

2023 Outreach Summary

This document provides a summary of outreach events and activities led by Land & Water Resources Department staff. In addition to these events, we support park friends group's and other conservation group's events that are not reflected in this summary.

Presentations

- March 1 – “Wisconsin Stream Quantification Tool: Applications at the State and Local Level” - Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium (James Brodzeller)
- March 3 – “Careers in Water Resources Management” - UW-Madison Class (James Brodzeller)
- March 3 – “Protecting our Pollinators: The Importance of Plant and Program Diversity” WI Land + Water Conference (Susan Sandford)
- March 17 - Storm Drain Mural Activity with Westmorlad (Christal Campbell)
- March 22 - Storm Drain Mural Activity with Muir Elementary (Christal Campbell)
- April 13 – “Restoration in the Black Earth Creek Watershed” Black Earth Creek Public Information Meeting at Wisconsin Heights High School (James Brodzeller)
- May 25 – “Seasonal Weeds - May 2023” Certified Land Steward Coffee Hour (Lars Higdon/Shane Otto/Claire Lamberg)
- June 17 – “Dane County Project Updates” Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society Annual Meeting (Lars Higdon)
- July 19 – “Pheasant Branch Conservancy Acker Farm Restoration Update” Middleton Public Library (Lars Higdon)
- July 27 – “Water Utilization” Moorland Community Gardens (Laurie Lambert)
- July 31 – “Park System and POSP Update” Operation Fresh Start POSP Input Lunch (Chris James)
- Aug 10 – “Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters” Public Webinar (Christal Campbell)
- Aug 16 – “Engaging Farmer Led Groups” Compeer Young Farmers Meeting (Marie Raboin)
- Aug 26 - “Park System and POSP Update” Centro Hispano POSP Input Lunch (Susan Sandford/Jeff Prey)
- Aug 28 - “Park System and POSP Update” Bayview POSP Input Dinner (Susan Sandford/Chris James)
- Sept 12 – “Restoring Door Creek: County Hwy MN to Lake Kegonsa” Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society Meeting (Brodzeller/Kyle Minks)

- Sept 26 - Indian Lake County Park Draft Master Plan Public Information Meeting Presentation (Alex DeSmidt)
- Oct 3 – “Green Infrastructure Tour” Madison and Fitchburg (Claudia Guy)
- Oct 17 – “Bike Tour & Tourism Overview of DCPs” Middleton High School Career Exploration (Lael Pascual)
- Oct 18 – “Indian Lake Co Park Draft Master Plan” Town of Berry Board Meeting (Chris James/Joleen Stinson)
- Oct 20 – Anderson Park Friends Annual Meeting (Joleen Stinson)
- Oct 24 – UW Ecological Restoration in Practice Course Field Trip (Lars Higdon)
- Nov 4 – “Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring of a Prairie Restoration: Early Years” Rock River Coalition--Yahara Watershed Volunteer Gathering (Michelle Probst)
- Nov 4 – Indian Lake County Park Draft Master Plan Public Info Meeting (Chris James/Alex DeSmidt)
- Nov 16 - “Wisconsin's Oak Savannas” - Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance (Lars Higdon)

