



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Group of the Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter Vol. 24 Issue 2

## Fox Valley Group Meetings

### September 12, 2024 - 7:00pm **The Cost of Utility Gaslighting**

Learn about We Energies' and WPS's proposed methane gas plants and electric rate increases.... and what you can do to take your power back! Presenter Cassie Steiner is the Senior Campaign Coordinator for the Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter. They work with volunteers and concerned residents on issue campaigns including public lands access, equitable transportation and the beyond coal campaign. They help members of the public in engaging in decision-making processes and grassroots activism.

### October 10, 2024 - 7:00pm **Air Toxics at Home and on the Road**

Presented by Jeff Myers who has recently retired from the DNR Air Program. He was the air toxics coordinator for many years. This should be a very interesting and enlightening program. The EPA says hazardous air pollutants are those pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental effects. EPA is working with state, local, and tribal governments to reduce air emissions of [188 toxic air pollutants](#) to the environment.

### November 14, 2024 - 7:00pm **Sacred Prehistoric Sites of the Fox Cities**

The Fox River waterway has seen active human habitation since the end of the last ice age. Indigenous cultures honored sacred spaces near springs, rivers, and lakes with petroglyphs (rock art), petroforms (rock arrangements), and earthen mounds. Through maps, aerial images, and early historic writings, Mark Walker will provide a virtual tour of these cultural and spiritual spaces. Presenter Mark Walker (trail name "TieDye") builds and maintains segments of the Ice Age Trail, monitors land with the Northeast WI Land Trust, and recently became a Wisconsin Master Naturalist.

### December 12, 2024 - 6:30pm **Holiday Party**

Please bring a dish to pass for a pot-luck, your place setting, drinks, any alcohol beverage, and a white elephant gift for the exchange. The party starts at 6:30 PM!! Please join us for good food, good conversation and a "mean" game of exchange. All in good fun. Enjoy the reactions as people select unopened gifts, or take prizes that are already opened. (About our white elephant gift exchange. Wrap up something you already own, but don't really care to keep for the "White Elephant Gift Exchange". It should be somewhat gift worthy, and can be funny or unusual.)

All programs are at the Girl Scout Building  
(next to Bubolz Nature Preserve)  
4693 N. Lynndale Drive, Appleton

Details and subject can change. Follow us at -  
[www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley)  
or [www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra](https://www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra)

## VOTE 2024!

by Karen Van Offeren

Between now and Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we'll be bombarded with political ads, commercials, surveys, poll results, etc. They'll tell us why to vote for particular candidates at the national, state and local levels.

The Fox Valley Sierra Group would like to help you make informed decisions as you prepare to vote.

First, if you have any questions regarding your voter registration, absentee voting or sample ballots, visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/>. This site provides the details regarding your basic election information.

From an environmental perspective, we have a few resources to offer.

### Sierra Club

To stay informed on conservation, social justice, health related and environmental issues and updates from across the country, visit the Sierra Club website at <https://sierraclub.org/>.

Additional information and politically related updates can be found on the Sierra Club Facebook page. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClub>.

### Sierra Club – Wisconsin Chapter

At the state level, the Sierra Club – Wisconsin Chapter has made endorsements. To view endorsements, to stay current on environmental issues impacting our state and to learn how our political officials are responding to them, visit the Wisconsin Chapter's website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/> or the direct link at <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbying-elections/political> and stay current on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubWI>

### Fox Valley Sierra Group

At the local level, the Fox Valley Sierra Group keeps you current on environmental issues impacting our region. We'll also let you know about events scheduled in the area.

Visit our website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley/> and stay current with our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra>

### Wisconsin Conservation Voters

Wisconsin Conservation Voters reports on priority environmental issues and legislation impacting our state.

They identify the senators and representatives that support conservation initiatives and those that don't. They also provide endorsements of assembly and senate candidates that they deem conservation champions and leaders in their communities.

They also provide a scorecard that lists every Wisconsin senate and assembly district, the elected official's name, the voting results for each piece of legislation, and that official's current session and lifetime conservation score.

