



# DANE COUNTY PARKS

## INFORMATION & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

MAY 29, 2020

*Pheasant Branch Conservancy*

# NATURAL AREAS ART FUNDRAISER

Dane County Parks manages over 12,000 acres of habitat that support thousands of species of wildlife. Our Natural Areas Program maintains and restores these valuable natural environments. Can you help us with a donation to help support these lands?

**With each \$20 donation, you can request a sticker, magnet or window cling** featuring winning artwork from this year's Natural Areas Art Contest. All funds raised will be used to support land management in Dane County Natural Areas, including, prairie plantings, staff support, and restoration efforts. Click on the button below to learn more or to donate.

[More](#)



# BE NATURE-SAFE

Knowing how to properly prepare for the outdoors can help you avoid unpleasant experiences. In addition to wearing proper footwear and sunscreen, there are some things (such as ticks or wild parsnip) that might dampen your experience. Learn how to keep yourself safe on our new Be Nature-safe page.

[More](#)



*Learn what emerging Wild Parsnip looks like* 

# MOWING TO CONTROL INVASIVES

Dane County Parks manages over 12,000 acres of land and invasive species management is a top priority. One method we use to control invasive species, such as Wild Parsnip, Canada Thistle and Sweet Clover, mowing.

Property timed mowing helps prevent these invasives from going to seed and keeps their populations more manageable. Perennial prairie plants will grow back after being mowed and removing the invasive species often creates a better environment for them to grow.

Beginning June 1 Dane County Parks will begin mowing invasive species in fields, natural areas, and dog exercise areas.



# CONSERVATION CORNER

Stay connected with our weekly conservation corner series! New episodes posted each Friday on our social media sites. In the most recent episode, join Clare Carlson, Naturalist for the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, and take a tour of the Prairie Learning Center, located at the Lussier Family Heritage Center.



