

DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 18, 2021



Stewart Lake County Park
Courtesy of Ron Lutz II

THANK YOU!



Dane County purchased 160 acres on the north-end of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in 2019. Several partners have joined Dane County on the planning and implementation of site restoration that will help significantly reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat through a diverse mix of native vegetation. We want to express our sincere thanks to our project partners and their extremely generous financial contributions:

- The **Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin**, in partnership with the **Meringoff Family Foundation**, have granted \$20,000 to support restoration of historic wetlands.
- The **Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy** have granted \$25,000 to support the prairie and has pledged to continue fundraising for the project with a goal of contributing \$100,000 to the project.
- The **Clean Lakes Alliance** have granted \$25,000 to support the prairie and has committed an additional \$25,000 per year for three years for a total contribution of \$100,000.

[Learn More](#)

CONSERVANCY DAYS

The **Friends of Pheasant Branch** are hosting a virtual learning opportunity on **February 18 at 6:30 pm (TODAY!)**.

Prairies are an important part of our landscape in Middleton and southern Wisconsin. They are so important that Dane County is creating a platinum prairie in the new 160 acre addition to the Conservancy.

Learn more about our local prairies in this presentation by Rob Schubert, the Land Manager for Pheasant Branch Conservancy. Rob will discuss the types of prairies found in our area, prairie ecology, restored prairies and prairie gardens for the home landscape. Tune in to this live presentation on the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy [YouTube channel](#).



CONSERVATION ART CONTEST

This is the **last chance** to submit entries for our Conservation Art Contest, competition, fundraiser, and scholarship for youth in grades six through twelve. The contest is a fun and interactive way to teach students about the many values of our natural areas, the challenges they face, and the habitat they provide for countless creatures.

The top three contest winners will receive a \$500 scholarship award for their artwork depicting a threatened or endangered species in Wisconsin. First place artwork will be turned into stickers, window clings, and magnets that will help raise money to help maintain and enhance Dane County Parks natural areas. Artwork for this year's contest is due by March 1, 2021.



2020 First Place Winner

[Learn More](#)



Nature Notes

from the Lussier Family Heritage Center
a Dane County Parks Facility

PRAIRIE MORaine RESTORATION

Did you know we have 20 park Friends groups that help staff protect, maintain and improve our county parks. We love seeing their good work featured in the news! The Verona Press recently featured the work of the Prairie Moraine Friends LLC who, together with Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers, spent over 1,850 hours outdoors working on restoration projects in the park.

[Learn More](#)



Check out the [Verona Press article!](#)



STORYWALKS GALORE!

There are currently StoryWalks up at three different county parks. This fun, educational activity places the pages of a book along a walking path. Combine the joy of reading with your child with the benefits of being active in an outdoor environment.



Lussier Family Heritage Center: Animals in Winter by Henrietta Bancroft & Richard G. Van Gelder Feb 15 – March 14

