

DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 3, 2022



Controlled Burn at Prairie Moraine County Park
Photo credit Steve Dahlgren (Dog Grin Photography)

PRESCRIBED BURNING

Dane County Parks staff and volunteers conduct prescribed burns on over 650 acres of county-owned land every year to help combat brush, manage invasive species, and maintain healthy native habitats. Natural habitats rely upon regular and reoccurring fire to remain diverse, resilient, and capable of providing an array of ecological functions that we depend on. 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. The three photos on the right are from the first burn of the season conducted by Ice Age Trail Alliance.



Controlled Burn at Prairie Moraine County Park Photo credit Steve Dahlgren

JUNIOR NATURALIST

We are hosting a special **Spring Break Junior Naturalist** session on March 29 and 31 for youth ages 12-14 that are interested in the outdoors, natural history, hands-on science, and wildlife data collection.

The sessions will take place at our Lussier Family Heritage Center and W.G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park.

Learn more and register today!

[Learn More](#)



The poster features a green background with a white border. At the top, the text "Junior Naturalist" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with "SPRING BREAK" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The central image shows two young boys in a field of tall grass and yellow flowers. One boy, wearing a blue plaid shirt and a black cap, is looking down at something in his hands. The other boy, wearing a red and white striped shirt, is looking up at him. The bottom of the poster has a green background with the text "Registration Open" in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the dates "TUESDAY, MARCH 29" and "WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31" are listed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "The Lussier Family Heritage Center" featuring a tree icon.



Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

DOG PARK CLEANUP

Help us clean up our dog parks on April 2 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Clean ups will be happening at each of our eight dog parks:

- 🐾 Anderson Farm – 804 Union Rd, Oregon
- 🐾 Badger Prairie – 4654 Maple Grove Dr, Verona
- 🐾 Capital Springs – 3398 Lake Farm Road, Madison
- 🐾 Indian Lake – 8381 State Highway 19, Cross Plains
- 🐾 Prairie Moraine – 6679 Wesner Rd, Verona
- 🐾 Token Creek – 6200 Williamsburg Way, DeForest
- 🐾 Viking – 1583 County Highway N, Stoughton
- 🐾 Yahara Heights – Catfish Court, Waunakee

[Learn More](#)



BUY OR DONATE NATIVE PLANTS

Winter is a perfect time to start planning your garden. Plant Dane is now accepting native plant **orders and donations** through March 22nd.

Order plants for yourself at only \$2.50 per plant or donate to one of over 30 community organizations that have requested plants.

New to native gardening? Sign up for the **Native Landscaping webinar** on March 8th (must register by March 4th).

[Learn More](#)



[Big-Leaved Aster \(Aster macrophyllus\)](#)
Height: 1-2'
Group: Wildflowers
Color: Lavender
Exposure: Part Sun to Full Shade



[Black-eyed Susan \(Rudbeckia hirta\)](#)
Height: 1-3'
Group: Wildflowers
Color: Yellow
Exposure: Full Sun to Part Sun
Bloom Time: June - September



[Blue Indigo \(Baptisia australis\)](#)
Height: 3-5'
Group: Legumes
Color: Blue
Exposure: Full Sun to Part Sun



[Blue Vervain \(Verbena hastata\)](#)
Height: 3-5'
Group: Wildflowers
Color: Blue
Exposure: Full Sun to Part Sun
Bloom Time: July - September



[Blue Wood Aster \(Aster cordifolium\)](#)
Height: 2-3'
Group: Wildflowers
Color: Blue
Exposure: Part Sun to Full Shade

MAPLE SAP WORKSHOP

Join the Friends of Schumacher Farm on March 12 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. to explore the magic of maple syrup.

Instructor, Mary Binkley will discuss and demonstrate the basics of making maple syrup from your own backyard; how to identify a maple tree, an overview of maple sap collection tools and how to tap a tree. General handouts of the process will be available. Kids are welcome, although workshop content is most suitable for adults.

