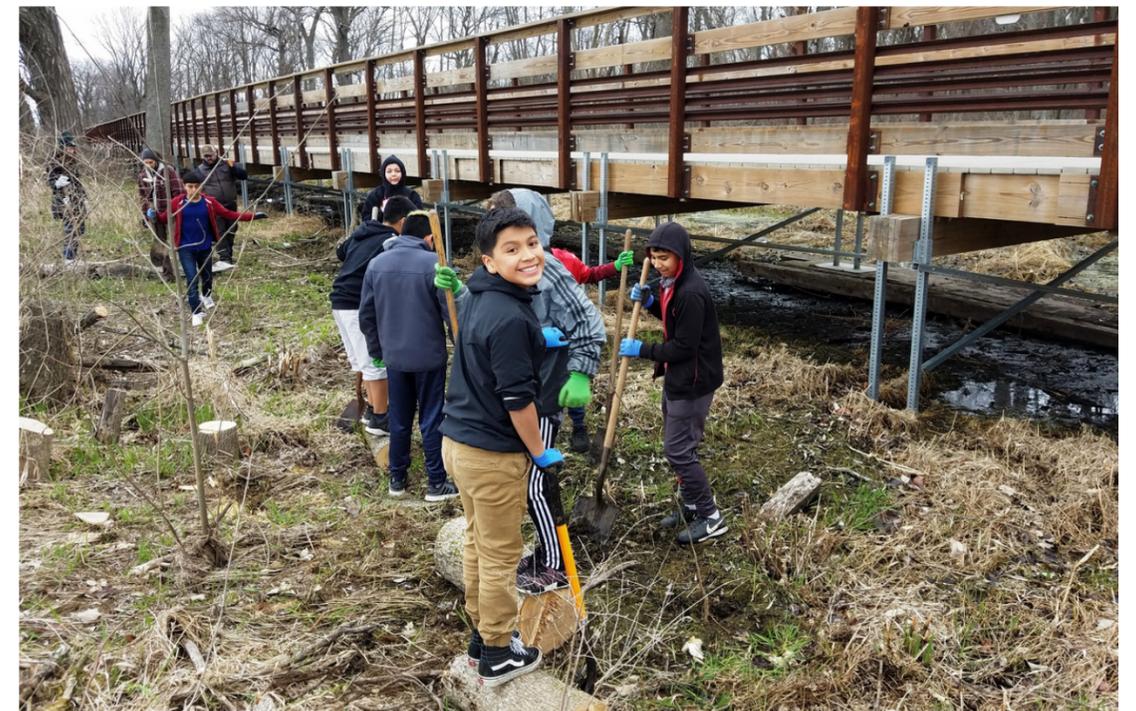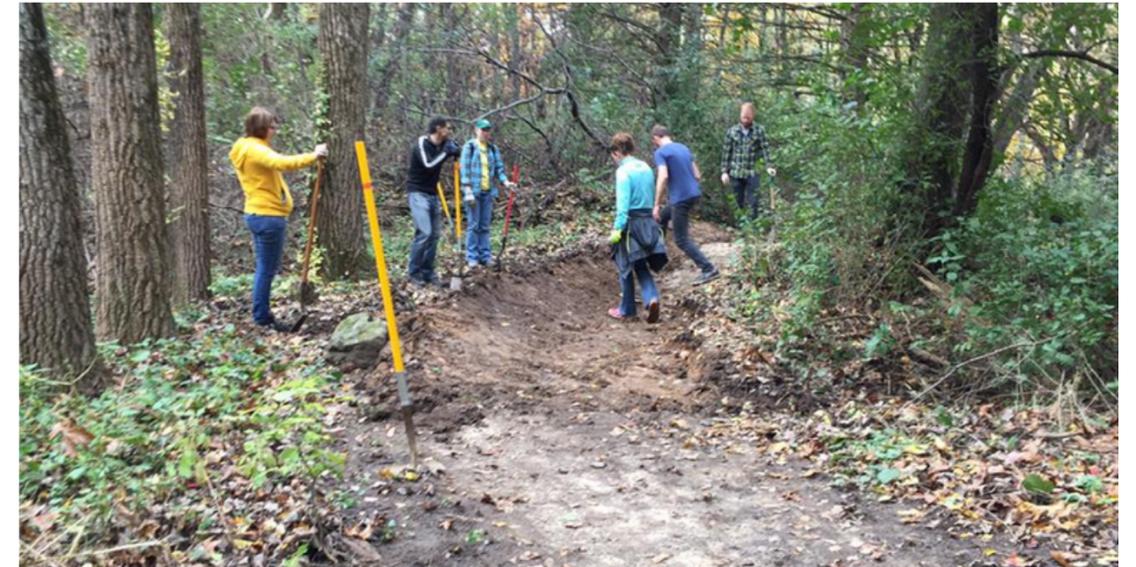Learn more and sign up below!

Learn More

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Check out our website event calendar to find a volunteer event that interests you! Upcoming events include:

- Youth Service Day at McCarthy Park
- Waubesa Lakeshore Cleanup
- Friends of Stewart Park -- Remnant Prairie Restoration
- Walking Iron County Restoration
- Invasive Plant Removals
- Tree plantings

...and more!

Learn More

KITE FLY-IN @ ANDERSON FARM

Date: Sunday, May 1 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Join the Oregon-Brooklyn Optimist Club at Anderson Farm County Park and fly a kite with your friends and neighbors. Bring a kite or the first 50 people will receive a kite for free. Also remember to bring your camera to take pictures of all the colors and shapes flying high in the sky.