For more information, visit the Wisconsin Conservation Voters website at <https://conservationvoters.org/>

### Most Importantly ...

### Stay informed.

**Verify the accuracy of  
your resources.**

**Vote!**

# Old Growth Forests in Wisconsin and Why They're Important

by Karen Van Offeren

When I hear the term old-growth forest, I imagine dense, green forests of ancient, majestic trees untouched by humans. And I used to believe that they no longer existed due to the logging days of the 18th and 19th centuries.

While it's true that only about 1% of Wisconsin's old-growth forests remain intact, they do technically exist. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

Old-growth forests are generally defined as unharvested or minimally harvested woodlands with the presence of trees older than an average age of 125 years. From a historical perspective, these trees have been growing since the first clearing of the Northwoods forests.

Additional features defining old-growth forests include:

- a diversity of plant and animal species,
- multi-layered vegetation (not just old trees),
- canopy gaps (meaning that sunlight can reach the forest floor),
- large snags and cavity trees (standing dead trees & trees with holes in them), and
- coarse woody habitat (large fallen logs and branches).

Old-growth forests are categorized into varying types. The most common types found in Wisconsin's Northwoods include:

## 1. Hemlock-hardwood

The most common type of old-growth forest found in Wisconsin, it's dominated by shade-tolerant eastern hemlocks. These forests are characteristically damp and shaded. Their understories are generally sparse and open.

## 2. Pine

Wisconsin's Northwoods pine forests tend to be concentrated in areas of sandy soil. Old white and red pine that survived logging and natural disasters are generally found on the shores and peninsulas of lakes as well as along the edges of streams and wetlands. These are multi-layered forests. A mix of shade and sun reaches their floors.

## 3. Northern hardwood

Historically, stands of old-growth northern hardwoods are found in northeastern Wisconsin. They grow in loamy soil and are dominated by shade-tolerant sugar maples. These forests tend to have more than twice as much coarse woody

debris, are multi-layered in height, and have dense understories filled with shrubs and wildflowers.

## 4. Swamp/Wetland conifers

The acidity of the soil determines the content of these forests.

-In more acidic soil, bog forests of black spruce are carpeted in sphagnum moss. As sphagnum moss restricts tree growth, a century old black spruce may only reach 10' in height.

-In less acidic soil, tamaracks may dominate. These wetlands can support a larger diversity of plant species. The tamaracks tend to grow taller than the black spruce, but do not reach significant heights due to being in a wetland environment.

-Cedar swamps are another wetland possibility. Cedar trees may appear to be young trees when in fact they are very old. A wide variety of orchids may be found in cedar swamps.

*Why is it important that old-growth forest habitats are identified and protected?*

These remaining old-growth forests provide benchmarks that allow us to better understand our natural environment. They help us realize the implications of disturbing natural landscapes and give us a glimpse into Wisconsin's past.

Old-growth forests provide dynamic ecosystems capable of supporting more unique and more diversified plants and animals compared to the younger forests. Older trees also preserve a gene pool of the strongest and most disease resistant trees ... trees that have survived and adapted over centuries of environmental change.

The Northwoods Land Trust is one of the organizations committed to identifying and protecting old-growth forests in Wisconsin's Northwoods. They do so in partnership with landowners and other organizations.

To learn more about the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) and their Old-Growth Forest Initiative, visit <https://northwoodslandtrust.org/>. They also provide information on old-growth forest sites to visit and explore.

You can find additional old-growth forest sites at: <https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/wisconsin/> or in *Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old-growth Forests in Wisconsin and Where to Find Them* by John Bates (offered through Manitowish River Press).





# The Common Loon: A Symbol of the Northwoods

(From the Wisconsin Chapter Sierra Club Website)

The common loon is a fascinating bird to see and hear on our northern Wisconsin lakes.

It has come to represent the wildness and untamed beauty of the Northwoods. Its haunting call is otherworldly, bringing a sense of tranquility and peace to many who have experienced it.



The loon population is declining in the upper Midwest. According to [The Loon Project](#), the loon population in northern Wisconsin has declined by 22% in the past 25 years, with the population shrinking by as much as 6% each year. If it keeps up at this rate, we will see noticeably fewer loons on northern Wisconsin lakes within the next 5-10 years.

Some of the reasons for this decline may be attributed to:

- Climate-change which has caused warmer temperatures and higher rain events. This reduces water clarity in lakes making it harder for loons to find food.
- Fertilizer runoff flowing into lakes from lakefront properties.
- Lead poisoning from loons ingesting lead sinkers.
- Habitat loss.