Register online!



[Learn More](#)



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Our Lussier Family Heritage Center facility is now accepting reservations for 2023 Weddings. The center is located in the heart of the Capital Springs Recreation area, only minutes from downtown Madison. The lovely natural setting includes both indoor and outdoor options for your ceremony and/or reception.

Can't wait to get married? There are still some open dates for 2022.

[Learn More](#)

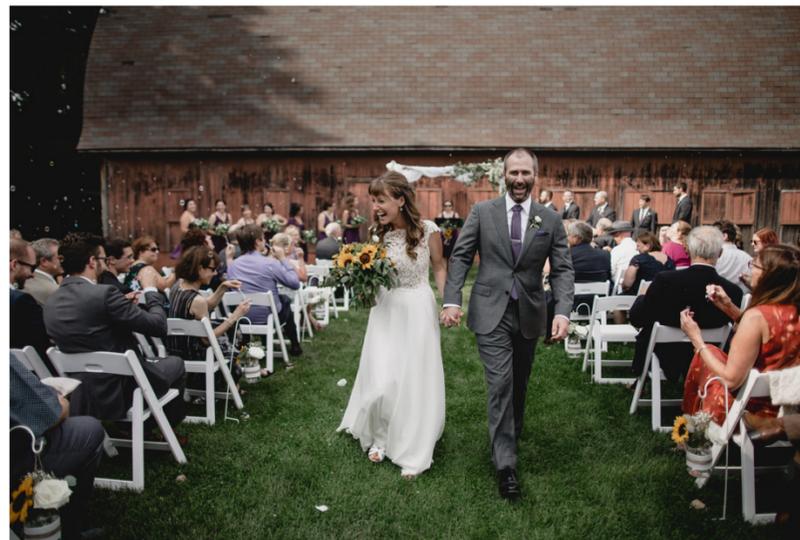


Photo credit Ray + Kelly Photography



Photo credit Type A Images Photography



Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

PRAIRIE MORAINES RESTORATION

The Prairie Moraine Friends, Inc. put together a wonderful year end photographic summary of their accomplishments including the restoration project happening in the park.

Dane County Parks staff and volunteers have been working to restore the three primary natural resource communities which historically existed in the park: prairie, oak savanna/opening, and oak woodland. The friend's webpage shows photos from many stages of the process that happened this year with detailed stories and descriptions of each step. Check it out to learn more about this large restoration effort!

[Learn More](#)

IN THE FALL ... WORK BEGAN ON THE LATEST OAK OPENING/SAVANNA RESTORATION PROJECT



After just a morning's work, the view is already beginning to open up ...



NATIVE SEED SPREADING

In 2019, Dane County purchased 160 acres on the north-end of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The property was split into 4 quadrants and each year for four years staff and volunteers will be spreading native seeds with the goal of restoring a “Platinum Prairie” that has at least 100 different plant species. The project will provide a diverse habitat for wildlife, increase flood capacity and improve water quality. So far, two quadrants have been seeded with over 203 different species.

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy pledged to continue fundraising with a goal of contributing \$100,000 to the project over four years. The Clean Lakes Alliance also committed to a four year total contribution of \$100,000.

[Learn More](#)



