

DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 18, 2021



*Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area
Courtesy Jenifer Hendricks*

CONTROLLED BURNS

Photos: John Kalson

Every year Dane County Parks staff and volunteers conduct prescribed burns on over 650 acres of county-owned land to help combat brush, manage invasive species, and maintain healthy native habitats.

If you see a fire on our property and you see signs and staff on site, please do not call the fire department as it is a controlled burn in progress and they have already been notified it is occurring.

If a park or trail will be closed temporarily for a burn, we will list it on our [website](#).



DOG PARK CLEANUP

Help us clean up our dog parks on Saturday, April 3 from 9:00 - 11:00 am!

Clean ups will be happening at each of Dane County Parks seven dog parks. Volunteer crew leaders will meet you at the park entrance with bags and gloves. Dogs are welcome to join. No need to pre-register! A facemask must worn while participating in the clean-up and please practice physical distancing from anyone outside of your household.

- Badger Prairie - Verona
- Capital Springs - Madison
- Indian Lake - Cross Plains
- Prairie Moraine - Verona
- Token Creek - DeForest
- Viking - Stoughton
- Yahara Heights - Waunakee



Token Creek County Park

Dog Grin Photography

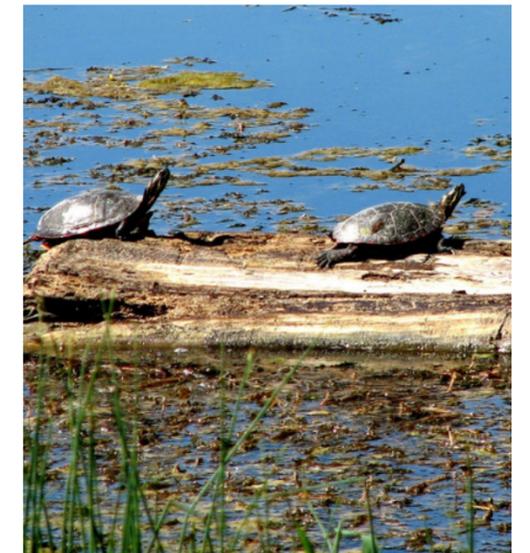
JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are currently hiring for many different positions!

- FTE Park Ranger (closes March 19!)
- LTE Park Laborer
- LTE County Park Attendant
- LTE County Park Ranger Cadet
- LTE County Parks Maintenance Crew I
- LTE County Parks Maintenance Crew II
- LTE Lake Management Dredge Deckhand
- LTE Lake Management Harvester Operator
- LTE Lake Management Truck Driver

Visit the Dane County Job Openings website and search for these job titles to find descriptions or apply.

[Learn More](#)

