

DANE COUNTY PARKS

INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 7, 2020



Pheasant Branch Conservancy
Courtesy Shan Bartus

NEW NATURAL PLAYGROUND OPEN!

The new **natural playground** at CamRock County Park near Shelter 2 is now complete! Staff will be adding a paved surface path next month to connect the current path to the playground. This is the first natural playground in the Dane County Park System. If you visit, we would love your feedback.



THE PURPLE MARTIN PROJECT



The Purple Martin Project: 'Landlords' build nest boxes to grow bird species

The bird species is dependent on man-made structures to live in and people are stepping in to help grow the population.

 nbc15.com / Gabriella Rusk / Jul 31

NBC 15 recently featured a story about Dane County Park volunteers and other local area partners that are supporting **Purple Martin populations**.

Click on the button below to learn more and watch the segment.

[Learn More](#)

OAK SAVANNA PROJECT UPDATE

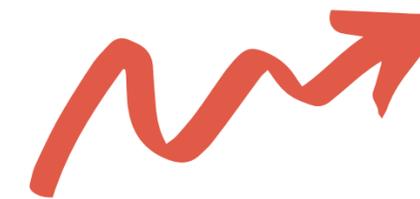
A project is currently underway to restore a 17-acre section of rare **Oak Savanna habitat** at Indian Lake County Park.

Restoration has begun and Valton Log and Lumber was able to clear and prepare about five acres for restoration by removing black locust trees and other trees that are not part of the oak savanna ecosystem. They will return in the spring to continue working on the site.

In the next few weeks, staff and volunteers will start treating brush and weeds in the cleared areas and will pile cut brush into burn piles. Native plant seeds will be scattered this fall and winter to help stabilize the soil and prevent erosion as the restoration project moves forward.



The Wisconsin State Journal recently featured this story



[Learn More](#)

GET OUTSIDE!

[Learn More](#)

The Get Outside! Program at our Lussier Family Heritage Center facility has been busy exploring this summer. Participants ages 5-14 from local community/neighborhood centers learned how to fish at the Jenni & Kyle Preserve, biked along the Lower Yahara River Trail and practiced disc golf skills. Our young observers watched hawks swoop down for a meal, investigated tracks and discovered bird nests. It has been a true adventure exploring Dane County Parks this summer.



CONSERVATION CORNER

All Episodes

Stay connected with our weekly conservation corner series! New episodes posted each Friday on our social media sites. Watch the latest episodes below to learn more how to grow your own native plants.



DANCING AND PLANTING

The Friends of Schumacher Farm Park is hosting some exciting events this month!

Learn to Line Dance with them in a safe outdoor setting:

Cost: \$10/session or \$25 for all 3 dates

- August 11: The Electric Slide and the Cowboy Charleston.
- August 18: The Cupid Shuffle and the Samba Line Dance.
- August 25: The Waltz Across Texas and the 10 Step Line Dance

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Or **help them with some plant some native grasses and wildflowers** near the park entrance on August 8 from 9:00–11:00 am or August 11 from Noon–2:00 pm. Planters should bring their own water and gloves. Contact info@schumacherfarmpark.org with questions.

BUTTERFLY AND INSECT BIOBLITZ

Join the **Friends of Schumacher Farm Park** in their first ever Bioblitz! The information collected will give them a better idea of what butterflies and insects are at the park. They are focusing primarily on butterflies, but other insect observations are welcome as well.

Here's what to do BEFORE August 10th:

1. Hike the prairie or farmyard at Schumacher Farm County Park and take photos of any butterflies, insects and moths you see.
2. Email your best photos to info@schumacherfarmpark.org with "Bioblitz Pics" in the subject line.

The will compile all the photos into one album and schedule a special Zoom identification session with a local entomologist in August to identify the species and talk a little bit about them.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Qiao (Will) Tian

GIS Mapping Technician LTE

Will creates the brochure maps and kiosk panels that you may be familiar with if you have visited a Dane County Park. He collects data in the field and helps with other GIS related projects as well. His favorite park to visit is Indian Lake County Park.



Ryan Gonwa

Park Attendant LTE

Ryan is a US Army veteran that served for 5 years as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He recently graduated from UW-Madison with a bachelors degree in Astrophysics. In his spare time he loves to play drums, guitar, and sing. He also fosters dogs with his wife Cassie. He hopes to one day work for a national or state park.

SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



Silverwood County Park
@patricia.ruppert.50



Indian Lake County Park
@chris_schiemann



Viking Dog Park
@karenkk



Lunney Lake Farm County Park
@lussierheritagecenter

Share your photos with us **#danecountyparks**