For actions we can take, check out the blog on the State Website. <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/sierra-club-wisconsin-our-blog>

Also view the Loon Project website at <https://loonproject.org> for more information on Loons

Plus check out these Other Important State Issues

- \* 100% Clean Energy and Moving Beyond Coal
- \* Moving beyond Oil to Clean Transportation
- \* Protecting Water Resources
- \* Protecting Our Forests & Wildlife
- \* Block Destructive Mining

These all can be found on [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](https://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

## Support your Fox Valley Sierra Group

Consider a Donation. Mail to, Fox Valley Group of the  
Sierra Club, 567 Oak St., Neenah, WI 54956

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**Thanks to all who stepped up and donated to us.  
Much appreciated!**

# Update: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

by Karen Van Offeren

In the Fox Valley Sierra Group's April newsletter, we reported on recent challenges faced by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

As a reminder, Knowles-Nelson is a behind-the-scenes environmental conservation program that allows conservation organizations and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land, build trails, maintain parks and boating facilities, and take care of our shorelands.

Gathering Waters, the statewide alliance for land trusts that serves as a unified voice for the land trust community, had shared that the Wisconsin Supreme Court would consider the Wisconsin Department of Justice's complaint that the Joint Finance Committee's practice of allowing a single, anonymous lawmaker to block any Knowles-Nelson grant for any reason as unconstitutional.

## Victory!

On July 5th, Gathering Waters reported that the Wisconsin Supreme Court had ruled 6-1 in favor of the Wisconsin DOJ's complaint.

The Court's ruling held that the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee could no longer obstruct conservation projects through anonymous objections and indefinite delays, proclaiming such actions as unconstitutional.

As Gathering Waters summarized, "This is a resounding victory that puts the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program back on track!"

They continued, "By reaffirming the constitutional separation of powers, the Court decisively eliminated the legislative obstruction that had nearly halted conservation efforts in recent years." Notably, this decision transcended ideological lines.

For more details on the Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruling, please visit <https://gatheringwaters.org/supreme-court-victory/>.

## Wisconsin Land Trust Days: Join the 7th annual celebration of the land trust community!

by Karen Van Offeren

Gathering Waters is excited to promote 2024's Land Trust Days! This year's celebration is comprised of 45 events hosted by 20 land trusts scattered across Wisconsin.

Land trusts do important work protecting Wisconsin's land, water and wildlife. Land Trust Days provides a wonderful way to connect with your local land trust(s) or to experience nature in a different part of the state.

While Land Trust Days started in July, it runs through September. There are many events remaining on this year's calendar.

A sampling of activities include:

- Hiking Wisconsin's prairies, forests or bluffs,
- Cycling through beautiful, peaceful countryside,
- Building part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail,
- Learning about cave and bat ecology,
- Searching for plants and pollinators,
- Foraging for mushrooms, and
- Collecting native prairie seeds.

2024's featured destination: the Driftless Trail

This is the site of an ongoing project by the Driftless Area Land Conservancy. Its goal is to connect three state parks in Iowa County through a 50-mile hiking loop. Four trail segments are currently open: one north of Dodgeville, one north of Ridgeway, and two on the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's Taliesin estate south of Spring Green.

Join in celebrating the 2024 Wisconsin Land Trust Days! A full list of the remaining events can be found at <https://gatheringwaters.org/land-trust-days/>.

# Fall Outings

September 7 • Saturday • 11:00am

## Explore Fonferek Glen - Brown County Park, 2825 Dutchman Rd, Green, Bay, WI 54311

Fonferek Glen is an out of the way, small park in Brown County with a 30 foot waterfall. Come explore this piece of our Niagara Escarpment in early September! The walk at the top is about a mile long and is rated as an easy hike. There will be time to explore down to the creek bed if you so desire. This part of the hike is rated as intermediate. Dress for the weather and insects. Tennis shoes or hiking boots are strongly recommended.

We will meet at 11 am on Saturday, September 7, 2024. Bring a snack or a lunch and we can picnic at the park to end our time together.