Learn More

DOG PARK OPENING CELEBRATION

Join us at **Anderson Farm County Park** on May 19 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. to celebrate our newest dog park. This 36 acre off-leash dog park opened in late 2021 and is Dane County Park's 8th dog park, featuring crushed limestone trails through restored prairie. County Executive, Joe Parisi, will be doing an official ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:00 p.m. You can also stop by one of these activity stations:

- Karben4 Brewing – 10% of sales donated to the park
- Excite Bites Dog Treat Truck
- Dog Park Planning & Design – information booth
- Anderson Park Friends – information booth

Learn More

PARKS SWAG

Help us raise money for our parks! We have created a few unique items that you can select as thank you gifts when you donate to our natural areas, dog park, or disc golf programs.

Visit our Merchandise Fundraiser webpage to learn more:

Learn More

Natural Ares Program

Disc Golf

Dog Parks

CERTIFIED LAND STEWARD ORIENTATION

Attention Natural Areas Volunteers!!

Are you interested in doing more than attending the occasional volunteer restoration day? Do you have the desire to help restore areas within our park system that may not be getting as much help as you think they deserve? This Certified Land Steward Orientation helps train and empower volunteers who want to take a leadership role on restoration projects within county natural areas. Lead volunteers are those going the extra mile to combat exotic weeds, clear out invasive trees and brush, collect native seed, and make our natural areas shine!

Date: May 17 from 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

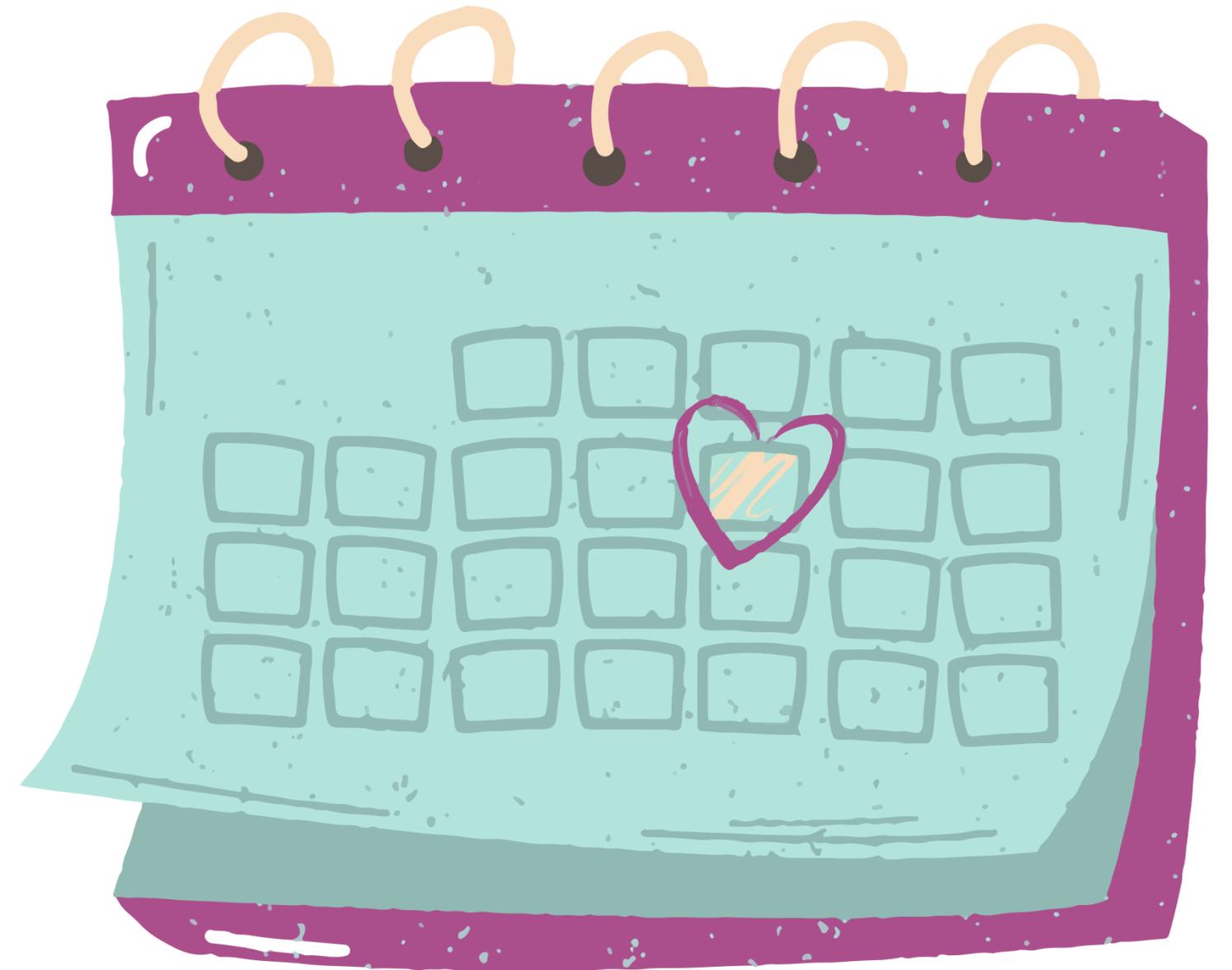Learn more and register on our website:

Learn More

FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more event listings, check out the event calendar on our website. Events include:

- Youth Adventure Days
- Volunteer Workdays
- Music and craft events hosted by friends groups
- and more!

Learn More

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

If someone forwarded you this newsletter you can **sign up** to receive future editions on our website:

Sign Up