

Kickapoo Valley Reserve WINTER UPDATE

Bridge 18 - KVR

FREE
ADMISSION

EVERYONE
WELCOME

WINTER
FAMILY FUN



SNOWSCULPTURE * 5K RESOLUTION RUN * SMOOSH RACES *
WINTER CAMPING RENDEZVOUS - SLED DOG DEMOS * WINTER SPORTS
DEMOS * FROZEN TURKEY BOWLING * HIKING WITH LLAMAS
* HOCHUNK SNOW SNAKE COMPETITION *
HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES * LIVE RAPTORS * SAUNA * SLEDDING *
WINTER GAMES * GUIDED HIKES & TALKS * STORYTELLING
* CHILI AND BREAD CONTEST *
SILENT AUCTION * RAFFLES * CONCESSIONS

JANUARY 11, 2025



S3661 STATE ROAD 131 LA FARGE, WI

KICKAPOOVALLEY.WI.GOV

Kickoff to the 25th Anniversary of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve

INSIDER TOPICS

4 & 5 - EDUCATION CORNER

10 & 11 - PROTECTING THE NIGHT SKY

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KVR

DEC 24 & 25 | Visitor Center Closed
DEC 31 & JAN 1 | Visitor Center Closed
JAN 1 | Begin KVR 25th Anniversary Year Celebration!
JAN TBD | Youth Ski Club Begins
JAN TBD | Nature Bound Childrens Immersion
JAN 1 | Fat Tire Bike Trails Open - Weather Permitting
JAN 2 | Canvases available at the Visitor Center
JAN 8-FEB 26 | Wednesdays Nature Bound Winter
JAN 11 | WINTER FESTIVAL 10am - 4pm
JAN 11 | Driftless Dialogue - RAPTORS w/ Live Birds
JAN 13 | 5:30pm Education & Tourism Committee Mtg
JAN 14 | 5:30pm Land Management Committee Mtg
JAN 16 | 6pm KRMB Mtg
FEB 13 | 5:30pm Education & Tourism Committee Mtg
FEB 20 | 6pm KRMB Mtg 6pm
FEB 24 | Creative Communities Canvases Due to VC
MAR 1 | Creative Communities Exhibit Grand Opening
MAR 1 | 5pm Online Canvas Auction Opens!
MAR 3 | 6-8pm Ephemeral Art Series
MAR 10 | 6-8pm Ephemeral Art Series
MAR 17 | 6-8pm Ephemeral Art Series
MAR 19-APR 30 | Nature Bound Spring
MAR 20 | 6pm KRMB Mtg
MAR 22 | Last day Creative Communities Exhibit
MAR 23 | 5pm Creative Communities Online Auction Closes
MAR 24 | 6-8pm Mondays in March Art Series
MAR 31 | 6-8pm Mondays in March Art Series
APR 19-26 | EARTH WEEK CELEBRATION
APR 19-26 | Garlic Mustard Gathering
APR 19-26 | Annual Roadside Cleanup
JUN 7 | 25th Celebration Rededication Ceremony

DIRECTOR'S DISCOURSE

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING

Reflecting on 2024

Jason Leis - Executive Director

It's hard to believe that I have been in the Executive Director position for almost a year now. Reflecting on this past year, I think we have made some important progress, with much left to do!

I appreciate all the kind words, helping hands and expert insight we have received along the way. I want to thank all who contribute to the betterment of the KVR including our wonderful volunteers, the Friends group, our Ho-Chunk Nation management partners and the dedicated staff that take care of this special place.

As the Winter Solstice reminds us to set intentions for the season ahead, I encourage you to renew your annual pass and take the time to enjoy the amazing gem that is the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season! Join me in scattering kindness, respect and native prairie seed in 2025!

Thank You to these Tree Sponsors



- Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve
- Sharon Meissner
- James Marvin & Jane Weiss
- Amos Biermann
- Sue & Chris Baudhuin
- Christine Wright
- M. Vivian Krenz
- R. Michael Elkins



2025 KVR ANNUAL PASSES ARE AVAILABLE!

PSST....THEY MAKE A GREAT GIFT!



