



Waukesha County

March - August 2013

Environmental Education Activity Guide

Adult | Family | Scout | Youth

www.waukeshacountyparks.com
www.waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd
Program Registration 262.896.8007

Waukesha County

Environmental Education Activity Guide



Waukesha County, through its Department of Parks and Land Use, is dedicated to fostering the protection, wise use, enhancement, and enjoyment of the County's cultural and natural resources, and the health of its citizens. To help engage businesses, citizens and visitors in achieving this objective, an Activity Guide of environmental education opportunities has been developed.

The environmental education opportunities presented in this Activity Guide seek to:

- Increase the amount of material recycled from households and businesses to reduce taxpayer cost.
- Create opportunities for citizens to explore the outstanding natural resources in the Waukesha County Park System.
- Collaborate with School Districts in the County to offer a variety of science-based educational opportunities to meet curriculum requirements and enhance the quality of life in the County.
- Protect and enhance the quality of the County's lakes and streams by informing citizens on how property management decisions impact water quality.
- Protect the quantity and quality of the groundwater resources in the County by promoting water conservation and groundwater infiltration.

I welcome you to explore the opportunities throughout this Activity Guide and help us keep Waukesha County a great place to live, work and play.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Vrakas". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dan Vrakas,
Waukesha County Executive

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This booklet is printed on 50% post-consumer recycled paper.

**All programs are held at Retzer Nature Center,
S14 W28167 Madison Street, Waukesha 53188,
unless otherwise noted.**



Wee Wonders Program

Ages 2-4

This monthly program is designed for parents or grandparents with young children. Wee Wonders will introduce sensory skills that help you, the adult, experience the natural world with your child. Each child must be accompanied by a parent/grandparent for participation in this program. Please dress for the weather. Maximum number of registrants 30, minimum 5.

TIME: 9:30 - 10:30am

FEE: \$4.00

Follow the Tracks

Where are the animals this winter? Follow the tracks left by our winter residents and discover how they play in the snow. Program may be adjusted to fit weather conditions.

DATE: Tuesday, March 12

REGISTER BY: Thursday, March 7

Construction 101: Nest Building

Begin with location, collect the nesting supplies and finish off with a building plan, as we unweave how birds assemble their nests. Build a nest that can be taken home for added fun in your backyard as you watch for lodgers to move in.

DATE: Tuesday, April 9

REGISTER BY: Thursday, April 4

Around the Pond

The pond is awake and full of new critters. Children (with their parents' help) will use nets to catch a few of these amazing animals for a close-up look and discovery adventure. What will you find hiding in your net?

DATE: Tuesday, May 14

REGISTER BY: Thursday, May 9

Ready Plant Grow

Off to the garden and make a hole in the dirt. Select a seed and plant it in the hole. Add a touch of water and a pinch of sun as we plant the children's garden and watch it grow throughout the summer. Come back for a visit to see what your seeds grow into! Will they be a pumpkin, sunflower or colorful flowers? Each child will plant a seed to grow at home.

DATE: Tuesday, June 11

REGISTER BY: Thursday, June 6

Water the Garden

We planted the garden. Now it is time to get busy watering! Children will decorate their own watering can before they help water the young seedlings planted last month. The watering can is yours to take home to help in your garden.

DATE: Tuesday, July 9

REGISTER BY: Wednesday, July 3

Creepy Crawlers

Let's go on a bug hunt! Join our naturalist as she guides your young entomologists in a search for creepy crawlers. Parents will assist their child with a sweep net as they hunt for these 6-legged creatures.

DATE: Tuesday, August 13

REGISTER BY: Thursday, August 8





Nature Sprouts

Ages: 4-6

Come join the fun each month where a new topic will be explored each session through stories, crafts, and activities. Your little sprout will have a chance to discover nature while making friends. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for the weather. Maximum number of registrants 15, minimum 5.

TIME: 10 - 11 am or 1- 2pm

FEE: \$4.00

Welcome Back Spring

Join us on a hike as we welcome back spring, by looking for the season's first leaf bud popping open or the first tiny green sprout of a new plant. We will be collecting signs of spring to use in a colorful collage after our hike.

DATE: Wednesday, March 20

REGISTER BY: Friday, March 15

Showers and Flowers

With spring showers come colorful flowers. Join our naturalist as you go on an exploration to find how rain drops help make strong spring flowers. Create a flower pot and plant some cool seeds to sprout and watch at home.

DATE: Wednesday, April 17

REGISTER BY: Friday, April 12

What's It Like to be Endangered?

Create a special poster of an endangered species while we discover the struggles these creatures have in their survival. Meet our endangered Ornate Box Turtles, Nate and Olive, as we uncover why they are on Wisconsin's most threatened list. May is National Endangered Species Month.

DATE: Wednesday, May 15

REGISTER BY: Friday, May 10

Leaping Frogs

Hop on down to the pond to find frogs leaping into the water. Catch a few of these slippery amphibians for an up-close meeting! Jeremiah, our resident Bullfrog, is looking forward to showing off his sleek wetsuit, when he comes out for a visit. Construct a "Leaping Frog" game to enjoy at home as we finish our froggie adventure.

DATE: Wednesday, June 19

REGISTER BY: Friday, June 14

Journal Journey

Rubbings, drawings and cool items found along the trails can be used to create your own fun nature journal. Keep track of your adventures in a memory book to enjoy for days to come. Journals will be created prior to your outdoor journey.

DATE: Wednesday, July 17

REGISTER BY: Friday, July 12

Rushing Water

Join our naturalist as you explore the stream and ponds of Retzer Nature Center to learn why clean water is so important. Discover the variety of critters living in this wet world and how they adapt to water pollution. Through this hands-on adventure, find out why water is so important to all living things. Create a portrait of the streams and ponds around your home. August is National Water Quality month.

DATE: Wednesday, August 21

REGISTER BY: Friday, August 16





Evening Trails

Family Program

Starry nights come alive as you tour the mysterious trails of Retzer Nature Center. Join our naturalist on the third Friday of every month as we embark on a journey to explore the trails under the evening sky. Each month will have a different theme and exploration! Maximum number of registrants 20, minimum 5.

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30pm

FEE: \$5.00

What Is It Like To Be Nocturnal?

