

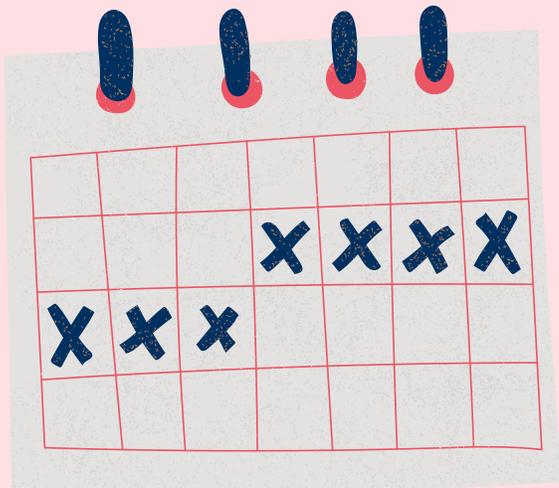
February 2023 Newsletter

**Dane County Parks
Volunteer Program**



Greetings!

This winter has just flown by - sorry to everyone who missed seeing the January newsletter! I think we're about three weeks into Punxsutawney Phil's winter prediction, which has me thinking about what the remaining weeks of winter will look like. Hope y'all have a great rest of February, and thanks to everyone who has worked in the parks so far this winter!



[Event Calendar](#)



[Dane County Parks Map](#)



Questions?

Contact Claire Lamberg

(608) 516-3703

lamberg.claire@countyofdane.com

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Walking Iron Work Party!

Help natural areas staff and volunteers continue restoration work at Walking Iron's beautiful and ecologically important remnant sand prairie!

February 28
March 14



Invasive Tree and Brush Removal Workdays

Join us to remove invasive brush and trees from natural areas being restored to prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodlands! Last day is March 3rd.

February 24
February 28



Dane County Parks Friends Group Events

Prairie Moraine County Park - Winter Woodland Restoration

February 28
March 2

Lower Mud Lake NRA - Oak Woodland Restoration

March 3

Stewart Lake - Remnant Prairie Restoration Workday

February 25
March 3

- * Tuesday Morning Workdays, Donald County Park
- * Saturday Woods Restoration, Silverwood County Park
- * Saturday Workdays, Anderson Farm County Park

Upcoming Events



FUN: Pheasant Branch Ecosystems

February 25 

Winter is great for seeing landscapes. Join Naturalist Eva Roos Saturday February 25 at 1:30 PM at Pheasant Branch Prairie parking lot to learn about prairies, oak openings, riparian and wetland ecosystems.



Tree Pruning Basics

February 25

Join Lisa Johnson, a Horticulture Educator with Dane County Extension to learn pruning techniques everyone can use. During this workshop, we'll learn the proper way to make pruning cuts on trees and be able to practice on the trees in the Schumacher Farm County Park orchard.



Dig into Rain Gardens: 1:1 Coaching

March 4

Join Dane County and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) for a 30 minute one-on-one rain garden coaching session! Meet individually with a rain garden expert to look at your specific site using an online mapping application, determine drainage patterns and select an optimal location for a rain garden.



All these events (and more!) can be found on the [DCP Event Calendar](#)

To get updates on more non-volunteering events, sign up for the [Parks Newsletter!](#) 

Upcoming Events Pt. 2



Tales from Planet Earth: A Voice for the Wild - Emily Ford Visits Madison

March 5th, 4-8pm



Join Emily Ford for hiking, food trucks, a bonfire, and a double-feature screening of Breaking Trail and A Voice for the Wild. This event is free and open to the public - Guided hikes will run from 4-6pm, leaving every half hour. Screening tickets are currently "sold out", but you can get your name on the waitlist.

Mural Unveiling & Meet the Artist Open House

April 5th, 3-5pm

Join us in celebration of our new 250 square foot mural featuring realistic artwork of the prairies, wetlands and native species found in the natural spaces surrounding the Lussier Family Heritage Center. Stop by anytime between 3 -5 p.m. to see the mural up close and meet and connect with local artist, Sonya Sankaran.



<https://www.sonyasankaran.com/>



Upcoming Trainings



Prescribed Burn Orientation/Refresher for DCP Volunteers

March 18th, 9am - 4pm

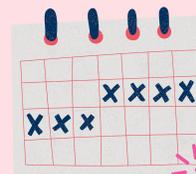
[Sign Up](#)

Are you looking to volunteer with Dane County Parks on a prescribed fire this year? Join our natural areas team for a review of our burn operation, fire behavior, and much more. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Workshop

April 29th, 9am - 2:30pm

Looking for a way to protect your local waterways? Become a volunteer stream monitor with the Rock River Coalition to help monitor water quality at waterways in Dane County Parks! By the end of this workshop, you'll know how to measure water quality and be ready to adopt your own stream monitoring site. No experience is needed, and all equipment is provided. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**



[Sign Up](#)

Submit your 2022 Volunteer Hours



Please submit your 2022 volunteer hours!

