

GREEN SPACE

Kenosha County Parks Newsletter



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Greetings,

Although spring doesn't officially begin until March 20th, there has been a stretch of beautiful weather that has substantially increased our park visitors. Many of our park users have noticed the scenery has changed since last year.

As part of our comprehensive emerald ash borer (EAB) tree removal and reforestation plan, Kenosha County removed over 2,600 ash trees from Petrifying Springs Park and Golf Course, Fox River Park, and Brighton Dale Links Golf Course. While it is upsetting how the EAB can cause such devastation to our tree population in Kenosha County, I am proud that we are on the forefront to manage the impact of EAB and will have replanted over 2,500 new trees by 2019.

As our park staff continues with the cleanup efforts from the ash tree removal, we are also gearing up for another great spring season full of recreational programming. This edition of *Green Space* will highlight our partners at the Pringle Nature Center who offer an abundance of family-friendly activities and educational opportunities to our schools and has become one of the premier nature centers in southeastern Wisconsin.

Finally, if you are getting the itch to get out and be active, please take a moment to look at the spring calendar of events to participate in an array of activities that our park system offers. For up-to-date information on all the activities, events, and park features, please be sure to check out the Parks website at <http://parks.kenoshacounty.org>

Thank you for supporting YOUR Parks!

Sincerely,



Jim Kreuser
Kenosha County Executive



ASH TREE REMOVAL & REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN COUNTY PARKS

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive, wood boring beetle that kills ash trees by eating the tissues under the bark. Though not a threat to human health, EAB kills North American native ash trees of any size, any age, healthy or unhealthy. A tree that has been attacked by EAB will typically die within two to four years.

EAB was first confirmed in Kenosha County in 2009. Following a 2012 inventory of ash trees in the county parks and golf courses, the decision was made to remove and replace the ash trees based on their poor condition, which posed a threat to public safety.

The ash tree removal program started in Petrifying Springs Park and Golf Course in January, and at Fox River Park and Brighton Dale Golf Course in February. More than 2,600 ash trees are being removed from the parks during this time.

A mix of 27 tree species are being planted at a rate of about one for every three to five removed (519 in total). The diversity will minimize the impact to the forest by any future invaders. In anticipation of EAB, the Parks Division started the reforestation efforts five years ago and has planted more than 2,000 trees since that time.

This will be an ongoing process and may last as long as three years.



Tree removal and reforestation plan in Petrifying Springs County Park and Golf Course



Tree removal and reforestation plan in Fox River Park



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE REMOVED ASH TREES?

The magnitude of current and anticipated tree removals caused by EAB has at least one silver lining: a growing awareness that dead ash trees can become live lumber and other local products – a process known as "urban wood utilization." This means properly directing dead trees to their highest uses to sequester carbon, reduce waste and disposal costs, generate local industry, and demonstrate full cycle stewardship of public and private forests.

Wisconsin Urban Wood (WUW) is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with Sustainable Resources Institute, DNR Urban Forestry, and other statewide organizations to customize reduced-cost or cost-neutral wood utilization options for small and large communities through a network of local wood processors.

WUW and its partners divert dead or diseased trees of all species away from the chipper, and to the sawmill for processing into lumber, flooring, furniture, art or architecture, as seen in the photos to the right. Each product comes from trees that grew within 5-25 miles of the sawmill.

WUW notes that Kenosha County Parks has played an important role in this cycle as a demonstration site seeking local wood utilization options for the logs in the tragic removal of 2,600 park trees. With all of us working together, WUW has no doubt that we can turn EAB's gloom into a bright future for the woods.



For more information, visit:
WisconsinUrbanWood.org.

PRINGLE NATURE CENTER

Located within the 197-acre Bristol Woods County Park, the Pringle Nature Center is a gateway to environmental learning, providing education to school groups, youth organizations, families, youth and adults.

The mission of the Pringle Nature Center is to provide a place where the Kenosha County community can appreciate nature, experience recreational opportunities and in doing so, be inspired to become responsible stewards of the environment.