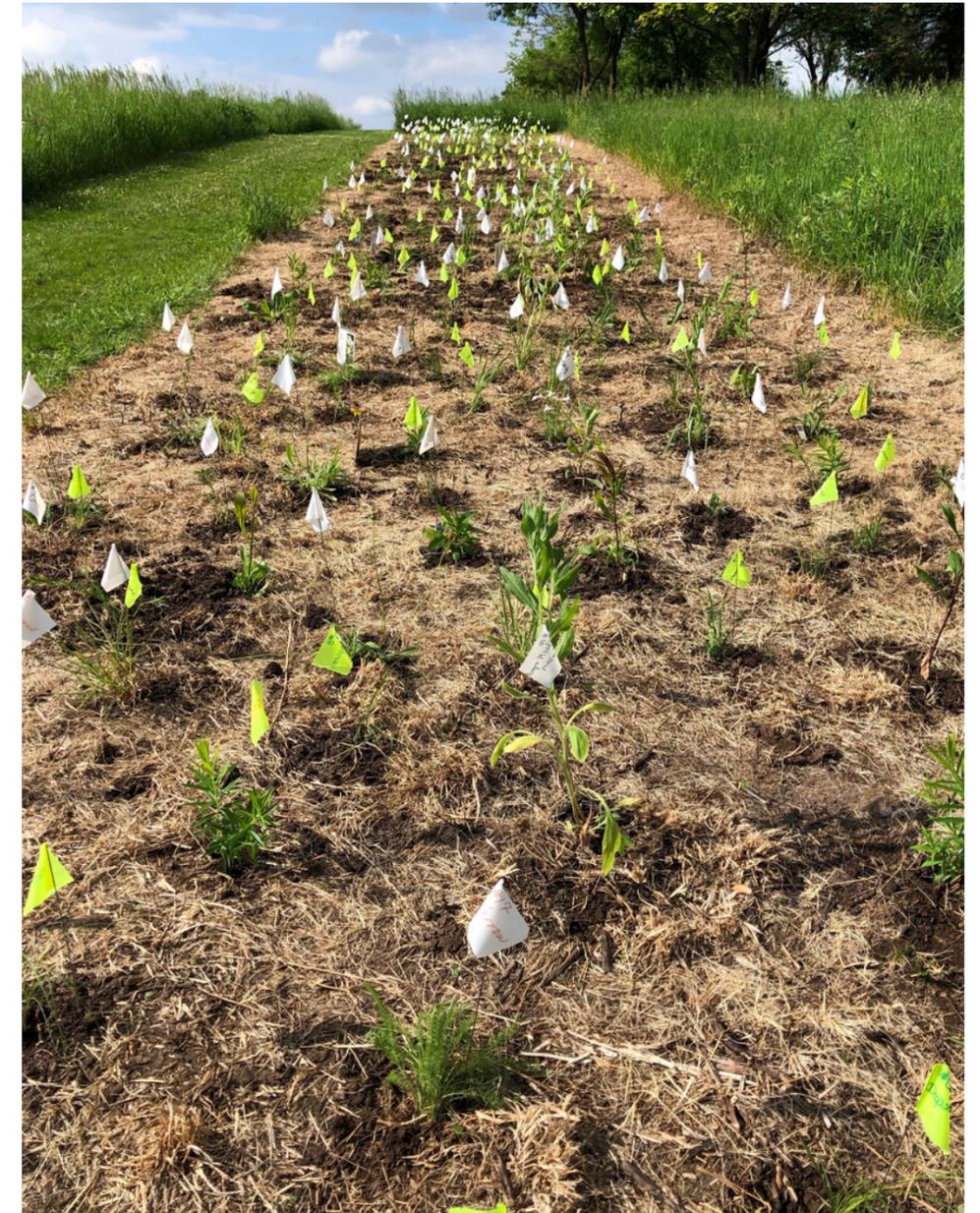
# POLLINATOR GARDENS

Dane County Park friends groups have been adding pollinator demonstration gardens. By the end of 2020, there will be a total of sixteen gardens in county parks. Want to help maintain these gardens? Consider volunteering with one of these groups.

Volunteer

**Existing garden locations:** Anderson Farm, Fish Camp, Schumacher Farm, and Silverwood County Parks, the Lussier Family Heritage Center, and Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

**2020 additions:** at Indian Lake County Park, Lake View Hill County Park, McCarthy Youth Conservation Park, Prairie Moraine County Park and Stewart Lake County Park.



*Stewart Lake County Park*

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## **Micah Kloppenburg**

### **Conservation Volunteer Specialist**

Micah leads unique classroom and outdoor environmental education experiences for youth that help build connections to Dane County's land, water, and cultural resources. He enjoys paddling the many lakes and rivers of Dane County with his family and dog Harley.

