What's Happening On Cravath & Trippe Lakes





Falling into fun with Parks & Rec

Loralei Bavuso, Journalist

October 25, 2026

Michelle Dujardin of the City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department helped host the Oct. 24 Moonlight Paddle at Cravath Lakefront Park to celebrate the Hunter's Moon. As the city transitions into the colder months, the event offers a glimpse into the department's efforts to provide seasonal activities and improve recreational opportunities for residents year round.



Danaya Love

Jan Bilgen and Jay Craggs canoeing to the shore after taking a quick lap around Cravath Lake at the very first Moonlit Paddle Night, Oct. 24

The City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department has offered seasonal activities such as ice fishing and ice skating. This year, the department introduced the Moonlight Paddle, giving residents an opportunity to explore the lakes by moonlight while enjoying s'mores and socializing around a fire. The free event also provided five boats for participants who did not have their own.

Article In Royal Purple

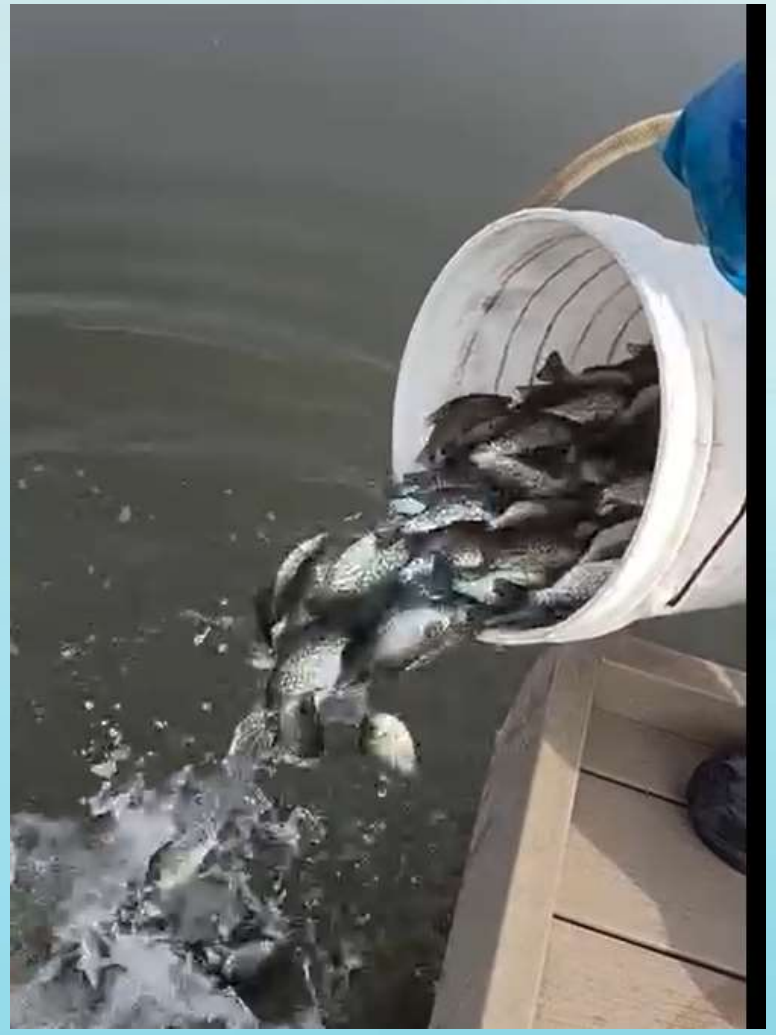






Fish Stocking- Friday, October 30th

- 500 Yearling Black Crappie's In Both Lakes
- 29 Year Northern Pike In Both Lakes
- Positive Responses on Social Media





UWW Class Updates

- The student projects are going pretty well overall. The projects that have lab work are done with sampling now and starting to analyze the samples for microplastics (in Cravath Lake water) and phosphorus (in sediments from across Trippe and Cravath).
- The student projects on bathymetry and Secchi depth (both Cravath Lake) are 1/3-1/2 done with sampling.





