



Access Ability Wisconsin

Outdoors Access 4 All!™

www.AccessAbilityWI.org

NEW RELEASE

For Immediate Release - June 15, 2022

Connecting More People to Nature - Access & Freedom

Milwaukee, WI - Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW) is excited to announce & welcome Wehr Nature Center (Wehr) as one of our newest hosts to the AAW network. As an AAW host, Wehr is extending a path to outdoor access for those living with mobility challenges in Milwaukee County by having one of the 23 AAW outdoor wheelchairs (OWC) *available at no cost*, requiring a refundable \$50 deposit. Residents can reserve the chair & take it to their favorite private or public lands using the provided enclosed AAW trailer. Organizations can provide more access to their outdoor events & activities when reserving the chair and making it available! These chairs are able to go where regular wheelchairs with skinny tires can't go. Providing access to these "hiking boots" allows anyone living with a physical disability an opportunity to experience the dignity & freedom to enjoy the great outdoors solo & with family & friends, just like everyone else!

Access Ability Wisconsin™ (AAW) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that is dedicated to facilitating & providing the means for individuals with mobility challenges including those living with physical disabilities to access & enjoy the outdoors, promoting equity & healthy living. An outdoor wheelchair with a trailer exceeds \$25K. AAW clients have been daily wheelchair users, those with walking, breathing, or heart difficulties, kids, & adults from 21 to 101. This opportunity to have an AAW OWC in Milwaukee enables clients to be more equally engaged with society. Benefits are decreased feelings of depression & isolation, increased feelings of independence & spontaneity. Results show lives are improved for individuals with a mobility challenge & their families. AAW's goal is to have at least one AAW all-terrain outdoor chair (OWC) in all 72 Wisconsin counties. Wehr Nature Center is extending that reach by becoming the local host for Milwaukee & surrounding counties. Welcome Wehr!

Wehr Nature Center is the only nature center owned and operated by Milwaukee County Parks located in Franklin, WI. Wehr Nature Center aspires to be a leading destination in southeast Wisconsin for providing equitable access to nature. They are supported by a nonprofit organization called the Friends of Wehr. **Visit Wehr Nature Center on July 13th from 2-4 p.m. for an Open House to celebrate the partnership with AAW by launching Wehr Nature Center as a host site for an AAW outdoor wheelchair for your adventures.** Enjoy summer picnic snacks provided by local vendors and have an opportunity to try out AAW outdoor wheelchairs, see the all-terrain & tilt features, learn more, & meet both the AAW & Wehr Teams. Nature-themed family friendly activities will be available. **Come join us** & explore the ways the AAW outdoor wheelchair can be used & learn ways you can volunteer & support "Outdoors Access 4 All!™" in your community.



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If you know of an organization that would like to host an AAW outdoor wheelchair in a Wisconsin County or you would like to donate, then contact us. For more information about “Outdoors Access 4 All!” for individuals or organizations, visit www.AccessAbilityWI.org & for more information about accessibility in Milwaukee County Parks, visit <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Experiences/Parks-for-All-Abilities>.

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