

# DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 21, 2021



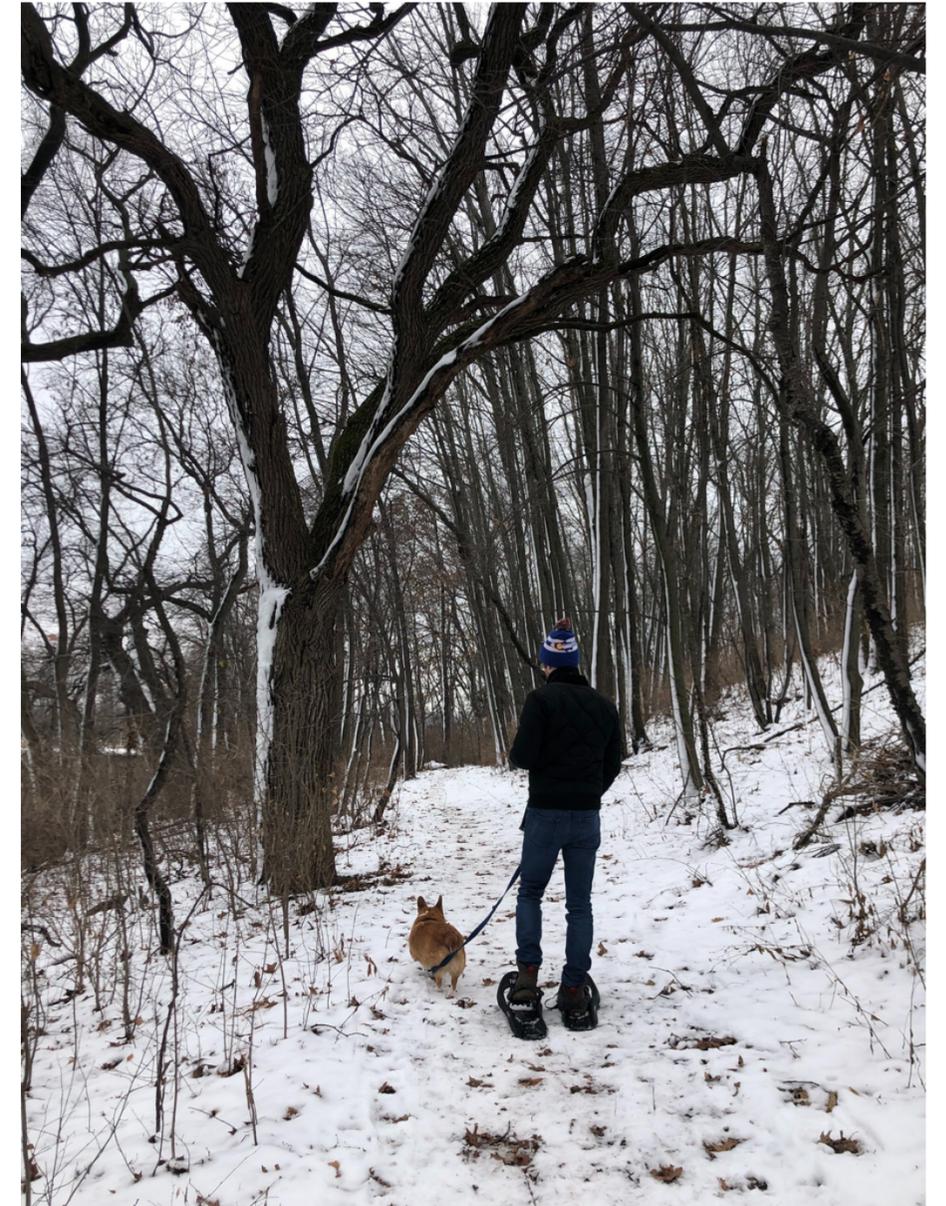
**Prairie Moraine County Dog Park**  
Courtesy of Dog Grin Photography

# WINTER RECREATION

- Where can I go snowshoeing?
- Are any park bathrooms open?
- What winter activities require a permit?
- Where are the groomed cross-country ski trails?
- Are there any sledding hills in county parks?

Find the answers to these questions and more on our Winter Recreation webpage!

[Learn More](#)



*William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park*

# CONGRATULATIONS

We have great news to share!

**Darren Marsh**, Dane County Parks Director, has received the 2020 Professional Award of Merit from the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association. This is highest level of honor from the association. Darren is the first to acknowledge that it's all about the team and is he partly right. It's the dedication and ingenuity of all parks staff that creates recognition both for our program and for individuals. Conversely, parks staff benefit from having a leader that is passionate, knowledgeable and willing to do any job, big or small.

