



DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 6, 2021



Donald County Park

WINTER RECREATION

Winter offers new ways to play in the Dane County Park System!

Learn about opportunities like cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and winter hiking on our winter recreation page. From there, you can access maps, link to ski trail conditions, or purchase a permit for activities that require one.

Please remember that snowshoeing, winter hiking and dogs are **NOT allowed** on groomed cross-country ski trails.

[Learn More](#)



Stewart Lake County Park

Courtesy of Ron Lutz II

OUTDOOR GEAR DEMO

Dane County Parks and the Sierra Club Four Lakes Group invite you to join us for some winter fun and outdoor gear demos. This is your chance to get outdoors, have some fun and learn something new! We will have fun outdoor activities and equipment that you can test out.

Activities include:

- Ice fishing demonstration
- Learn about winter camping – demonstration with fire pit
- Give snow shoeing a try! We will have snowshoes available.
- Bring your own cross country skis and explore the ski trails
- Winter scavenger hunt (eyes/camera only)

[Learn More](#)

There will also be refreshments and a warming station!



POP-UPS IN THE PARK

Join staff at pop-up events at Dane County Parks this winter! Try out snowshoeing or join us for a walk to listen for owls. These events are open to all ages - advance registration is required.

Snowshoeing:

Mon. Jan 10 - Brigham County Park

Fri. Jan 21 - Indian Lake County Park

Mon. Jan 24 - Token Creek County Park

Fri. Feb 11 - Ice Age Junction Hwy PD Unit

Fri. Feb 25 - Festge County Park

**adult and youth snowshoes will be available to borrow for a \$2.00 fee*

Owl Walks:

Wed. Jan 12 - Capital Springs Recreation Area

Wed. Jan 26 - Donald County Park

Wed. Feb 9 - Festge County Parks

Wed. Feb 23 - Lewis Nine Springs E-Way



Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SERIES



Dane County Parks hosts a number of training and capacity building programs for volunteers. This winter we are hosting a training series open to anyone who volunteers to protect and improve our local land and water resources. Registration is required. Topics include:

- Successful Event Planning, Social Media and Communications
- Friends Group Organization and Incorporation
- Grant Writing Workshop
- Volunteer Recruitment, Management and Projects
- Membership and Fundraising
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop
- Pesticide Applicator Training/Review Session with Certification Exam
- Interpretive Signage and Design

[Learn More](#)

DOGGY PLAY DAY - ANDERSON FARM

Join the Healthy Parks Healthy You partnership this Friday for a celebration of National Walk Your Dog Month at our brand new Anderson Farm County Park Dog Park. This is the eighth dog park within the Dane County Park system and has 35 acres of trails and open space for you and your dogs to roam.

The Healthy Parks Healthy You team and Anderson Park Friends will be on site talking about the health benefits of getting out to walk your dog, handing out goodies and prizes.

Dogs must have a valid 2022 dog permit. Purchase [online](#) or at the electric pay station near the dog park entrance.

Date: Friday, Jan. 7th

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.



DOGGY PLAY DAY
at
Anderson Dog Park



[Learn More](#)

SNOW DAY @ SCHUMACHER FARM

The Friends of Schumacher Farm Park invite you to join them at the top of the hill for a snowy afternoon on the farm. Even if there is not much snow, there will still be plenty to explore.

Activities will depend on the weather and snow cover, but possibilities include: a winter scavenger hunt, animal tracking clues, salt painting and frozen bubbles, snowshoes in kids and adult sizes will also be provided to try out.

This is a free event but donations are appreciated.

Date: Friday, Jan. 23

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

[Learn More](#)



FREE NATIVE PLANTS

Is your group thinking about starting a native plant or rain garden? Apply for free native plants through our Free Native Plants for School and Community Projects grant.

Since the program began, we have given out more than 19,000 plants to over 100 groups in Dane County.

Applications are due Feb. 1st.

