

The newsletter for the City of Madison Parks Division

Winter 2019-2020

Staying Active in Winter

Shhhhh, do you hear that? It's the sound of snowshoeing. This silent sport, along with hiking when we lack good snow-cover, provides a unique way to explore Madison Parks. It's also a fantastic way to stay active during the colder winter months and it's easy to learn.



Thousands of park acres offer miles and varieties of trails to explore. From level paths to hilltop climbs, from sunny open fields or shady woodsy trails, you can snowshoe just about anywhere with good snow cover. Exceptions are groomed ski trail and off-trail in a conservation park.

HOW TO GET STARTED

- **Rent a Pair:** Elver Park offers limited quantities of rentable snowshoes from the staffed winter shelter. Hours and pricing are listed on the Elver Park webpage.
- **Borrow a Pair:** We've partnered with REI to provide loaner snowshoes on Saturday and Sunday, February 1 and 2 at Elver Park during Madison Winter Festival.
- Join an Event: Two candlelight snowshoe hike events scheduled in January, provide a fun evening with other snowshoers and winter hikers. With marked trails less than a mile, experience is not required, and makes for a great beginner experience.
- **Plot your Course:** Take a peek at a trail map posted online for a number of popular parks.

SNOWSHOEING TIPS

While allowed anywhere in a general park with good snow-cover or an ungroomed trail, you should keep a few things in mind while you're out.

- Generally, good snow-cover is defined as more than 4 inches but this depends on the ground conditions and type of snow.
- If you choose to go off trail, be on the lookout and stay clear of any signs of habitat or snow tunnels used by small, native critters for winter survival.
- In a conservation park, stay on ungroomed trails only. Cherokee Marsh-South Unit, Owen and Turville Point have groomed crosscountry ski trails when conditions allow.

Learn more: cityofmadison.com/parks/snowshoeing



Photograph by Wendy Murkve

Photograph by Kurt Westbrook

Ice Skating and Skiing Updates

The best place to learn the status of your favorite ice rink or cross-country ski trail is by checking the Madison Parks *Winter Fun* website. Bookmark these pages for quick updates.

- Winter Fun
 cityofmadison.com/parks/winterfun
- Ice Rinks
 cityofmadison.com/parks/iceskating
- Cross-Country Ski Trails
 cityofmadison.com/parks/skitrail

Photograph by Keley Lysford

Gaining Momentum: Madison's Bicycle Adventure Trail

An idea begins to take shape with a thoughtful plan, to create a network of singletrack bike-optimized trails connecting and supplementing existing trails. Through research and data analysis as part of the 2018–2023 Park and Open Space Plan, one of the recommended strategies from the plan is to improve connectivity to enhance access and create a comprehensive system of greenspace connections.



An interagency recreation bike facility team was formed, and led by Parks Planning and Development staff to discuss trail development progress and guide planning efforts, while identifying potential hurdles. Adding to this momentum, Madison Parks received a matching funds grant for \$20,000 from the *International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)* to develop a network of trails connecting greenspaces throughout the city.

Currently, Quarry Park offers the only designated mountain biking trail within the city of Madison. While the trails are ideal for the seasoned and savvy mountain biker, if you are a novice, opportunities in Madison are basically non-existent. Through public input and research, the team will oversee the development of the plan for the Madison Bicycle Adventure Trail (MBAT) created by IMBA. The MBAT is a way to connect multiple smaller trail segments in green spaces such as parks, greenways, and stormwater parcels throughout the city. In contrast to wider, multiuse trails, singletrack or mountain bike optimized trails are about the width of a single bike. Trails can feature twists and turns, rocky walls and bridges or be smooth and flowing. Trails are constructed using sustainable features and methods. Urban singletrack networks have proven to be successful in other mid-sized Midwestern cities by promoting good health through enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities and connecting people to nature.

Images show trail examples in Bentonville, Arkansas, a leader in this effort.

Madison's options and ideas are endless and the public will be invited to join the conversation. Public input meetings on the MBAT plan are anticipated for spring 2020 and will be held throughout the city. Look for updates on the *biking in parks webpage*.



