

## 7th Annual Bird & Nature Festival

The Bird & Nature Festival, in its 7th year, is an afternoon filled with hands-on activities, nature displays, and entertainment at Warner Park. This year, *Open Door Bird Sanctuary* will have ongoing live bird presentations. Depending on which birds are up for the program that day, tentatively scheduled to appear are a Turkey Vulture, a Merlin, a Barred Owl and a Saw Whet Owl—and possibly more!

The Bird & Nature Festival is co-sponsored by Madison Friends of Urban Nature (FUN) partner groups Madison Parks, Friends of Cherokee Marsh and other local friends and environmental groups. Bring the whole family to this free event and help us celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day and Bird Day on **Sunday, April 28** from 1:00–4:00pm. More information: [cityofmadison.com/calendar/2019-bird-nature-festival-warner-park](http://cityofmadison.com/calendar/2019-bird-nature-festival-warner-park)



Photo Courtesy: Open Door Bird Sanctuary



Photograph by Len Villano

# There's a New Worm in Town

by Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

If you haven't heard, there's a new worm in town and it isn't a good one. In fact, no worms are good for your soil, but this one is the worst of the bunch. Wait a minute... we've all been told that worms are good for our gardens, at least that's what we learned growing up. However, contrary to popular belief worms really do more harm than good and prior to European settlement, there wasn't a worm in the state of Wisconsin.

The worms that we've grown up with aren't great for the soil, especially soils in our natural areas, but none are as terrible as the newest invaders—several species of jumping worm, *Amyntas*. Jumping worms are super aggressive consumers of organic matter and quickly transform a fertile well-structured garden soil into a dry pelletized soil that resembles coarse coffee grounds. It is interesting to note that the soil is so adversely altered that no other earthworms survive in it after the jumping worms do their thing.

So, how do you know if you have these bad guys in your garden? Easy—just go the Wisconsin DNR's ultra-informative website and educate yourself on what to look for in both the worm and the soil they create. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/jumpingworm>. Fortunately, experts at the DNR are incredibly knowledgeable and at the forefront of the latest research on the jumping worm. Everything you need to know and then some is on their website so definitely check it out for detailed information and photographs.



As the DNR experts point out, there is no “magic bullet” to control jumping worms at this time, but we can all help prevent their spread until better control options are available. Here are some things they recommend we all do:

- Educate yourself and others to recognize jumping worms
- Watch for worms and signs of their presence – impacted soil, cocoons, etc.
- Don't spread the worms or their dormant cocoons through soil, pots and divisions of plants, infected equipment, leaves, mulch, etc.
- If you own property in “The Northwoods” or a similar natural area, be extra careful not to spread the worm to them.

We all care about gardens and our natural world and love the beauty of what Mother Nature has so generously given us. The world is getting very small these days, which is both good and bad and unfortunately, invasive species arriving from all over the globe each year is part of the bad. The jumping worm is just one of thousands of organisms that are negatively affecting our environment. We can all make a difference by educating ourselves about invasive species, volunteering with groups that are helping with the environment and by treading lightly on the land each and every day.

# For the Love of Dogs!

A game-changer is coming to Brittingham Park. Madison is acquiring its first synthetic turf at Brittingham Park dog park. At just .4 acres, it is the smallest fenced dog exercise area in the Madison park system. Located downtown, it is also one of the most heavily used. Because of the small size, high traffic, and lack of drainage, it is difficult to keep any vegetation alive within the dog park and the park frequently becomes muddy and icy throughout the year. The new synthetic turf will be a durable, comfortable and inviting solution for downtown dog owners.

The synthetic turf will be constructed with an underground drainage system taking dog waste to the sanitary sewer, instead



Before: Brittingham Dog Park, Spring 2018

of running into our lakes. Additional new amenities at this location will include a drinking fountain with dog water bowl attachment and a small irrigation system to assist in cleaning the synthetic turf. During the renovation process, which is expected to begin in spring and continue through summer, the dog park will be closed. See website for the latest information.

[cityofmadison.com/parks/projects](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/projects)



Weather resistant synthetic turf

## *golf* MADISON PARKS

All four Madison Parks golf courses will be opening soon. In the meantime, join us for the Season Tee Off Party and receive a 10% discount on the purchase of your Season Pass and Loyalty Card on Saturday, March 2. Check out the spring rates and book your tee time online.