Rainfall Simulator

- June 10 - Dane County Breakfast on the Farm (Kim Meyer)
- June 16 - Dane County Community Garden Summit @ Marlborough Community Gardens (Landon Baumgartner)
- June 17 - Dane County Community Garden Summit @ Troy Community Gardens (Landon Baumgartner)
- June 17 - Forward Service Corporation's Upward Bound STEM Learning Day @ Edgewood College (Landon Baumgartner)
- June 17 - Dane County Community Garden Summit @ Troy Community Gardens (Landon Baumgartner)
- June 24 - Trails Day with Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy (Landon Baumgartner)
- July 9 - Environmental Fun Fair (Kaci Coconate and Claudia Guy)
- July 27 - Moorland Community Gardens – Water Utilization Presentation (Laurie Lambert)
- Aug 23 – EcoLatino Group (Christal Campbell)
- Sept 9 - Schumacher Farm Heritage Fest (Landon Baumgartner)
- Sept 15 – “Water Steward Course-Rainfall Simulator” Sustain Dane (Christal Campbell)
- Sept 27 – “Rainfall Simulator” UW Madison" Soils and Environmental Quality Course Presentation (Landon Baumgartner)
- Oct 21 – “Rainfall Simulator” Sustain Dane: Water Steward Course (Christal Campbell)
- Oct 29 - Get Kids Outside Fall Wonder and Adventure Day @ Indian Lake (Landon Baumgartner)
- Nov 2 - STEM Presentation at Milestone Democratic Charter School (Landon Baumgartner)

Workshops, Trainings & Field Days

- Jan 7 - Chainsaw & Brush Cutter Maintenance (Claire Lamberg/Roland Arndt)
- Jan 10 - Chainsaw & Brush Cutter Maintenance (Claire Lamberg/Roland Arndt)
- Jan 23 – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training Review (Claire Lamberg/Lael Pascual/Susan Sandford)
- March 4 – Friends Group Summit (Susan Sandford/Claire Lamberg/Lars Higdon/Shane Otto)
- March 4 – Dig into Rain Gardens-1:1 Coaching Sessions (Christal Campbell/Claudia Guy)
- March 18 - Annual Fire Program Refresher (Lars Higdon/Shane Otto/Claire Lamberg/Tom Klein/Chris Cole)
- April 5 - Ripp-Vale Farms Cover Crop Field Day with Tabletop Rainfall Simulator (Katie Nicholas)
- April 7 - Bt Farms Field Day (James Brodzeller)
- April 19 – OFS Earth Day (Shane Otto + staff)
- May 31 - Wisconsin Wetlands Association Project Tour @ Tour of Black Earth Creek Stream/Wetland Restoration Project (James Brodzeller)
- June 7 - Prescribed Fire Training (Lars Higdon/Shane Otto/Claire Lamberg)
- June 8 - Puerto Rico College Student Tour of Pheasant Branch Acker Restoration (James Brodzeller)
- June 13 – Certified Land Steward Coffee Hour (Lars Higdon/Claire Lamberg)
- June 21- Planting for Pollinators – Free Native Plant Kits (Susan Sandford/Theresa Nelson + partner orgs)
- July 13 - NRCS New Employee Orientation (Marie Raboin)
- July 1 – Certified Land Steward Training (Lars Higdon/Shane Otto/Claire Lamberg)
- July 7 – Prescribed Fire Training (Lars Higdon/Shane Otto/Claire Lamberg)
- July 19 - Native Prairie Restoration Workshop with Rainfall Simulator (Eric Krueger/Marie Raboin/ Landon Baumgartner)
- Aug 9 - Farmers for the Upper Sugar River Field Day (Marie Raboin)
- Sept 13 - Natural Resources Foundation Tour at Donald Park (Lars Higdon)
- Sept 21 - Walking Iron "Big Wet" Restoration Tour (Brodzeller/Joleen Stinson/Lars Higdon/Shane Otto)
- Sept 24 - Hike with IATA and Downs Syndrome Association of WI @ Badger Prairie County Park (Susan Sandford and IATA staff)
- Sept 26 - Native Plant Grower Workshop (Public) – (Susan Sandford/Theresa Nelson)
- Oct 19 – Certified Land Steward Training (Lars Higdon/Shane Otto/Claire Lamberg)
- Oct 24 – UW Ecological Restoration in Practice Course Field Trip @ Indian Lake (Lars Higdon)
- Nov 1 - Oregon High School Freshwater Ecology Class – Stream Sampling (Katie Nicholas)
- Nov 3 & 4 – Women & Gender Minorities* Chainsaw Class NATS Level 1 & 2 (Claire Lamberg)
- Nov 5 - Native Plant Grower Workshop (Susan Sandford/Theresa Nelson)
- Nov 14 – Prescribed Fire Training (Claire Lamberg)
- Dec 2 - Trout Unlimited Work Day on Kittleson Valley Creek (James Brodzeller/Katie Nicholas)
- Dec 9 & 10 – Women & Gender Minorities* Chainsaw Class Level 1 & 2 (Claire Lamberg)
- Dec 16 & 17 – Women & Gender Minorities* Chainsaw Class Level 1 & 2 (Claire Lamberg)

