

Summer 2024 Hiking Schedule

June

Tuesday 6/4 Granddad Bluff Trail System – North Compass, 1909 and South Compass (easy/moderate): 2 miles with some gentle ups and downs.

Time: Hike begins at 9:00 at the parking lot on north side of Granddad Bluff Road. *Directions: proceed up Bliss Road and just before Alpine Inn take hairpin turn to right onto Granddad Bluff Road. Located on right side of road that has Granddad Park sign in front of it, just past house with all flags on rt side of road. No carpooling needed.*

Saturday 6/22 Halfway Creek, Holmen (moderate), mostly flat or gentle elevations along Halfway Creek. Out and back; distance determined by hikers' preference.

Time: Hike begins at 9:00 at the trailhead that begins behind Holmen Library. Carpool from UU parking lot at 8:30.

July

Tuesday 7/2 Lower Hixon Forest. Trail(s) to be determined by group preferences.

Time: Hike begins 9:00 from the Lower Hixon Forest parking lot. No carpooling necessary.

Saturday 7/27 McGilvary Seven Bridges. 3.5 miles round trip, fairly flat trail.

Time: Hike begins at 9:00 at trailhead (about 1.5 miles north of the Hwy 35/Amsterdam Prairie Road intersection). Carpooling from UU parking lot at 8:30.

August

Tuesday 8/6 Mathy Quarry Loop. Two miles for loop trail around the quarry.

Time: 9:00 am at trailhead in the Mathy Quarry parking lot at the end of County FA. Carpool from UU parking lot at 8:45.

Saturday 8/24 Winona – 2 miles moderate difficult trail that overlooks city of Winona. (Backup, flat paved trail around the lake).

Time: Carpool from UU at 8:30.

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*

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 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship parking lot (401 West Ave S La Crosse, WI).