Any person who has volunteered time to Dane County Parks in some shape, way, or form at any point during 2022: please give me your volunteer hours. Many of you have already done this (thank you!), but I know there are a few of you out there who have not. These hours are reported in our Dane County Parks Annual Report, as well as used in a number of ways throughout the department. Most importantly, they help to get more resources for you all!

Please **DO** submit hours:

- If you volunteered independently
- If you are a DCP Friends Group who has not yet reported your hours
- If you worked with a partner agency on any DCP property (IATA, SWTU, CORP)

Please **DO NOT** submit hours:

- If you volunteered at a DCP staff-led workday (these hours have already been collected)
- If you volunteered with a DCP Friends Group who collected your hours
- If you volunteered with a DCP Land Steward who collected your hours

Email hours to: lambert.claire@countyofdane.com

OR

Submit total hours online:

[2022 Dane County Parks
Volunteer Hours Reporting Form](#)



January Recap

Liz McBride, Certified Land Steward, led several Saturday workdays during January at Donald County Park! A big shout out to Liz and every volunteer that has joined on these days to remove invasive honeysuckle from such a beautiful area.



Prairie Moraine Friends, Inc. led a awesome seeding party at Prairie Moraine dog park to help re-seed a restored area back into native prairie!

Early in January we held seed mixing days to prep all of our planting mixes for the season. Doing this beforehand makes such a big difference in the field. Thanks everyone!



Volunteer Spotlight(s)

All-season Superstars

Kevin Burke

If you join a DCP workday, there's a good chance you'll meet Kevin. As one of our most dedicated workday volunteers, he can be found at most volunteer events throughout the year! From Walking Iron Workdays, seed collections and cleaning, and tree & brush workdays, he enjoys them all, but his favorite season is prescribed burning season. Kevin certainly inspires our staff as well as other volunteers with his strong work ethic.

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Susan Gruber

Ask anyone and they'll tell you Susan brings the best treats to our workdays. On top of that, she is known for her dedication to the restoration of Pheasant Branch Conservancy's natural areas. Working there year round, she might be found working with Operation Fresh Start, tending to the native propagation garden, collecting seed from uncommon wetland species, or helping with invasive species control.

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Volunteer Spotlight(s)

Continued

Kevin is...

unafraid of any job. No matter how dirty it can be, he just dives right in and gets to work. Over the years he's been able to finely hone his plant ID skills, making him one of our fastest native seed collectors.

Rumor has it that when Kevin is collecting Spiderwort seeds, he is so fast the spiders don't have time to leap and his bag is always full of spiders!



Susan has...

accomplished so much work with the OFS crews over the last few years that this winter PBC hasn't been in need of the crews. This is simply amazing!

Susan has helped many people to become comfortable working in the field of ecosystem restoration, which is truly an inspiration.

According to Naturalist Shane Otto: she has her eye on restoring and conserving the land, but her heart is always with those OFS participants!