Venturing into the night challenges our senses, but many animals are quite adept to exploring throughout the night. Join our naturalist as you search for owls on the prowl in the pine forest. Come learn about nocturnal animals and discover what adaptations they have for nighttime living.

DATE: Friday, March 15

REGISTER BY: Monday, March 11

Who Made These Crazy Tunnels?

Enjoy a night of gazing out over the Vista and searching the prairie for moles, voles, mice and other critters that dig under our feet! Peer through the grasses to find a doorway to these underground residents, and then try to find another close by that is used for an easy escape route.

DATE: Friday, April 19

REGISTER BY: Monday, April 15

What Can You Hear In The Night Air?"

Join a naturalist on a hike to Brown's Fen and embark on a journey of quiet explorations. Turn your ears to the ground, then up to the sky to detect the sounds heard during the evening hours.

DATE: Friday, May 17

REGISTER BY: Monday, May 13

What's Hoppin' Down At The Pond?

Put on your mud boots and join us on a hike to the Retzer pond to catch some wetland critters. Listen to the frog chorus or cricket serenade as you play at the water's edge. You never know what might pop up at the pond. Enter at your own mud risk.

DATE: Friday, June 21

REGISTER BY: Monday, June 17

Rivers and Streams, Oh My!

This month we will take a stroll down to a forest stream. Listen to and watch the water's movement as it plays its melody across the rocks, roots and downed trees. Enjoy the tranquility of the water's movement as you discover all the benefits the stream plays in our ecosystem.

DATE: Friday, July 19

REGISTER BY: Monday, July 15

Uh Oh! We're Lost!

Let's take a trip to un-traveled territory. Get lost in the night, as we wander off the marked trails to explore the tall grass prairie, gnarled woodland brush and fields of wild flowers, all the while searching for unseen wonders along the way.

DATE: Friday, August 16

REGISTER BY: Monday, August 12

Retzer Teacher Naturalist Volunteer

This apprenticeship program is for adults interested in volunteering to lead hikes for school groups that come to Retzer Nature Center. Training will include assisting with scheduled programs. There is no registration deadline; we welcome new volunteers anytime of the year.

For more info contact Holly at:
hglainyk@waukeshacounty.gov



Additional Programming

GPS Aided Hiking

Adults & Families

Are you interested in using or exploring GPS techniques in your hiking? Come and explore our trails with our naturalist. Try one of our GPS units, or bring your own, with instruction manual, and sharpen your skills. In this family program, we will review basic GPS operation while hiking, and develop orienteering skills. In case of rain, there will be an indoor GPS discussion program.

DATE: Wednesday, April 24 – Adults (6 max.)

TIME: 10 - 11:30am

FEE: Free During Earth Week

REGISTER BY: Wednesday, April 17

DATE: Saturday, May 4 – Families (12 max.)

TIME: 10 - 11:30am

FEE: \$4.00 per person

REGISTER BY: Wednesday, May 1

Preschool Nature Exploration

Ages 2-6

A nature experience awaits children on this hike. Come & explore the sensory wonders of the outdoors while observing & comparing spring insects, flowers, & other treasures. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. Each session is limited to 15 participants.

DATE: Thursday, April 25

TIME: 10 - 11am (Ages 2-3 yrs)

1 - 2pm (Ages 4-6 yrs)

FEE: Free during Earth Week

REGISTER BY: Monday, April 22

Container Gardening Made Easy

Adults & Families

UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteer will show you how to grow vegetables, flowers, and herbs in containers which will be the envy of your neighbors! The perfect solution for growing a garden in any yard space.

DATE: Saturday, April 27

TIME: 11:30am - 12:30pm

FEE: Free Program presented by UW Extension

REGISTER BY: Thursday, April 25

Retzer Nature Center Camera Club

Adults & Older Children

The Camera Club meets monthly with instructional programs, sharing/critique of members' photographs, discussion of equipment and technique and opportunities for taking photographs at Retzer Nature Center and other nature areas.

DATE: Wednesdays, February 6, March 6,
April 3, May 1, June 5, August 7

TIME: 7pm

FEE: Free

REGISTRATION: not required

Senior Nature Stroll

Adult

Come to Retzer Nature Center for a picturesque and invigorating walk on our many trails. Walk with our naturalist as we share nature stories and watch all the exciting changes that occur with each season.

DATE: Thursdays, starting April 25

TIME: 8:30 - 9:30am

FEE: \$2.00 per session

REGISTRATION: not required

Getting Fit With Nature

Adult

Tired of walking laps indoors? Come to Retzer Nature Center to enjoy the beauty of forest, savannah, prairie and pond life; where the sights, smells, and sounds of nature will refresh and inspire you! Please come dressed for the weather and wear comfortable non-slip shoes as we will be walking briskly.

DATE: Mondays, starting April 22

TIME: 5 - 5:50pm

FEE: \$2.00 per session

REGISTRATION: not required





Additional Programming Continued

Nature's Playtime

Ages: 2-4, 4-6 & 7-12

Designed solely for children to enjoy their surroundings and discover new ideas for playtime. A naturalist will provide a variety of games and activities that will take place outside. Interactive games will bring out your children's awareness and enjoyment of the natural world around them. Each session will include outdoor games that are age appropriate as well as hiking on the trail. Maximum number of registrants 20, minimum 4.

DATES: June 24, July 1, 15, 29 & August 12, 26

TIMES: 10:30 - 11:30am.....(Ages: 2-4)*

12:30 - 1:30pm(Ages: 4-6)*

2 - 3:30pm(Ages: 7-12)

FEE: \$4.00 for children 2-6 (1 hour program)

\$5.00 for children 7-12 (1.5 hour program)

REGISTER BY: Wednesday prior to class date. (Walk-ins welcome for an additional \$1.00 per class)

* Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

Nature Design Studio

Week long summer camp

Ages: 7-12

Join us in this week-long summer camp and explore nature through art and design. Each session will focus on a different area of our environment. Children will take home completed projects at the end of the week. The following sessions are repeated twice with a morning and afternoon opportunity to fit your schedule. You can register your child for both weekly sessions and know that lunch supervision will be provided for your child between noon and 1 pm (Bring a bag lunch.) Maximum number of registrants 12, minimum 4

**Take advantage of discounted fees by registering your child before May 1.
\$65.00 per session before May 1 and \$75.00 per session thereafter**

Session A

Capturing Nature On Fabric

Explore flower pounding, leaf spattering, sun printing, photo transfers and stenciling to create a completed eco-friendly tote bag.

