

NEW RELEASE

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Connecting More People to Nature! Access, Independence, & Dignity



Wisconsin Dells, WI - Access Ability Wisconsin™ (AAW)

and Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center (Upham Woods) are excited to formally announce their partnership and upcoming Open House. The event will take place on August 5th and will provide valuable insights into their collaborative efforts.

Upham Woods has joined forces with AAW to expand their programming and ensure that the wonders of nature are accessible to everyone. Through this collaboration, Upham Woods will offer one of the 27 AAW outdoor wheelchairs (OWC) at no cost, making it effortless for individuals with temporary or permanent mobility issues to enjoy nature with their loved ones or independently.

The all-terrain AAW outdoor wheelchairs, affectionately labeled "hiking boots," can traverse areas where regular wheelchairs cannot, empowering residents and visitors to reserve the chair and explore their favorite private or public lands. Additionally, organizations can enhance access to their outdoor events and activities by reserving AAW resources.

Upham Woods provides educational experiences to over 11,000 people per year focused on conservation, environmental education and outdoor recreation. Located on the Wisconsin River, Upham Woods consists of over 318 acres of forested land, including a 210-acre state natural area called "Blackhawk Island," which offers an excellent river classroom to study both the natural and cultural history of Wisconsin.

"Upham Woods is continuously working on expanding access through partnerships and grants so that everyone can experience the wonders of nature," said Upham Woods On-site and Accessibility Coordinator Rachael Lewandowski-Sarette. "We are excited to work with the team at AAW because it will allow more visitors to find freedom in the outdoors."

Monica Spaeni, AAW President and Founder, praised Upham Woods' commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. "We welcome Upham Woods' proactive approach to collaboration. Their dedication allows individuals with mobility challenges to experience nature's purity with family and friends or independently."

AAW, a nonprofit organization, aims to promote equity and healthy living by facilitating outdoors access for individuals with temporary and permanent mobility challenges. The impact of having an AAW OWC in Juneau County is profound, as it improves the lives of individuals and their families by reducing feelings of depression and isolation and increasing independence and spontaneity. With a goal to have AAW resources in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties, together AAW and Upham Woods are extending this reach for Juneau and surrounding counties.

At the August 5th open house, discover AAW's resources and the uniqueness of its fleet of outdoor wheelchairs, its all-terrain & tilt features, and learn how to support "Outdoors Access 4 All!™" There will also be many family friendly activities including archery, fire starting and meeting Upham Wood's animal ambassadors. Be part of our mission for equitable access to nature in Wisconsin.

All people deserve access to nature and derive both mental and physical benefits from it. Contact us to connect on increasing access to the outdoors, or to make a donation. For more information about "Outdoors Access 4 All", visit www.AccessAbilityWI.org & for more information about accessibility in Juneau County, visit <https://locations.accessabilitywi.org/Map/UphamWoods-WisconsinDells-JuneauCo>.

Questions? Contact:

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