WI State Park passes do not apply on the KVR

Employment Opportunities

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve is taking applications for the following positions:

Property Manager
Police Officer
Nature Based Instructors
Field Crew



Learn more about being a part of the team that preserves and protects the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

<http://kvr.state.wi.us/Get-Involved/Employment-Opportunities>



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

WE  VOLUNTEERS!

A DAY OF SERVICE

On October 2, 2024, nearly 50 volunteers from Dairyland Power Cooperative and Vernon Electric Cooperative spent time at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve for their Day of Service. Dairyland started their Day of Service in 2023 featuring six service projects across Dairyland's four-state service territory. We spoke with Dana Bolwerk and Brad Foss with Dairyland to hear about their experience at the Reserve.

Why did Dairyland Power Cooperative choose to volunteer at the Reserve?

When selecting sites, event coordinators prioritize locations that offer multiple projects suitable for a range of skills and abilities. Two employees at Vernon Electric Cooperative recommended the Reserve. Given the Reserve's proximity to La Crosse, we anticipated a high level of interest from employees eager to volunteer.

What volunteer activities did you do?

We did invasive plant and brush removal along trails; prepared and set up for the 2024 Dam Challenge Triathlon; and Kickapoo River cleanup where volunteers utilized canoes to help collect and remove debris along the river. Canoeing and collecting debris on the river seemed to be the favorite activity.

Would you recommend volunteering at the Reserve?

Absolutely. The Reserve is a gem, and we are lucky to have a place that allows us to explore and enjoy many unique features of the Driftless Region. Jason Leis, the Executive Director, and the team were great to work with leading up to the Day of Service and were very accommodating to such a large group. Dairyland is grateful to Vernon Electric Cooperative for suggesting this site and lending their support to the Day of Service alongside our own employees.



*Dairyland Power Day of Service Volunteers
Dairyland Power Photo*



*River crew collecting garbage
KVR*



*Vegetation Management Crew
KVR*

Volunteer Opportunities

There are volunteer opportunities at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve to fit any schedule and ability. Here are some upcoming and ongoing opportunities:

- Winter Festival (indoor and outdoor shifts)
- Friends of KVR Concessions at Winter Festival
- Invasive species removal
- Creative Communities Canvas Project
- Citizen Scientist/Naturalist Projects
- Adopt a Trail
- Firewood splitting

You can also reach out to the Visitor Center for more volunteer information. 608-625-2960

**THANK YOU TO ALL KVR
VOLUNTEERS!**

EDUCATION FIELD NOTES

WHAT'S NEW

Nature Bound Enviro-Edventure Programs

Seasonal Nature Bound programs focus on the cyclical patterns of the natural world on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve! Building on past programs, Nature Bound connects



children to the natural world and to literature with nature as a guide. Thanks in part to generous donors, each child will receive a nature focused book at the end of each program.

Immersed in the wonders of nature, Nature Bound children will strengthen their bodies and minds as they explore the streams, ponds, forests, and meadows of the KVR. The experiential, age-appropriate curriculum will include science, literature, art, music, outdoor skills, map-reading, research, nature play, stewardship, mindfulness and more.



Welcome Amber

Hi! My name is Amber, and I'm the new Education Coordinator. I grew up in Hillsboro and attended college at Winona State University, graduating with a degree in Psychology. I've spent time working in community-building, emergency management and

emergency medical services, as well as teaching various topics. I've always been passionate about helping people better understand the world around them. My grandma has always said, "You learn something new every day," and my hope is to inspire people to seek those lessons out from the natural world around us! I live near Hub City with my two dogs, Allis and Samson.

Nature Bound Programs

Watch our website for program offerings

Nature Seeds -Ages 18 months - 2 years

Children in this age group attend with their adult to experience the natural world in a safe and guided outdoor focused environment through sensory activities, play, storytelling and movement.