Madison Parks 2020 Calendar

Featuring 13 original, winning images the Madison Parks 2020 wall calendar makes a beautiful and affordable gift at just \$10 and all proceeds go to the Madison Parks Foundation. *cityofmadison.com/parks/about/ calendar.cfm*



MADISON PARKS 2020 CALENDAR

One night Two dances

All families are welcome! This dance is perfect for children 13 and under.

Saturday, February 1, 2020 Warner Park Community Recreation Center 3:00-5:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm

- Semi-Formal Attire
- \$25/per couple
 \$5 for each additional dancer

Register online, by phone or in-person.

cityofmadison.com/parks/events/ dances.cfm



play MADIS

20TH ANNUAL



Saturday, December 7, 2019 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Warner Park Community Recreation Center 1625 Northport Drive cityofmadison.com/parks/wpcrc (608) 245-3669



Outdoor Winter Events in Madison Parks

Skate with the Wisconsin Women's Hockey

Team Badger fans are invited to skate with the University of Wisconsin Women's Hockey Team at Vilas Park. Wednesday, January 15, 2020 6:00 to 7:30pm

* Groove & Glide

Lace-up your ice skates for a fun Friday night at Westmorland Park! Friday, January 17, 2020 6:00 to 8:00pm

* Candlelit Snowshoe Hike

Hundreds of softly glowing lights illuminate the trails through the trails of Edna Taylor Conservancy and Woodland Park beginning at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center. Saturday, January 18, 2020

4:30 to 8:00pm

* Groove & Glide

Lace-up your skates for a fun Friday night at Vilas Park! Friday, January 24, 2020 6:00 to 8:00pm

Candlelight Walk at Cherokee Marsh

Tour Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit by candlelight, then warm up with a cup of hot cocoa by the fire. Saturday, January 25, 2020 6:30 to 8:30pm

* Groove & Glide

Lace-up your skates for a fun Saturday night at Elver Park! This event takes place during Madison Winter Festival. Saturday, February 1, 2020 6:00 to 8:00pm

* Groove & Glide

Lace-up your ice skates for a fun Friday night at Warner Park! The warming shelters with restrooms will be open and will have a limited selection of ice skates to borrow. Friday, February 7, 2020 6:00 to 8:00pm

* Skate Cinema – Abominable

The Sina Davis Movies in the Park program continues this winter at Tenney Park! Join us for an evening of ice skating and a movie at Skate Cinema! Saturday, February 8, 2020 4:00 to 7:30pm

Due to changes in weather and amenity conditions, all times and locations are subject to change. Visit *Winter Fun* for the latest.

Winter Events at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

ELEMENTS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, February 15, 2020 9:00am – 5:00pm

Starting in 2020, each year will bring a new year-long theme that touches every aspect of Olbrich Gardens with an inaugural theme of *The Elements.* All year long, we'll highlight ways that the four elements (earth, air, water and fire) interact with plants, gardening, and the world around us through programming, classes & workshops at Olbrich.

Kick off the 2020 *Elements* theme by attending a free Open House on Saturday, February 15. Element-related activities will be available for learners of all ages, along with a first look at the newly constructed Learning Center and greenhouses! In addition, makers and artisans from FeLion Studios will host a community Iron Pour on the Great Lawn starting at noon!

RAINFOREST RHYTHMS

Friday, January 24, 2020 Barefoot Hawaiian (Traditional Dance from the Pacific Islands)

Saturday, February 8 Atimevu Drum & Dance Ensemble (Traditional Dance & Song from Ghana) Performances at 10:30am and 1:30pm

The Rainforest Rhythms series celebrates cultures from rainforest regions around the world with authentic performances of music and dance. Engaging and educational children's activities highlight plants from the rainforest regions related to the performances. Admission includes entry into the tropical Bolz Conservatory.



