

In This Issue

1. Dane County and UW-Extension Debut 'Garden Basics and Beyond' Short Course
2. March 5th Green Thursday Film: *A Fierce Green Fire*
3. Support Rock River Coalition on March 3rd Big Share
4. Fitchburg Launches New Mobile App
5. Fitchburg Green and Complete Streets Forum Set for April 9th
6. Spring Waterway Cleanup Set for April 18th
7. Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program Provides Discounts on Native Plants, Deadline March 16th
8. Electronics Recycling, Shred Day & Clean Sweep Events Set for May 9 from 8-11 a.m.
9. Volunteer Recruitment Underway for 2015 Stream Monitoring
10. Brush and Yard Waste Collection Begins April 13th

1. Dane County UW-Extension Debuts Spring 'Garden Basics and Beyond' Short Course *Register Today, only 12 spots remain*

Dane County Extension will offer a short course on gardening March 3 through April 14, 2015 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Dane County UW-Extension office on Madison's east side. Speakers include UWEX county staff, Master Gardener volunteers, local experts and UW specialists. The class fee of \$130 includes a set of handout materials. A limited number of scholarships are available for low-income residents or first-time homebuyers, courtesy of Dane County UW-Extension and the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association (MAMGA) in memory of Shelley Ryan of *The Wisconsin Gardener* WPT program. For more course details or to register, visit <http://dane.uwex.edu/horticulture/gardenbasics/>.



Gardening short course topics include:

- March 3 – Soils and composting
- March 10 – Plant Propagation
- March 17 – Tree Planting, Pruning and Selection
- March 24 – Native Plants for Gardens and Pollinators
- March 31 – Vegetables
- April 7 – Annuals and Perennials
- April 14 – Weeds and Wildlife

2. Fitchburg Green Thursday Film: *A Fierce Green Fire* Thursday, March 5, 6:30-8 p.m., Fitchburg Public Library – Room A/B

Not to be confused with the film about Aldo Leopold called *Green Fire*, the documentary film *A Fierce Green Fire* shares the history of the environmental movement, from conservation to climate change, exploring how disparate environmental issues built into the largest and perhaps most crucial movement the world has ever seen. Join us to view this documentary followed by discussion and refreshments.

3. Support Rock River Coalition on March 3rd Big Share

The Rock River Coalition (RRC) is proud to be a new member of Community Shares of Wisconsin and The Big Share on March 3rd. RRC plans to use all proceeds from this giving day to provide critical support for their citizen stream monitoring program. Proceeds will be used to provide equipment, training and support for new monitoring teams. It costs \$280 to equip a team and much more to train and provide support.

The Rock River Coalition is particularly interested in developing new teams in Dodge, Washington, Jefferson, Walworth and Rock counties.

For more information, or to pledge your support, go to <http://thebigshare.razoo.com/story/Rock-River-Coalition>. Pledges can be made at any time, up to and through March 3rd. Thank you all for your support, we couldn't do our work without our members and our volunteers!

4. Fitchburg Launches New Mobile App for Android Users, iPhone App Coming Soon

The City of Fitchburg is excited to announce the launch of a new Android app - FitchburgWI! This app is full of features that give citizens easy access to City news, events and announcements, meeting information, the City's Facebook and Twitter sites, a way to sign up for notifications and emergency alerts, library information, rec programs, the staff directory and much more! The app even offers citizens a way to report a concern by submitting a photo using a map feature. The app is free and available for download for Android mobile devices (the app will be available for iPhone users soon). To download the FitchburgWI app on your Android smartphone, please click on the link provided on your mobile device: [Access Mobile App Here](#).

5. Fitchburg Green and Complete Streets Forum Set for April 9th

The Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission will host a forum on Green and Complete Streets on Thursday, April 9th from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Fitchburg Library in Room A/B. Bernard Lenz, Assistant City Engineer, will talk about the City of La Crosse's efforts to develop a Green Infrastructure Program through integrating green infrastructure practices into their Complete Streets process.

While a Complete Street improves health, safety, and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities, the "green" component of La Crosse's 2012 Green Complete Streets Ordinance ensures environmental sustainability through storm water management, landscaping, and air quality improvements that are integral to the process as well.

All Complete Streets look different, but common features include sidewalks, bike lanes, raised crosswalks, bus shelters and crossings, refuge medians, wide shoulders, special bus lanes, sidewalk bulb-outs and audible pedestrian signals. A "Green" Complete Street also adds green infrastructure such as porous pavement, grass swales, bio-retention basins, trees, and vegetated boulevards and medians.

Green Complete Streets make it easier and more enjoyable to cross the street, walk to shops, or bicycle to work while cleaning the environment, and thus facilitate a healthier, active city; but making that change to a Green Complete Street design process can be difficult. Mr. Lenz will share how La Crosse integrated green infrastructure into the Complete Street process and describe some of the lesson learned.

For more information on Complete Streets, please visit www.completestreets.org.

6. Spring Waterway Cleanup Set for April 18th

Fitchburg's Spring Waterway Cleanups for 2015 are tentatively planned for Saturday, April 18th from 9am–11am, rain or shine.* A cleanup will be held on the north side of Dunn's Marsh along Crescent Road. There may be additional cleanup groups forming in your area, coordinated by your neighborhood association. Anyone interested in being a group leader may contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov or (608) 270-4264 to coordinate a cleanup in your neighborhood.