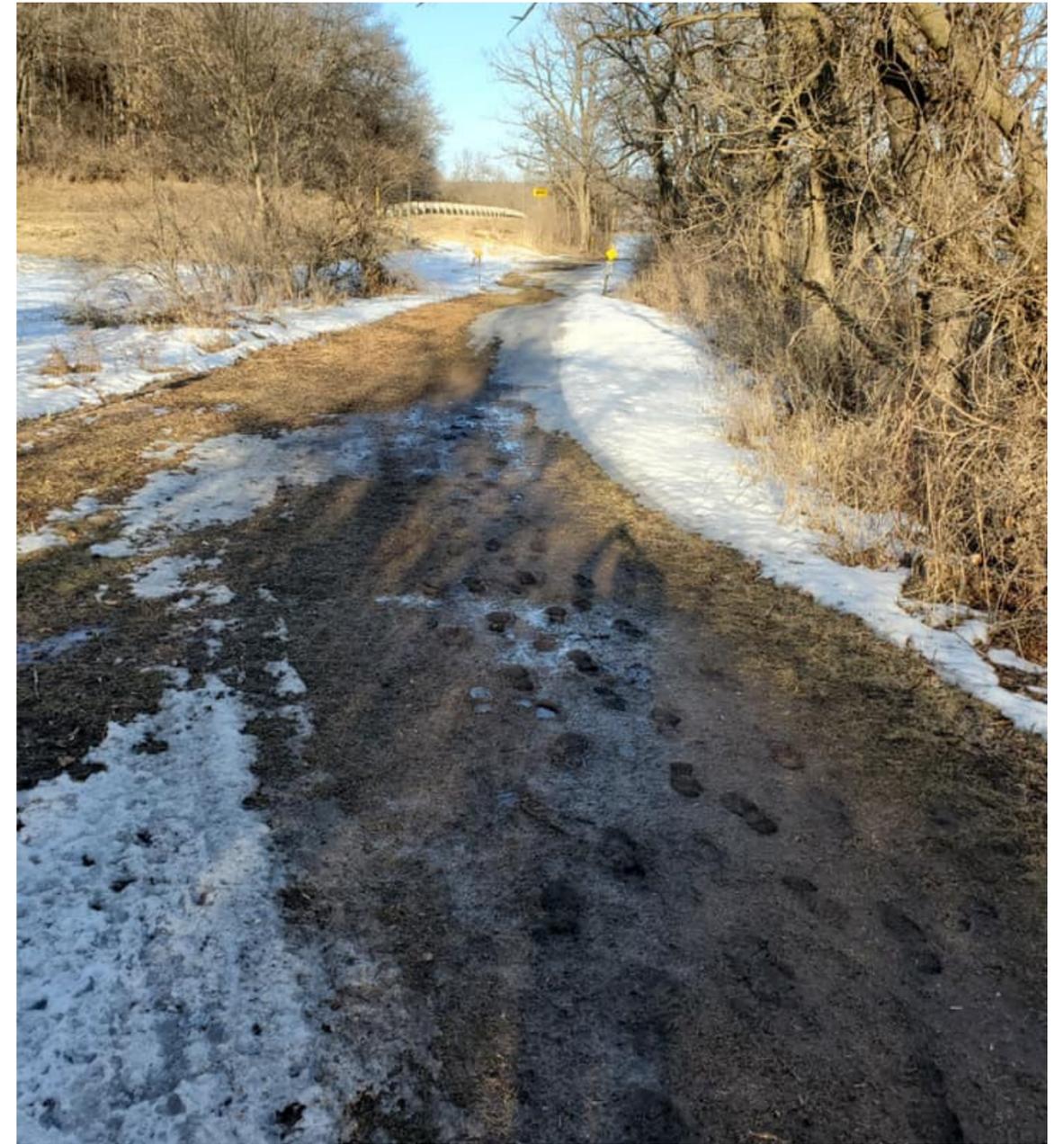


HELP PROTECT TRAILS

Visitor use of the county parks, trails and natural resource areas is at an all-time high, but the spring thaw period combined with high use can have long-term impacts, especially on hiking trails. The warmer weather will start to bring out ground frost, making park lands and some facilities susceptible to damage. Some county parks, or portions of county parks, may be temporarily closed to help protect these areas.

If we can reduce the damages at this time of year, it reduces our maintenance costs and allows us to provide better services throughout the rest of the year. After a few spring rains and drying winds, the ground will firm up and these areas will be reopened.

[Temporary closures](#) will be listed on our website.



NEW JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAM

This summer, our Lussier Family Heritage Center facility is hosting a free Junior Naturalist program for middle school students. The program is a 4-week long summer program of fun-filled scientific discovery in prairies, woodlands, and wetlands.

Online registration opens March 19 and spots will fill quickly! Visit our website to learn more about the program and register early to secure your spot. All program activities will take place at W.G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park and the Heritage Center.



[Learn More](#)