Session B

Building From Nature

Utilize parts of nature to construct a garden stepping stone, walking stick, cedar bird house and a pine needle basket.

Session C

A Date With Nature

Explore nature through photography (bring a camera if you have one!), paper making, stamp printing and scrapbook techniques to create a calendar.

June 17-21..... Session A1: 9am - 12pm.....Session C2: 1 - 4pm

July 8-12..... Session C1:..... 9am - 12pm.....Session B2: 1 - 4pm

July 22-26..... Session B1:..... 9am - 12pm.....Session A2: 1 - 4pm



Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium Programs

\$4.00 Per Person
No Registration Required



March 2, 9, 16, 23

Blown Away, The Wild World Of Weather Time: 11am

Experience our fascinating world of weather as you ride out a thunderstorm, fall into a tornado and view storms from space. This program studies the dynamics of the water cycle, cloud types, lightening and auroras.

Aurora Time: 1 pm

One of the most spectacular natural sky events is the aurora borealis or “northern lights.” This show explores the science behind these beautiful and mysterious dancing lights.

April 6, 13, 20

Wish Upon A Star Time: 11am

A little girl and her parents enjoy a night out under the stars. Together, they explore the stars, moon, planets and meteors (shooting stars).

Hubble Vision II Time: 1pm

Images from the Hubble Space Telescope have revolutionized the way modern-day astronomers view the universe. These new images from space are strange and beautiful. Don't miss the story for the life and technology of the Hubble Space Telescope.

April 27 – FREE for Earth Week Celebration

Cosmic Colors Times: 9am • 10am • 11am • Noon • 1pm • 2pm • 3pm

Sit back and enjoy how colors display their personalities. See how scientists use the vast wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum to study the mysteries in deep space.

May 4, 11, 18, 25

The Sky Tonight Time: 11am

Reach up and paint the sky blue, make a rainbow, sing a song about space and clap to the music as we all meet Joe Star, Marsha Moon and Mike Meteor in this fun, participatory sky theater program. A classic sky show!

Into the Universe Time: 1pm

In 1957, Russia shocked the world with the launch of the first man-made orbiting satellite, Sputnik. This show reviews the history of the United States space program and the “race” with the Russians to the moon. Rockets! Astronauts! Wow!

June, July & August

No Public Shows

Saturday Explorations

10

Come out to Retzer Nature Center on Saturdays for programs and activities that will be wide-ranging, with a general focus on the natural world and sustainability offered by Waukesha County's Retzer Nature Center Naturalists, Recycling, Land Resources and Waukesha School District's Planetarium Staff. Most Saturday programs are family-friendly and geared toward all ages. Walk-ins welcome – **Registration is recommended to assure a spot. Groups of 10 or more are required to pre-register. All programs are \$5.00 per person, unless otherwise noted.**

DEMONSTRATION in Exhibit Hall: Nature related information and hands-on activity occurring before and after the scheduled programs. Demonstration may be a different topic than the program topic. Stop in and enjoy.

March 2 - The Legacy Of Aldo Leopold!

Adults & Families

TIME: 10am - 12pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, February 25

Reading your favorite selections from Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*

March 2 - Hike - Aldo Leopold

Reading the Landscape!

Adults & Older Children

TIME: 1 - 3pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, February 25

Join our naturalist for an outdoor Leopold-style exploration, in which we'll unlock his inductive approach and discover the secrets of the early spring land. This is not only good scientific reasoning—it's also really great fun! Let us prove it to you, as we explore (with Leopold) the business, and pleasure, of Reading the Landscape.

DEMONSTRATION: Family discovery challenge from *A Sand County Almanac*—"Come High Water!"

March 9 - Building Family Birdhouse

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, March 4

Birds, just like people, have different tastes in what and where they want to find a home. We will study the different types of bird houses before you pick the housing style for your bird neighborhood. Then it's ready, set, build!



March 9 - Who's Nest Is That?

Adults & Families

TIME: 1-3pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, March 4

Depending upon the weather we will explore the different birds' nests and houses indoors or outdoors. We can visit with our resident doves, George and Gracie.

DEMONSTRATION: Display of a variety of bird nests and homes

March 16 - Mammals of Wisconsin

Adults & Older Children

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, March 11

Mammal ecology and survey techniques

March 16 - Life Long Gardening

Adults & Older Children

TIME: 1 - 2pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, March 11

FREE PROGRAM Presented by UW Extension

UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will help you learn about gardening tools, techniques and plant selections that will allow you to garden throughout your life.

DEMONSTRATION: Measuring biodiversity: traps, track stations, etc.

March 23 - Root Systems Unseen

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am or 1 - 3pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, March 18

Come hike the prairie and then take a look at our "Unseen World" display to see just where those roots are!

DEMONSTRATION: How to keep perennial plants healthy & a look at root systems

March 30 - Let's Go Fly A Kite!**Adults & Families****TIME: 9-11 am****REGISTER BY: Monday, March 25**

We will build, decorate and then fly our kites.

March 30 - Brownie Scout Hike Day**Brownie scouts & their leaders****TIME: 1 - 3pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, March 25**

Work on your Hiker Badge with our naturalist, as we hike beautiful Retzer Nature Center doing a scavenger hunt and learn how to follow directions on a map or get lost trying!

March 30 - Vegetable Gardening**Adults & Families****TIME: 11:30am - 12:30pm****FREE PROGRAM Presented by UW Extension**

When can I start my garden? Many cool weather vegetables can be started outdoors earlier than you may think. Learn how from UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

DEMONSTRATION: "Air" Forces- Cool & hot experiments using the forces of nature.

April 6 - Wonderful World of Water!**Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels How To's****Adults & Families****TIME: 10 - 11am****REGISTER BY: Monday, April 1****FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff**

Rain gardens and rain barrels are the new environmental fix for your landscape. Come learn how to design and install them. But more importantly, learn how they function on the landscape and what they can accomplish through this indoor power point program.

April 6 - Wonderful World of Water! - Pond Study**Adults & Families****TIME: 1 - 3pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, April 1****FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff**

If the weather is nice, come explore the Retzer pond. We'll look for and identify macro invertebrates (aquatic bugs!), but may be lucky enough to find some interesting vertebrates too! If the weather is inclement, the bugs will come to us and the exploration will be done indoors. (INDOOR RIVER STUDY- if bad weather)

DEMONSTRATION: Enviroscope Watershed Model- learn about runoff with this "hands-on" model.

