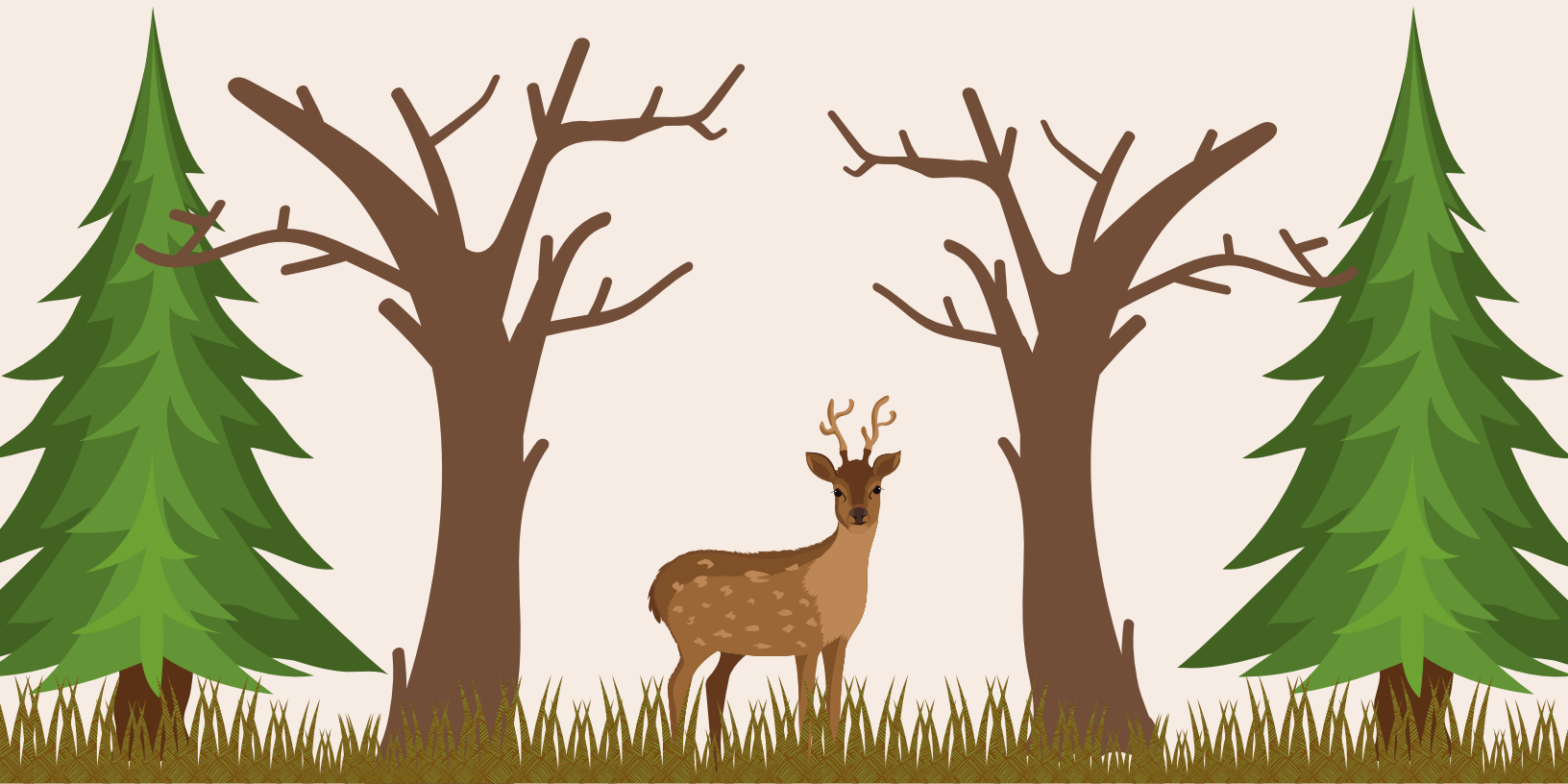




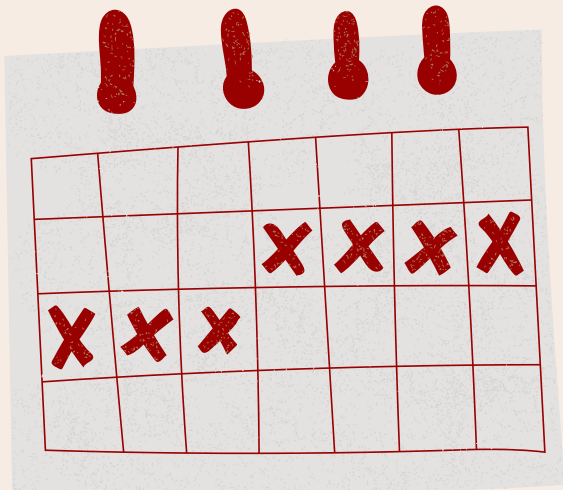
November 2022 Newsletter

**Dane County Parks
Volunteer Program**



Greetings!