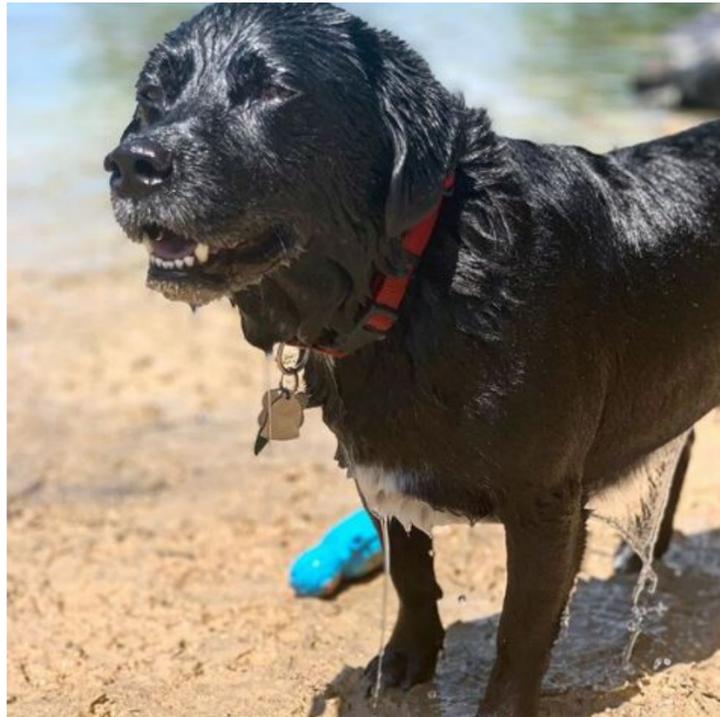


## **Sara Rigelman - Park Property Planner**

Sara assists with a variety of park planning and development projects throughout the park system, including property stabilization projects for incorporating newly purchased lands into the park system.

She also oversees stream improvement projects on county lands, streambank easement acquisitions and park mapping and signage projects. Sara's favorite park is Donald County Park. She also enjoys fly fishing at county trout streams, swimming at Stewart Lake County Park and mountain biking at CamRock County Park.

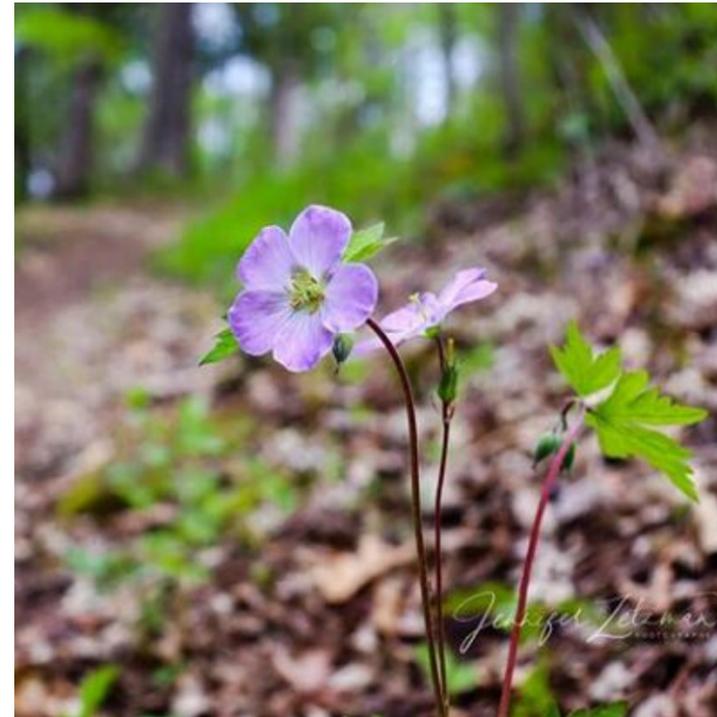
# SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