April 13 - Learning to "See"**Adults & Families****TIME: 9-11am****REGISTER BY: Monday, April 8**

Join us on a family discovery hike.

DEMONSTRATION: Outdoor landscape painting demonstration- equipment, techniques, and an art project

May 4 - Birds and Wildflowers of Spring!**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am or 1 - 3pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, April 29**

Join our naturalist, to find, smell and photograph new discoveries, while you learn about the birds and wildflowers of spring. Woods come alive with warblers and wildflowers in springtime. Discover a new appreciation for the flowers, and learn about their life and ecology. We will identify as many of the warblers as we can, let ourselves be awed by their incredible beauty, and learn about their migration. Bring your field guide, camera, and binoculars!

May 4 - Wildflowers & Herbs**Adults & Families****TIME: 10 - 11:30am****REGISTER BY: Monday, April 29****FREE PROGRAM Presented by UW Extension**

UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will present the basics to successfully growing wildflowers and herbs in your yard. Begin with soil preparation then move onto planting and maintaining your garden and then to the final stage of drying your garden's bounty of wildflowers and herbs.

DEMONSTRATION: Wildflowers Up Close

May 11 - Home Composting Workshop**Adults & Older Children****TIME: 10 - 11am****REGISTER BY: Monday, May 6****FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff**

Learn how to create your own compost, how to use it, and different bin styles to build or buy. Discover the secrets of healthy soil for beautiful lawns & gardens, and the role compost plays.

May 11 - Rain Garden/Rain Barrel

Adults & Families

TIME: 11am - 12pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, May 6

FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff

Rain gardens and rain barrels are the new environmental fix for your landscape. Come learn how to design and install them as well as how they function within the landscape.

DEMONSTRATION: Plant Q&A and Interpretation

May 18 - Home Composting Workshop

Adults & Older Children

TIME: 9 - 10am

REGISTER BY: Monday, May 13

FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff

Workshop description: see May 11 on pg. 11

May 18 - Organic Lawn Care Workshop

Adults & Older Children

TIME: 11am - 12pm & 1 - 2pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, May 13

FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff

Find out the latest trends and steps to a green & healthy lawn through organic practices that feed the soil that supports the grass we've grown to love-along with supporting our entire civilization!

DEMONSTRATION: Local garden center rep(s) provide information on choosing the right grass seed for your lawn.

June 1 - Turtle Talk

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am or 1 - 3pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, May 27

We will stroll down to the pond for a search of these aquatic swimmers.

DEMONSTRATION: View differences between Turtles and Tortoises

June 8 - The Science of Nature

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, June 3

Come join our resident nature scientist for a morning of cool family friendly experiments using natural or recycled materials. Be ready to make anything from goeey slime to finding natural dyes that can be used for a fantastic art project. Finish off the morning by blasting off a water rockets made from a soda bottle.

June 8 - Here Comes The Sun!

Adults & Families

TIME: 1 - 3pm

REGISTER BY: Monday, June 3

Come spend the afternoon crafting fun experiments and projects using the sun's energy. Focus in on a solar print to frame, construct a solar oven out of a pizza box or a solar kit warmer. Discover the wide range of interesting and important effects the sun's energy has on our daily lives.

DEMONSTRATION: Green Energy

June 15 - Native Plants: Right Plant, Right Place

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, June 10

Natural landscaping on your property- planning success from the ground up. Start native plants from seeds.

DEMONSTRATION: Book selections, plant propagation, natural landscaping Q&A.

June 22 - Ecological Lifeways of Trees

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, June 17

Indoor program and hike focused on the identification and ecological life ways of trees. Uproot the relationship trees have in our environment as you learn to identify some of the majestic specimens found at Retzer.

DEMONSTRATION: Leaves, bark, wood-rings, bugs, and birds – the tree way of life

June 29 - The Wildlife of Early Summer

Adults & Families

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, June 24

Wildflower Hike- we will seek out and discuss the wildlife of early summer.

DEMONSTRATION: Plant Ecology, literature and Q&A

July 13 - Native Pollinators

Adults & Older Children

TIME: 9 - 11am

REGISTER BY: Monday, July 8

Learn why they matter- the good, the bad, and the others.

DEMONSTRATION: Ecology of native bumblebees.

July 20 - Birds Of Prey**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am or 1 - 3pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, July 15**

Let's take a hike through the different habitats of the forest and grasslands as we discover why some of these wonderfully scary birds might be swooping over our heads. Learn about hawks, eagles, owls and more.

DEMONSTRATION: Q & A on "Birds Of Prey" and how to identify the different species

July 27 - The Life of Insects!**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am or 1 - 3pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, July 22**

Using our sharp eyes and quick reflexes (as well as insect nets and other catching equipment), we will explore the incredible variety of summer insects found in the prairies and woods of Retzer Nature Center! We will find and capture these wild creatures, and use magnifying lenses to observe their incredible adaptations and ways of living.

DEMONSTRATION: Observing the insects we caught, in a big aquarium- seeing them up-close, seeing how they live, and identifying them!

August 3 - The Wildlife of Mid-Summer**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am****REGISTER BY: Monday, July 29**

Wildflower Hike- we will seek out and discuss the wildlife of mid-summer

DEMONSTRATION: Plant ecology, literature, Q&A

August 10 - Bedrock, Glacier, and Soil**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am****REGISTER BY: Monday, August 5**

Unearth the history of the ground beneath your feet on this adventure around Retzer Nature Center trails. Observe the features created by the Wisconsin Glacier as it moved through, and dig in the soil for a close look at the ingredients used to create this very useful substance.

DEMONSTRATION: Hands in the Sand- showing how the glacier did it!

August 17 - Family Scavenger Hunt**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am or 1 - 3pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, August 12**

Follow clues found along Retzer Nature Center's trails on a hunt to find secret objects. Families that complete the scavenger hunt and answer all the questions will be able to enjoy a special cookie treat upon their return back at the Environmental Learning Center.

DEMONSTRATION: How to properly prepare for hiking in different terrains.