GARDENS



GARDEN TO GLASS TOURS

Select Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:30pm

After the Conservatory closes to the public for the day, join us for an insider's view of Madison's favorite tropical oasis! You'll taste, touch and smell your way through this guided sensory tour of the Bolz Conservatory, and tie it all together at the end with a tropical-inspired cocktail that'll have your taste buds in love!

Garden to Glass can also be booked by request on any weekday as a private experience for social groups, meet-ups, wedding parties, staff outings, etc.!

THE CANOPY SESSIONS IN THE BOLZ CONSERVATORY

First Friday of February, March, and April, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

NEW this year—enjoy live music performed from the tropical canopy of the Bolz Conservatory. Enjoy a drink from the cash bar as you stroll the pathways and take in the soothing sounds of live jazz, blues, or classical music.

New and Continuing this Winter

INDOOR GOLF SIMULATORS

Golfers can keep their game sharp all winter inside the Odana Hills clubhouse. Tee times may be made online for groups up to four players. Group reservations and leagues are available, too! Reserve your tee time and learn more *golfmadisonparks.com*





WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Donate your new and gently used winter clothing Friday, January 10 - Sunday,



January 26, 2020 at 6 winter activity locations and Madison Parks downtown office. See *website* for hours and locations.

NEW - LOANER SKATES!

Four ice rink warming shelters will



have a selection of ice skates to borrow this season. Olbrich, Rennebohm, Warner and Westmorland winter shelters will have a tote with varying skate sizes and limited quantities. We will also provide towels to wipe them down and disinfectant spray to help us keep them clean. We ask skaters after each use to wipe down, spray inside, lace up and return the skates to the tote. *cityofmadison.com/parks/ iceskating*

DISC GOLF

Back by popular demand—disc golf at Yahara Hills. Baskets were in place in November and will continue until the golf course reopens next spring. A disc golf permit is required and may be purchased online or at the kiosk. *cityofmadison.com/parks/discgolf*





Warner Park Community Recreation Center will host the 20th Annual Holiday Fest Arts & Crafts Fair on **Saturday, December 7** from 9:00am-3:00pm. Shop from more than 80 Midwest crafters selling handmade goods. You can expect to see a variety of jewelry, baskets, garden art, cards, pottery, woodwork, baby gifts, soaps, balms, lotions, knitwear, paintings, home décor and more! It's the perfect place to find a unique gift for the holidays.

Join us in welcoming Nimrod Hilliard, recently selected from more than 100 applicants as a WPCRC custodial worker. Nimrod began in September and works evenings Tuesday – Saturday, helping to keep the center in tip-top shape. Nimrod's previous experience includes positions with the Madison Public Library,



Nimrod Hilliard

the Madison Metropolitan School District and Mendota Mental Health Institute. A life-long Northsider, Nimrod is very excited to join the WPCRC team. Make sure you stop by and welcome him to the team.

Congratulations are in order for WPCRC Program Assistant, Jamie Pratt, for receiving the Certified Parks and Recreation Professional Certification (CPRP). The CPRP certification is the national standard for parks and recreation professionals who are at the forefront of their profession. Attaining the CPRP designation shows you have met education and experience qualifications, and illustrates your commitment to the profession, as well as your knowledge and understanding of key concepts within parks and recreation.

Congrats to WPCRC Facility Manager, Terrence Thompson, for receiving the 2019 Alix Olson Award at the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable meeting. The Alix Olson Award recognizes contributions towards promoting a Tolerant and Just community. Alix is a retired detective with the Madison Police Department and founder of Seeking Tolerance and Justice Over Hate



Terrence Thompson

(STAJOH). Additionally, Terrence received the High Impact Award at the Northside Planning Council's North Star Awards, honoring lasting and significant impacts in the community.

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway introduced the addition of a new Teen Specialist position at the WPCRC in her 2020 Operating Budget. The position, a partnership with the City and the Madison Parks Foundation, will focus on expanding the Kids Need Opportunities at Warner (KNOW) program and development of youth and family programs and special events on the Northside. The recruitment process is anticipated to begin in January and position starting in spring 2020.