More information:  
[golfmadisonparks.com](http://golfmadisonparks.com)

# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Photograph by Melissa Enderle

Submit your favorite Madison park photos before August 31, 2019.

Get all the details:

[cityofmadison.com/parks/about/calendar.cfm](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/about/calendar.cfm)

# Madison Parks Foundation Receives Grant from the Evjue Foundation

Madison is home to 270+ parks and 176 playgrounds scattered across the city, but only two, so far, are fully accessible for all abilities. Playgrounds, and the free play they help foster, are the bedrock of young friendships. Children with disabilities often lack opportunities to participate in play on an equal level with others, due to the barriers in their environment. Fully accessible playgrounds give children with disabilities the chance to play side-by-side with their peers, which is critical for their development. The Madison community values inclusion and equity and these playgrounds provide this opportunity.



The Evjue Foundation, the charitable arm of The Capital Times, announced additional 2018 grants totaling \$720,800 to 56 nonprofits in Dane County, including the Madison Parks Foundation for the fully accessible playground projects. The MPF is a proud recipient of a \$25,000 grant for fully accessible playground project. William T. Evjue founded the Capital Times in December 1917, and led the newspaper until his death in 1970.



## Celebrate 125 with Us

In 1894, a group of private citizens, including John Olin, Daniel Tenney and Edward Owen, formed an organization known as the Madison Park & Pleasure Drive Association which had the goal to “open, extend and improve rustic roadways through picturesque scenery in and about Madison.”

Throughout 2019, [Madison Parks Foundation](#) will be sharing on Facebook bits of history and facts about our great Madison parks to commemorate the 125 years of Madison Parks. Our over 270 parks contain more than 6,000 acres across this great city. Look for social media hashtags [#celebrating125yearsofmadisonparks](#) [#parksareagift](#) and join in the celebration!





## Earth Day Challenge 32 Parks • Saturday, April 27

Each year, Madison Parks recruits volunteers for the Earth Day Challenge to assist with picking up trash and debris, racking and more. In 2018, 907 people gave their time in a total of 27 parks. This year, we're recruiting for 32 park locations! Do you accept the challenge? Register online today!

[cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earthdayChallenge.cfm](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earthdayChallenge.cfm)



Photograph by Valerie Grover

# Watercraft Storage Program Expands

Exploring Madison's beautiful lakes, rivers and creeks by paddle is enjoyed by many. Most, however, don't have the luxury of living on a waterway. That's okay! We offer watercraft storage racks at locations throughout the city. For just \$110 (Madison resident) annually, you can store your canoe or kayak lakeside.

In 2015, we offered 230 spaces at 10 locations. In 2019, we are offering 354 spaces at 16 locations – including two at Olbrich Park. Each year we invest in new replacement racks and continue to grow our inventory providing more access to more people. While there is typically a waitlist, we generally are able to offer space by April. For more information: [cityofmadison.com/parks/canoekayakstorage](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/canoekayakstorage)



play  
**MADISON  
PARKS**

15TH ANNUAL

# SpringFest

Saturday, April 6, 2019

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

## ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Warner Park Community  
Recreation Center

1625 Northport Drive

[cityofmadison.com/parks/wpcrc](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/wpcrc)

(608) 245-3669

Snacks  
Available

Shopper  
Admission  
\$1

Live Music



Beginning in April, over 1,700 street trees are planted across the city by the forestry section.

# Movies with Madison Parks!

Coming soon to a park near you! The fun continues this summer with an all-new high resolution, daytime-viewing screen. Check the website beginning in June for this summer's movie lineup.

[cityofmadison.com/parks/events/movies](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/events/movies)



# RIDE THE DRIVE



presented by Madison Parks

**Sunday, June 2, 2019 | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Brittingham Park • Olin Park • Law Park**

**RideTheDrive.com**

# Thinking of Summer?

The Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Pool opens for the season this June and coincides with the Madison Metropolitan School District calendar. Scholarships are available now for general admission, lessons and the Waves Swim & Dive Team. Apply online today for a summer filled with outdoor fun!



More information: [cityofmadison.com/parks/pool/scholarships.cfm](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/pool/scholarships.cfm)