[Learn More](#)



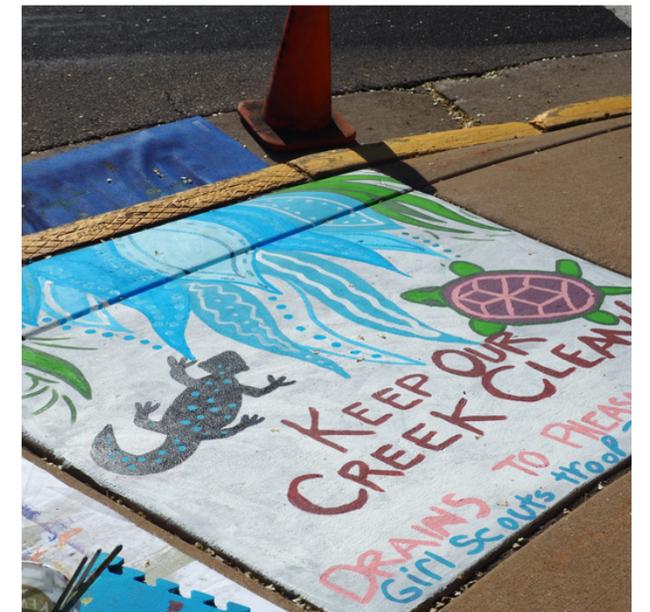
STORM DRAIN MURALS

The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department is now accepting applications for the 2022 Storm Drain Mural grant program.

Municipalities, organizations, schools or community groups located in Dane County that are interested in having a storm drain mural painted in their community are encouraged to apply.

Applications due Feb. 15th.

[Learn More](#)



PLANT OF THE WEEK!

Little Bluestem

Latin name: *Schizachyrium scoparium*

A small, compact grass that grows two to three feet tall. The base of the plant typically grows in a mound shape. This can provide great habitat for insects. This grass changes color with the seasons, going from blue-green in the summer to a red-tan color in fall. The white, fluffy seeds shimmer in the winter and are an important food source for small birds.

Want to support areas where these plants thrive? Consider volunteering to support our native prairie's and other ecosystems! Find opportunities on our event calendar by clicking below.

[Learn More](#)



Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

WI SALT WISE AWARENESS WEEK

The Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership is a coalition of organizations working together to reduce salt pollution in our lakes, streams and drinking water. Join them for Salt Awareness Week to learn more about the impacts of salt and how you can be a part of the Salt Wise effort. Topics include:

- Monday: The Environmental Toll of Salt and Deicers
- Tuesday: We're Salting our Drinking Water
- Wednesday: Water Softener Salt goes Where?
- Thursday: Let's Teach about Salt
- Friday: Be Salt Wise and Pet Smart

Learn more about Salt Awareness Week and find easy actions you can take to reduce your salt use online by clicking below:

[Learn More](#)



JOB OPENING

Our department is hiring!

Join our team as an **LTE Restoration and Land Management Specialist**. This position will work with our Botanist/Naturalist on ecological restoration and land management activities on public lands throughout Dane County.



[Learn More](#)

GET SOCIAL WITH US

Follow us on our social media accounts to stay in the loop and be the first to hear about park events, new programs, trail closures, and other announcements.

  **@danecountyparks**

  **@lussierheritagecenter**

The Lussier Family Heritage Center is a Dane County Parks facility with outdoor and nature-based opportunities.

 **Instagram**

Have an Instagram account? Check out our current giveaway for a chance to win a \$50 parks gift certificate!



WIN A PARKS GIFT CERTIFICATE!

FOLLOW

@danecountyparks
and
@lussierheritagecenter

COMMENT

with your favorite
Dane County Park
property to explore
and tag a friend you
like to explore nature
with.

TAG

multiple friends for
multiple entries.

Follow these easy steps by Monday, January 10 to win a \$50 Dane County Park gift certificate!

