



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

N194 County Road N, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

(608) 254-6461 • <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/uphamwoods/>



10K Conservation Challenge

Upham's 10K Conservation Challenge aims to put 10,000 hours of conservation projects into the land by the end of 2020. As of March 2020, we are at 2,134 hours. Join us remotely to continue this mission!

We want to measure your success!

Report any hours of conservation you do by calling Upham Woods 608-254-6461 or completing this survey:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cPepiSpnSDzhPSZ



Complete 10 hours or more on any conservation project or combination of projects and get an Upham Woods camp t-shirt!

Trash & Litter Clean-up

Trash and litter in the environment can cause harm to plants, animals, and the ecosystem. Cleaning up a roadside or natural area from trash and litter might not sound like the most exciting summer activity, but it can certainly improve the quality of the landscape.

While doing a summertime clean-up be on the lookout for wild parsnip, poison ivy, and harmful trash (syringes, needles, dead animals, leaking batteries, chemical containers, un-labeled open containers, or any environmentally unsafe trash) Also, remember to recycle when you can.

Tips for roadside clean-up:

- have a first aid kit and cell phone available
- where bright clothes
- always work towards on-coming traffic
- place a sign on the side of the road at the beginning and end of your work site
- wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves
- have plenty of water available
- avoid working during bad weather or high traffic times

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Email: uwcomplianceoffice@wisc.edu.



Encountering poison ivy can cause a rash. Poison Ivy is easily identifiable. It can grow as a bush but is most commonly seen as a vine. The leaves come in groups of 3 with one leaf at the end of the stem. The formation of the three leaves reminds me of an elephant with two ears and the trunk in the middle. The leaves are not serrated but may have small lobes. Poison ivy never has thorns. If someone comes in contact with poison ivy, wash the area with soap and water as soon as possible. Wash all clothing, shoes, and other items that had contact with the plant or with a person who touched the plant. Wear vinyl or cotton gloves when handling or washing items that have touched poison ivy.



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

Wild parsnip is a plant that grows commonly in open grassland and roadside. This plant can cause a chemical reaction on some one's skin when it is exposed to sunlight called phytophotodermatitis. This essentially causes a chemical burn on the skin resulting in blisters and possible scarring. Wild parsnip can be identified by its small yellow flowers on the end of tall stalks in the shape of an umbel. It looks very similar to Queen Anne's Lace and wild carrot. When someone comes into contact with wild parsnip immediately cover the area from the sun, then wash the area with soap and water. As with poison ivy, wash any clothing or equipment that may have come into contact with the plant.



Photos courtesy of Wisconsin DNR



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Participants should also avoid any environmentally un-safe trash including dead animals, needles syringes, leaking batteries, chemical containers, and unlabeled open containers. Bring trash bags specifically for items that can be recycled. Reaching out to parks departments or other agencies to find some different spots that need to be cleaned may provide you with a variety of projects available to you.

When doing a roadside clean-up, make sure you have a cell phone and first-aid kit available. Wearing bright clothes is a must. Avoid high traffic times in the day and bad weather. It is also a good idea to place a sign at the beginning and end of the site you intend to work at. Always work with the younger participants furthest from the road. Continue along the side of the road facing traffic. Coordinate your trash pickups with county or state road agencies if possible. They may be able to provide you with signs and possibly pick-up your trash bags.

If you spend time on your canoe or kayak, you may want to collect trash or litter on a riverway, lake, or pond.

Tips for a paddle clean-up

- make sure everyone is wearing a PFD or personal flotation device
- always maintain 3 points of contact while reaching into the body of water to pick up trash
- bring a fishing net to help extend your reach
- be aware of other boats near you and follow all boating laws

This could be part of your career!

There are many different career opportunities in natural resources including conservation warden, land steward, wildlife biologist, and much more.

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