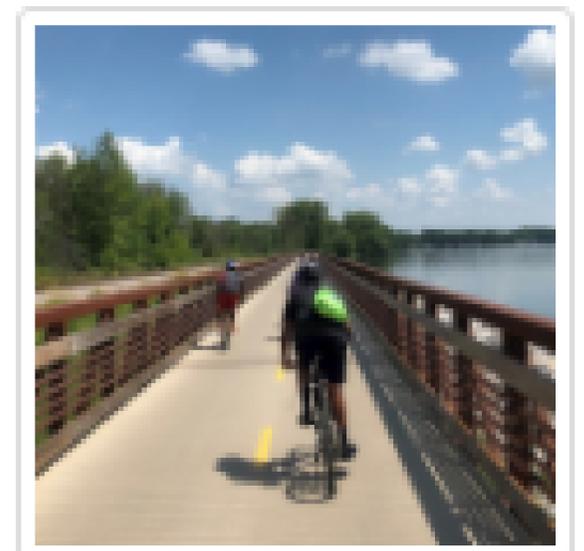
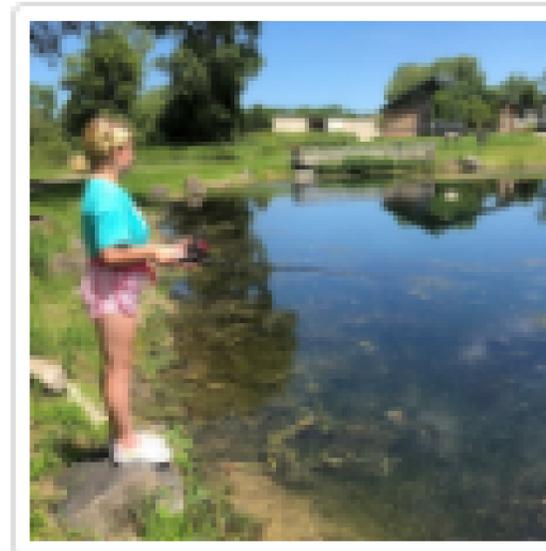
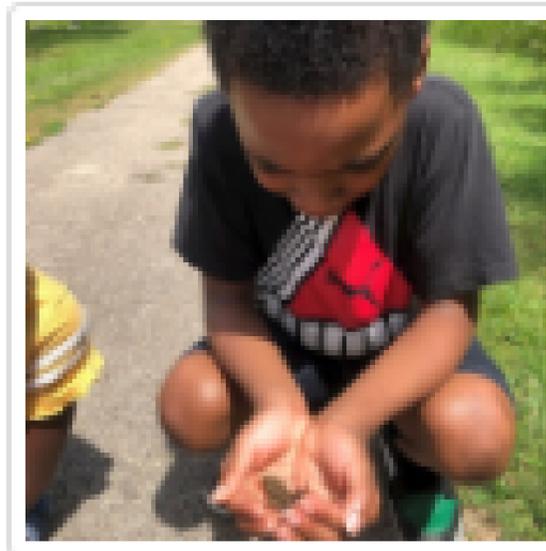
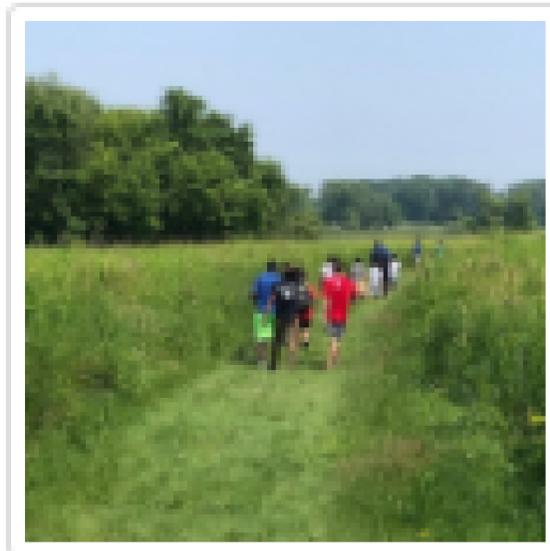
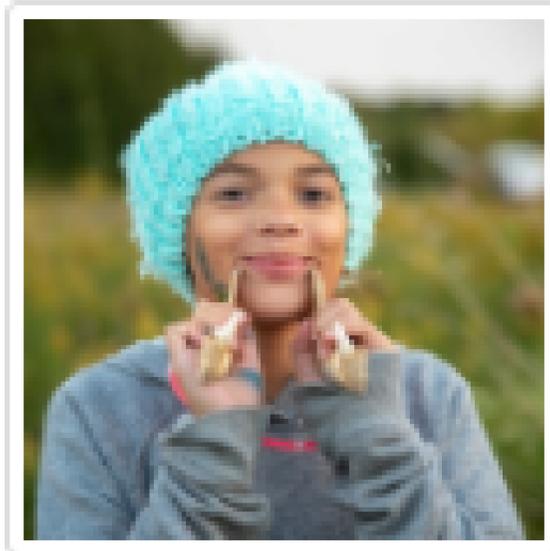
Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

FIELD TRIPS

Are you part of a group looking for an outdoor adventure this summer?

