

DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 30, 2021



*Yahara Heights County Park
Courtesy John Katson*

HAPPY ARBOR DAY!

Dane County Parks celebrate Arbor Day year round with the help of our dedicated forestry staff and volunteers. This year we will be planting over 2,000 trees throughout the park system, focusing on restoring rare habitats, such as Oak Savanna, installing new community fruit orchards, and planting a diverse variety of new trees (70 species so far) in areas where we have lost Ash trees due to Emerald Ash Borer.

We are also expanding our gravel bed tree nursery which allows us to grow bare root trees that are able to develop an extensive root structure (see top left photo) and are much easier to transport and plant. The only trees we still purchase balled and burlaped are Oaks that do not grow well in the gravel nursery. The nursery along with tree donations from DNR, Rock River Coalition, and Sustainable Wildlife have helped us reduce our per tree cost down to **\$2 per tree**.



CAMPING IS OPEN!

Dane County Park campgrounds officially **open TODAY!**

Learn more about our campsites or make a reservation online by clicking the button below.



[Learn More](#)

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR CONSERVATION

Youth Volunteers for Conservation is our new, hands-on program that challenges high school students to make a real impact in caring for Dane County's natural areas. It is open to students ages 14-18 and enrolled in grades 9th-12th.

Online applications for the 2021 - 2022 program are being accepted through June 30th. Students can also apply to join the Youth Volunteers for Conservation Leadership Council to share their ideas and help guide and strengthen the program.

[Learn More](#)



Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

FORAGING AND FIRE STARTING

Join the Friends of Festge County Park on Saturday, May 1 or Sunday May 16 for two FUNdraising events:

Foraging: learn the basics of foraging edible plants, berries, nuts & mushrooms. \$20 per person.

Fire Starting: tips, tricks & tools to start a fire every time. \$20 per person.

Preregister or learn more using the link below.

[Learn More](#)



BIRD & SPRING EPHEMERALS WALK

Join the Friends of Capital Springs and park naturalist Clare Carlson for a spring bird and woodland walk on Sunday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. Many migratory bird species, including warblers and wading birds, can be seen on Lake Waubesa and in nearby habitats this time of year. All ages are welcome, and families are encouraged to attend.

Meeting Place: W.G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park shelter #2, 4330 Libby Road, Madison

Signup: Please email the number of people in your group to Clare (carlson.clare@countyofdane.com). Maximum attendance is 30 people.



[Learn More](#)



GARLIC MUSTARD WORKDAY

Join the Friends of Lower Mud Lake to help them pull and remove invasive Garlic Mustard plants. Garlic mustard crowds out native species and reduces diversity in habitats. Removing plants early in the spring prevents seed formation and reduces the need for future herbicide use.

Date: May 12 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Preregistration is required. Click "learn more" to find out more about the event and to register.

[Learn More](#)



AQUATIC PLANT HARVESTING

As part of the County's continued efforts to rehabilitate Indian Lake, staff are removing Curly Leaf Pondweed, an invasive plant that is very aggressive and can quickly take over and crowd out native aquatic vegetation. It starts to grow under the ice in the winter making it one of the first nuisance aquatic plants to emerge in the spring.

Removal of the material will also provide County staff and Wisconsin DNR netting and removing common carp, another invasive species which contributes to degraded water quality and negatively impacts aquatic life.

To learn more about the Aquatic Plant Harvesting Program click below.

[Learn More](#)



FORAGING

Did you know that Dane County Parks allows foraging on all of our park properties?

Morel season is upon us! Visit our foraging webpage to see guidelines and some examples of the edible fruits, nuts, and mushrooms you can find in our parks by clicking the button below.

***Please note that foraging is for personal use only, not for resale. Foraging is not allowed on planted vegetable garden plots within parks.*

[Learn More](#)



LOVE TO RIDE MADISON

Love to Ride is hosting a Madison area May Bike Month Challenge! Workplace teams and individuals can participate for free and earn points to win prizes.

Tag #danecountyparks if you get out to our parks and trails as you rack up your Love to Ride miles!

[Learn More](#)



HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY YOU

The Foundation, Dean/SSM Health, and Dane County Parks are kicking off a new three year partnership called "Healthy Parks, Healthy You" to help promote the connection between parks and physical and mental health.

Each month several Dane County Parks will be featured to give you ideas for new places to explore. If you explore any Dane County Park you can post a photo on Facebook and tag it **#healthyparkshealthyyou** for a chance to win gift cards and other prizes.

[Learn More](#)



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