

Fall 2024 Hiking Schedule

September

Tuesday 9/3: Upper Hixon - Stinky and Chicanery Trails. This 2.5-mile hike takes you through rolling hills, switchbacks and a lot of up and down through the forested bluff sides of Upper Hixon Forest. Plan for about a 1.5 hike with elevation gains of about 280 feet as we hike up and down and around this beautiful, forested trail.

Time: Carpool from UU parking lot at 8:30 or meet at 8:45 at Upper Hixon parking lot by the weather ball at N2788 County Rd FA

Saturday 9/28: Norskedalen, Coon Valley – This varied 1.5-mile loop goes through a majestic pine forest, past a gurgling spring and through a mature hardwood forest. Alternate or additional trails available. Possibly stop for lunch in Coon Valley after hiking.

Time: Carpool from UU parking lot at 8:30 or meet at 9:15 at the Norskedalen parking lot. Fee/donation towards this nonprofit is \$10 for 12 yr + and \$6.00 for 65+.

October

Tuesday 10/8: Halfway Creek, Holmen, 1.6 miles round trip, 90 feet elevation change.

Time: Carpool from UU parking lot at 8:30 am or meet at 9:00 am at Halfway Creek Trailhead which is behind the Holmen Library, 120 W Legion St.

Saturday 10/26: Great River Bluff St Park, MN. MN State Park sticker needed for your car, or carpool with someone that has a one. 2.3 miles round trip, 290 feet elevation change.

Time: Carpool from UU parking lot at 8:30 am or meet at 9:00 am at Great River Bluff SP parking lot. The first parking lot, which is about a half mile beyond the welcome center.

November

Tuesday 11/5: McGilvary Seven Bridges - Black River, between Holmen and Trempealeau (easy): 3.5 miles round trip, mostly flat trail.

Time: Carpool from UU parking lot at 9:30 am or meet at 10:00 am at the trailhead (about 1.5 miles north of the HWY 35/Amsterdam Prairie Road intersection).

Saturday 11/23: Chad Erickson/Stry Park (easy, paved trail) 2.1 miles round trip, flat trail.

Time: Carpool from UU parking lot 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.)

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).