Our Lussier Family Heritage Center facility is hosting summer field trips cover a wide variety of topics, activities, and games. Whether you are new to outdoor activities or a well-seasoned participant we have the field trip for you!. Field Trips are available Monday through Thursday from June through August.



[Learn More](#)



Nature Notes

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CONSERVATION ART CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2021 Conservation Art Contest. A huge congratulations to our winners! 1st-3rd place winners will each receive \$500 scholarships and their artwork will be turned into stickers, magnets and window clings to help us raise money to protect and restore Dane County Natural Areas.



- 1st Place: Emma Zimmerman
- 2nd Place: Lauren LaScala
- 3rd Place: Carly Goodlund
- Honorable Mention (4th Place): Sommer Wagner

[Learn More](#)



Nature Notes

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CONSERVANCY DAY: KESTREL BOXES

Join the **Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy** how and why they are working to support the American Kestrel.

Over the past forty years American Kestrel numbers have dropped as much as 60% in the Eastern and Midwestern United States. Through a program sponsored by Madison Audubon, two nest boxes were installed in the Conservancy in the fall of 2019. Learn why these boxes are so very important and how they are monitored by volunteers. Learn more and register using the button below.

Date: March 18 - 6:30-7:30 pm

[Learn More](#)



MUSHROOM LOG WORKSHOP

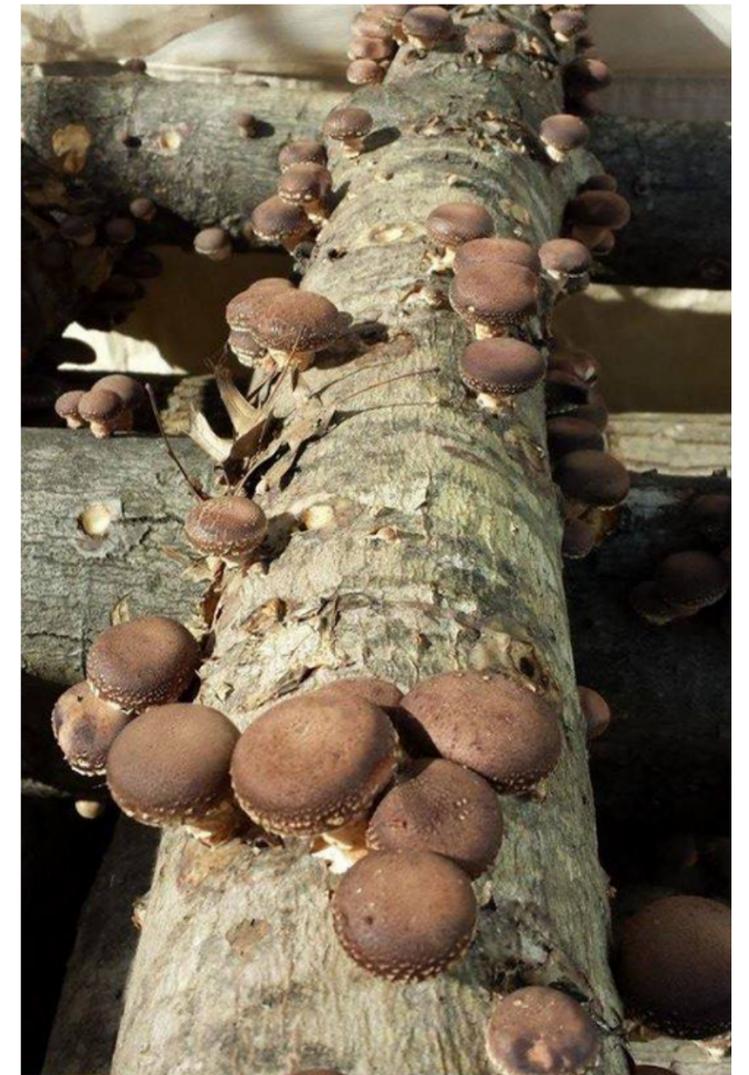
Join the **Friends of Silverwood** for a Shiitake Mushroom Log Inoculation workshop OR order a pre-inoculated log for pickup.