Nature Sprouts - Ages 3-5 years

Nature Sprouts are filled with natural wonder! Children attend without their adult and are immersed in age appropriate exploring, risk taking, play, sensory activities and storytelling all in a natural setting!

Nature Sprigs - Ages 6-9 years

Nature Sprigs are ready to explore nature! Children are immersed in age appropriate exploring, risk taking, place and space mindfulness, play, sensory activities and storytelling all in nature!

Nature Buds - Ages 10-12 years

Nature Buds are beginning to form strong bonds to nature and literature and how it is all around us. Children in this program will begin to explore the natural world through a science lens and sharpen their observation and survey skills, while expanding their connection to the natural world.

Future Naturalists - Ages 13-18 years

Future Naturalist students dive into the natural world with both feet! Focused on the science of nature, and literature nature pioneers, this program will plant becoming a naturalist seed in the youth who attend!

Nature Bloom - Ages 16-18

The Nature Bloom program is a unique program for students interested in teaching and/or natural resources who wish to gain valuable experience and mentorship in a nature-based learning setting.



NATURE BOUND

Kickapoo Valley Reserve
ENVIRO-EDVENTURE
PROGRAMS

EDUCATION FIELD NOTES

EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

Nature Bound Winter Programs

Nature Bound Winter Semester
Session 1

Each Wednesday, January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

Session 2

Each Wednesday, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025

Nature Seeds 8:30am - 10:00am

Cost: \$55/student/4-week session, \$100/student/8-week session

Nature Sprouts 8:30am - 11:30am

Nature Sprigs 8:30am - 11:30am

Nature Buds 8:30am - 11:30am

Cost: \$120/student/4-week session, \$220/student 8-week session

Scholarships
Available[Learn More](#)

Youth Ski Club

The KVR Youth Ski Club is an opportunity to learn about and experience cross country skiing on the KVR. Guided by instructors and practice, members are invited to gather weekly to ski together on the groomed KVR ski trails. Rental equipment is available to take home through the ski season.

Ski club will meet once a week beginning in January and ending when ski conditions deteriorate. Gear available for youth ages 4-12 dependant on boot size. Day of the week is TBD. 3:45pm - 5:30pm at predetermined ski trailheads on the KVR. Snack will be provided.

Cost: \$25 Family Membership

Equipment Rental \$55/student

[Learn More](#)

Nature Bound Children's Immersion

Once a month Saturday Program January - May, 2025. Sign up for one or all!

Check out our website for registration and details!

[Learn More](#)

ON 8600 ACRES

LAND & RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Trail Talk



Featured Trail: Star Valley Trail

Trail Adopted by: Available for adoption!

Parking: Campsite D/Star Valley Road

Trailhead: Campsite D Day parking area.

Length: 0.59 miles

Uses: Equestrian, bike (May 1- November 15), hike, cross country ski, snowshoe.

Surface: Star Valley Trail is an old gravel road. The trail is maintained as such, however, no motorized vehicles are allowed.

Interesting features: Star Valley Trail is a main access to the interior of the trail system. Originally an old road, also called Star Valley Road, the trail has creative drainage elements to aid in its sustainability.

Plant communities: Star Valley Trail could be a study on the benefits of conservation work. Invasive species are prevalent and so are native species. In areas where crews have removed invasives and introduced native plants, it is evident that reintroducing native plant communities can be successful and should be prioritized.

What not to miss: Star Valley Memorial stands at the bottom of Star Valley Trail marking the intersection with Old 131 Trail. Star Valley Memorial was erected in 2004. Friends of KVR tend perennial plants there that were gathered from former homesites on the KVR.