**Viking Dog Park**  
*@noxthelabbeagle*



**Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area**  
*@mmallum*



**Morton Forest**  
*@jmzpics*



**Pheasant Branch Conservancy**  
*@rhrwes*

Share your photos with us **#danecountyparks**



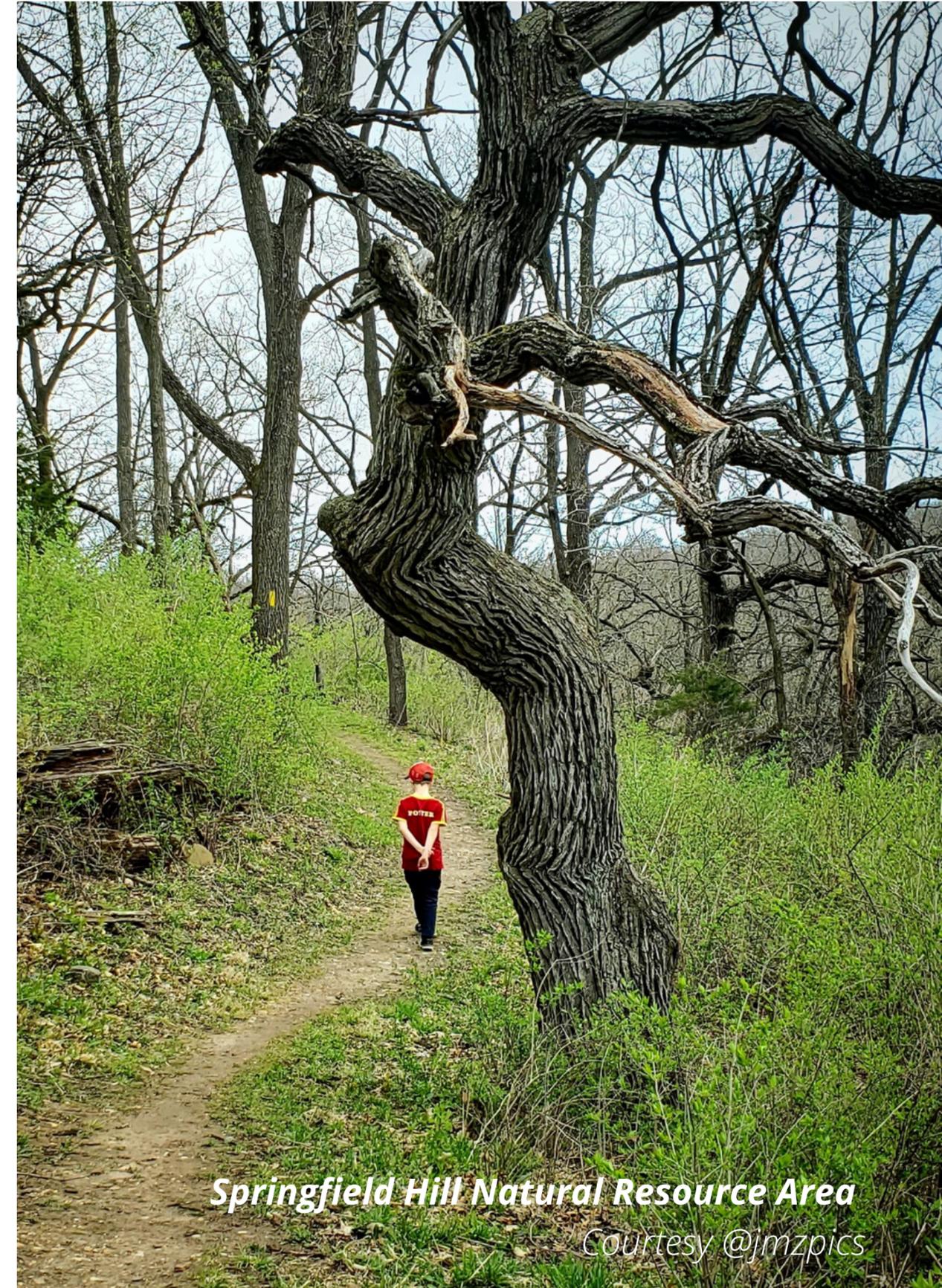
# SUPPORT YOUR PARKS

Dane County Parks are free to visit and enjoy and they are critically important to our community's physical and mental health, now more than ever.

During March/April we had an estimated **27% to 36% increase** in park visitors from last year at this time.

If you are able, consider a tax-deductible donation to assure that our most precious natural resources are cared for and protected now and for future generations.

[Donate](#)



*Springfield Hill Natural Resource Area*

*Courtesy @jmzpics*

# PARKS CHANGES AND UPDATES DUE TO COVID-19

Dane County Parks has been working closely with Public Health Madison Dane County and taking proactive steps to protect the health of our community. We know that outdoor spaces are critical to the mental and physical health of our community, now more than ever.

## **Quick Tips and Updates:**

- Follow physical distancing protocols of 6-feet distance from people that do not live in your household.
- All restrooms, vault toilets and portable toilets are temporarily closed.
- Please purchase any needed permits online before going to the park.
- Carry out all trash and waste.

[More info](#)

[Permits](#)