August 24 - Get the Dirt on Soils!**Adults & Families****TIME: 9 - 11am****REGISTER BY: Monday, August 19****FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff**

We'll take a hike around Retzer's rolling hills with a soil probe for the opportunity to look at the land under our feet. We'll compare soil types under different canopies and learn to feel the difference in soil types. You'll come away with a new appreciation for dirt!

August 24 - Organic Lawn Care Workshop**Adults****TIME: 1 - 2pm****REGISTER BY: Monday, August 19****FREE Program Presented by Land Resources Staff**

Workshop description: see May 18 on pg. 12

DEMONSTRATION: "Soil Textures": Did you like to make mud pies as a child? We'll get our hands muddy as we learn how to feel the different particles that make up soil. We'll even learn how to make soil.

DEMONSTRATION: Plant Q & A and Interpretation



Lake Country Community Fest

DATE: March 23rd

TIME: 10am - 3pm

FEE: Free

LOCATION: Arrowhead High School

Come visit our booth at the Lake Country Community Fest at Arrowhead High School and see our hands on watershed model in action. Learn how runoff pollution happens and what you can do to prevent it. Information about County Parks, recycling, rain gardens and rain barrels will also be available.

Waukesha Recycling Facility Open House

DATE: April 20

TIME: 10am - 12pm

FEE: Free

LOCATION: 220 S. Prairie Ave., Waukesha

Take a tour of the Waukesha Materials Recycling facility and enjoy refreshments along with music and prizes. Children will have the opportunity to meet Recycle Raccoon, collect trading cards and learn more about recycling. Also, pick up a free recycling bin (while supplies last) and register to win additional prizes!

Earth Day Week Celebration

DATE: April 21 – April 27

TIME: Varies

FEE: Free

MORE INFO: www.waukeshacountyparks.com

Free programs will be offered throughout the week for the whole family to enjoy. Wrap up the week on Saturday April 27th with the Earth Day Celebration at Retzer Nature Center.

Stream Water Monitor Training

DATE: May 4th

TIME: 8:30am - 2:30pm

FEE: Free and all equipment is provided

LOCATION: UW Waukesha Field Station

REGISTER BY calling 896-8305 by Wednesday, May 1st

Join the ranks of citizen scientists and learn how to collect water quality data for your favorite stream. We supply all the equipment in return for your commitment to visit your waterbody once a month to collect dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, flow and biotic index.

Spring Plant, Rain Barrel & Compost Bin SALE

DATE: May 11

TIME: 9am - 12pm

LOCATION: Retzer Nature Center

Find the perfect native plant for your garden. Check out the great varieties or purchase our rain barrel and diverter kit at cost! A single barrel and diverter is \$61 and a tandem diverter with two barrels is \$98. Compost bins only \$45.

Pewaukee River Ecology Exploration

DATE: May 17th

TIME: 1 - 3pm

FEE and registration for this program is through the Natural Resources Foundation. Website:

<http://wisconservation.org/field-trips/>

Join us for a boat trip down a portion of the Pewaukee River. Learn about what effects the urban landscape has on rivers. Then dive into the world of citizen science as we sample for dissolved oxygen and collect macroinvertebrates to calculate a biotic index for the river.

Nashotah Like You've Never Seen it!

Adults and Families

DATE: June 7th

TIME: 1 - 4pm

FEE and registration for this program is through the Natural Resources Foundation. Website:

<http://wisconservation.org/field-trips/>

Join local experts for this guided hike through Waukesha County's Nashotah Park, which has two lakes with completely natural shorelines.

Monches Park Preview

Adults and Families

DATE: June 8th

TIME: 9am - 12pm

FEE and registration for this program is through the Natural Resources Foundation. Website:

<http://wisconservation.org/field-trips/>

Get an official tour through the future home of Waukesha County's Monches Park. The high quality mixed hardwood forest will be teaming with newly arrived migratory birds setting up for nesting. We'll also stop at the Oconomowoc River and learn about water quality as we sample for aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Fall Plant, Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Sale

DATE: August 24

TIME: 9 - 12pm

LOCATION: Retzer Nature Center

Landscaping with native plants is good for the environment, wildlife and your wallet. Check out the great varieties and get tips on growing your own native garden. Learn about rain barrels and compost bins, purchase them today at great sale prices.

Save the Date - Apple Harvest Festival

Retzer Nature Center's Apple Harvest Festival

Sponsored by



DATE: September 21

TIME: 9am - 5pm

Waukesha County Recycling is Coming to your Community!



Got questions? Need information? Want to talk some 'green'? Come and visit our table at a community event near you! See our website for specific locations, dates, and times!

March

- March 2 YMCA Pabst Farms - Healthy Kids Day (9am - 12pm)
- March 9 Pewaukee Community Fair - Pewaukee High School (10am - 3pm)
- March 10 Oconomowoc Winter Farmers' Market (10am - 12pm)
Oconomowoc Landscape Supply & Garden Center
- March 11 New Berlin Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 12 Delafield Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 13 Oconomowoc Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 18 Hartland Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 19 Merton/North Lake Town Hall Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 20 Waukesha Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 23 Lake Country Community Fest - Arrowhead High School (10am - 3pm)
- March 25 Brookfield Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 26 Elm Grove Library (4 - 6pm)
- March 27 Pewaukee Library (4 - 6pm)

April

- April 20 Waukesha Materials Recycling Facility Open House
(10am - 12pm) – 220 S. Prairie Ave. Waukesha
- April 27 Retzer Nature Center (11am - 1pm)

June

- June 1 Oconomowoc Farmers' Market (10am - 12pm)
- June 5 Dousman Farmers' Market
- June 22 Waukesha Farmers' Market
- June 22 Retzer Nature Center (11am - 1pm)

July

- July 20 Brookfield Farmers' Market

August

- August 3 Delafield Farmers' Market
- August 13 YMCA Pabst Farms Kids' Fest – Roosevelt Park, Oconomowoc
- August 14 Waukesha National Night Out – Frame Park, Waukesha
- August 24 Retzer Nature Center (11am - 1pm)



SCOUT PROGRAMS

Call in 262.896.8007 to register your troop

**All Scout Programs are held at Retzer Nature Center unless noted **

Scouts	1 Hour	1.5 Hours
1 - 10	\$20.00	\$35.00
11 - 15	\$30.00	\$52.50
16 - 20	\$40.00	\$70.00
21 - 25	\$50.00	\$87.50

Girl Scout Troops

Daisy

Between Earth and Sky Journey • 1 hour

Search and discover different colors shapes and textures around Retzer Nature Center. Create bark rubbings.