[Learn More](#)



Winter sunset over the Reserve- KVR



Star Valley Memorial in winter - KVR



View over Schroeders Pond in winter- KVR

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Mission

The land in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve shall be protected, preserved, and enhanced so that its unique environmental, scenic, and cultural features provide opportunities for the use and enjoyment of visitors to the Reserve. The Reserve will be promoted as a unique example of the Driftless Area Ecoregion and as a destination for low-impact tourism and education.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Kickapoo Reserve Management Board acknowledges that the state and federal lands that comprise the Reserve fall within the ancestral homelands of First Nations people including the Hoocak Nation. We recognize the sovereignty of the Hoocak and other First Nations and will work towards a shared future by continuing to create collaborative opportunities to protect and preserve these lands.

ON 8600 ACRES

WINTER PHENOLOGY

Phenology is 'the study of appearance' or the timing of seasonal events in nature.

by Joan Peterson – KVR Master Naturalist

BIRDS

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Where to find: Just about everywhere – one of our most common birds! Cardinals live in the KVR year round. They like to stay mostly in trees, including along Old Hwy 131 or at the Visitor Center feeder.

Fun fact: Cardinals' feathers are red because of the food they eat, including a wide variety of fruits like wild grapes, dogwood berries, elderberries, raspberries, and mulberries. These fruits have carotenoids which turn their feathers red. (World Birds, [15 Cardinal Bird Facts You Didn't Know \(2022\)](#), | [World Birds](#))

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Where to find: Crows are common in the KVR and are easy to spot because of their large size and black plumage. Look for them in farm fields along Old Highway 131 and along Bailout Trail.

Fun Fact: There are lots of fun facts about crows. They are among the smartest animals in the world. One example: crow communities can hold a grudge for generations. A team of researchers at the University of Washington [ran an experiment](#) where they captured American Crows in nets while wearing a caveman mask, then released them back onto campus. When the researchers later walked across campus wearing the same mask, the crows scolded and dive-bombed them. More than 10 years after capturing just seven crows, more than half of the crows on campus still raised the alarm at the sight of a caveman mask.

(Audubon Society, [10 Fun Facts About the American Crow](#) | [Audubon](#))

SNOW BUNDING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Where to find: These little birds like to gather in flocks in harvested farm fields. In the KVR, you might see some along the Black Hawk Rock Trail. Start at the Indian Creek trailhead and hike through the farm fields.

Fun fact: Snow Buntings are amazing athletes! We only see them in Wisconsin in the winter. They migrate almost 3,000 miles one way from their breeding territory in the far north of Alaska to La Farge.

PLANTS

BUR OAK (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

Where to find: This interesting, gnarly tree is common in KVR. Look for it on any forested trail, and even along the Old 131 Trail.

Fun fact: A bur oak needs to be at least 35 years old before it will start to produce acorns. (www.thespruce.com/growing-bur-oak-5091583)

EASTERN/CANADIAN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Where to find: One of the unique things about the KVR is that we have areas of Eastern Hemlock despite being situated in southern Wisconsin; their normal habitat is in far northern Wisconsin and Canada in boreal forests. KVR's stands of Eastern Hemlock are so unusual that the Wisconsin DNR has identified these areas as a State Natural area. You can walk through an Eastern Hemlock forest at the far end of the Wintergreen Trail.

Fun fact: Eastern Hemlock trees typically grow to 100 feet high; some have even reached 174 feet. Also, they can live up to 800 years. (www.coniferousforest.com) They are also the species of tree the KVR logo pays homage to.

ANIMALS

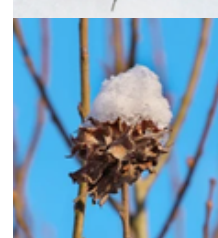
WILLOW ROSETTE GALL MIDGE

(*Rabdophaga salicisbrassicoides*)



Where to find: Willow galls are found on the stems of willows; willows are abundant in the KVR, including along Old 131 Trail near Bridge 13. Preferred habitat is around moist and wet places. The gall is a formation of leaves used by midge larva. The larva overwinters in the gall and emerges as an adult midge (a small fly). While we can't see the larva in winter, we know it's there because of the gall.