Multiple workshop dates in April will be offered to help comply with Public Health guidelines. Participants will be scheduled for a specific time and date – process will take about 30 minutes.

- **Oak logs with Shittake inoculant - \$20 each**
- **Pre-inococulated logs - \$30 each**

More information and a registration form is available in their Facebook event.

[Learn More](#)



TRANSPORTATION STORIES

Madison Metro is redesigning several bus routes later this year. We have teamed up with the Sierra Club Four Lakes Chapter to gather stories from the public about where bus transportation access to parks could be improved.

If you have ever had trouble getting to a park or trail in Dane County due to limited or nonexistent bus access then we would love to hear your story!

We hope to compile these stories and work with Madison Metro to see where bus lines could be improved or expanded to help the public reach certain parks.

[Learn More](#)

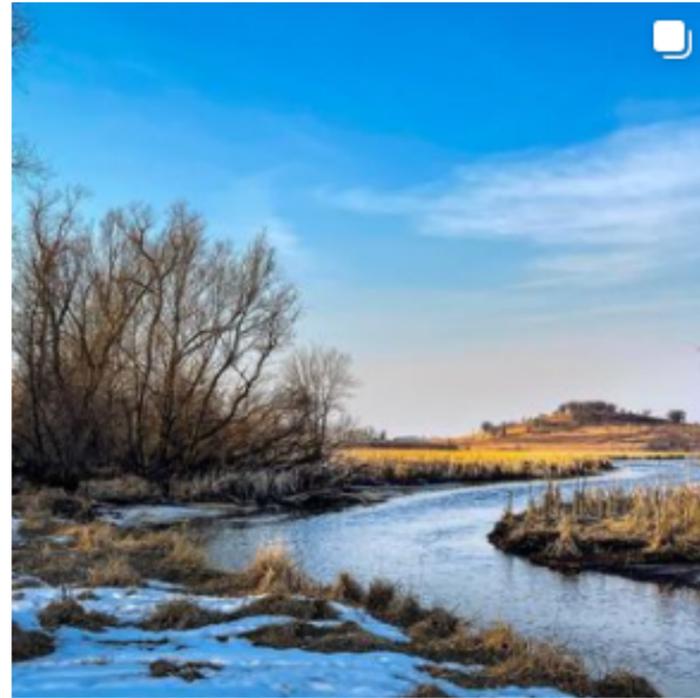


SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



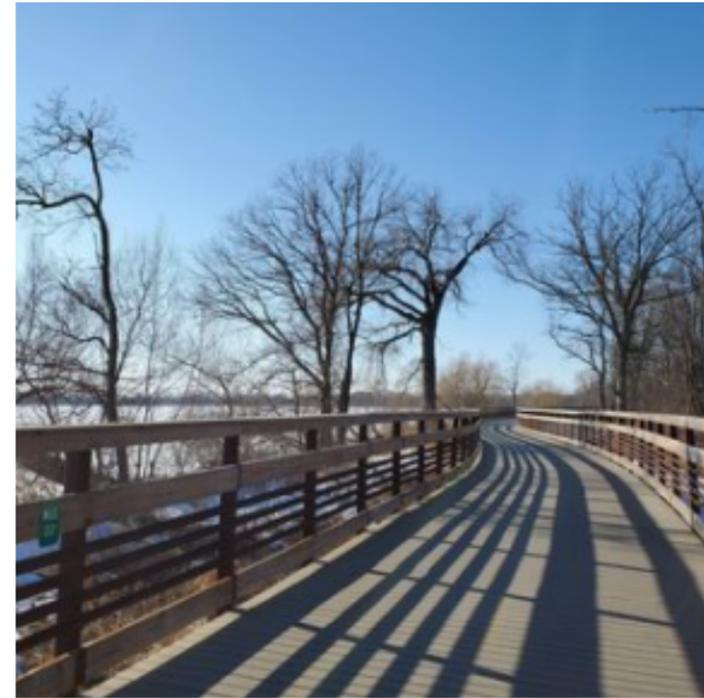
Lewis Nine Springs E-Way

@awestruck17



Pheasant Branch Conservancy

@crisysh



Lower Yahara River Trail

@rupsadatta



Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area

@trailsandtutus

Tag us in your adventures **@danecountyparks**



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[Sign Up](#)

