

Guidelines for Groups

Wehr Nature Center is 220 acres of nature preserve and an education center located in Whitnall Park. Wehr is open to the public year round and hosts hundreds of educational programs and special events throughout the year. These programs and special events, along with paid rentals of our Gardner Room and newly remodeled amphitheater and fire pit make our schedule challenging. For all of these reasons, any groups wishing to visit our facility *must* pre-register.

Wehr's nature preserve is home to a variety of animals and plants native to Wisconsin. Some of these plants and animals are delicate and they all require respectful treatment under the principles of **Leave No Trace**.

1. Plan ahead and prepare – wear sturdy shoes for our wood-chipped trails
2. Travel on durable surfaces (trails) – please stay on designated trails
3. Dispose of waste properly (pack it in, pack it out) –We cannot leave trash cans outside and must have staff available to accommodate groups and their waste.
4. Leave what you find – if everyone picked a flower, there wouldn't be any left!
5. Minimize campfire impacts – no campfires allowed outside of our fire pit which requires a rental contract
6. Respect wildlife – help keep our animals wild by not feeding them or leaving trash behind.
7. Be considerate of other visitors – Wehr is a natural area with many areas to visit and view wildlife in scenic settings. Children must be supervised.

Wehr Nature Center and its preserve is designated “special use” area. We have our own rules along with the *Leave No Trace* principles stated above. This table states our rules and reasons why. ***Thank-you for your respect.***

Travel on durable surfaces	Please stay on designated trails to protect delicate plants and animals
Pets are prohibited at Wehr Nature Center	Dogs and other pets frighten wildlife; our purpose is to educate people about the natural world
Do not collect plants or animals	They are here for everyone to enjoy
Fishing is not allowed	Fish are an important part of Wehr's ecosystem

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Bicycles and jogging are prohibited on trails	Both are dangerous and disruptive to hikers
No alcohol permitted on the Wehr Nature Center grounds	Respect for other patrons and wildlife
Pay your parking fee in the Nature Center building – or by registering ahead by phone	Much of Wehr Nature Center’s space is available for rental. Your group could interfere with a potential renter on the property if not registered

Available for Rental (registration and permission is *required* for use by groups):

Marilyn J. Gardner Room – The Gardner Room is a large multi-purpose room used for educational programs and private special events.

Newly renovated Outdoor Amphitheater and Fire Pit – The fire pit provides a great places for friends and visitors to come together. Our outdoor amphitheater, located alongside the fire pit, allows for educational entertainment and outdoor group festivities. *Must be rented prior to use.*

Fee Free (\$5.00 per car parking fee applies)

Mallard Lake Accessible Deck – Donated and built in 2011, the deck allows visitors an up-close look at Mallard Lake’s beautiful view.

Trails – Wehr has over five miles of maintained trails which loop through and link the Nature Center’s natural communities: the Woodland, Oak Savanna, Prairie, Wetland, and Lake. The Nature Center trails are open from sunrise to sunset 7 days a week. Our trails are a favorite of white-tail deer, turkey, many song birds, beaver, raccoons, and many more.