The nature center building was constructed in 1998 with seed funds provided by Fanny Pringle in honor of her brother, Robert D. Pringle Sr., who donated a large portion of the land that is now Bristol Woods County Park.

When the center first opened, they partnered with the Kenosha Youth Foundation (KYF, now the YMCA) to run programs. In 2003, the center closed when the KYF did not renew the contract. With the help of the Hoy Audubon Society, the doors reopened in 2004. "It's really great to see families return to the nature center time and time again, making it their home away from home," says Pringle naturalist, Valerie Mann.

Today, Pringle does programming for school and youth groups, the general public, and has volunteer opportunities. Pringle has worked with the county to help restore the Oak Savanna and Prairie areas of the park. The center is also a part of Chicago Wilderness's Leave No Child Inside program which aims to get more kids outside and is a supporter of the Wisconsin Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.



Learn more about Pringle Nature Center's programs and volunteer opportunities:
www.pringlenc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Maple Syrup Hike at Petrifying Springs

Saturday, March 12th

Hikes start at 11 am, 1 pm, and 2:30 pm

With warmer weather, that can only mean one thing - it's time for Maple Syrup!

Join the Pringle Nature Center for one of three hikes on March 12 in Petrifying Springs County Park. Meet at Pavilion #6.

Participation is free, though donations are welcome.

For more information, visit: www.pringlenc.org



"The Hills Are Alive" Trail Run/Walk

3 or 5.5 mile walk – or – 5.5 or 8 mile run

KD Park

Saturday, March 12th, starting at 10:30 am

Please join XC Thrilllogy and Kenosha County Parks at KD County Park in the Twin Lakes/New Munster area for "The Hills Are Alive" run/walk.

This Hill-n-Dale course has great scenic views overlooking a crystal clear lake. The trail is well maintained and not highly technical so course is welcoming, but also challenging with hills for those wanting to test their fitness level.

This is a looped course and runners can select between the 8 mile or 5.5-mile or 3-mile events and walkers can select either the 5.5-mile or 3-mile events. Note that no awards are given for walkers or runners in the 3 mile event.

If you are enjoy running or walking with your dog, this event is also DOG-FRIENDLY!

This year's custom swag will be arm warmers for the first 90 entries received, and we will have free Bondi Bands and XC Thrilllogy gear on sale. We will also for the first time have some treasures along the course for those wanting to have some additional fun!



For more info or to register, visit:
<http://www.xcthrilllogy.com/hills-are-alive-trail-run-walk.html>

Coueurs de Bois Trail Run & Relay

Petrifying Springs County Park

Saturday, June 11th, starting at 9:30 am

Petrifying Springs County Park provides perhaps the best trails along the Pike River. This is an ideal trail running and walking event for the more adventure-minded.

You will encounter single track trails, groomed trails, up and down hills, and, if the Pike River cooperates, a river crossing. If the course sounds a little challenging, at times it can be, but it is welcoming, and we promise that you will love it!

Coueurs de Bois (which means to run in the woods) offers four different distances for runners (4, 8, 12, or 16 miles), and two different distance for walkers (4 or 8 miles). Runners can also run the 16 miles as a 2-person relay, alternating the 4-mile loop. The relay can be a great event for couple with children -- while one runs, the other can play with the kids!

For those that enjoy running or walking with their dog, this is a dog-friendly event!

We will also be serving crepes and other great food, beer and soda!



For more info or to register, visit:

<http://www.xcthrilllogy.com/coueurs-de-bois-trail-run---relay.html>

Save the Date

Community Bike Ride

Saturday, June 18

Route TBD

Sponsored by

Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser





Rebels and Redcoats

JUNE 11 to JUNE 12, 2016
PETRIFYING SPRINGS PARK, AREA #3

Come join the fight for independence at
Petrifying Springs Park!
Rebels and Redcoats features battle
re-enactments, music, shopping, and a wealth of
both entertainment and education opportunities
provided by our knowledgeable re-enactors.

