



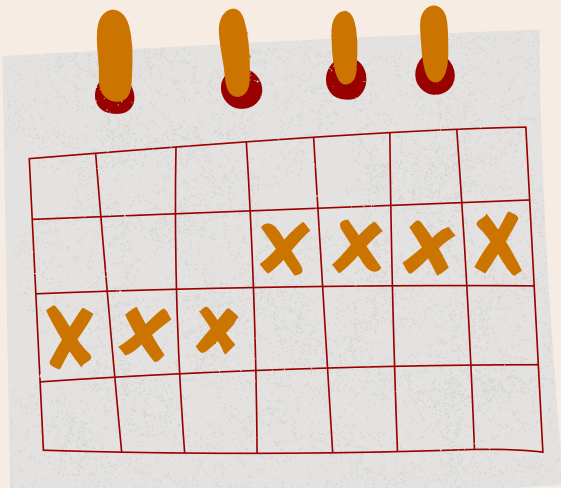
October 2022 Newsletter

**Dane County Parks
Volunteer Program**



Greetings!

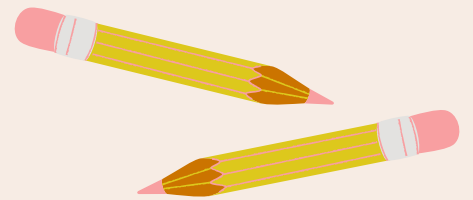
Summer is officially over and the autumn chill has moved in, but that doesn't mean our volunteers go into hibernation! This month has been very busy with seed collections, seed cleanings, Friends events, and other volunteer opportunities. We're excited to have you join us in this new season!



[Event Calendar](#)



[Dane County Parks Map](#)



Questions?

Contact Claire Lamberg

(608) 516-3703

lamberg.claire@countyofdane.com

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Walking Iron Restoration

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

November 8

November 22

Seed Cleaning

October 31

November 1

November 2

November 3

November 4

and more!

Dane County Parks Friends Group Events

November 4 - Lower Mud Lake Workday

November 5 - Friends of Badger Mill Creek Workday

November 5 - Anderson Park Candlelight Hike and Bonfire

Nov 12 - Friends of Stewart Park -- Remnant Prairie Restoration

Nov 16 - Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy Day

Ongoing:

Saturday Woods Restoration, Friends of Silverwood Park

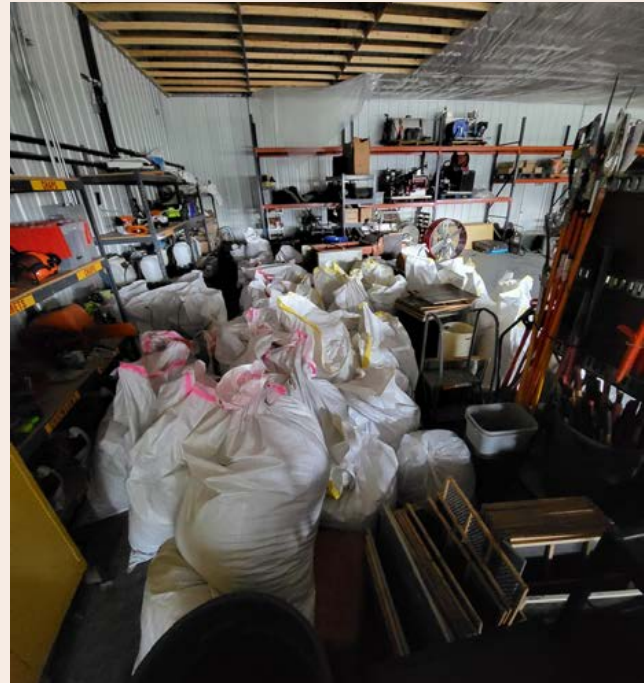
Saturday Events, Friends of Anderson Park

3rd Sunday Friends of Stewart Restoration Workday



Seed Cleaning

After so much seed collection, it's time for seed cleaning! Seed that comes in from the field isn't perfect, so we 'clean' the seed to determine how much we have and ensure it's ready to seed into new prairies, woodlands, and oak savannas. We utilize a hammer mill to break seed clusters apart and then a fanning mill to separate chaff from seed. No prior experience is necessary for this, but participants will need to tolerate noise and dust with provided PPE. Learn more and sign up by clicking on the seed packets!



Our seed storage facility is packed full! We expect that this year may be another record-breaking year thanks to our volunteers.



Interested in growing native plants for the community?

A workshop will be held on **November 6, from 1-3pm** at the Lussier Family Heritage Center for interested volunteers. **You must register in advance. Max number of participants is 15.**

Native plants have tremendous water quality benefits and increase habitat and food sources for pollinators. Because of this, the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department has a native plant growing program to provide a source of free native plants for schools and community groups. Dane County will provide all of the supplies except the potting mix which the volunteers are asked to purchase themselves. Volunteers need a sunny, outdoor space to grow the plants. To learn more, [visit this website for details.](#)



Upcoming Volunteer Trainings

Land Stewardship Training:

Advanced ISMTrack and
EDDMaps Pro Apps (In-Person)

Wednesday November 9,
9am-10am and 10:30am-11:30am

If you are not a Land Steward but are still interested in these trainings, contact Volunteer Coordinator Claire Lamberg at lamberg.claire@countyofdane.com

Herbicide Application (PAT) Certification

There are training for herbicide applications, and separate trainings for those who wish to become Certified Pesticide Applicators. For more information on these trainings, click [here](#).