Extend Your Program by 1/2 Hour:

Choose one topic:

1. Study soil samples. (Spring - Fall)
2. Observe and study plant parts.
3. Collect and learn about different seeds. (Fall only)

Brownie

Naturalist Legacy Badge: "Bugs" • 1 hour

Step 1: Talk to a bug specialist.

Step 3: Watch three bugs.

Step 5: Take a bug walk.

Extend your program by 1/2 Hour to include:

Step 2: Create a bug box or bug craft.

Hiker Skill Building Badge • 1 hour

Step 1: Choose a Retzer Nature Trail.

Step 2: Try out a hiking skill.

Step 5: Go on a hike with a naturalist choosing to include one of the following:

A) scavenger hunt B) play "I Spy" or C) do a detective hike.

Senses Skill Building Badge • 1 hour

Step 1: Do a scavenger hunt while hiking.
Step 2: Listen for 10 different sounds found in nature.

Household Elf Badge • 1.5 hours

Learn how to make your home clean and green. Make a “green” cleaner to take home. Learn the importance of “reduce, reuse, recycle and rot!” Play recycling games and take away tips to save water and energy at home.

Junior

Animal Habitat Skill Building Badge • 1.5 hours

Step 1: Find out about wild animals.
Step 2: Investigate an animal habitat.
Step 3: Create an animal house.

Free Recycling Patch “add-on”

Extend your program by a 1/2 hour to find out what gets recycled, where it goes, how it’s processed, what it’s turned into, and why it’s important! For all ages.

Girl Scout Recycling Patch Full Program

Visit the Waukesha County Recycling Facility! See where your recyclables go, how they are processed and what they become. Age-appropriate recycling activities included. Free 1 hour program for all ages.

Call: 262.896.8300

Location: Waukesha County Recycling Facility 220 S. Prairie Ave., Waukesha



Cub Scouts

(Dens/Packs)

Tiger

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Elective 47) • 1 hour

Visit the Waukesha County Recycling Facility! Learn about what and how to properly recycle at home. Learn about things that need to be recycled in special ways, like paint, batteries and computers.

Location: Waukesha County Recycling Facility 220 S. Prairie Ave. Waukesha
Free Program Call: 262.896.8300

Wolf

Birds • 1 Hour

Take a hike and learn how to identify different species living at the Nature Center.
Requirements: 13a (start), b,d,e

Outdoor Adventure • 1 Hour

Join a naturalist for a tour of the Environmental Learning Center and then take a hike to learn about the poisonous plants found in Wisconsin.
Requirement: 18g, 20d (substitute snowshoeing)

Bear

Country - Wildlife • 1 Hour

Visit the Environmental Learning Center and talk to a naturalist. Complete your tour with a hike on the trails where you will learn about endangered and extinct wildlife.

Requirements: 5c, 5d, 5e

Electives:

Weather
2b,c,d,e

Nature Crafts
12a,b,c,e,f

Water and Soil Conservation
15a,b,c,d

Webelos

Forester Badge • 1.5 Hours

Explore the growth and health of a forest. Learn to identify the various trees and woodland plants growing around the Nature Center.

Requirements: 3, 4, 5, 6, 9

Geologist Badge • 1.5 Hours

Crack into the mystery surrounding the rocks and minerals hiding deep in the earth. Hands on exploration of rock formations, classifications, and hardness testing.

Requirements: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

Naturalist Badge • 1.5 Hours

Visit Retzer Nature Center and discover the amazing world around us. Identify birds, poisonous plants and the role animals and plants play in the food chain.

Requirements: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10

Wolf, Bear and Webelos: Academic Belt Loops & Pins

Maps and Compass • 1 -1.5 Hours
Requirements: (1, 2) 4,5,6, 8,9,10, 12

Wildlife Conservation • 1 -1.5 Hours
Requirements: (1, 2, 3) 1, 3, 5, 6, 7,8

Boy Scout Merit Badges

(Individual Boy Scouts)

*Mammal Study **

Uncover the mammals living in a variety of habitats and understand why each has chosen that area to call home. Scout must attend all 3 days to complete this badge and its required associated work. Maximum number of registrant 15, minimum 5.

DATE: June 24, 26 & 27

TIME: 8:30am - 12:30pm

FEE: \$25.00

REGISTER by June 19

*Forestry **

Explore the forest to locate and identify a variety of trees, shrubs and vines. Discover what contributions the forest makes and how it is managed. Scout must attend all 3 days to complete this badge and its required associated work. Maximum number of registrant 15, minimum 5.

DATE: June 24, 26 & 27

TIME: 1 - 5pm

FEE: \$25.00

REGISTER by: June 19

*** You can register your child for both Mammal Study and Forestry programs and know that lunch supervision will be provided for your child between 12:30 - 1 pm (Bring a bag lunch.)**

Environmental Science

Complete this Eagle required badge in 2 half day sessions– scout must attend both sessions to complete this badge. Maximum number of registrant 60, minimum 5.

DATE: Tuesday, June 25 & Friday, June 28

TIME: 12 - 4:30pm

FEE: \$15.00 includes materials and snacks.

REGISTER by: June 18

Soil & Water Conservation

Learn about soil and water through a variety of hands on activities. This all day class includes a field trip to the Waste Treatment plant and Water Utility. Maximum number of registrant 20, minimum 5.

DATE: Tuesday, July 16

TIME: 8:30am - 4pm

FEE: \$20.00 includes lunch, field trip and materials.

REGISTER by: July 9

WATCH & LISTEN to nature come alive during the many programs or special events!

Saturday Explorations

Wild Winter Nights

Earth Week Celebration

Night Hikes | Wee Wonders | Nature Sprouts

Apple Harvest Festival

LEARN & EXPLORE "The Unseen World"

Native fish in a 300 gallon tank

Touch and discover area

Live Animals - snakes, doves and a bullfrog

NEW Working Geothermal Model

New Prairie Underground

JUST ENJOY while you hike over 400 acres.