Please register at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley).  
Questions: [marjiefendt@gmail.com](mailto:marjiefendt@gmail.com)

September 21 • Saturday • 10:00am

## Cherney Maribel Caves County Park

Cherney Maribel Caves County Park offers many caves and crevices that are open and accessible by a series of trails to the public. Cherney Maribel Caves County Park occupies 75 acres on the West Twin River north of the Village of Maribel in the Town of Cooperstown. A rugged cliff line, generally paralleling the river, separates the gently rolling, partially wooded upland area from the wooded lowland adjacent to the river. Picnic tables, grills, a picnic shelter, toilet facilities, and playground equipment are provided in or near the picnic area. Additional trails are located in the area of the park above the cliff line. A staircase and trail system has been constructed for greater accessibility to the scenic lowland area consisting of the caves and river.

- Location- 15401 County Rd R, Maribel, Wisconsin
- Gather in the Lower parking area.
- Maribel would appreciate a \$5 donation per person.
- All ages welcome and it is pet friendly (must be on leash at all times)
- Bring a flashlight, wear comfortable old walking shoes, and remember you might get dirty!
- This will be a rain or shine event, so dress appropriately.

Please register at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley).  
Or contact Peter Jobe, 920-460-5915, [pjobe1@gmail.com](mailto:pjobe1@gmail.com)

October 5 • Saturday • 8:30am

## Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon - Hartman Creek State Park

Come hike the beautiful trails of Hartman Creek in Waupaca County and help support the trail with donations used locally for trail development, maintenance and outreach.

- Meet at the Hartman Lake Shelter
- Registration: 8:30 - 11 am; \$5 per person/\$15 family of 4 or more
- Hiking north of Windfeldt to Hwy 54, Lengths: 3 to 12 mile out and back or anything in between
- Water stations along the trail
- Refreshments/snacks

Questions?: [portagewaupacacochapter@iceagetrail.com](mailto:portagewaupacacochapter@iceagetrail.com)

Come on your own or if you want to hike together contact Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013  
Text or call, [mhjerstedt17@gmail.com](mailto:mhjerstedt17@gmail.com).  
I plan to start hiking at 9:00.

October 12 • Saturday • 10:00am

## Plover River Ice Age Trail Hike

Hike this beautiful popular segment which highlights a dramatic traverse of a terminal moraine and the peaceful Plover River. The trail includes hardwood and cedar forests, lowlands, spring ponds. There is a stone crossing of the river, stepping stones and walkways. The trail can be treacherous because of the rocks and roots. There will be wet areas. The Ice Age Trail Alliance just updated the trail this year.

- Depending on number hikers & vehicles, we can do an in and out of 6.2 miles, or carpool one way 3.1 or 5.9 miles.
- Intermediate skill level.
- Dress for the weather, bring good shoes/boots, water and a lunch.

Please register at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley).

Or contact Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013, [mhjerstedt17@gmail.com](mailto:mhjerstedt17@gmail.com)

November 9 • Saturday • 9:00am

## Morning Hike at the Wild Ones Center and Guckenber-Sturm Preserve

Meet at the Wild Ones Center parking lot at 2285 W Butte Des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah, WI . This is located just east of Highway 41 and south of Prospect Avenue.

We will hike the trails at the Wild Ones Center and enjoy a fall morning among many native plants. We will also visit the adjacent Guckenber-Sturm Preserve which is owned by the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust. Plan to hike for about two hours with many stops to look at and identify plants. Be prepared to have wet feet as the area is low and can be wet.

Please register at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley).  
Or Contact Penny Bernard Schaber at [pennybernardschaber@athenet.net](mailto:pennybernardschaber@athenet.net) to sign up.

For more information or additional outings,  
check out our facebook page  
or our website -  
[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley)  
Click on the Meeting and Outings Link



