



Access Ability Wisconsin
Outdoors Access 4 All!™
www.AccessAbilityWI.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Forest Open Lands and Access Ability Wisconsin Team Up To Increase Outdoors Access for All and Announce Open House

Lake Forest Open Lands Association (LFOLA) is excited to announce its partnership with Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW) as a host location for one of AAW's motorized All Terrain Outdoor Wheelchairs (OWC) with an outfitted enclosed trailer. We are proud to increase access for all in Lake Forest Open Lands' preserves and the local community.

"When LFOLA president, Ryan London, and his team reached out, we welcomed them with open arms," said AAW President and Founder, Monica Spaeni, adding, "Together, we will make it as easy as possible for anyone with temporary or permanent mobility issues to enjoy outdoor activities with family and friends or independently."

London stated, "We are thrilled to be the first Illinois partner with AAW. This partnership helps us deliver on our promise of making nature available for all, while raising awareness that there is a no cost solution to the challenge of getting outdoors for those living with mobility difficulties."

As an AAW Network Host, LFOLA can rely on AAW's expertise in programming and adaptive equipment that provides increased outdoor access for those living with mobility challenges. Individuals can reserve the chair (available at no cost with a small deposit and required returned survey) and explore miles of trails at a favorite Lake Forest Open Lands' preserve and other local private or public lands using the provided AAW trailer. Additionally, community organizations can reserve the LFOLA hosted AAW chair and trailer to provide more access to their outdoor events and activities.

These chairs can 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 and freedom to enjoy the great outdoors solo or with family and friends, just like everyone else!

**Test drive AAW Outdoor Wheelchair(s) at our “Outdoors Access 4 All!”™ Open House
Saturday, October 29 | 10am – noon | 350 North Waukegan Road, Lake Forest**

During LFOA’s *Native Tree Sale* you will have the opportunity to meet the staff from Access Ability Wisconsin and Lake Forest Open Lands. Come and explore, test drive and ask questions about the AAW outdoor wheelchair and its all-terrain and tilt features.

About Lake Forest Open Lands

Since its establishment in 1967, Lake Forest Open Lands, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and the first accredited land trust in Illinois, has acquired, preserved and maintained some of the finest natural habitats in our region including prairies, savannas, ravines and wetlands. Over 16 miles of walking trails and six, soon to be nine, nature preserves are open to the public year-round. Lake Forest Open Lands Association’s vision is to engage and expand the public’s commitment to land preservation and conservation, and the organization offers robust engagement programming to connect all people to nature. As an independent conservation land trust, LFOA is supported solely by voluntary contributions, including membership dues and donations and receives no local or state government funding to support its day-to-day operations. For more information about Lake Forest Open Lands, please visit LFOLA.org.

About Access Ability Wisconsin

Access Ability Wisconsin™ (AAW) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that is dedicated to facilitating and providing the means for individuals with mobility challenges to access and enjoy the outdoors, promoting equity and healthy living. The opportunity to have an Access Ability Wisconsin Outdoor Wheelchair enables clients to be more equally engaged with society. Benefits include independence, spontaneity and may reduce feelings of depression and isolation. Results show lives are improved for individuals with a mobility challenge and their families. AAW’s goal is to have at least one AAW all-terrain outdoor chair in all 72 Wisconsin counties and surrounding states. Lake Forest Open Lands Association is extending that reach by becoming the first local host in Illinois. Contact President Monica Spaeni about “Outdoors Access 4 All!” via email at AAW@AccessAbilityWI.org or visit www.AccessAbilityWI.org.

##

Contact:

Holly Meeks, *Director of Marketing and Communication*
Lake Forest Open Lands Association
350 North Waukegan Rd.
Lake Forest IL 60045
847-234-3880 x11
hmeeks@lfoa.org

Monica Spaeni, *President*
Access Ability Wisconsin
608-886-9300
aaw@accessabilitywi.org