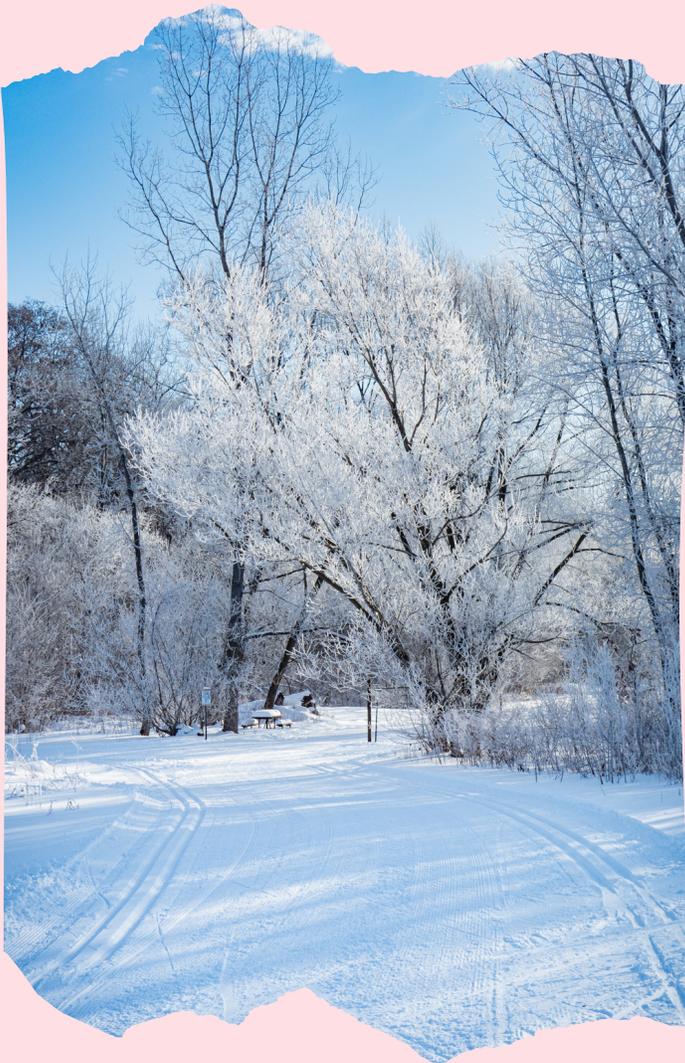
Thank you both for your enthusiasm, your dedication, and for being yourselves, we're so lucky to know you!

Friends Group Feature:

Friends of McCarthy



The Friends of McCarthy support McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park, located in Cottage Grove, in a number of ways throughout the season. In the winter, their MadNorSki volunteers break out their ski trail grooming skills to provide excellent trails for skiers to enjoy, and they help maintain community access to one of the best sledding hills in our system! Their spring-time Youth Service Day event brings in youth from all over Dane County to work in the park, making the entrance look good all year round. The Friends are committed to engaging youth in the park and for the last few years they've been organizing events with Bill Quackenbush and Ho-Chunk Nation Youth. Projects include an sugar bush planting, maintaining a traditional foods garden, and building a ciporoke ("round dwelling").



Groomed Ski Trail at McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park



friendsofmccarthypark.org



[@FriendsofMcCarthy](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMcCarthy)



The ciporoke up by the group camp at MYCCP

Staff Spotlight

Lael Pascual

Engagement &
Visitor Services
Manager



Lael oversees the Engagement & Visitor Services (EVS) section of Dane County Parks. A relatively new section within the division, EVS was created to build cohesivity between areas of public engagement within the Land & Water Resources Department. These areas include the volunteer program, education and outreach staff, park rangers, seasonal park attendants, the Lussier Family Heritage Center and public/media relations. She came to Dane County Parks 6 years ago, following working as the Interpretive Program Supervisor for Miami-Dade County Parks in Florida. Lael is glad to be back in Wisconsin and working for such a great park system!



**Favorite thing to spot
in the parks:**

New park users experiencing Dane
County Parks for the first time



**Favorite Dane
County Park:**

All of them!



**Favorite outdoor
activities:**

Birding, hiking, biking, photography,
cross-county skiing, and paddling

We're Hiring!

(LTE) Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

We're looking to add to the DCP Volunteer Program team!

Do you know someone who is passionate about working with volunteers of all ages? Do they have great communication skills, and clerical and/or administrative experience? The ideal candidate should have a genuine interest in or experience with parks, natural resource management, ecology, or related fields. Preference will be given to individuals with training and experience in volunteer management.

(LTE) Lussier Family Heritage Center Attendant

We're looking to add to our education staff!

This staff member will lead, plan, and run environmental and outdoor education programs for public and private groups. Assist with outreach and engagement initiatives for the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD). Develop new youth and adult programs, field trips, and engagement opportunities. And more!

(LTE) County Park Ranger Cadets

(LTE) County Park Attendants

All positions can be found here:

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/countyofdane



Calling all Volunteer Submissions:

Volunteer Spotlight!

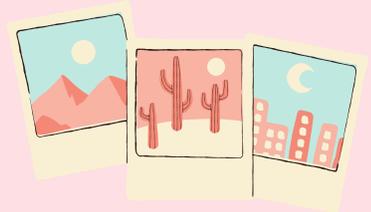


Want to nominate yourself or a fellow volunteer for the DCP Volunteer Spotlight?

SUBMIT



Submit a Photo!



Want to see your photo featured in next month's newsletter?

SUBMIT



Photos must be appropriate and relevant to Dane County Parks, volunteering, nature, conservation, wildlife, or the outdoors.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your parks!

Check out these pages to see what we're up to:



[@DaneCountyParks](#)



[@danecountyparks](#)



[@DaneCountyParksFlickr](#)



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