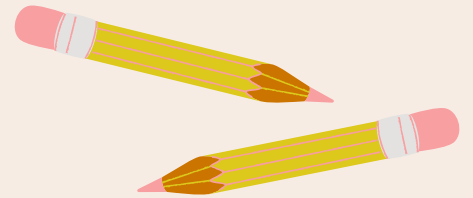
As temperatures start to drop, winter-time projects are ramping up. Native seed cleaning is now finished and we are looking forward to other seasonal projects. Continue reading to find out what the DCP Volunteer Program offers in the cold months ahead! Keep an eye out for pictures showcasing some gorgeous fall colors in our parks.



[Event Calendar](#)



[Dane County Parks Map](#)



Questions?

Contact Claire Lamberg

(608) 516-3703

lamberg.claire@countyofdane.com

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Walking Iron Restoration Workdays

Help natural areas staff and volunteers continue restoration work at Walking Iron's beautiful and ecologically important remnant sand prairie.

November 22
December 13
December 27



Youth Volunteers for Conservation (YV4C) Workdays

Are you in the 9th-12th grade and interested in conservation? Join fellow students from schools within Dane County to improve our natural areas.

December 11



DCP Friends Group Volunteer Workdays

Saturday Restoration Workdays at Donald County Park

November 26
December 3
December 10

Lower Mud Lake Restoration Work Day

November 28

Remnant Prairie Work Day at Stewart Lake

December 10

- * Tuesday Morning Workdays, Donald County Park
- * Saturday Woods Restoration, Silverwood County Park
- * Saturday Workdays, Anderson Farm County Park

Volunteer Events Cont.

Tree and Brush Removal Workdays

As seed collection and cleaning winds down for the season, volunteers are needed for the next big project of the year - tree and brush removal! During these winter workdays staff and volunteers work to restore oak woodlands and savannas by removing invasive brush non-native trees and sometimes native trees that are common in WI but are not desirable in the habitat we are working in. Participants should be ready to work in winter conditions and should dress for the weather (thick socks, layers, etc.) and wear non-synthetic materials that won't be melted by falling embers, as we will likely be burning brush piles if conditions permit.



For dates and details, see the event calendar.



Upcoming Events



Friends of Urban Nature (FUN) Bird and Nature Adventure: Thanksgiving Birds

Learn about turkeys and other big birds with Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner at Pheasant Branch Prairie.

November 26



Fall 2022 Green Thumb Gardening Series – Online

Join Dane County Extension for their Green Thumb gardening series!

November 28
December 5



Full Moon Women's Wellness Evening

Give yourself a chance to escape the busyness and stress of the holiday season by joining the Friends of Schumacher Farm for this workshop.

December 7



All these events (and more!) can be found on the [DCP Event Calendar](#)

To get updates on non-volunteering events, sign up for the [Parks Newsletter!](#)

October Recap

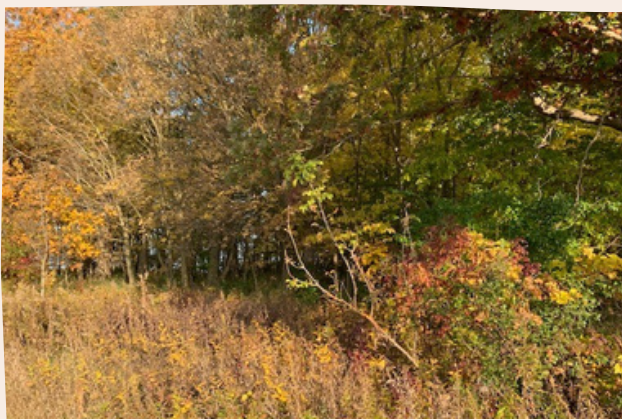


Our last
seed
collections
of the year
were so
much fun!

Led by Land Steward Kathy Pease, volunteers have been working to restore oak woodlands at the Lower Mud Natural Resource Area in McFarland. These woods have come a long way with their help.

Before

After



Volunteer Spotlight

David Kuter

"Dr. Dave"

David Kuter is a steadfast volunteer at Dane County Parks, joining us at many volunteer events throughout the year. As is a common theme amongst many of our volunteers, he also dedicates his time to many other organizations within the broader Southern Wisconsin community.

Originally from Dixon, IL, David made his way to Wisconsin by way of a MD from University of Illinois Chicago, which landed him in a family medicine residency program in Madison and eventually to a practice in Baraboo, WI. From growing up helping on his grandparents' dairy farm and family vacations to Devil's Lake, David cultivated his love of the outdoors to include ecological restoration work. While in Baraboo, he began volunteering with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance on their Hillside Prairie restoration. It was there that he learned about Wisconsin's ecological communities and how important oak savannas and woodlands are to our southern region. David decided then that he would continue working to help restore our native habitats – doing what he could to further ecological restoration.