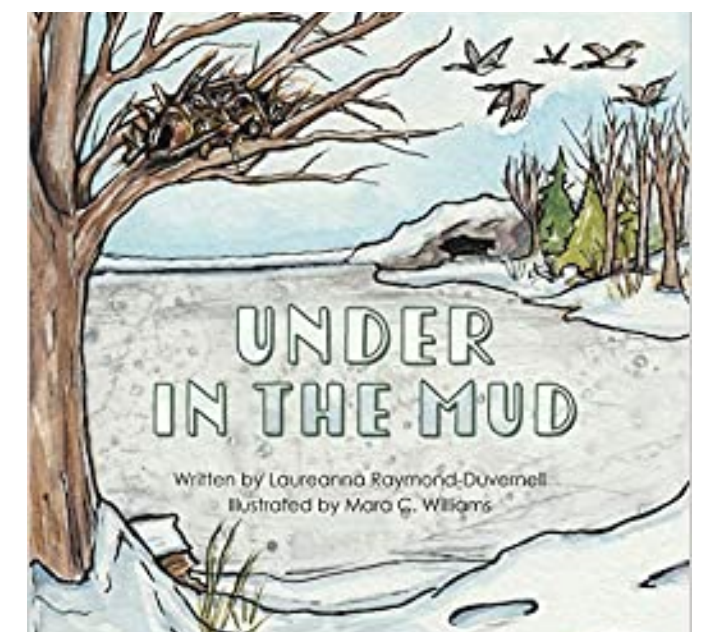
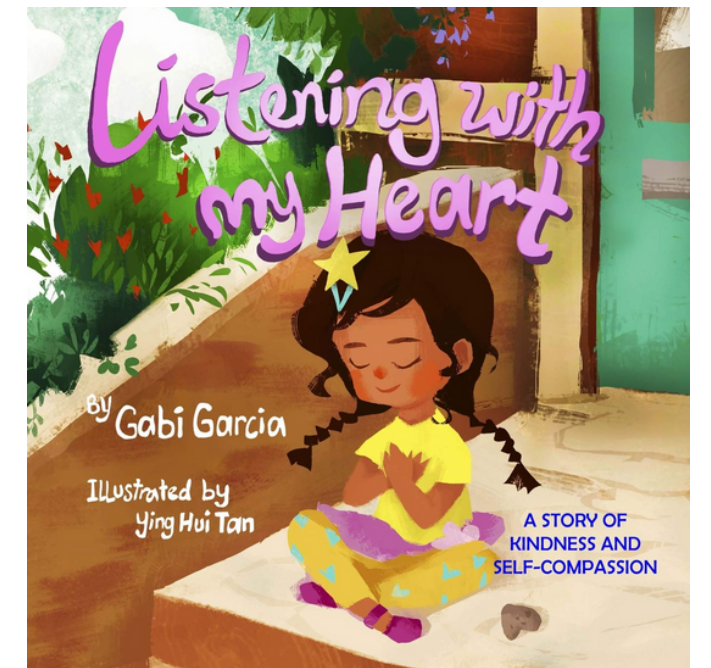
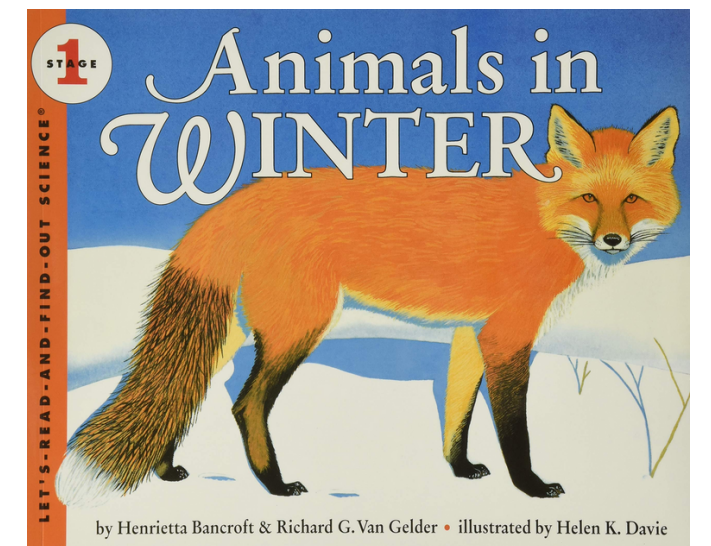


Pheasant Branch Conservancy: Listening with My Heart: A Story of Kindness and Self-Compassion by Gabi Garcia. Feb 1 – 28



Silverwood County Park: Under in the Mud by Laureanna Raymond-Duvernel (local author). Feb 15 – 21

[Learn More](#)



IN THE NEWS



THE CAP TIMES

Parks and recreation: Across the region, parks have become a pandemic lifeline

"Parks have become a pandemic lifeline for Carlson and countless others who have been shut out of their indoor hangouts and social gatherings for nearly a year. Attendance at parks throughout Madison and Dane County have soared, city and county officials say."

[Learn More](#)

THE CAP TIMES

Dane County Board to consider \$25,000 donation for accessible kayak landing

"In Dane County's latest effort to make outdoor recreation available to people of all abilities, the Board of Supervisors will consider accepting a \$25,000 donation to fund an accessible kayak landing at Fish Camp County Park in McFarland."

[Learn More](#)

PLANT DANE!