Community Events Hosted by the Department

- March 5 - Tales from Planet Earth: A Voice for the Wild - Emily Ford Visits Madison @ LFHC in conjunction with the Nelson Institute (Lael Pasqual/Susan Sandford/Claire Lamberg)
- April 2 - Mural Unveiling & Meet the Artist Open House @ LFHC (Lael Pascual)
- April 19 - Earth Day Event with Operation Fresh Start (James Brodzeller/Shane Otto/Alex Coxhead/Kim Meyer/Landon Baumgartner/Susan Sandford/Theresa Nelson)
- April 22 - Earth Day @ Badger Prairie in conjunction with Healthy Parks, Healthy You (Lael Pascual + Education staff)
- June 3 - National Trails Day @ Capital Springs (Lael Pascual/Susan Sandford/Education Staff)
- July 9 - Environmental Fun Fair @ LFHC (Susan Sandford + education staff)
- July 22 - Barks for Parks @ Prairie Moraine Dog Park (Susan Sandford)
- Aug 5-12 – WI Stormwater Week Social Media Campaign (Christal Campbell/Claudia Guy)
- Aug 7 – Downspout Garden Kit Plant Sale (Christal Campbell/Claudia Guy)
- Aug 8-12 - Summer at the Storm Drain in partnership w/ City of Madison (Christal Campbell)
- Aug 12 – Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event (Christal Campbell)
- Aug 19 - Karben 4 Pop Up @ Token Creek Dog Park (Rangers)
- Sept 19 - Volunteer Appreciation Picnic (Claire Lamberg)
- Sept 30 - Karben 4 Pop Up @ Capital Springs Dog Park (Rangers)
- Sept 17 - Blackwaters Trout Fishing Learn to @ Samlo Pond (Lael Pascual)
- Sept 17 - Tales from Planet Earth: Blackwaters: Brotherhood in the Wild Film Screening (Lael Pascual/Susan Sandford)
- Sept 30 - Karben 4 Pop Up @ Token Creek Dog Park (Rangers)

Tabling/Participation in Community Events

- Feb 7 - Job Fair: UW Stevens Point (Stener Knutson /Sammi Boyd)
- Feb 9 - Job Fair: UW Platteville(Chad Hannan/Jon Ernst)
- Feb 10 - Garden Expo - Follow the Drop and Watershed Activities in Children's area (Susan Sandford/Christal Campbell)
- Feb 15 - Job Fair: UW Madison (Stener Knutson /Sammi Boyd)
- Feb 24-26 - WI Fishing Expo – Info about Parks and Permits (Rangers)
- March 29 - Job Fair: UW LaCrosse (Chad Hannan/Jon Ernst)
- April 21 - Earth Day at Leopold Elementary (Cinthya Diaz/Patricia Alexandre/Landon Baumgartner)
- April 23 – Madison Bird and Nature Festival Earth Day Event at Warner Park – Enviroscape Activity (Christal Campbell)

- April 28 - Arbor Day at Leopold Elementary (Cinthya Diaz/Patricia Alexandre/Landon Baumgartner)
- June 23 - Kennedy Heights Community Center Block Party - Info about parks + POSP survey (Susan Sandford)
- July 29 - Disability Pride Festival - Info about parks + POSP survey (Susan Sandford)
- Sep 15 – WiWiC Souther Wisconsin Women Landowner Regional Summit (Katie Nicholas)
- Sept 21 - Centro Hispano Mercadito - Info about parks + POSP survey (Susan Sandford)
- Dec 5 - UWSP Job Fair (Chad Haanen/Brian Berkan)