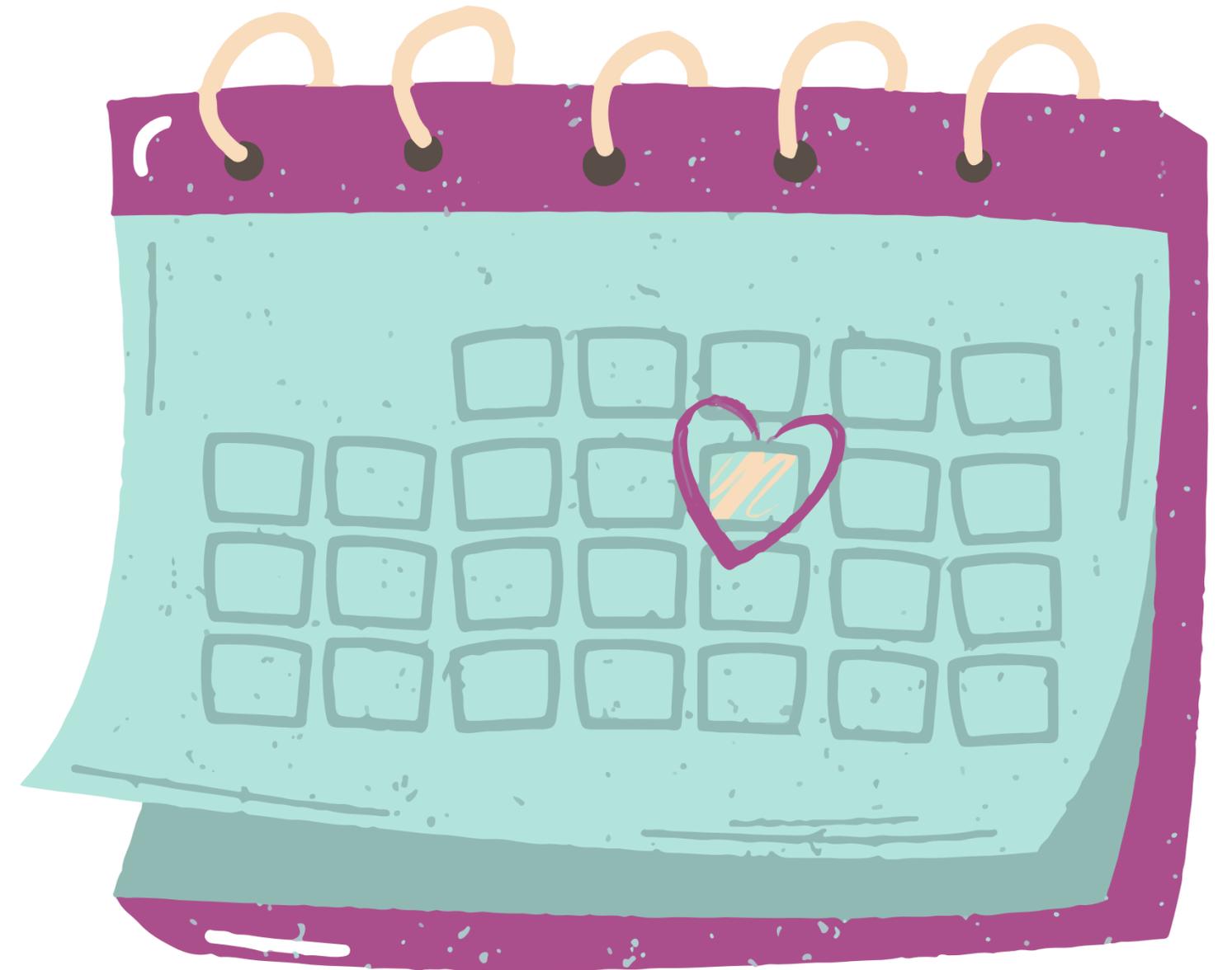
Gift certificates can be used for camping, shelter reservations or activity permits.

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](#)

