



# Dane County Parks WPRA Region 3 Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Heritage Center in WGL Lake Farm County Park

3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison WI 53711



## 8:45 – 9:15 am Coffee, Juice, Snacks and Networking

- Networking amongst region attendees

## 9:15 – 9:45 am Welcome and Host Report

- *Joleen gave a great report on Dane County Parks, their history as they were recently celebrating a milestone anniversary. Joleen also gave an update on many parks projects that Dane County Parks had going on in 2025 and will be taking on in 2026.*

## 9:45 – 10:00 am WPRA Reports

- **Recreation Section** – Updates Given
- **Park Section** – Updates Given
- **Aquatics Section** – Updates Given
- **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee** – Updates Given
- **WPRA Board** – Updates given on conference sign up, being able to use the invoice function.

## 10:00 – 10:15 am Meet Dane County Parks' Animal Ambassadors

Discover the story behind each animal and how they help educate the public about wildlife. Hold or pet a few of them, if you want!

- Albino Corn Snake “Noodle”
- Garter Snake “Clover”
- American Toad “Pebble”
- Snapping Turtle “Reed”
- Eastern Painted Turtle “Nina”
- Domestic Rabbit “Bergamot”
  - *Presentation on how the animals were acquired. We also got time to visit with the animals and Lael answered many questions on how they care for the animals, what other animals could be added in the future.*

## 10:15 – 11:00 am Breakout Sessions (choose one)

### • **Recreation: Nature Based Programming**

Learn about Dane County Parks' approach to nature-based summer camp, youth programs, and “learn-to” activities that engage the community in immersive environmental education.

- *Presentation on how Dane County Parks has completely changed their rental systems. Highlighting partnerships, learn to classes, summer camps, and youth programs.*

### • **Parks: Archery Hunting in County Parks**

Dive into the details of Dane County Parks' limited access archery hunting permit program. Learn about the lottery set-up, program rules and enforcement, and its role in maintaining healthy wildlife populations and preserving park habitats.

- *Presentation on Archery in Dane County Parks.*

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm Field Trips (choose one)**

- **Disc Golf:** Enjoy a casual round at the Capital Springs Disc Golf Course, discs provided if needed.
  - *Trip out to the parks where those in attendance got to learn how to play disc golf. Attendees also got to play a few holes of disc golf after learning how to play.*
- **Birding Prairie Hike:** Hike the adjacent prairies with our resident “bird nerd” and learn about Dane County’s efforts to restore prairies on parklands, binoculars provided if needed.
  - *The group walked the trails through the prairie where we had a lead who helped spot and identify many different bird species. We were also provided with insight on some of the prairie plans and how they help the prairie along with the birds and migration patterns.*
- **BYOB Bike Ride:** Explore the Lower Yahara River Trail, bring your own bike and helmet.
  - *Bike ride down the Lower Yahara River Trail, we did skip this activity as no one brought their bikes. The morning was fairly rainy so that was part of why attendees may not have brought bikes with.*

**12:00 pm Boxed Lunch (provided)**

Grab from a variety of Turkey & Cheddar, Ham & Swiss, Roast Beef & Provolone, Chicken Salad or California Vegetarian boxed lunches from Upstairs Downstairs Catering.

- *Lunch was provided, during that time we also opened up another room so attendees could go watch the EPC Lunch and Learn which talked about benefits of becoming a CPRP. We had about 5-7 people who joined in on watching the lunch and learn while at the region meeting.*
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