Heritage Center Environmental Education Programming

The Lussier Family Heritage Center, a Dane County Parks facility, has begun to transition back to its original mission: to provide educational and interpretive opportunities for youth and adult learning, volunteerism, outdoor recreation, and staff-led events. Private rentals and weddings will be completely phased out by the end of 2024. This transition, along with the hiring of a full-time Education Coordinator, has already allowed us to make great strides in growing its environmental education programming at the center.

In 2023 we hosted:

- 6 weeks of summer camp with 84 campers
- 95 events and programs with 4,949 participants
- 81 Get Outside community center programs with 793 participants

Volunteer Events

This includes events hosted or supported heavily by staff but is not a complete list of events hosted by parks friends groups or other conservation groups in the county.

- April 8 - Dog Park Cleanup
- April 24 – Capital Springs Dog Park Fence Clearing & Disc Golf Mulching (Claire Lamberg/Jaedan Festge)
- May 12 - Token Creek Dog Park Fence Clearing (Claire Lamberg/Shala Pence)
- Sep 28 – One Energy Renewables Corporate Volunteers (Lars Higdon/Olivia Horton-Pacana)
- Sep 28 – New Century School Seed Collection (Shane Otto)
- Oct 5 – Chicago Lab School Seed Collection (Claire Lamberg/Shala Pence)
- Oct 10 - Prairie Phoenix Academy (Sun Prairie School District) Seed Collection (Lars Higdon/Suzanna Morrison)
- Oct 25 - Clean Lakes Alliance Corporate Volunteers (Tom Klein)
- Nov 16 – Women & Gender Minorities* Workday (Claire Lamberg)
- Dec 21 – Women & Gender Minorities* Workday (Claire Lamberg)

Recurring Events:

- 6 Certified Land Steward Coffee Hours
- 10 Chainsaw Safety Courses
- 5 Library Native Seed Packing Events
- 18 Prairie Seed Cleaning workdays
- 4 Prairie Seed Mixing, Weighing and Bagging Workdays
- 27 Prescribed Burns at Various Parks
- 1 Prescribed Fire Season Party/Debrief Volunteer Recognition
- 3 Restoration Workdays at Walking Iron County Park
- 43 Seed Collection Workdays at Various County Park Properties
- 5 Prairie Planting workdays
- 14 Summer Restoration Workdays at Various Parks
- 22 Tree and Brush Removal Workdays at Various Park Properties

Youth Volunteers for Conservation events:

- Jan 22 –Winter Workday at Stewart Lake County Park (Calliana Wickus)
- Apr 22 – Earth Day Event (Calliana Wickus)
- Aug 30 – Seed Collection at Lake Farm County Park (Shala Pence)
- Sept 16 – Pollinator Education Event at Yahara Heights County Park (Shala Pence)
- Oct 7 – Seed Collection at McCarthy County Park (Shala Pence)
- Oct 18 – Seed Cleaning at Libby Road (Shala Pence)
- Nov 4 – Seed Cleaning at Libby Road (Shala Pence)
- Nov 15 – Seed Cleaning at Libby Road (Shala Pence)
- Dec 9 – Brush Removal at Pheasant Branch Conservancy (Shala Pence/Robert Schubert)

There are [DCP volunteer newsletter and email interest lists](#) so people interested in volunteering can get notices and information straight to their inbox.

Interviews/Print (not a comprehensive list)

- Nov 7 – [Agronomists encourage farmers to keep manure on the fields and out of the water](#) – WKOW (Kim Meyer)
- Nov 14 - [The Future of Floods in Dane County](#) - Madison Commons (James Brodzeller)