For more information, visit: parks.kenoshacounty.org





UPCOMING EVENTS

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

March 12	Maple Syrup Hike Petrifying Springs Park; hikes start at 11am, 1pm & 2:30pm <i>Donations accepted</i>
March 12	The Hills Are Alive 5K Walk/Run KD Park <i>Registration fees vary. See page 7 for details.</i>
March 19	Vernal Equinox Night Hike Pringle Nature Center, 7pm – 8:30pm Cost: Friends: Free / General Public: \$5
March 26	Egg Drop, Roll, & Dye Pringle Nature Center, 10am – 1pm Cost: Friends: \$5 per person / General: \$8
March 29 - April 1	Leave No Child Inside Spring Break Pringle Nature Center, 10am - 3pm
April 9	Beginning Geocaching Pringle Nature Center, 1pm – 2:30pm & 2:30pm – 4pm Friends: \$3 / General Public: \$5
April 22	Earth Day Full Moon Night Hike Pringle Nature Center, 8pm - 9pm Cost: Friends: \$3 / General Public: \$5
April 23	Invasive Species Workday Pringle Nature Center, 9pm – 12pm
May 7	Nature Story Time Hike Pringle Nature Center, 10am - 11am
May 8	Mother's Day Ephemeral Brunch & Spring Wildflower Walk Pringle Nature Center, 10am – 1pm Friends: \$13 / General Public: \$15
May 14	Plant Exchange Pringle Nature Center, 1pm – 2:30pm
May 28	Beaches at Silver Lake Park and Old Settler's Park open
May 28	Invasive Species Workday Pringle Nature Center, 9am – 12pm
June 11	Coueurs de Bois Trail Run & Relay Petrifying Springs County Park <i>Registration fees vary. See page 8 for details.</i>
June 11 - 12	Rebels & Redcoats Revolutionary War Reenactment Petrifying Springs County Park <i>See page 9 for details.</i>
June 18	DairyAir Community Bike Ride Route TBA



HISTORY CORNER: THE DEER IN PETRIFYING SPRINGS COUNTY PARK

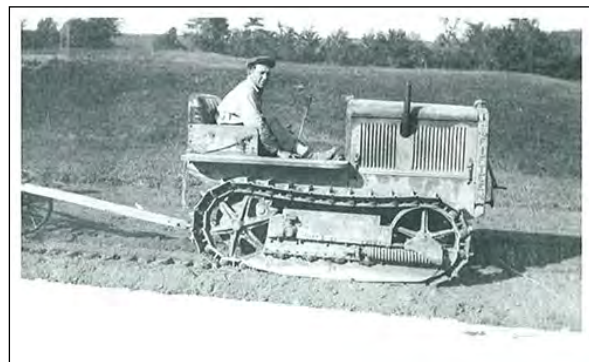
Between 1928 and 1941, one of the features of Petrifying Springs County Park was a pen that housed several well-cared-for deer. These deer were inherited from the City of Kenosha's Lincoln Park, where they had been part of an informal menagerie that started in 1923 with a creation of a waterfowl pond. Within two years, the waterfowl were joined by deer, pheasants, peacocks, raccoons, and, perhaps most intriguingly, monkeys.

By 1928, Lincoln Park's four deer had become 16 deer, and the City Park Director determined it would be best to move them to Petrifying Springs County Park, where they would have more space. A pen was constructed in the northwest corner of the park next to the creek so that the deer could reach the water.

The Lincoln Park "zoo" was discontinued in 1930, but Petrifying Springs' deer pen remained for another decade. Typically, there were six deer housed at a time, and the County Parks Director had authority to deal with excess deer at his discretion.

Several of the Pets deer were given names, and some were even said to respond to those names. One, a buck called Dynamite, was known for having an acute dislike of Parks staff member Abe Bornhuetter, often chasing him around the pen's shed during feeding time.

Due to the high cost of maintenance, the County Parks Commission decided to close the deer pen in 1941, and the deer were taken by the Wisconsin Conservation Department.



Abe Bornhuetter in more relaxed, non-feeding times

Source: Kenosha News and Kenosha County Division of Parks