Prairie at Indian Lake -
Photo by
volunteer
John Herbst



Click HERE to fill out a survey regarding what kinds of training YOU would like to see more of.



September Recap

Pictured below: Students from Edgewood High School joined Dane County Parks Staff to help clear out invasive vegetation from Lake Farm County Park! They also learned about seed collection.



This picture is a tribute to all the hardworking seed collecting volunteers! Braving the sticky trefoil is no easy task



Walking Iron Seed Collection



Friends Group Feature

Friends of Indian Lake (FOIL)

The Friends of Indian Lake are an incredible asset to one of the largest parks in the DCP system. In addition to holding volunteer workdays and the very popular "Indian Lake Train Run" at Indian Lake, they also help support the Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area - which lies a mere hop across the road. FOIL provides funding for goats to come out and help remove (graze) invasive species in the farm ruins at Halfway Prairie. A single goat can eat 8 pounds of vegetation a day making them super stars at clearing out thick invasive species in rocky areas that cannot be managed with mowing.

FOIL leads a number of other projects to enhance Indian Lake County Park.

Volunteer opportunities with FOIL

- Indian Lake Trail Run
- Prairie, woodland, and wetland restoration
 - Native seed collections
 - Snowshoe prairie seeding
- Monarch Tagging
- Restoration of Indian Lake's fishery
- Trail maintenance and building
- Nature Hikes
- Chapel maintenance



This season's goats, Frankie and Lloyd, having a good time at Halfway Prairie

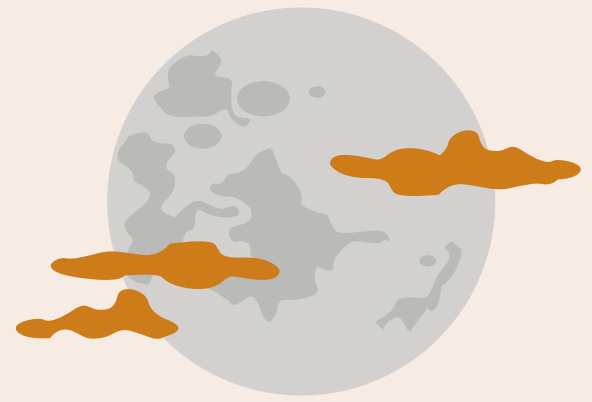


Volunteers at the 2022 IL Trail Run. Pete Witucki (right) is the race director for several trail runs in our parks!

Photo by Michael Rausch

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers at Walking Iron!



Matt Laska

Matt joined us several times back in May 2021 at our Walking Iron Workdays to help remove invasive spotted knapweed and to collect native seed in the remnant. He found out about these special days while out hiking at the park and seeing our "volunteers needed" signs. At that time he was working as a Geospatial Analyst, but was on furlow and wanted to connect more with environmentally focused work. Most favorite thing about working at Walking Iron was meeting our Dane County Parks staff and fellow volunteers!

Kyle Zulpo

Kyle also came to Walking Iron in May 2021 to spend several hours of his workplace community service time with us! Having grown up volunteering in many areas including housing, food security, and youth, he knows just how much a community depends on volunteers. A part of AE Business Solutions, Kyle was working find more environmentally-related volunteer opportunities for his fellow co-workers and came upon our website. We're looking forward to seeing him again soon!



Staff Spotlight

Shane Otto

Land Restoration
Specialist



Shane's main responsibilities as Land Restoration Specialist are to restore and maintain the 13,000+ acres of park land in the Dane County Parks system. In addition to working with volunteers and partner groups on land management projects he also coordinates the Operation Fresh Start conservation crews that work on many of our properties. OFS crews have made a big impact on our lands especially when working with volunteers! Shane has been with DCP for 5 years and joined us after 12 years of working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A big project he is currently working on is the ~300 acre wetland/wet prairie restoration at Walking Iron Wildlife Area. When he's not working, Shane enjoys hunting, fishing, and watching his son play baseball.



Favorite thing to
spot in the parks:

Red-Headed Wood
Peckers



Favorite Park
Activity:

Prescribed Burning



Volunteer Photo Submission



Want to see your photo featured in next month's newsletter? Submit a photograph to the google form [here](#)! Photos must be appropriate and relevant to Dane County Parks, volunteering, nature, conservation, wildlife, or the outdoors.



Volunteer Spotlight Nomination

Click the link below to nominate yourself or someone else for the DCP Volunteer Spotlight! Please include a picture of yourself/your nominee with the submission.

[Click here for the submission form](#)



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

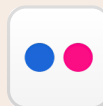
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