Fun fact: Willow midges have a reciprocal relationship with ants and aphids and create a 'positive feedback loop' for each other. The presence of willow midges increases the population of the ants and aphids, and vice versa.

EASTERN COTTONTAIL RABBIT (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Where to find: These rabbits like thick brushy areas in the woods. One place where you might find them is along Hanson Rock Trail

Fun fact: Eastern Cottontail Rabbits can run up to 18 mph and hop from side to side while running, which breaks their scent trail and helps them escape from predators.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

LOOKING AHEAD!



Creative Communities Art Programs Return



- Canvas Project
- Student Art Experience
- Ephemeral Art Series
- Canvas Project Art Exhibit
- Artist Reception
- Online Art Auction



Creative Communities Art Experiences continue in 2025 with new & exciting additions! Canvases will be available beginning January 2, 2025 at the KVR Visitor Center and participating local libraries! The theme for 2025 honors the Kickapoo Valley and its people, "Resilient." Learn more by visiting our website.

[Learn More](#)

In the Company of Raptors

We welcome River Valley Raptors and their live birds to share information about the raptors they have in their care. Meet the birds up close and hear about how they survive in the wild in winter! Hear about conservation efforts and what threatens these magnificent and interesting birds of prey. The talk is free and open to the public.



Saturday, January 11, 2025

A part of Winter Festival!

Talks at 11am and 2pm

This will be a fireside talk held outdoors during Winter Festival. Seating will be bales of straw and limited. Dress for the weather!



Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center Fireside
S3661 State Road 131, La Farge, WI

Free talk made possible by Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve

Winter Festival Resolution Run Sat. January 11

9am

Fee: Donation appreciated





Winter Festival Saturday, January 11, 2025

Winter Festival is a free community event that celebrates winter and everything it has to offer!

Bundle up and enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride or take a hike with a pack llama. Choose your penguin wisely at the Penguin Races! Learn about winter camping or step out of the cold and into a sauna!

Enter the Chili and Bread Contest and win a spot on the Best Dam Chili in the Kickapoo Valley Wall of Fame! All this and more at Kickapoo Valley Reserve Winter Festival!

[Learn More](#)



SMOOSH RACES



ICE HIKES



WINTER SPORTS



SLEDDING HILL



PENGUIN RACES

EVERYONE WELCOME! FREE ADMISSION!

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

AFTER DARK IN THE KVR



Changes Coming to Lighting at the Reserve

by Scott Lind – KRMB Member and Dark Sky Advocate



Last quarter, we shared the bad news about the increasingly bright night skies. The good news is that Friends of KVR have graciously committed funds to do a more complete retrofit on our outdoor lighting. The purpose is two-fold. First, to directly reduce the light pollution we create. And, second, to provide a model for others to see firsthand and emulate elsewhere so they too can reduce their light pollution footprint.

Here's what we're looking forward to completing in 2025 with those Friends funds.

- Replacing the wall mounted lights on the Visitor Center and garage with new LED fixtures that have an adjustable and much lower color temperature, are dimmable with built-in motion sensing. This will reduce the skyglow impact and provide better lighting where it's actually needed. Fixtures can be set to a color temperature as low as 1800K.

Much less impactful for wildlife and dramatically lower scatter characteristics.

- Replacing the parking lot fixture lamps with much warmer color temperature versions to reduce wildlife and sky glow impact by reducing atmospheric scattering. Depending upon final costs, the entire fixture head may be replaced to incorporate motion sensing to reduce the light levels when no vehicles are present.
- Shields will be 3D printed and installed on the short bollard lights near the entry and photographic films added to the existing lenses to reduce the color temperature of those fixtures. The use of films in an outdoor application with limited protection from weather is truly an experiment to see how long they hold up and delay, the need to replace the entire bollards which unfortunately aren't able to be otherwise retrofitted.
- The main entry sign lighting will be replaced with much warmer color temperature lighting for the same reasons mentioned above.
- Lighting on the KVR maintenance building will likewise be modified or replaced to use warmer color temperature lamps and have added controls to ensure the protection of darkness.