Restored Prairies

Butterfly Gardens

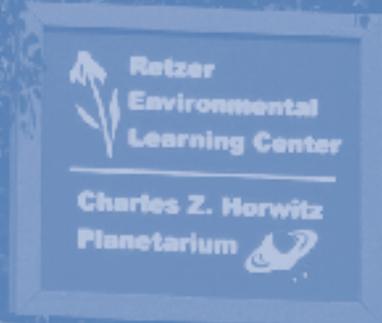
Rain Gardens

The Forest

The Vista

The Fen

The Pond



www.waukeshacountyparks.com

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISIONS PROGRAMS

Looking for a presentation topic for your group? Check out these free programs offered by a uniformed Humane Officer. We will come to your facility! Available any time, year-round. To find out more, contact Jill Posanski at jposanski@waukeshacounty.gov or 262.896.8300.

Animal Bite Prevention:

Ages 4-12 years

Humane Animal Education:

Ages 8-16 years.

Humane Animal Careers:

Ages 8-16 years.

Horse Ownership Education:

For all ages.

Group presentations are available on a limited basis for the following programs:

Food Safety

Septic Systems

Radon Awareness in homes

Drinking water

Humane Animal topics

Lead Awareness in homes

Contact our office for further details and availability.

For scheduling purposes, it is best to have 2 possible dates in mind, the number of people expected to attend, and location preference. Please be prepared to provide a contact number of the person arranging the program.

Radon Awareness:

for more information regarding radon and the effects of radon, a blank email may be sent to radon@waukeshacounty.gov. An automatic reply of information will be emailed back to your email address free of charge.

Home test kits are available for purchase. The short-term kit is \$10.00 and the long-term kit is only \$15.00. Visit our website or contact our office for more details.

Drinking Water:

Well water test kits may be purchased from our office for \$25.00. We may also mail a kit to you for an additional \$3.00 (for shipping costs). Purchase a test kit during Drinking Water Week (May 13th-19th) and receive a FREE Nitrate test; courtesy of Waukesha County. Visit our website or contact our office for more details

515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room AC 260 • Waukesha, WI 53188

262.896.8300

Open Monday-Friday from 8am - 4:30pm

www.waukeshacounty.gov/eh

RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Recycling Field Trips

(Preschool to 5th grade)

Come and see where the recyclables go when the truck takes it away! In our recycling education room kids learn about the 3 R's, landfills, what to recycle, what happens to the recyclables and composting.

Recycling Tours

(6th grade - Adult)

Experience recycling in person by taking a full walking tour of the plant while in operation! See tipping trucks, sorting, baling, and forklifts in action. Learn about the environmental and economic impacts of recycling as well as products made from recycling.



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Community Open House

Tours • Music • Prizes • And Much More

Waukesha County Recycling Facility

220 S. Prairie Ave. Waukesha



waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

FREE EVENT

April 20 • 10am - 12pm

Call 262.896.8300

Compost Workshops

(Adult)

Learn how to create your own compost, how to use it, and different bin styles to build or buy. Find out the Top 10 Reasons to compost. Discover the secrets of healthy soil for beautiful lawns & gardens and the role compost plays.

Vermicomposting Workshops

(Family)

Learn how to bring composting into the home with vermicomposting! With a simple set-up, compost food scraps right in your home with the help of nature's ultimate recyclers: worms! This hands-on workshop allows you to touch and feed worms as well as discover other cool "decomposer" bugs.

Contact Us Today

262.896.8300

recycling@waukeshacounty.gov

Turn Over a New Leaf

(Adult)

Learn how to handle large amounts of fallen leaves without burning, raking, piling, bagging or dragging. These easy and efficient methods will keep your lawn looking great and improve air quality while saving time and reducing tax dollars.

Organic Lawn Care

(Adult)

Learn about the latest trends and steps to a green & healthy lawn through organic practices that feed the soil which supports the grass we've grown to love! Also, learn about the potential hazards of traditional weed killers and other herbicides and pesticides commonly used.

Green Cleaning Party

(Adult)

Learn how to make your own healthier and economical household cleaners with simple steps and minimal ingredients! Also, learn about traditional cleaners that contain toxins which are dangerous for adults, kids and pets!



COMPOST BIN SALE

May 11th • 9am - 12 noon

RAIN OR SHINE
Only \$45 Each

Also for sale: Native Plants and Rain Barrels
at Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha

**FREE Compost
Workshop at 10am**

UW Extension

Cooperative Extension Waukesha County

Waukesha County UW Cooperative Extension is a major outreach effort of the University of Wisconsin, putting university knowledge and research to work for the people of Waukesha County. In partnership with local residents and organizations we develop innovative educational programs. We offer a number of environmentally-focused educational programs and services.

Have a Yard or Garden Question?

Call the Horticulture Helpline. This free phone service allows callers to speak with a trained UW Extension Master Gardener volunteer regarding plant, bug or soil questions. We take calls from 9 a.m. to noon at 262.548.7779 or email the Horticulture Helpline: uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov

Diagnosing Plant Problems

Let UW Extension Horticulture Educators identify your outdoor and indoor plant samples and indoor plant insects! Bring your plant sample or indoor plant insect to the UW Extension office during business hours (8am to 4:30pm). There is a \$4 charge per sample. To be sure that you have a "good sample" please call 262.548.7779 or email the Horticulture Helpline: uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov

Soil Testing

Having soil problems? Tired of guessing about additives for your lawn or garden? A soil test will tell you what nutrients your plants or lawn need and will recommend the amount of fertilizer (N-P-K) to add to your soil. It will also tell the current pH of your soil and an analysis of the amount of organic matter in your soil. Contact us for a soil test kit.

Want to garden but don't have the space or the sun in your own yard?

UW Extension manages a rental garden located just east of the intersection of Northview Road and Grandview Boulevard in the city of Waukesha. Garden plots are available for rental on a yearly basis to Waukesha County residents. Garden plot sizes are 20' by 20' and 30' by 30'. There is a waiting list for plot rental. For more information, contact Mary at mmonteleone@waukeshacounty.gov or 262.548.7775.

Want to be trained as a Master Gardener?

UW Extension Master Gardeners volunteer time to gardening opportunities and projects in return for receiving horticultural training. Waukesha County UW Cooperative Extension provides education, training, and volunteer opportunities for those who want to become a Master Gardener. For more information, visit the SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners website (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg>).

