



MAY EVENTS



Weekly Nature Journaling

Weekly on Tuesdays in May from 1-3 pm. Meet at the Willow River Nature Center.

All materials are provided, and each session stands on its own.

****This event is free to attend for participants of all ages** Questions? Email Jodi at jodikarshbaum@google.com

Fungi In Our Forests

Saturday, May 2 at 10 AM. Meet at the Willow River Nature Center.

Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/FungiWillow2026>

Join us for a 1-hour presentation, where you'll learn when, where and how to pick them yourself. Then join the naturalist on a short hike afterward and see how many we can find.

****This event costs \$5/person**

Notice!

Vehicle admission into the park is a separate and required fee.

All outdoor events are weather-dependent, and may be delayed or rescheduled to keep staff and guests safe.

Among the Grasses

Thursday, May 7 & Thursday, May 21 at 1pm.

Meet at the Group Campground.

Take a family-friendly walk through a short-grass prairie and explore what makes this ecosystem unique.

****This event is free to attend for all ages**

Questions? Email Jodi at:

jodikarshbaum@google.com

Wings & Wilderness Walk

Sunday, May 3rd. Hike leaves at 10 am sharp. Meet at the Kinnickinnic State Park gravel Red Trailhead parking lot on 770th Avenue.

(770th Ave, River Falls, WI 54022)

Join us for a relaxed, family-friendly hike! This short trek will lead us through some of the best local habitats for spotting wildlife. Our guide will share tips on spotting wildlife and help you discover what makes our local species unique.

****This event is free to attend**

Mindful Hike

Saturday, May 9 at 9am. Meet at the Willow River Nature Center

Join Certified Meditation and Mindfulness Teacher and Volunteer Wisconsin Master Naturalist Kelly Gillespie for a guided mindful hike designed to cultivate mindfulness, reduce stress, and enhance overall well-being. Along the way, you'll learn insights into the mental and physical benefits of spending time in nature. Bring a backpack with water and a small blanket, mat, or towel to sit on. Ages 10 and up are welcome.

****This event is free to attend**

Spring Story Outdoor Exploratory

Saturday, May 9 anytime from 1pm-3pm. Meet at the Willow River Nature Center.

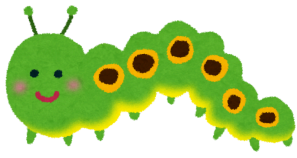
Search for several spring-themed stories hidden throughout the park and answer questions/riddles along the way to receive a participation prize. This is a great all-ages, or family activity to enjoy.

****This event is free to attend**

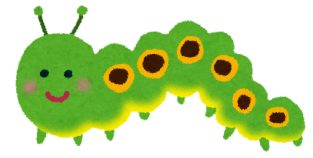
CHECK OUT UPCOMING EVENTS & REGISTRATION

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
NATURECENTER@WILLOWKINNIFRIENDS.ORG





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Mother's Day Hike at Kinnickinnic State Park

Sunday, May 10th. Hike leaves at 10am sharp. Meet at the Kinnickinnic State Park gravel Red Trailhead parking lot on 770th Avenue.

(770th Ave, River Falls, WI 54022)

Bring along someone special—a friend, family member, mentor, or anyone who has been a caring presence in your life—and join us for a refreshing 3-mile round-trip hike through the beautiful trails of Kinnickinnic State Park.

****This event is free to attend**

Notice!

Vehicle admission into the park is a separate and required fee.

All outdoor events are weather-dependent, and may be delayed or rescheduled to keep staff and guests safe.

Painting on the Prairie

Sunday, May 17th at 10am. Meet at Willow River State Park Nature Center.

Spots are limited. Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/prairiepaintwillow26>

Sit down, relax, and let the beautiful view inspire you to paint! We'll provide canvases and paint supplies, but feel free to bring your own!

****This event costs \$10/ person in support of our nonprofit's mission**

Insects of the Prairie

Thursday, May 14 at 1pm. Meet at the Group Campground.

Explore the prairie on this family-friendly walk and discover the insects that call it home. We'll look for pollinators, predators, camouflaged specialists, and all the tiny creatures that make the prairie buzz with life. This program focuses on observing insects where they live, with the possibility of catching a few for closer study if conditions allow.

This event is free to attend for participants of all ages, but vehicle admission into the park is required. Outdoor events are weather dependent.

Questions? Email Jodi at: jodikarshbaum@google.com

Discover The Willow 6-mile Hike

Saturday, May 23rd. Hike leaves at 9am sharp. Meet at the Willow River Nature Center.

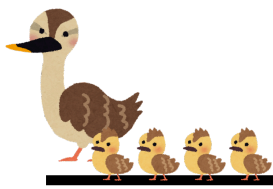
Join the naturalist on a 6-mile round trip hike and discover some of the most beautiful sights at Willow River State Park. This hike will take you along the Willow River, above Little Falls Lake and up close and personal to the Willow Falls. The terrain varies throughout the hike and includes very steep hills. The hike will take roughly 2 ½ -3 hours to complete. Please dress for the weather and bring along, water, good hiking boots, binoculars, a camera and a snack if you wish.

This fundraising hike costs \$5/person or \$10/family

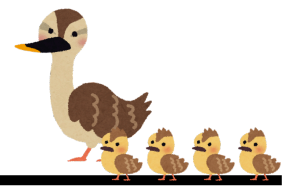
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Sunday Stroll

Sunday, May 24th. Hike leaves at 10am sharp. Meet outside the Willow River Nature Center.

Join the naturalist on a relaxing, easy 1.5 mile hike on the Trout Brook Trail. This trail is relatively flat and wanders along the lower Willow River through stands of red pine and prairie. This is a great hike for viewing wildlife such as eagles, heron, deer, and snapping turtles!

****This event is free to attend**

Getting Knotty

Tuesday, May 26 at 10am. Meet at the Beach Pavillion.

Try your hand at a few basic knots and see how quickly you can get the hang of them. Ropes and practice stations will be ready for anyone feeling a little knotty.

****This event is free to attend for participants of all ages**

Questions? Email Jodi at:

jodikarshbaum@google.com

Insects of the Prairie

Thursday, May 28 at 1pm. Meet at the Group Campground.

Explore the prairie on this family-friendly walk and discover the insects that call it home. This program focuses on observing insects where they live, with the possibility of catching a few for closer study if conditions allow.

****This event is free to attend**

Questions? Email Jodi at:

jodikarshbaum@google.com

**A Waste Free Walk Along The Willow
Tuesday, May 26th at 9am. Meet at the
Willow River Nature Center.**

Holiday weekends can be hard on this park we all know and love. Join us on the Tuesday following Memorial weekend for a parkwide trash-clean up day. We'll provide trash bags, gloves, and/or litter pickers and head out on various trails, parking lots and picnic areas to gather trash and turn a negative into a positive. Please dress for the weather and bring along plenty of water, and good hiking boots.

****Vehicle admission into the park will be waived for participants helping with the clean up.**

Notice!

Vehicle admission into the park is a separate and required fee.

All outdoor events are weather-dependent, and may be delayed or rescheduled to keep staff and guests safe.

Let's Go Kayaking!

Saturday, May 30 OR Sunday, May 31 at 10 am sharp. Meet at the Willow River State Park boat launch.

**Kayaks are limited! Register here:
<https://tinyurl.com/kayakwillow2026>**

Join the naturalist on a scenic kayaking trip across Little Falls Lake and up to the beautiful Willow Falls before peacefully floating back down the river.

Children ages 10 and up, accompanied by a parent/guardian and capable of operating their own kayak for the entirety of the trip are welcome to join!

****This event costs \$25/person**

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