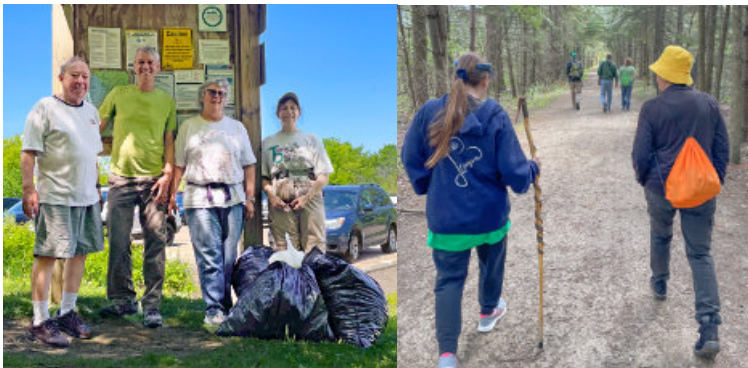
Spring/Summer Fox Valley Outings



Earth Day tree planting at High Cliff State Park



Restored wetland tour on the Oneida Nation Land



Garlic Mustard pulling at High Cliff State Park

Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve hike



Loop the Little Lake Trail hike

## New Mountain-Bay State Trail Information Center in Shawano

At 83 miles, the Mountain-Bay trail is one of the longest rail-trail conversions in the state. The vast majority of the trail, 53 miles, runs through Shawano County, with the city of Shawano approximately “midway on the Mountain Bay.”

Although the trail is about 30 years old, there has never been a trail information center in Shawano County. Two trail advocacy groups, the Friends of Mountain Bay Trail – Shawano County and Shawano Pathways, aimed to remedy that. After fundraising for about a year, with a lead gift from the ThedaCare Foundation, and generous gifts from the Shawano community and significant contributions from volunteer labor, the groups are pleased to announce the trail center is open and ready for visitors.



The information center occupies the middle section of a historic railroad depot immediately adjacent to the trail where it crosses Main Street and where there is plenty of parking. The center has bathrooms, wi-fi, a water bottle filler, a bike repair station,



a new concrete approach with colorful Adirondack chairs, racks with local information, maps and historic railroad displays.

Nancy Brown-Koeller, president of Shawano Pathways, stated that she hopes the center “will encourage more people to use the trail and consider biking to or from Shawano. It will also be a great stopping point for through-cyclists who are going from Weston to Howard by trail. It’s a great gateway to the Shawano community which has many parks, other trails, restaurants and places to stay.”

A ribbon cutting is planned for 9am, Saturday, September 28. Attendees are invited to walk or bike the trail after the ribbon cutting and return for refreshments including apples provided by the Hammen Orchard.

More information contact, Nancy Brown-Koeller, [nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com](mailto:nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com), 715-853-6258



## Sierra Club Calendars

Stay up to date and organized with a beautiful Sierra Club 2025 calendar!

- All calendars must be pre-ordered
- The discounted cost is the same as last year, \$16 for Wilderness wall calendar and \$17 for Engagement calendar
- To order, email Diane Mandler - [dsmandler@gmail.com](mailto:dsmandler@gmail.com) by September 12.
- She will mail calendars for whatever the post office charges
- Questions? Email Diane at above address



## Environmental Concerns Continue in Green Lake County

by Karen Van Offeren

Green Lake County, located in south-central Wisconsin, is home to beautiful Green Lake.



For the past couple of years, the Green Lake Conservancy, the Green Lake Association and other organizations and individuals concerned with the environmental safety of the area have been trying to stop development by Kopplin & Kinas, a Green Lake company specializing in road building, earthmoving and aggregate production.

Back in July 2022, Kopplin & Kinas was granted a conditional use permit (CUP) to develop the Skunk Hollow Mine in Green Lake County. However, an appeal was filed. In December 2022, the appeal was upheld as the company failed to satisfy 5 of the 13 legal standards for a CUP to mine land located within a Farmland Preservation District.

In 2024, Kopplin & Kinas filed for a CUP from Green Lake County to create an 80-acre quarry and manufacturing operation, the K Quarry, just a half mile from the site of the Skunk Hollow Mine.

Several environmental concerns again supported the denial of this CUP request. They include:

- Potential acid rock drainage,
- Location next to a liquid propane facility,
- Potential release of arsenic into area groundwater,
- Inconsistencies with the intent of the Farmland Preservation District zoning and failure to explore alternative sites, and
- Preservation and protection of Green Lake and all the streams and creeks that feed it



Despite opposition expressed by the Green Lake Conservancy and others, Kopplin & Kinas was issued the conditional use permit for the K Quarry in July 2024.

In response, the Green Lake Conservancy released the following statement.

While we are disappointed with the Green Lake County Land Use Planning & Zoning Committee's decision to approve the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the County K Quarry, we have reached the difficult decision not to challenge it. Considering this approval was within the scope of the County's current master plan, it highlights the need to develop a revised master plan that recognizes and protects an environmental corridor within the Green Lake Watershed.