4-H Youth Development

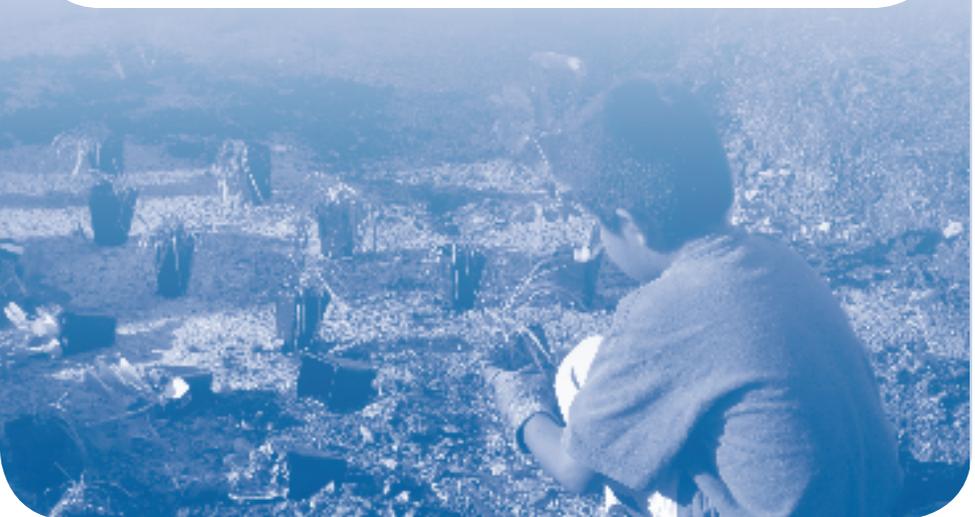
Young people in UW Extension 4-H programs learn leadership and life skills. Regular 4-H membership is for all boys and girls in grades 3-13 (one year out of high school). Kids in K5-grade 2 can also join as Cloverbuds. 4-H members have the opportunity to be involved in many projects that focus on outdoor and physical activity such as gardening, bicycling, backpacking, canoeing, archery, and camping. Kids in 4-H learn skills such as fishing, conservation, wood burning, basket weaving, and robotics. 4-H kids can show art, photographs, foods & nutrition, drawings & paintings, woodworking, animals and more at the Waukesha County Fair. For more information, see our Website (<http://waukesha.uwex.edu/>) or call 262.548.7774.

Like us on Facebook

Waukesha County – UW Cooperative Extension

515 W Moreland Blvd • Administration Center Room G22
Waukesha, WI 53188-3869

Phone: 262.548.7770 • Office Hours: M-F, 8am – 4:30pm
<http://waukesha.uwex.edu/>



Program Registration

Program and payment cancellation policy:

Program fees must be paid 10 days before program is held, or at the time of booking if less than 10 days before program, unless listed otherwise in this program guide. A cancellation fee of \$5.00 maximum if cancelled on program registration date. If cancelled after registration date, we reserve the right to retain your whole program registration fee. We reserve the right to issue credit on account, or a voucher toward future programs, instead of refunding money. Credit on account and vouchers must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

Sign up for your on-line newsletter

Fee Enclosed \$ _____

**Make checks payable to: Waukesha County Parks
Master Card, Visa, and American Express accepted over the phone.**

Please enroll person(s) listed below in the following class(s):

Name	Workshop/Time	Date	Child's Birth Date
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Name	Workshop/Time	Date	Child's Birth Date
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Name	Workshop/Time	Date	Child's Birth Date
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Name	Workshop/Time	Date	Child's Birth Date
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Name	Workshop/Time	Date	Child's Birth Date
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Name	Workshop/Time	Date	Child's Birth Date
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**Mail form and fee(s) to: Environmental Education Programs,
S14 W28167 Madison St. • Waukesha, WI 53188
Any questions call : 262.896.8007**

Water: A Precious Limited Resource!

FREE water programs for school, scouts, rotary and more!

FREE Programs:

- **Water from Start to Finish: Everything you didn't know about water in a 45 minute PowerPoint program**
- **Rain Gardens and Rain Barrel How-To: A 45 minute PowerPoint program.**
- **Interactive Watershed Model: Great for small groups of all ages to learn how runoff pollutes our waters.**
- **Field Trips to Collect Water Quality Data: Choose a local river or stream and we will learn to collect dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity and biotic index.**
- **Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (The Fun Fascinating World Of Water Bugs!): If you can't travel to the water, we'll bring the water (creatures) to you! Learn how to key out invertebrates and calculate a biotic index of water quality.**

**We can bring our programs to you and customize them to suit your needs.
Call Jayne Jenks at 262.896.8305 to schedule a program.**

Rain Gardens

A Beautiful Solution to Water Pollution

We can help reduce pollution in area lakes and streams. Runoff carries pollution from our yards and streets to our lakes and streams. Reduce and capture runoff by using rain gardens and rain barrels.

Order rain garden plants at half the price by
March 29, 2013

Plant pick up will be May 18 at Retzer Nature Center
For more information call 262.896.8305 or online under the
rain gardens/barrels tab at: waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater

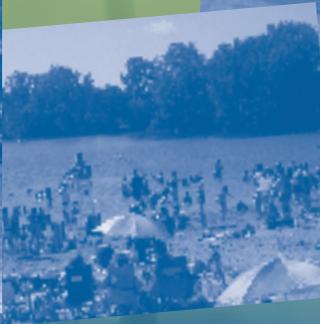
These plants are purchased with a rain garden grant through the
Graham Martin Foundation



Waukesha County
Park System

Get Outside Get Active - 13 reasons for 2013

- 1.) Watch spring come alive
- 2.) Hear the first robin of the year
- 3.) Your dog wants out
- 4.) Go camping and star gaze from your tent
- 5.) It's been years since you ice skated - no excuses, we have indoor ice rinks!
- 6.) Enjoy a game of golf at Moor Downs, Naga-Waukee or Wanaki Golf Courses.
- 7.) Hit the beach (ours open June 1st)
- 8.) Get back on your bike and enjoy the Bugline, New Berlin and Lake Country Trails
- 9.) Enjoy Retzer Nature Center...the trails, the programs, the special events
- 10.) Take the family on a picnic, then take a hike!
- 11.) To let your inner child out to play
- 12.) Get active
- 13.) Get healthy



www.waukeshacountyparks.com