Kayak Launches







- Summerset was unable to fulfill the Kayak Launch portion of the pier project. Other options are being explored for Spring 2027

Fish Sticks

- **How Fish Sticks can benefit a lake**
- Improve fish habitat: Submerged branches provide shelter for young fish and places for fish to feed.
- Reduce shoreline erosion: Trees can help slow wave energy along protected shorelines, potentially reducing sediment entering the water.
- Support the food chain: Branches provide habitat for aquatic insects and other organisms that fish eat.
- Encourage a healthier ecosystem: Natural woody habitat helps restore some of the shoreline complexity that developed lakes often lack.
- Potentially improve water clarity: Where Fish Sticks reduce erosion, they may also reduce sediment entering the lake.

Suggested Locations Needed



FACT SHEET SERIES:

FISH STICKS

Healthy Lakes & Rivers

Bony Lake, Bayfield County - Pamela Toshner

MAINTENANCE

COSTS

- Range: $50 – $1300 per cluster of 3-5 trees, installed *(average = $890)*
- Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant funding available: *$1000 per Fish Sticks Cluster*

MATERIALS

- Whole, live trees from outside shoreland vegetation protection area
- Cables/cabling gear
- Heavy equipment including snowplow and chainsaw
- Safety gear

DNR PERMIT REQUIRED

FISH STICKS, an in-lake best practice (not eligible for rivers), are large woody habitat structures that utilize whole trees grouped together, resulting in the placement of more than 1 tree per 50 feet of shoreline. Fish Sticks are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged. Fish sticks are not tree drops since the trees utilized for the projects come from further than 35 feet from shore, thus they don't "rob from the bank" of trees that may otherwise grow and fall in naturally.

PURPOSE

This fish and wildlife habitat best practice creates food, shelter, and breeding areas for all sorts of creatures from small aquatic insects, to fish, to turtles, ducks, and songbirds. Fish Sticks can also help prevent bank erosion – protecting lakeshore properties and your lake.

HOW TO BUILD

It may be necessary to work with your local DNR fisheries biologist, county land and water conservation department, or landscaper to design and/or construct this practice. Logging companies may assist with tree supply, cutting, and transportation. Check with your local zoning department to determine if any permits are necessary.

Detailed guidance is found here: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishsticks.html.

1. Find a location

Ideal Fish Sticks sites have low ice energy – places like protected bays and shorelines leading to and from bays. High ice energy areas on lakes greater than 250 acres require alternate methods that ensure they remain in place.

Typically a single Fish Sticks cluster occupies 50 linear feet of shoreline, so it should be placed on an area of your lakeshore that is not used for pier(s) or swimming. If you have a lot of frontage, you may choose to add more than a single Fish Sticks cluster.

PROJECT TIMELINE

SITE PREP	INSTALLATION	MAINTENANCE	PROJECT END
2 MONTHS	< 1 DAY	Spring safety check	3 YEARS
winter ice road			cable removal

Shoreline Restoration Option



tallgrass RESTORATION, LLC





Illinois Office
2221 Hammond Dr., Schaumburg, IL 60173, T) 847-925-9830, F) 847-925-9840

Wisconsin Office
3129 E. County Rd. N, Milton, WI, 53563, T) 608-531-1768, F) 608-531-2227

Shoreline Restoration

- Improves Water Quality: Native vegetation naturally filters stormwater runoff before it enters the lakes.
- Reduces Shoreline Erosion: Deep-rooted plants stabilize soil and prevent sediment from washing into the water.
- Reduces Algae Growth: Helps limit phosphorus and nitrogen entering the lakes, which contribute to excessive algae growth.
- Improves Water Clarity: Reduces sediment entering the lakes, allowing more sunlight to reach beneficial aquatic plants.
- Creates Wildlife Habitat: Provides food, shelter, and breeding areas for fish, birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.
- Discourages Geese: Taller native vegetation creates a natural barrier that can discourage geese from gathering along shorelines.
- Enhances Natural Beauty: Creates attractive, sustainable shorelines that improve the appearance of our parks and lakes.
- Supports Long-Term Lake Health: Provides a natural, cost-effective approach to protecting Cravath and Trippe Lakes for future generations.



Buffalo Lake- Montello, WI

Future Programs Already Planned For 2027



