

Prairie Moraine County Park Restoration

Dane County Parks is responsible for the policies, management plans, and work plans for the operation, maintenance, and restoration of Prairie Moraine County Park. Volunteers assist Dane County Parks with this work. Any questions about these policies, plans, or restoration activities should be directed to Dane County Parks at (608) 224-3730.

Prairie Moraine Park

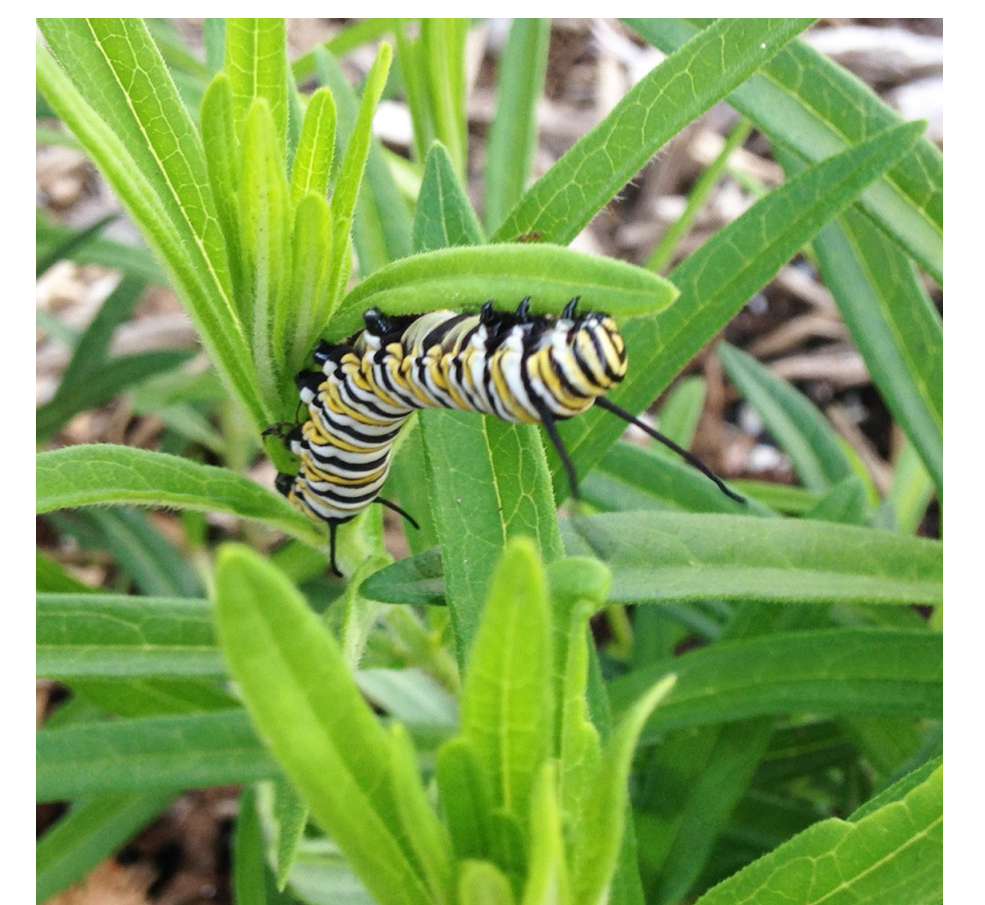
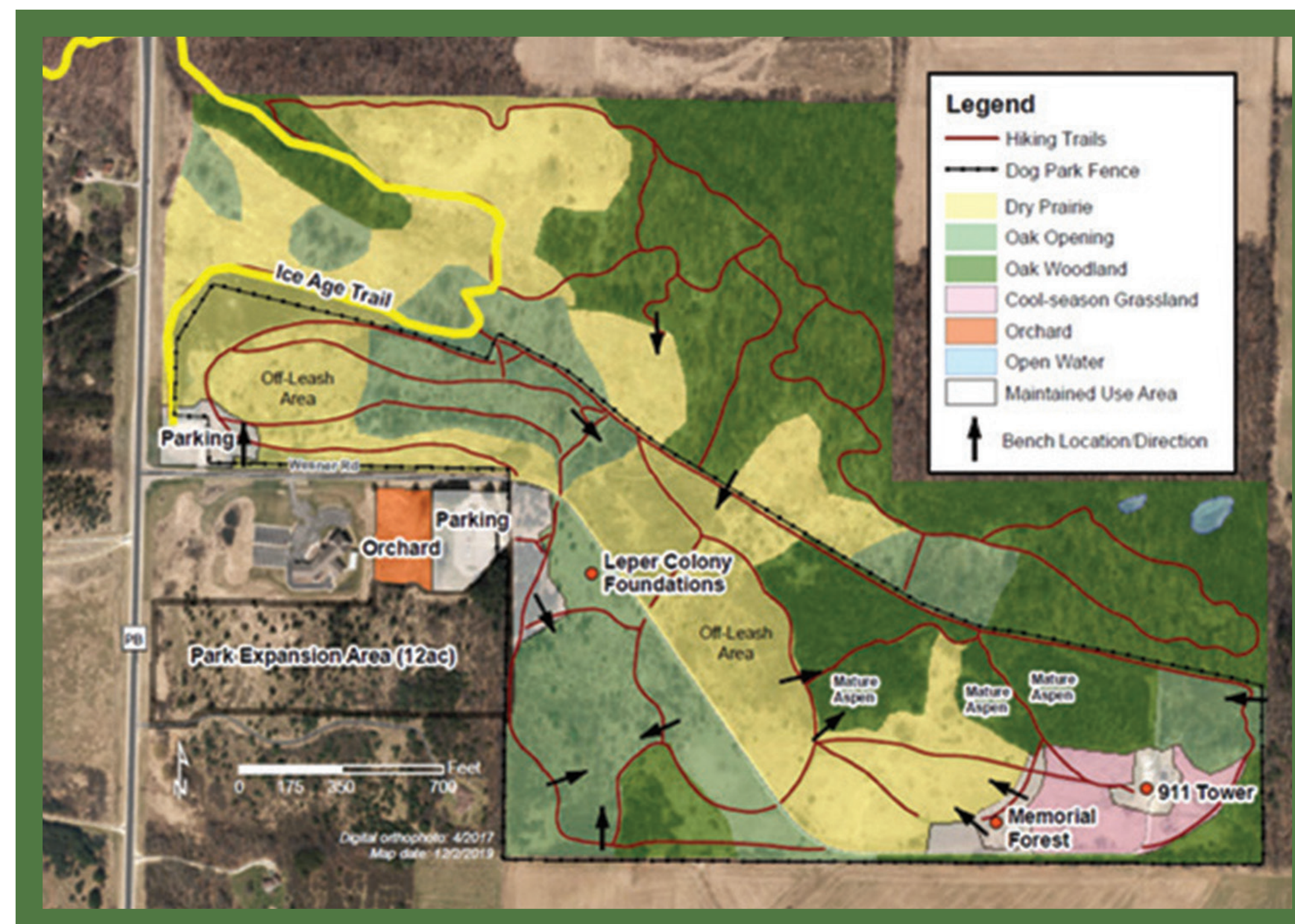


