

Snowshoe Rental Program

We encourage families to get outside and enjoy Wisconsin's natural areas no matter what the weather. That's why we offer snowshoe rentals for the whole family!

Snowshoeing is a fun and easy way to enjoy nature when the ground is a little less accessible in normal boots. Snowshoes are designed to keep you above the snow, and the claws on the bottom offer extra traction for more compacted areas. The result is a great way to get out and keep enjoying nature throughout the winter!

Snowshoe Availability

Snowshoes are rented on a first-come, first-served basis, and our educational programming takes precedence for snowshoe availability. Don't want to risk it? Call 608-221-0404 x 1 to reserve your pairs before you come!

There must be at least 2 inches of snow on the ground to rent snowshoes; 6 inches or more is ideal for taking out a pair for a hike!

Our snowshoes fit individuals from 40 pounds to 300 pounds. As with any outdoor physical activity, kids under seven might get fatigued a little faster and need some additional help.

Snowshoe Restrictions

ALNC rents snowshoes to be used on our trails and the trails at neighboring Woodland Park and Edna Taylor Conservation Park. ALNC grounds are mostly flat and great for beginners, while Woodland Park is made of mostly hills. Edna Taylor Conservation Park has a mix of both terrains!

Snowshoe rentals are only available during ALNC public hours (9am-4pm on weekdays; 10am-2pm on weekends) and must be returned before the end of public hours on the day they are rented. **SNOWSHOE RENTALS ARE NOT MEANT FOR OVERNIGHT USE.**

At least one member of your group must be over 18 and assume responsibility for group safety and snowshoe return.

Cost

\$5/pair or FREE for Members!

What to Wear and What to Bring

The same thing you would wear and bring along if hiking in the snow without snowshoes! Boots, thick socks, a winter hat, gloves and multiple layers are your best bet for clothing. If you get thirsty or hungry on a normal hike, bring along an insulated water bottle and snack!

Snowshoeing Basics

- Your stance will be wider than when walking with normal boots on.
- To go uphill in powdery snow, use the kick-step technique. Literally kick the snow on the incline; this will place your boot parallel to flat ground and your snowshoe parallel to the ascent. If kick-steps just create large holes, find a different path.
- On hard-packed snow, use the claws on the bottom of your snowshoe to get traction.
- When going downhill, keep your weight slightly back and firmly plant your heels before your toes.
- If you need to go backwards, make sure to use a circular motion; stepping backwards normally might send you into the snow!