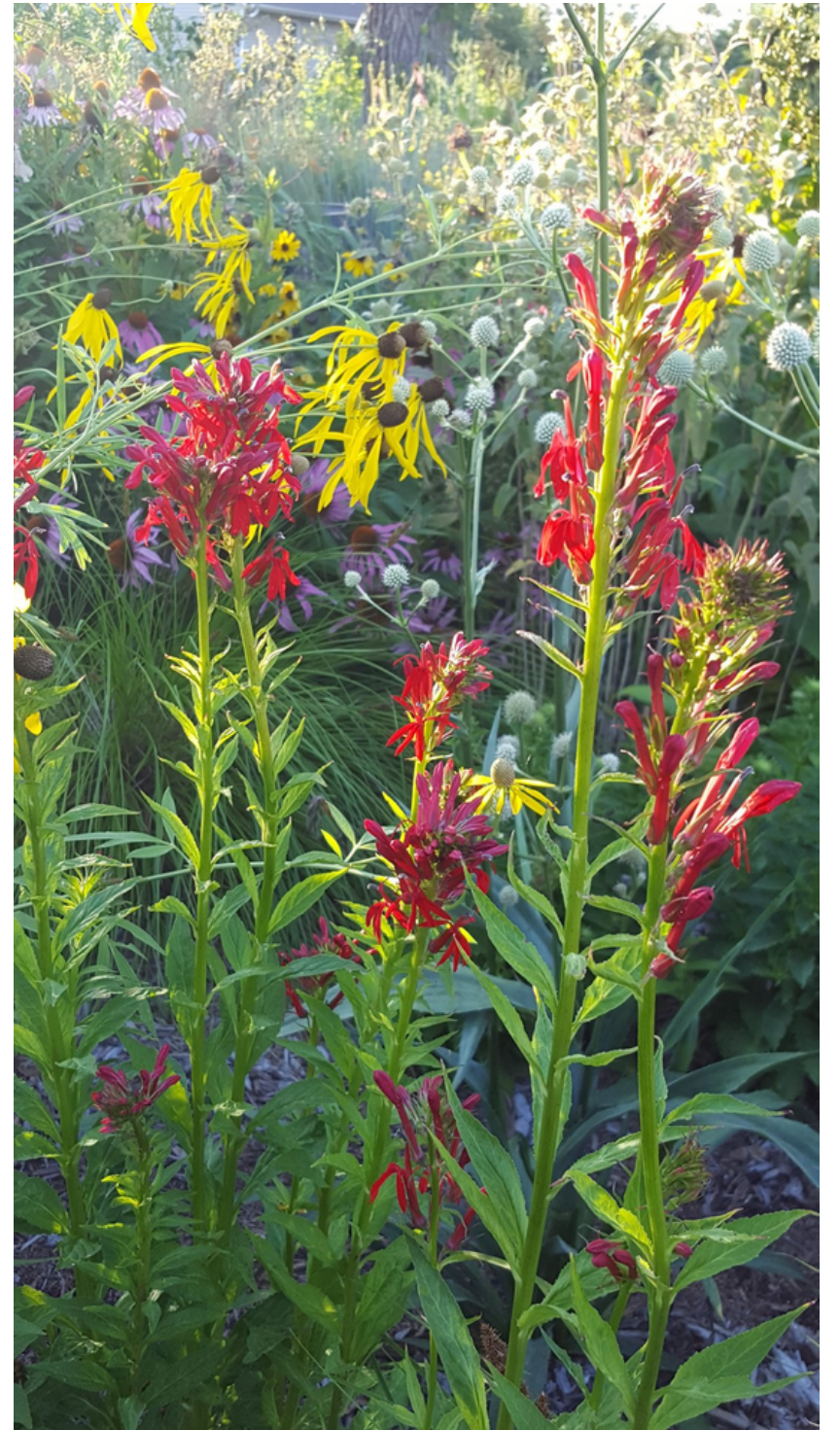
The Plant Dane plant sale is accepting orders through March 21st. You can choose from 40+ native plants species or select a butterfly, rain garden or medicinal prairie garden kits. The cost is only \$2.25/plant.

Don't have room in your yard? You can also **donate plants** to local school and community projects through this website. Eighteen local groups submitted projects and are hoping for plant donations including two of our park Friends groups:

- Friends of Capital Spring Recreation Area (8% funded)
- Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy (28% funded)

[Learn More](#)

[Donate](#)



WINTER RECREATION

- Where can I go snowshoeing?
- Are any park bathrooms open?
- What winter activities require a permit?
- Where are the groomed cross-country ski trails?
- Are there any sledding hills in county parks?