Somewhere along the way David found out about Dane County Parks and joined Wayne Pauly, then Naturalist/Botanist for DCP, at a native seed collection. Drawn to Wayne's natural inclination for teaching and story-telling, he became dedicated to the natural areas program and volunteers at our events whenever he can. From seed collection and cleaning to seed weighing and bagging, invasive species removal, and prescribed burning, he enjoys it all.



Dave (right) is pictured here with his brother-in-law Ola Royrvik (left) who, when visiting from Norway, joined Dave at one of our seed collections this summer.



Volunteer Spotlight Continued.



When he's not with DCP, David can be found at Camp Woodbrooke: volunteering to review camper's medical forms at the start of each summer session, removing invasive brush, and helping to reduce the tick population with DIY "Tick Tubes". During the tax season he devotes his time to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Madison, providing free tax counseling for elderly and low-income residents and assisting them with their basic income tax returns. At other times he can be found volunteering with the Friends of Hoyt Park, in Madison, working on their prairie and woodland restoration projects. The Friends there have made incredible gains in that park – it is worth a visit!

We at Dane County Parks are so grateful to David for the work he has accomplished in the parks and in the community. No matter how hot or cold the temperatures are, how buggy it may be, or how intensive the work, he is always working with a smile on his face and sharing that enthusiasm with everyone he works alongside. Fellow volunteers and staff can always count on good conversation, and maybe a story or two thrown in for good measure, with David at a workday. Thank you Dave!



Dave working with LTE
Land Restoration
Specialist Jaedan Festge
at Morton Forest in
December 2021

Friends Group Feature:

Friends of Silverwood

The Friends of Silverwood formed in October 2013, when Silverwood County Park was officially dedicated by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. The FoSP Board of Directors and other community volunteers then assisted Dane County in developing the Silverwood Master Plan from 2014 to 2016. Dedicated to the development and maintenance of the park, the Friends provide a varied array of educational and cultural opportunities, as well as facilitate land stewardship and innovative agricultural practices in different areas of the park.

Ongoing Opportunities

Organic Gardening

Invasive Species Management

Oak Savanna Restoration

Cleaning + maintenance of farmstead buildings

Education



Contact:

volunteer@silverwoodpark.org



Aerial photo of Silverwood County Park

silverwoodpark.org



[@SilverwoodPark](https://www.facebook.com/SilverwoodPark)

Staff Spotlight

Roland Arndt

Mechanical
Repair Worker



Roland came to Dane County Parks 6 or so years ago following a 28 year-long career at the Dane County Highway Department and an education at Blackhawk Technical College. As an Mechanical Repair Worker, he is the go-to expert on repairing, replacing, and maintaining the HVAC, plumbing, electric, and everything else that goes into the building mechanicals for our park infrastructure. When he first started at Parks, he completed all the electrical and in-floor radiant heat at the DCP facility on Libby Rd. where our native seed program is housed. Roland is also responsible for making sure all the small engines (chainsaws, brush cutters, blowers, weed trimmers, etc.) are in safe working order for our staff and volunteers. Not only does Roland custom make and sharpen all our chainsaw chains, he also makes sure our Land Steward volunteers and Natural Areas staff have everything needed for the equipment involved in their volunteer workdays.



**Favorite Dane
County Park:**

Donald County Park



**Favorite
Outdoor
Activities:**

Hiking,
Gardening,
Snowmobiling



Volunteer Photo Submissions



Sunday schoolers at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mt Horeb had fun doing a winter seed sowing project with volunteer Mary McDonough-Sutter (Friends of Stewart Park).

They prepared mini greenhouses using 60 donated gallon milk jugs! Their decorated greenhouses will germinate native plants from seeds collected at Stewart Lake County Park and the Mount Horeb History Museum.



John Herbst
Fall at Badger Prairie
9/16/2022
Thanks for the submission,
John!

Volunteer Notices and Misc. Info



Gun deer season is Saturday, Nov 19 - Sunday, Nov 27, 2022. During the fall hunting season we recommend that anyone venturing outdoors wear blaze orange or other brightly colored clothing. Gun hunting is ONLY allowed in designated Wildlife Areas.



Click [HERE](#) to fill out a survey regarding what kinds of training YOU would like to see more of.



Stewart Lake
10.26.22



Volunteer Photo Submission

Want to see your photo featured in next month's newsletter? Submit a photograph to the google form [here](#)! Photos must be appropriate and relevant to Dane County Parks, volunteering, nature, conservation, wildlife, or the outdoors.

Volunteer Spotlight Nomination

Click the link below to nominate yourself or someone else for the DCP Volunteer Spotlight! Please include a picture of yourself/your nominee with the submission.

[Click here for the submission form](#)



10.26.2022
Stewart Lake County
Park

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to Dane County Parks!

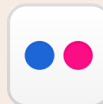
Check out these pages to see what we're up to:



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