Fitchburg will provide refreshments and giveaways to all participants. Volunteers are encouraged to wear boots and bring work gloves. Restroom facilities are often not convenient to the planned cleanup locations.

*Additional details on the Waterway Cleanups will be posted at www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater closer to the events.

7. **Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program Provides Discounts on Native Plants, Deadline March 16th**

Now in its 11th year, the Plant Dane! cost-share program provides homeowners, schools and nonprofit organizations with native plants at reduced prices to establish rain gardens, native plantings and prairie restoration through a gift from the Graham-Martin Foundation. The Plant Dane! Program has provided tens of thousands of plants, resulting in hundreds of acres being planted with native species throughout Dane County.

Once established, natives do not require the maintenance and watering inputs that turf and ornamentals need. Native wildflowers bloom season round and provide great habitat value for beneficial insects and birds.



Plants are \$1.80 each, less than half the normal retail price. Each species must be ordered in multiples of four. Program details and order forms are available online at www.myfairlakes.com/plantdane.aspx. Participants complete the order form online, then print out the completed form and mail it with a check. All payments with orders must be received no later than March 16, 2015. Plants will be delivered on May 30, 2015.

Fitchburg residents who install and maintain rain gardens are eligible for a reduction in their stormwater utility bill of \$4 to \$12 per year. For more details, visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater.

8. **Electronics Recycling, Shred Day & Clean Sweep Events Set for May 9 from 8-11 a.m.**

The City of Fitchburg, Oak Bank, Pellitteri Waste Systems, Surplus-IT, Dane County Clean Sweep, and Veolia have scheduled Fitchburg's Spring 2015 Electronics Recycling, Shred Day, & Clean Sweep Events on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Information about other options for recycling may be found in Fitchburg's 2015 Recycling Guide on Fitchburg's web page at: www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste. Hard copies are available in the lobby of Fitchburg City Hall.

9. **Volunteer Recruitment Underway for 2015 Stream Monitoring**

Fitchburg has an abundance of streams and waterways in both natural and urban areas that make our community a special place to live, work and play. Stream sampling is an important way for us to keep an eye on the health of those streams and rivers. The City is looking for volunteer stream monitors to check stream conditions once a month from April to October at three sites in Fitchburg: Nine Springs Creek, Murphy's Creek and Swan Creek.



Monitors check for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity. They also take grab samples in a jar and transport them to the laboratory at the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District where it is analyzed for phosphorus and total suspended solids (TSS). Volunteer monitors also enter their data into a database used by local and state officials to identify problem areas and strategies to improve water quality. All equipment and training is provided through the Rock River Coalition. For safety reasons, monitors should work in pairs.

Stream monitoring is part of Fitchburg's Creek Supporter Pledge Program, so Fitchburg residents who volunteer to monitor a stream would be eligible for a reduction in their stormwater utility bill of \$4 to \$12 per year. For more details, visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater.

To volunteer, contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4264.

10. Brush Collection Begins April 13th

Residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection from Pellitteri Waste Systems and apartment complexes who pay for City brush collection service will receive fourteen curbside brush collections between April and November.

Brush should be placed on your driveway or terrace but should not be placed in the street. You should not place brush at the curb until the weekend before the Monday of the collection week. Leaving brush at the curb for extended periods, or placing brush at the curb long before the collection can result in a \$177 fine.

Please have brush at the curb by 6:30 a.m. Monday on the week of collection, regardless of which day your refuse and recyclables are collected.

Pellitteri collects brush with a packer type truck. Twigs less than 3/4-inch diameter (thumb-size) are considered yard waste and should be disposed of accordingly.

Brush Collection Requirements

- The maximum length for brush is 5 feet long. Longer branches will not be collected!
- The maximum branch size is 6 inches in diameter. Larger branches are considered firewood and will not be collected.
- Lay brush perpendicular to the street with the cut end toward the street. Pile brush neatly.
- Do not bring brush to the Recycling Drop Off Site. Violators will receive citations.

Please contact Public Works at publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4260 if you have any questions.

2015 Brush Collection Schedule	
Week of:	
April 13	August 3
April 27	August 24
May 11	September 14
May 26	September 28
June 8	October 12
June 22	October 26
July 13	November 16
Actual collection dates may depend on weather.	

11. Yard Waste Collection Begins April 13th

Yard waste includes leaves and grass clippings, twigs less than 3/4-inch diameter (thumb-size), as well as non-woody garden material, such as flowers, weeds, and garden waste.

Residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection from Pellitteri Waste Systems will receive four curbside collections for yard waste in 2015. Spring yard waste collection will take place the weeks of April 13 and May 11. Fall yard waste collection will take place the weeks of October 26 and November 16.

Yard waste must be placed in a reusable container or bag no larger than 50 gallons or 50 lbs and at the curb by 6:30am Monday morning of the collection week, regardless of which day your refuse and recyclables are collected. Yard waste should be placed on your driveway or terrace, but cannot be placed in the street. No loose material or material in cardboard boxes will be collected.