This park brings joy to so many

Best Dog Park
in
Dane County

Happiest Dogs
in
Wisconsin

Hike Prairie Moraine County
Park's natural setting and
extensive off-leash
trail system!



Commonly Asked Questions

- 1. Who decides what volunteer work will be done at Prairie Moraine County Park?**
Dane County Parks (DCP) staff are responsible for deciding what work will be done at the park. They use a "Vegetation Plan" to make decisions for the restoration work being done at the park.
- 2. Where can I find the "Vegetation Plan" for Prairie Moraine County Park?**
The plan, which describes the desired tree, shrub, and plant communities for the park, can be viewed online by clicking the park name at this link: www.danecountyparks.com/MasterPlan
- 3. Who decides how this work will be completed?**
DCP staff decide how the work will be completed. Based on those instructions, volunteers develop and follow an annual work plan that has been approved by DCP staff. These volunteers are trained by DCP on how to identify invasive species and how to reduce or eliminate them in the park.
- 4. Who are these volunteers?**
There are three types of volunteers. **Walk-up** volunteers are typically novices or irregular participants who work under the supervision and guidance of more experienced volunteers. **Registered** volunteers are typically more experienced with plant identification and management techniques and play a supporting role under the direction of DCP staff and Certified Land Stewards. **Certified Land Steward** volunteers receive in-depth training from DCP and lead other volunteers on restoration projects in the park.
- 5. How is the Prairie Moraine Friends group involved in this effort?** Prairie Moraine Friends (PMF) was created to support Dane County Parks with the development, restoration, conservation, and operation of Prairie Moraine County Park. Most, but not all, PMF volunteers are park users and dog owners. **One of PMF's primary goals is to create a healthy, safe, and stimulating off-leash dog exercise area in Dane County.**

- 6. Where are the primary invasive trees, shrubs, and weeds located in the park?**
Prairie Moraine County Park consists of 160 acres and is divided into two areas: an on-leash area that is part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, and an off-leash dog exercise area. Each area is about 80 acres. The on-leash area has undergone extensive restoration in the last 20 years. Most of the invasive species are located in the off-leash area which has not received the same level of attention.
- 7. What methods are used to eradicate or reduce these invasive species?**
There are three primary methods used to remove invasive species from the park. The first method is the use of **controlled burning**, the most efficient and most important method. Controlled burning requires a high level of training and is most often done in spring before the vegetation starts to grow. A second method used at the park involves **mechanically removing** invasive species with mowers, brushcutter, or saws. Sometimes a third method, **herbicide treatment**, is necessary in order to control an invasive species.
- 8. How long will the restoration take?**
Restoration is a process, much like remodeling a house. It will take years to remove invasive species and replant native flowers, shrubs, and trees. Much like remodeling a house, most of the work is on the front end but maintenance continues in perpetuity. While it may be a long process, restoration is being done for future generations of park users.
- 9. What will the park look like when it is finished?**
In a word, the park will be **beautiful** when it is finished. Dane County Park users are fortunate to have this land available every day to hike on and exercise their dogs. The park is literally on the dividing line between the glacial and driftless regions of Dane County. When the restoration is complete, the park will have three major vegetation communities: oak woodlands, oak openings/savanna, and prairies. To learn more about these communities, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Communities.asp>.
- 10. How can I help with the restoration work?**
There are several ways to get involved, including becoming a **Trail Ambassador**, signing up as a **registered volunteer**, and **donating** funds to Prairie Moraine County Park. Learn more by contacting the DCP volunteer coordinator at (608) 224-3601.



Become a Member!
go to
www.prairiemoraine.org

- Work on maintenance, conservation and restoration projects in Prairie Moraine County Park
- Learn about dog socialization, native wildflowers, birds, and forests
- Sign-up for organized training sessions
- Know our park, become a volunteer, and give back to our community

Park Partners