We look forward to completing this project and hope you'll also consider making dark sky lighting changes to your property. For more information and to get involved in the Dark Sky effort, check out the KVDSI on [Facebook](#) and the [web](#) as well as [DarkSky Wisconsin](#) and [Dark Sky International](#) on the web. The Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Initiative just incorporated and received 501(c)(3) status to continue the work needed to bring dark skies back to the Kickapoo Valley. Watch those links for upcoming updates on how to join, support and get involved!

Tune into **PBS Wisconsin - Wisconsin Life** January 16, at 7pm for a story about the KVR and dark skies!

Winter: A Harsh Reality For Some

by Cathy Chybowski - KVR Naturalist/Instructor

When the temperature plummets and the cold winds blow, we turn up the thermostat or throw another log on the fire. But have you wondered how the critters outside your door manage to survive the cold season at a time when food and shelter are in short supply?

Animals use a variety of strategies to adapt to winter regardless of whether they are diurnal or nocturnal. They can leave town, tough it out, or choose dormancy—a light sleep compared to another option—a deeper state of hibernation. Some bats and most insectivorous birds like flycatchers and nighthawks migrate in order to find food elsewhere. It is a necessary risk for some, but there is a high energetic cost to a long flight, and obstacles impede their way. It is not an easy option. Those animals that remain active through the winter rely on fur, fat, or feathers to aid their survival along with other adaptations. Snow can be a curse or a blessing. An inch of snow can hide the vole from its predators but cover up seeds for birds. A few more inches can provide insulation to dormant plants and animals. Deeper snow changes the gait of foxes and deer requiring more energy but allows rabbits to reach more buds.



Dormancy or hibernation?

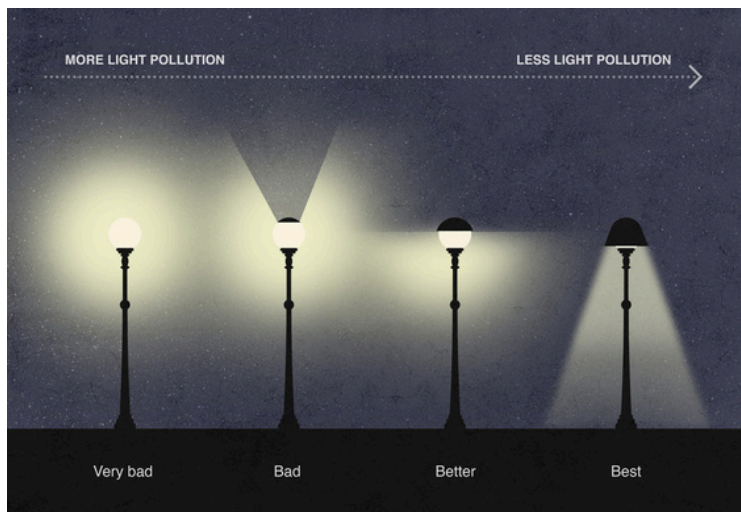
Hibernation is a period of inactivity attained by greatly lowered body temperature and other bodily functions. The classic example is the groundhog. After a fall feeding frenzy, it crawls into a burrow where it remains until early spring. It lowers its body temperature from 90 to 38 degrees F, breathes once every five minutes, and slows its heart rate from 75 to 4 beats per minute, all to avoid winter famine, for it is primarily an herbivore. Other hibernators include frogs, turtles and snakes. The cold-blooded wood frog turns into a frogsicle.

Unlike the groundhog, bears are not considered true hibernators. Their body temperature only drops a few degrees, the sows give birth in the den, and they sometimes venture out on mild days. Other light sleepers, normally active at night, like raccoons, skunks, foxes, and opossums become inactive during a cold snap, but resume activity after a warm up.

