

Healthy Yards . . . Healthy Lakes and Streams

What we do in our yards can directly affect our lakes and streams. Before using fertilizer on your lawn or gardens, test your soil. A \$15 soil test will show if your soil is lacking anything so that you don't waste your money on something you don't even need. Instructions and forms from the UW Soil and Plant Analysis Lab are online at: uwab.soils.wisc.edu/madison. Results will tell you exactly what you need for healthy lawn and gardens.

If your test shows you do indeed need fertilizer, be sure to clean up any that lands on your sidewalk, driveway or other hard surfaces. If left on paved areas, it can easily make its way to the nearest lake or stream with the next rainfall. Keeping leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste, which contain nitrogen and phosphorus, out of the street also help prevent lakes and streams from becoming green and scummy. When these nutrients wash into lakes and streams they can promote nasty algae blooms and excessive weed growth (which can lower oxygen levels in the water) and may release ammonia (toxic to fish).

Healthy yards add to the beauty and value of your home. They can also help our lakes and streams by allowing rain-water to soak into the soil rather than running off to the nearest storm drain. So, do your part and keep your lakes and streams healthy by using fertilizers only if and where they are needed.



Native plants for your rain garden at a great price!

Thinking about installing a rain garden? Consider taking advantage of the Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program, open to schools, non-profit organizations (homeowner, lake or neighborhood associations, faith centers, garden clubs, etc.), municipalities and individual residents in Dane County.

The Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program provides native plants at the greatly reduced price of \$1.80 each—about half the normal retail price. Apply online at www.myfairlakes.com. After you apply, an order form will be sent to you. Then mail your order form with payment before May 29th. Plants will be delivered on Saturday, June 27, 8:30-10 AM

Learn about rain gardens and other ways you can help protect and improve our lakes and streams at www.myfairlakes.com. For more information, contact Marcia Hartwig, Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership Education Coordinator at (608) 224-3746 or hartwig@co.dane.wi.us.

The Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program is possible through a gift from the Graham-Martin Foundation, Inc., a registered 501 (c)(3) organization, dedicated to the preservation and restoration of natural ecosystems and the promotion of environmental education.

15th Annual Take a Stake in the Lakes Days June 6-21

Take a Stake in the Lakes Days, sponsored by the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, is a great way to kick off the summer by learning how our daily lives impact Dane County's lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands and how their wellbeing impacts us.

Sue Jones, Dane County Watershed Management Coordinator, said "If you swim, fish, paddle, water-ski, or just enjoy a picnic by the water, check out the many activities included in this 16-day celebration."

Visit www.takeastakeinthelakes.com for details of these events listed below and a complete listing of the many events during the week.

Saturday, June 6

Clean Lakes Festival, sponsored by the Mad-City Ski Team, kicks off the 16-day celebration with food, music, races, and more at Olin Park.

Thursday, June 11

Paddle to Work Day- Although this event takes place countywide, one flotilla paddles on Lake Monona departing from Olbrich Park at 6:30 AM. arriving at Law Park at 7:30 AM

Saturday, June 13

9:00 AM - Noon 22nd Annual Take a Stake in the Lakes Clean-Up. Volunteer shoreline clean-up of lakes Mendota and Kegonsa.

Sunday, June 14

9 AM- 4 PM In celebration of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway's 20th Anniversary, the Dane County Office of Lakes & Watersheds is coordinating a guided paddle down the 14 miles of Wisconsin River that borders the northwest corner of Dane County. Watch www.danewaters.com for registration information.

Thursday, June 18

Dane County Waters Champions Award Ceremony—5:30 PM at the Madison Club, Terrace Room. The Dane County Waters Champions will also be announced and will be recognized at the County Board meeting immediately after the awards ceremony.

Sue Jones will give the State of the Waters address to the County Board after presenting the 2008 Waters Champion awards.

Saturday, June 20

9:00 AM - Noon 20th Annual Take a Stake in the Lakes Clean-Up, Information Center at Law Park. Volunteer shoreline clean-up of lakes Monona and Waubesa.

