

Outdoor Group Upcoming Hikes

Final hike on the summer schedule:

Sat 8/19 Chad Erickson/Stry Park (*easy, paved trails*)

2.1 miles round trip, 80 feet elevation change

Time: carpooling departure at 8:30am or meet 8:45am at south end of Chad Erickson trail (parking lot near 3700 Park Lane Dr - at intersection of Park Lane Dr. and Cliffside Dr.)

Trail Difficulty Guidelines:

1. *Easy: 1-2 miles with easy terrain and little elevation gain*
2. *Moderate: 2-4 miles with moderate terrain and some elevation gain*
3. *Challenging: 4 or more miles or varying terrain*

Fall Hikes Schedule

We have 6 hikes scheduled at 6 different locations for the Fall months. All will be in the morning. Some are easy and others more strenuous. They are scheduled for the first Tuesday and the third Saturday of each month. The list of hikes and information is currently posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen area and is available on our website. This hiking list has been developed by the Unitarian Universalist Outdoor Group, a member of the La Crescent-Hokah Driftless Drifters Hiking Club, and the First Congregational UCC Creation Care Committee. We hope to see you on the trail!

There is a carpooling option as well, meet at the First Congregational Church parking lot (intersection of Main Street and Losey Blvd.

Schedule of Fall Hikes:

September

Tues 9/5 McGilvary Seven Bridges - Black River, Holmen/Trempealeau (*easy*):
3.5 miles round trip, fairly flat trail

Time: carpool departure at 8:30 or meet 9:00am at the trailhead (about 1.5 miles north of the HWY 35/Amsterdam Prairie Road intersection)

Sat 9/16 Easter Road Trailhead, La Crosse Blufflands (Haas tract)
(*moderate/challenging*): 2.7 miles round trip, significant elevation change (480 feet ascent)

Time: carpool departure at 8:30am or meet 8:45am at the Easter Road trailhead

October

Tues 10/3 Beaver Creek Trail, Beaver Creek Valley State Park, Caledonia, MN (moderate): 3.5 miles round trip, fairly flat trail

Time: carpool departure at 8:30am or meet 9:15am at main parking lot inside park. MN State Park sticker needed for car - purchase online. On return, grab lunch at Free Range Exchange in Hoka, eat at Como Falls.

Sat 10/21 Greens Coulee (north trail), Onalaska (moderate)
1.8 miles round trip, 350 feet ascent

Time: carpool departure at 8:30am or meet 9:00am at the Clifford Drive trailhead

Possible bonus hike on Halloween:

Sat 10/31 Tunnelville Cliffs East, Vernon County—possible bonus hike (moderate): 2.4 miles round trip, 315 feet ascent

Time: carpool departure at 8:30am or meet 9:30am at trailhead parking lot (intersection of Husker Hollow Road and Tunnelville Road: proceed about 2 miles east-southeast on Tunnelville Road)

November

Tues 11/7 Butterfly Trail (Shelby, La Crosse) (easy)
1.6 miles round trip, 264 feet ascent

Time: Carpool departure at 9:30am or meet 9:45am at end of Old Vineyard Road

Sat 11/18 Wagon Wheel Trail, La Crescent/Mississippi River bottoms (easy/moderate): 2.3 miles round trip, fairly flat trail

Time: carpooling departure at 9:30am or meet 9:45am at DNR boat landing parking lot near south end of Shore Acres Road

This hiking list has been developed by the Unitarian Universalist Outdoor Group, a member of the La Crescent-Hokah Driftless Drifters Hiking Club, and the First Congregational UCC Creation Care Committee. **These are self-led hikes (not church-sponsored), and hiking is at your own risk.** We have attempted to give you enough information about each hike to determine whether it is a good fit for your interest and abilities. Feel free to invite family members and friends to participate. Kids, accompanied by responsible adults, are welcome to join! Pets are discouraged for these hikes and are prohibited on some local trails.

Hikes will not occur if severe weather is in the forecast or if wet weather has left trails vulnerable to erosion, but no announcements regarding cancellations will be made. Always be prepared with enough water and snacks to meet your own needs. Consider using walking shoes or hiking boots; hiking poles can be helpful, though are not needed for easier hikes. Bug spray and tick repellent should also be considered.

Carpooling is encouraged, with a meet up location at the First Congregational Church parking lot (intersection of Main Street and Losey Blvd).

Please Note: A copy of this hiking schedule may be obtained by sending an email to LAXhikeschedule@icloud.com.

Other organized hiking opportunities in this area:

La Crescent-Hokah Driftless Drifters Hiking Club (weekly and monthly hikes)

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (Trail Trek Challenge, Hike of the Month)

Contact Dale Norris, Laura Moriarty, or Kris Lawson if you have any questions.

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