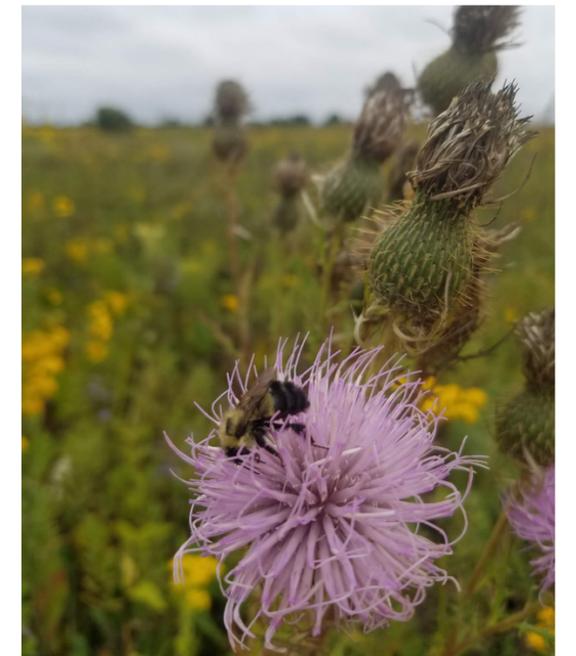


**Joleen Stinson**, Dane County Parks Deputy Director, has received the 2020 Outstanding Park Professional of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association. Joleen joined our team in December and we feel so fortunate to have her.

# PRAIRIE SEEDING

This week, our natural areas staff put in the first prairie seeding of 2021. When visiting McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park you may notice that the small 8 acre field below the parking lot looks like it was driven over many times - and it was! Over 35 species of native plant seed went into the mix, including Ohio Spiderwort, Pasture Thistle, Culver's Root, and Lead Plant.

Newly planted prairies can take several years to fully establish, so it may be a while before flowers start to bloom. Once they do, be on the lookout for all kinds of bird and insect species using these plants for food.

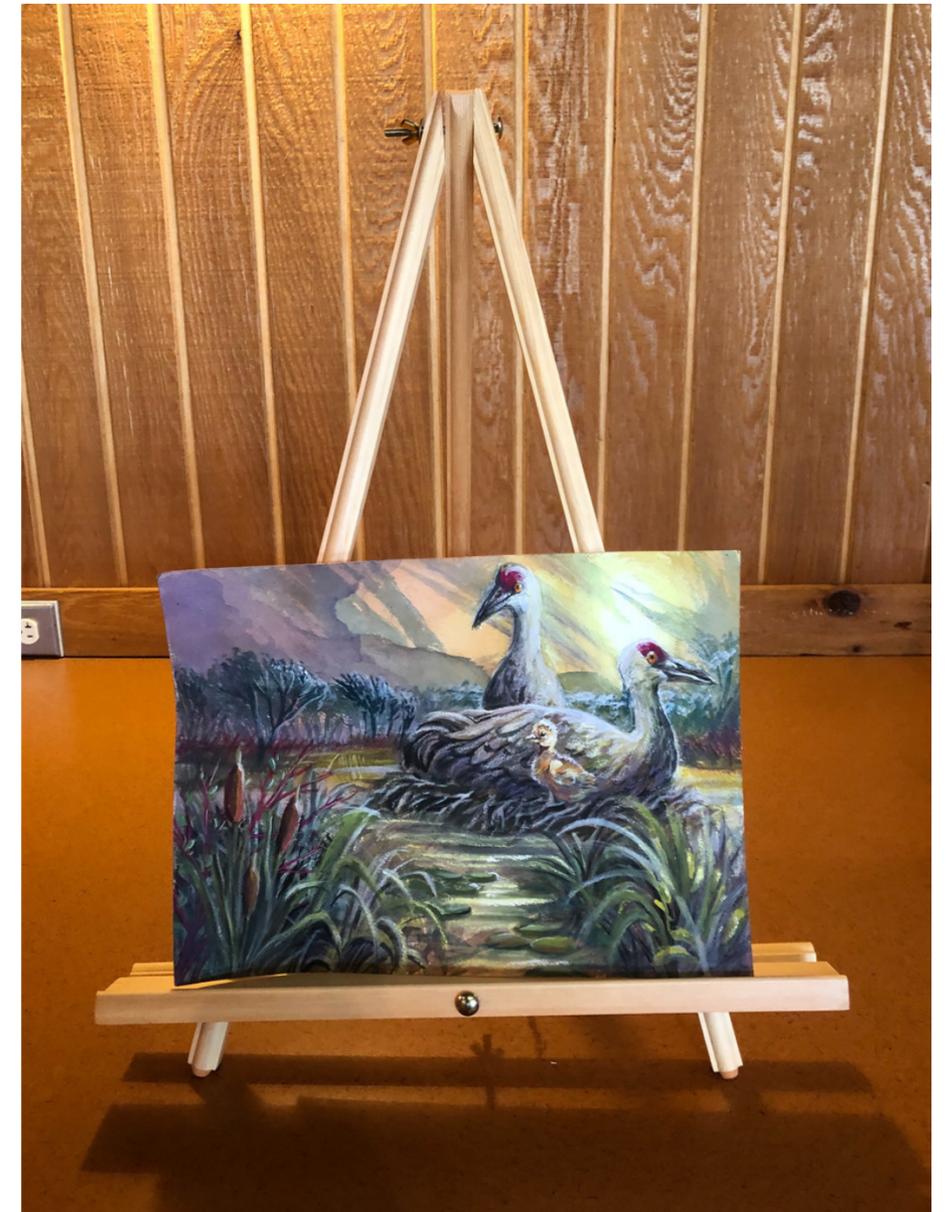


# CONSERVATION ART CONTEST

We are currently accepting entries for our Conservation Art Contest, competition, fundraiser, and scholarship for youth in grades six through twelve. The contest is a fun and interactive way to teach students about the many values of our natural areas, the challenges they face, and the habitat they provide for countless creatures.

