

Winter 2023-24 Hiking Schedule

December

Tues 12/5 Myrick Marsh Loop - La Crosse (**easy**): 2 miles, short, flat trail (partially paved)

Time: carpool departure at 9:30 (south end of First Congregational Church parking lot) or meet 9:45am at The Nature Place parking lot

Sat 12/23 Chad Erickson/Stry Park (**easy, paved trail**)

2.1 miles round trip, flat trail

Time: carpooling departure at 9:30am or meet 9:45am at south end of Chad Erickson trail (parking lot near 3700 Park Lane Dr - at intersection of Park Lane Dr. and Cliffside Dr.)

January

Tues 1/02 Goose Island, La Crosse County (**easy/moderate**): 3 miles round trip, flat (route is mostly paved)

Time: carpool departure at 9:30am or meet 10:00am at main parking lot by the camp store.

Sat 1/27 International Gardens/La Crosse River trails, Riverside Park, La Crosse (**easy/moderate**): 2 miles (3 mile option) round trip, flat trail

Time: carpool departure at 9:30am or meet 9:45am at International Garden parking lot

February

Tues 2/6 Halfway Creek, Holmen (**easy/moderate**)

3.2 miles round trip, mostly flat

Time: carpooling departure at 9:30am or meet 10:00am at Halfway Creek (park behind Holmen Library)

Sat 2/24 Mathy Quarry Loop (**moderate**)

2 miles for loop trail around the quarry (one downhill stretch, one uphill stretch) + side trail options

Time: carpooling departure at 9:30 or meet 9:45 am at the trailhead in the Mathy Quarry parking lot at the end of FA

Trail Difficulty

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*

This hiking list has been developed by the Unitarian Universalist Outdoor Group 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. Also, when hiking in the winter, please consider using traction devices for boots such as micro spikes or yaktrax, which can help reduce slips and falls.

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