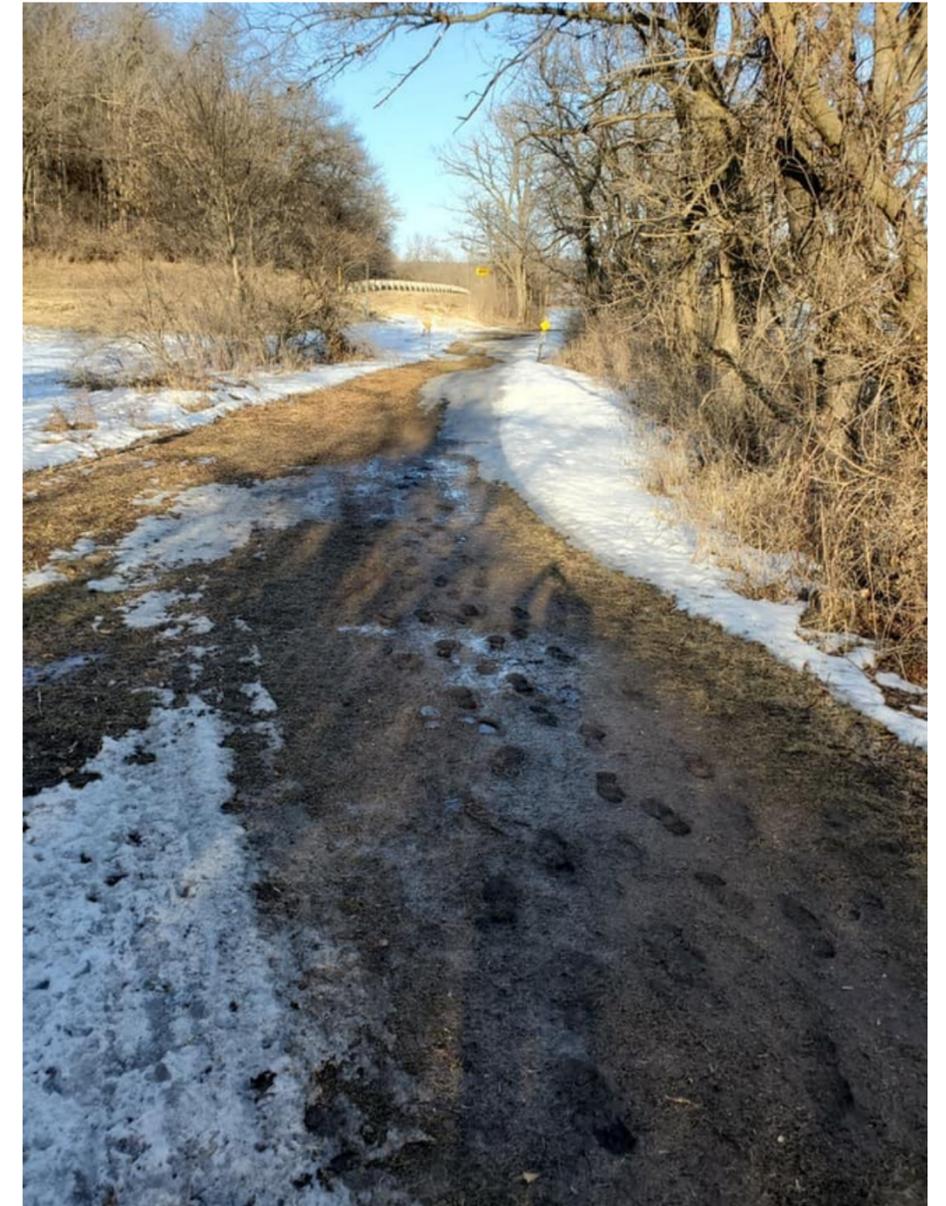
SPRING THAW

With extended warmer weather predicted, some county parks, or portions of county parks, may be temporarily closed. The warmer weather will start to bring out ground frost, making park lands and some facilities susceptible to damage.

If we can reduce the damages at this time of year, it reduces 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 closed areas will be reopened.

Temporary closures will be listed on our website.