House Numbers

Dane County Code of Ordinances provides that address numbers for residential homes shall be installed on a post. The post shall not be located more than 10 feet from the driveway serving the building and not more than 10 feet from the road right-of-way. The post may be located on either side of the driveway. Height of the number shall not be less than 3 feet or more than 4 feet above the ground. The number shall be installed parallel or perpendicular to the road and shall not be concealed from view from the road by trees, shrubs, bushes, etc. The Ordinance also provides that the owner of the land on which a numbering sign is located shall be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the number as specified.

Compliance with these instructions is very important with regard to emergency services. Failure to install a number as specified could delay effective service for EMS and Fire Department personnel. Posts, signs and numbers may be purchased at the Town Office.

Solicitors

It is unlawful for any transient merchant, door-to-door salesman or peddler to vend, sell or dispose of, or to solicit for sale at retail, or to offer to vend, sell or dispose of any goods, wares, merchandise, produce or any other thing without first obtaining a license from the Town Office.

If someone comes to your home and asks you to purchase anything, ask to see their Town permit titled, Direct Seller's Permit. They should be able to produce this whenever asked. The permit should have their name, what they are selling and a notarized signature from the staff of the Town of Middleton.

To protect yourself it is always in your best interest to get a receipt for any merchandise that you purchase along with a company contact and phone number.

Dog Friendly Parks and Trails



There are many parks and trails in the Town of Middleton that residents can enjoy with their dogs. They are:

- Tallard Conservancy (off Airport Road)
- Cherrywood Conservancy Trail (entrances off Sabaka Trail and Swoboda Road)
- Cherrywood Pond and Prairie Park (entrances on Sequoia and Swoboda)
- Public recreational trails in Stonebrook Estates, Prairie Home Estates and Prairie Home Estates 1st addition

All other Town Parks and Trails are off limits to dogs, including Pope Farm Park. Town Ordinances require that all dogs be leashed whenever they are not on their owners property, all dogs over 5 months in age be licensed, and that all dog waste be removed from roads, parks and trails.

Thank you for complying with these rules so that all residents can enjoy Town Parks and Trails.

News from the Sheriff

The Dane County Sheriff's Office would like to remind people of a few basic crime prevention tips. We tend to see an increase in thefts and burglaries in the summer months. Therefore, please keep in mind the following information.

Please make sure all vehicles, houses, patio doors, and garages are secured at all time. Most victims of thefts have not locked up, allowing easier access to valued items. Remember, burglars can enter your house if your vehicle is left unlocked

with the garage door opener or keys inside.

In addition, keeping an inventory of your property (including serial numbers and photos of property) is very helpful for reporting purposes in case you become a victim of a crime.

If you are on vacation, ask a trusted neighbor to watch your residence. Also, arrange for someone to mow the lawn, gather your mail, newspapers, etc. It's also a good idea to contact the Dane County Sheriff's Office and have them conduct a vacation check on your house, free of charge, while you're away. In general, keep your bushes/shrubs well trimmed and your lighting sufficient enough to illuminate all sides of your house.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office would like any suspicious activity, noise, people, or vehicles in your neighborhood to be reported AS SOON AS you see them. Vehicle license plate numbers, description, location, and direction of travel can be extremely helpful in locating and preventing further criminal activity in your neighborhood. You are the eyes and ears of your neighborhood and the information you share can be very valuable in making your neighborhood a safer and better place to live.

These are only a few tips to help prevent crime. If you're interested in further keeping your neighborhood safe, the Dane County Sheriff's Office can help your neighborhood set up a Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch builds partnerships between law enforcement and citizens to address neighborhood concerns and works to build a greater "sense of community" by having neighbors get to know each other and work together. For more information on neighborhood watch, go to www.USAOonWatch.org.

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL:9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

255-2345 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INFORMATION CALL:

COMMUNITY DEPUTY LESLIE FOX OR DEPUTY JOSALYN LONGLEY- 833-9560