



Ellen Denzer-McSwain



Ready for the onslaught

Homestead Happenings

Homestead Halloween involved warmer costumes last year, but still had a good turnout. Above, a group of trick or treaters enjoyed a wagon ride in the park. FOPL contributed candy to the event and a member dressed up (top right) to hand out candy at the Secret Garden along the Bookworm Trail.

Usually the friends group assists with an ice fishing contest during the Hot Air Affair, but the mild Winter weather led to unsafe ice at that time. In fact, according to resident Pat Collins, the lake didn't completely freeze over until Jan 7. The great-granddaughter of the homesteaders got one day with her kick sled out on 6 inches of ice (Top) after several nights of below zero temps. Mindful of her ancestors' story of encountering open water even with thick enough ice to support two horses, adults, and sleigh with iron runners, she wisely stuck close to shore.

Annual Meeting
FOPL annual meeting will be May 10th at 5pm at the playground pavilion in the park. Inclement weather location will be the park office in the welcome center (red building at entrance). Public welcome.

New Site Manager

Dustin Timm is the new property manager for Homestead.

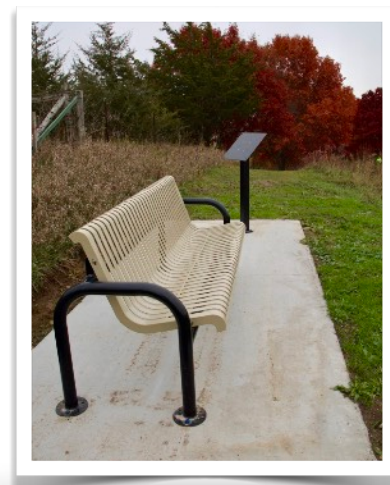


I've been with St. Croix County for 5.5 years. I have a background in residential construction project management – and after the housing market crash of 2008, I transitioned over to building & equipment maintenance. I currently reside outside of Spring Valley WI with my daughters Macie (12) and Kendra (9). I enjoy many outdoor activities during all 4 seasons from cooking maple syrup in the spring, to fishing in the summer hunting in the fall and snowmobiling in the winter. Being outdoors is something I have always enjoyed, so when the Homestead Park Property Manager position became available, there was no hesitation to apply and pursue the position. I've been able to transition into the position very confidently with the help of JR. He did a fantastic job of operating the park and keeping so many things organized and up to date.



Additional Benches

Small benches have been placed along some of the side loop trails where there is a scenic vista. The one above is along Thomas' Trace and has lovely views in all directions. The one below is along a side loop of the Bookworm Trail and over looks the prairie.



NEW EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

Several educational signs have been added around the park trails—especially the Bookworm Trail.