[Learn More](#)



JOB OPENINGS

Our department is hiring! Join our team:

- Dane County Parks Director
- LTE County Parks Maintenance Crew I
- LTE Park Laborer
- LTE County Park Attendant
- LTE Lussier Family Heritage Center Attendant
- LTE Lake Management Dredge Deckhand
- LTE Lake Management Truck Driver
- LTE Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
- LTE Engineering Intern

[Learn More](#)

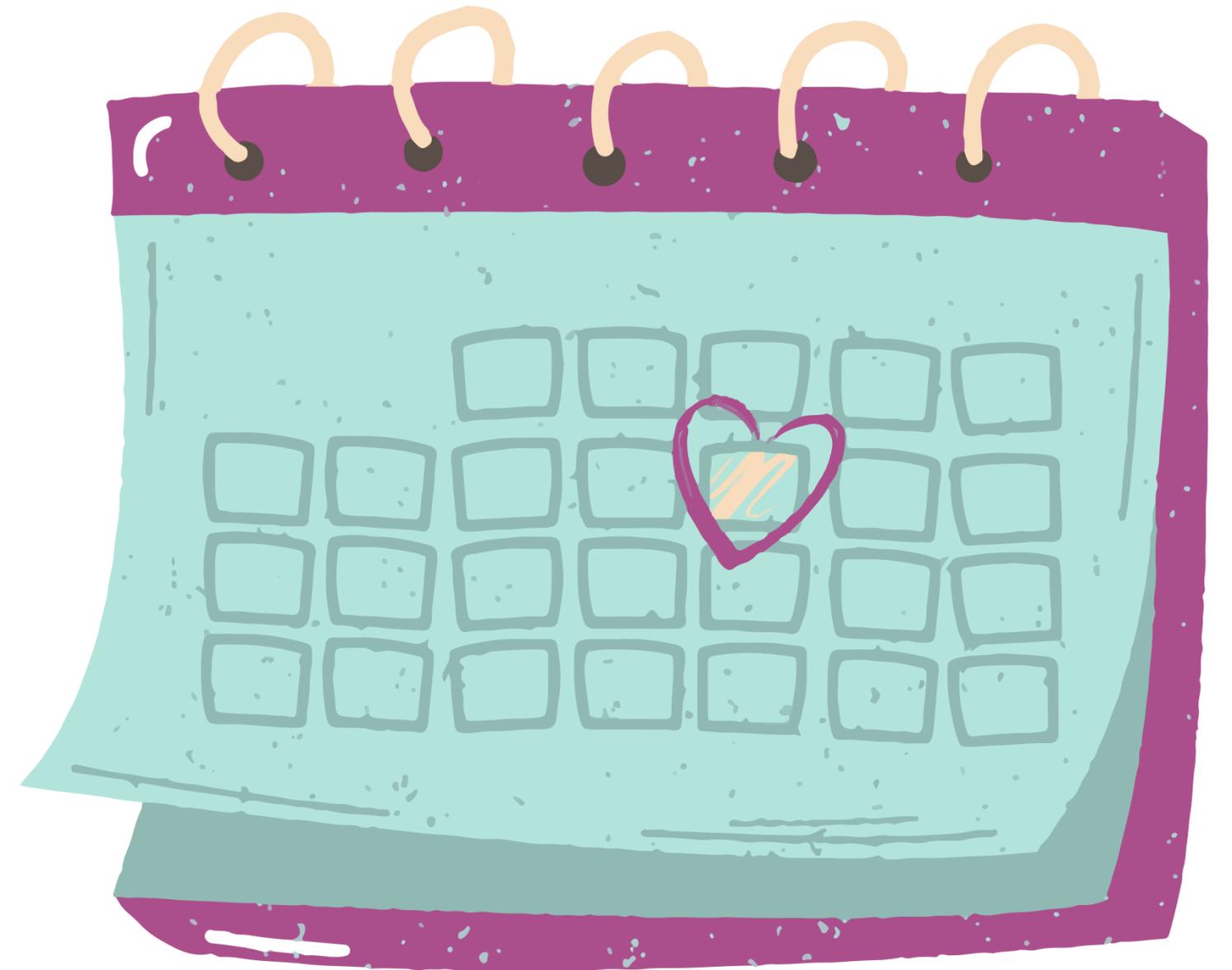


FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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](#)