GET INVOLVED

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Conservation in All Seasons

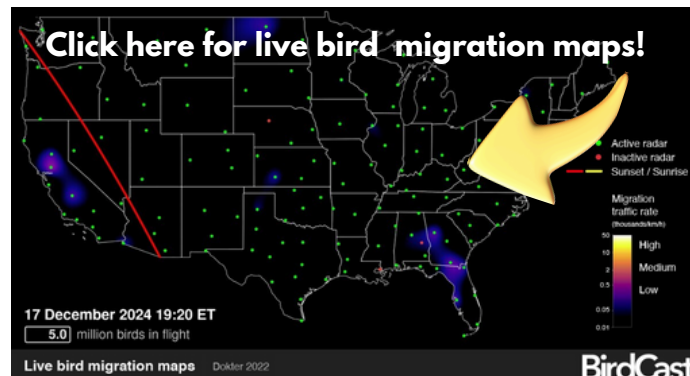


Light pollution isn't just a summertime, stargazer's problem. Conscientious Dark Sky lighting benefits can be felt all year-round. Use the winter months to research and plan your lighting upgrades! Have you stepped outside on a crisp winter night and experienced an amazing night sky? What a treat to bundle up and take in a winter night sky!

Pro Tip: Pack a thermos of hot chocolate and park at Bridge 14 on a clear night. With the Winter Solstice near, you don't even have to stay out late to experience dark skies!

What can I do in winter?

- Keep your bird feeders clean and full, especially before and during a cold snap. Providing fresh suet is a great way to provide energy, fat and much needed calories to winter birds.
- Leave plant stems, seed heads and brush in your garden. These are valuable food sources and shelter for many species during the winter months.
- Leave things a little "messy". Don't disturb leaf litter or your compost. Every little environment is home to something. During winter, it is best to leave potential homes undisturbed.
- Spread the word! Spending time with family and friends is a great opportunity to share your dedication to conservation. Talk about dark skies and how important they are to the natural world, and how a messy fall garden is the sign of a good steward. Every effort makes a difference! Each of us play an important role in preserving and protecting the KVR and the natural world around us.



CALL TO ACTION

In the last 3 years alone, the amount of light pollution in the Kickapoo Valley has increased beyond admissible levels required to sustain a dark sky park. Together, we can reduce this light trespass by using appropriate outdoor lighting and encouraging our local communities and businesses to do the same. Please consider your part in this community wide conservation effort.

Learn how KVR and our conservation partners are protecting dark skies:

<http://kvr.state.wi.us/Natural-Features/Dark-Sky>

Dark Sky Conservation resources you can use to take action:

- Watch the Driftless Dialogue: [Protecting our Dark Skies - Scott Lind](#)
- Visit this website: [Dark Sky International](#) for information and how to guides on responsible outdoor lighting.
- Like, follow & share the [Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Initiative Facebook page](#).

Dark Sky Conservation Partners in the Kickapoo Valley

Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Initiative, Inc.
Kickapoo Valley Reserve
Wildcat Mountain State Park
Mississippi Valley Conservancy



PRESERVING AND PROTECTING

Kickapoo Valley Reserve
S3661 State Road 131
La Farge, WI 54639
608-625-2960
kickapoovalley.wi.gov



The year 2025 marks the 25th year of officially Preserving and Protecting the Kickapoo Valley Reserve!

As written in the history of the KVR, "At long last, the Army Corps of Engineers prepares to turn land back over to local control via the Reserve Board. Official transfer is imminent and eventually made on December 28, 2000."

Leading up to the official transfer "born on" date, there will be added activities and events throughout the year! Stay tuned to our calendar for some great KVR history offerings as we focus on everything that makes Kickapoo Valley Reserve the amazing, unique and special place that exists today.

Mark your calendar:

Rededication Ceremony

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board Members

Chair - Travis Downing

Vice Chair - Barb Sarnowski

Secretary - Luke Zahm

Member - Bill Quackenbush

Member - AJ Mann

Member - Kjetil Garvin

Member - Joel Charles

Member - Reggie Nelson

Member - Dave Maxwell

Member - Julie Hoel

Member - Scott Lind