The top three contest winners will receive a \$500 scholarship award for their artwork depicting a threatened or endangered species in Wisconsin. First place artwork will be turned into stickers, window clings, and magnets that will help raise money to help maintain and enhance Dane County Parks natural areas. Artwork for this year's contest is due by March 1, 2021.

[Learn More](#)



*2020 First Place Winner*

# 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](#)



# ART INSTALLATION

There is a new, permanent "Art Rock" installation at the [Ice Age Reserve Wildlife Area](#). The art was created by artists Tim Malzhan and Dean Bloedorn out of three stones found on the property.

The art pieces were created to stimulate interest in the geologic 'sense of place' and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and to engage visitors in the art and science of trail design and construction by providing a visual magnet featuring native stone that welcomes trail users, without the use of words.

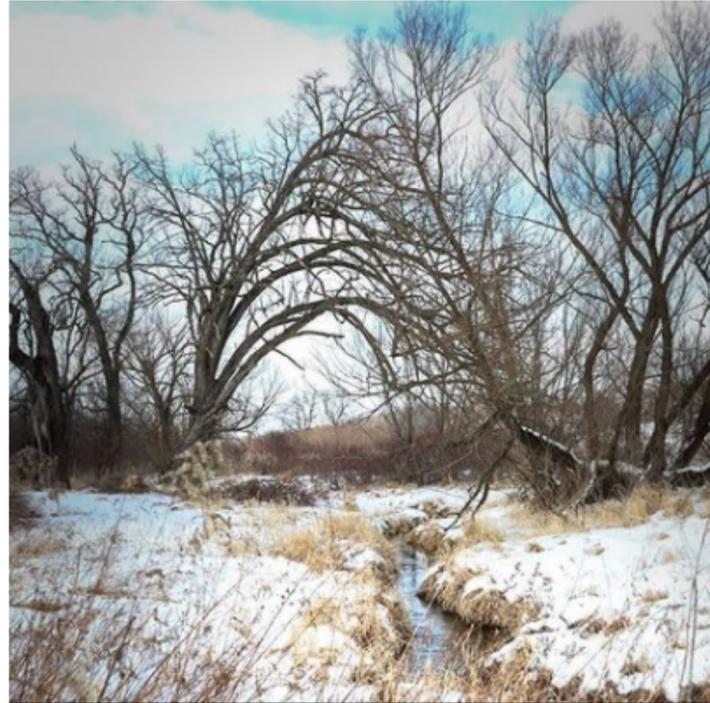
Visitors can access the trail at the Old Sauk Pass Trailhead (8027 Old Sauk Pass Rd., Cross Plains)



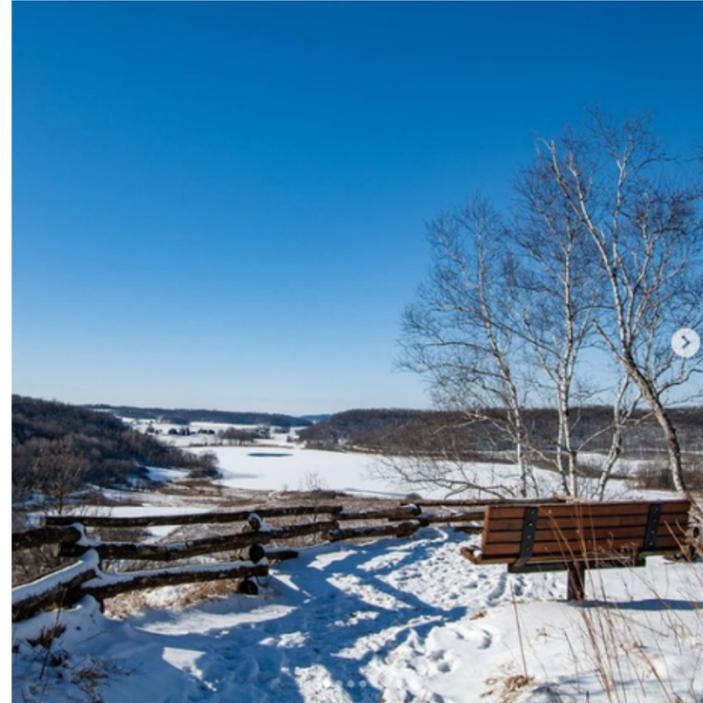
# SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



**Pheasant Branch Conservancy**  
*@focalflame*



**Donald County Park**  
*@jmzpics*



**Indian Lake County Park**  
*@badgersbranchout*



**Jenni and Kyle Preserve**  
*@skiesofdane*

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