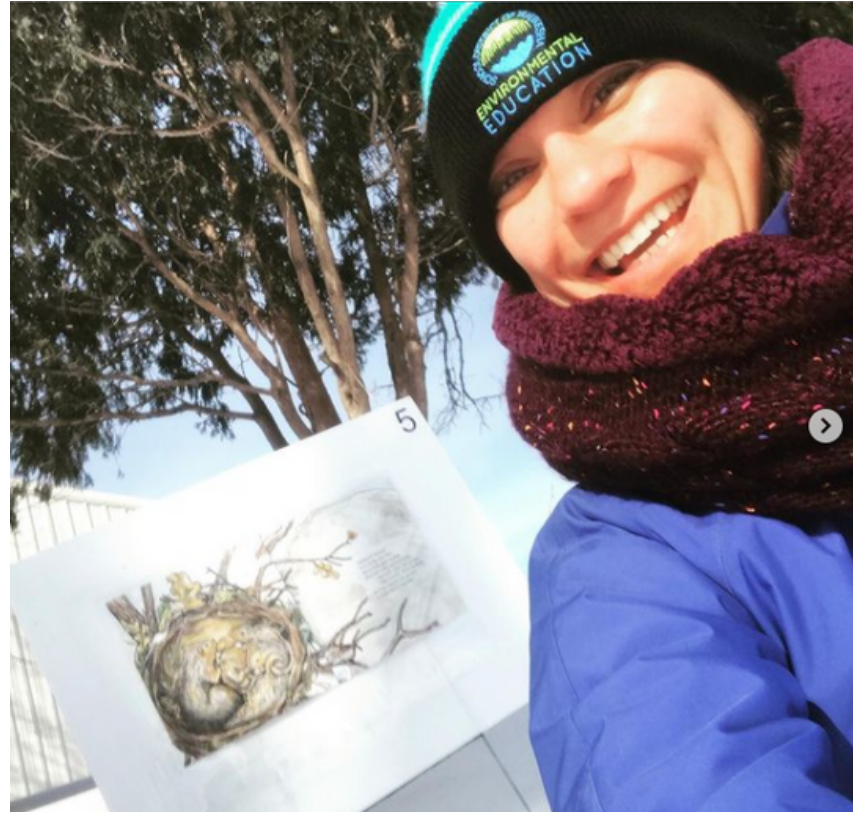
Find the answers to these questions and more on our Winter Recreation webpage!

[Learn More](#)



William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park

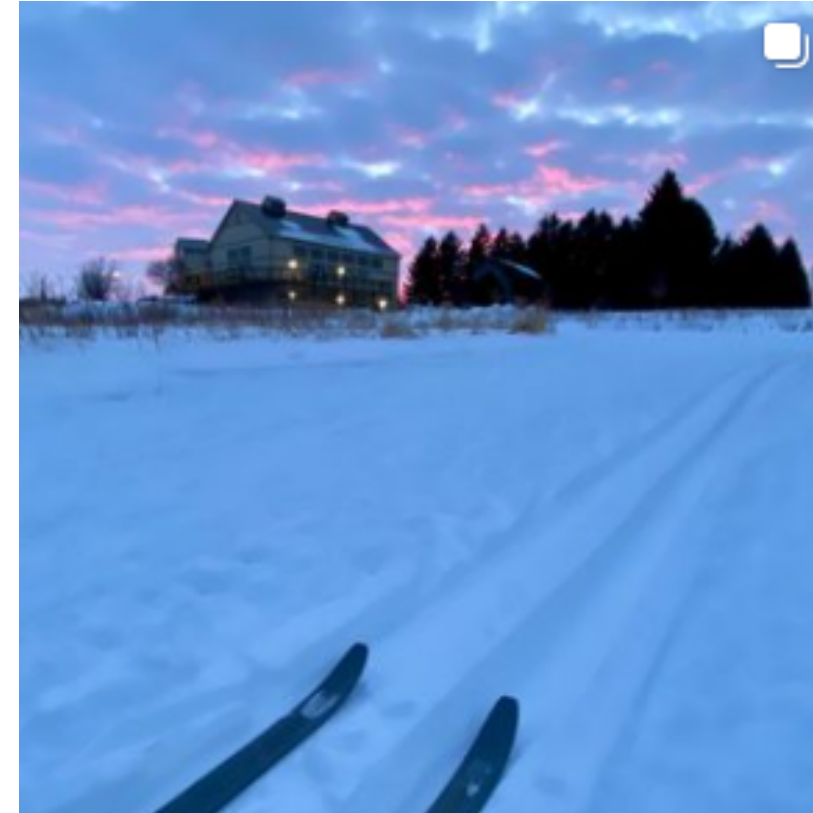
SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



Silverwood County Park
@laureanna_writes



Pheasant Branch Conservancy
@chris_k_draves



Lussier Family Heritage Center
@lussierheritagecenter



**Ice Age Trail - Springfield Hill
Natural Resource Area**
@jmzpics

Tag us in your adventures **@danecountyparks**



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