While many questions remain about the decision, the CUP does include many conditions intended to safeguard water quality. It will be critical to monitor the developments and ensure that these conditions are being strictly adhered to for many years to come.

For more information on this issue, visit <https://greenlakeconservancy.org>.

For more information on the environmental importance of Green Lake and the Big Green Lake Watershed, visit <https://www.greenlakeassociation.org/about-our-lake>.

# Do's and Don'ts of Curbside Recycling in the Tri-County Area

*In April we had Jordan Hiller, Recycling and Solid Waste Program Coordinator for Outagamie County speak to us. It was very informative. Here is a guide to follow.*

Recycling is a great way to reduce waste and help the environment, but it can be tricky to know what goes where. Here are some essential do's and don'ts for curbside recycling in the Tri-County area (Outagamie, Brown, and Winnebago Counties) to make sure your efforts count!



## The Do's of Curbside Recycling

1. **Do Rinse Your Containers:** Clean out any food or liquid residue from bottles, cans, and jars. A quick rinse will do the trick and helps prevent contamination of other recyclables.
2. **Do Recycle These Items:**
  - Paper: Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, cardboard & cartons.
  - Plastic: Household bottles, jugs, and jars – Dairy containers & lids, Produce, bakery, & deli containers & lids
  - Metal: Aluminum cans, tin cans, steel cans
  - Glass: Food & beverage bottles and jars.
3. **Do Flatten Your Cardboard:** Break down boxes to save space in your recycling bin and to make it easier for the recycling facility to process. 2'x2' is best.
4. **Do Keep Lids Attached:** Keep the caps and lids on plastic bottles and containers. This helps prevent small pieces from getting lost during the recycling process and ending up on our glass line.
5. **Do Check Local Guidelines:** Recycling rules can vary, so always check your local guidelines provided by the Tri-County Recycling Facility to ensure you're following the correct procedures.



## The Don'ts of Curbside Recycling

1. **Don't Bag Your Recyclables:** Items should be placed loosely in the bin. Plastic bags can tangle in sorting machinery and cause disruptions at the facility.
2. **Don't Recycle These Items:**
  - Plastic Bags: These should be taken to special drop-off locations, often found at grocery stores and large retail chains.
  - Styrofoam: This includes packing peanuts and foam containers. **\*\***(Styrofoam can be brought into the Outagamie County Resource Recovery Park FREE of charge during normal business hours.)
  - Electronics: These should be taken to designated e-waste recycling centers. All three counties offer E-waste collection. Fees may apply.
  - Food Waste: This contaminates other recyclables and should be composted if possible.
3. **Don't Include Hazardous Materials:** Items such as lithium-ion batteries, chemicals, and propane tanks should not be placed in your curbside bin. These items need to be taken to hazardous waste disposal sites.
4. **Don't Recycle Non-Recyclable Plastics:** Avoid putting plastic items such as certain toys, hangers, and plastic utensils.
5. **Don't Wish-Cycle:** This means putting items in the recycling bin hoping they can be recycled. When in doubt, throw it out to avoid contaminating the recycling stream.



## Recycling Tips for Success

- **Tip 1: Keep a Recycling Reference:** Keep a list of recyclable and non-recyclable items near your recycling bin as a quick reference guide.
- **Tip 2: Reduce and Reuse First:** Before recycling, think about reducing your waste and reusing items. Bring reusable bags to the store, use refillable water bottles, and repurpose containers.
- **Tip 3: Spread the Word:** Encourage friends and family to follow proper recycling practices. The more people who recycle correctly, the better it is for our environment.
- **Tip 4: Use our Resources:** Download the Betterbin app on your phone to scan the bar codes of virtually any product to see how to dispose of it properly. If it doesn't have a bar code visit our website and use our Waste Wizard tool. Simply search your material by name to be given detailed instructions on how to dispose of it properly.

By following these simple do's and don'ts, you can help make recycling more efficient and effective in the Tri-County area. Let's all do our part to keep our communities clean and green!

Fox Valley Sierra Group  
Of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

567 Oak Street  
Neenah, WI 54956

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[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley)

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### Outings

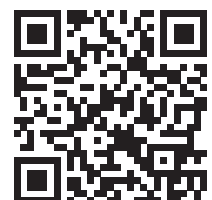
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