



County Of Dane
Office Of The County Executive

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County Executive

“Get Outside!” Connecting Community Centers with Dane County Parks

This program will work with local community centers connecting youth ages 7-14 to the natural resources and parks that Dane County has to offer. It will have a strong focus on environmental education, environmental literacy, and environmental justice through hands-on learning at local Dane County Parks after an initial outreach session at their center.

Objective: With this budget proposal, the Lussier Family Heritage Center will be able to expand the community center engagement program, “Get Outside!” growing from one center, Bridge Lakepoint Waunona to multiple community centers throughout Dane County. This program will connect elementary and middle school aged youth to our park system. By offering learning for all ages, starting with preschool students in our Lil’ Explorers program and expanding the Get Outside! Program, we will be able to connect youth of all ages to not only Dane County Parks, but to the natural environment as a whole creating stewards for tomorrow.

Potential Program Options:

Pavement Miracles – Get Outside! Outreach Orientation

In this one-hour program introduction, Lussier Family Heritage Center staff will go out to the community center. First we will host an interactive activity to engage students in learning about the importance of parks and natural areas. Next, we will head outside to any available space. Once outside, students will take part in an investigation to discover what plants and animals are living right outside their community center. This program aims to encourage curiosity about what can be found in Dane County Parks, leading into the program in parks.

Get Outside!

After going through outreach orientation, each Get Outside! Program will be catered to the specific park and community center’s needs. This program can be scheduled quarterly or monthly. The goal of this program is to introduce youth to local Dane County Parks through positive outdoor experiences. Each visit will have a different educational focus, which may include: outdoor exploration, habitat & wildlife identification, sustainability, pollution & runoff, carbon sequestration, environmental processes.