

Fall 2024

The ParkNextDoor

magazine



Falling For Autumn

Look Inside For:

Leaf Peeping Adventures, Hiking Safe During Hunting Season, Autumn Reads, Accessible Autumn Trails, Halloween Spirit In The State Parks and more!



Happy Fall, Y'all!

Confession: I've been seeking out shifting leaf colors since late August. I can't help myself. Maybe it's because I was born in October, but fall has always been my favorite season. I love everything about it. The golden light, the bold and beautiful palette of changing foliage. The sound of fallen leaves crunching under foot. Even the decaying seedheads of flowers in the gardens and meadows have a rough-hewn beauty to them. It's an enchanting time to spend out walking a nature trail, exploring our beautiful Wisconsin.

When I decided to start a magazine companion to TheParkNextDoor website, I really looked forward to the first fall edition. I had so much fun to going back through my photos, and the park profiles, to put together the features. With so many options, it's hard to narrow it down. But, whether you're wanting to photograph the turning colors, or looking for a safe place to hike during hunting season, you'll find plenty to choose from. And more, always, online.

Having been through some injuries, and knee replacement surgery in recent years, I began to understand the importance of having all-accessible hiking and nature spaces. Every body should have access to our beautiful outdoors. I have barely scratched the surface as to what is available, but made a start with *Accessible Autumn*, and *Nature Is For Every Body*. The first is a list of parks and preserves known for autumn beauty, and that have all-accessible trails, boardwalks, and/or viewing decks with spectacular scenic views. *Nature Is For Every Body* is a quick list of online resources and links that I hope will be helpful. If you have any information or resources you think I should add, please feel free to share. My goal is to build upon this as an online feature, with updates added on an ongoing basis.

I've always enjoyed the Halloween holiday, though, as I've gotten older I appreciate it more for the ambience, than for the scares. Though a good ghost story is always a welcome read. You'll find a couple of those in this issues cozy reads feature. For a bit of Halloween fun, there's a list of festive events hosted in Wisconsin state parks, and at local nature centers, too. Keep in mind that many community parks host family friendly Halloween events, as well.

It's also the perfect time to get out to a pumpkin farm, or visit a farmers market near you for fresh grown produce, and fresh pressed apple cider (and apple cider donuts!).

Finally, as we head into November and the start of a busy holiday season, don't hang up your hiking shoes. Instead of going to the mall on Black Friday, #OptOutside instead. And maybe warm up afterward with a hot beverage. Check out *On The Side*, for a few cozy coffeehouse options.



A traveler, singer, novice photographer, humane gardener, and nature lover. Documenting and sharing the beauty that is Wisconsin since 2014.

Wishing you a colorful and cozy season!

-Kimberly

What's Inside

The magic of fall has arrived! Cooler temperatures, changing leaves, squirrels gathering nuts for winter, and all the cozy things. It's a perfect time to get outside and enjoy our local parks, preserves, and other natural spaces.

If swooning over nature's changing color palette is your thing **Falling For Autumn** is the feature for you. In it you'll find suggestions for colorful walks in local and state parks. And some of our historic cemeteries, too.

Rather **Hit The Road**? There are byways and scenic drives throughout the state lined in tall trees dressed in reds, coppers, russets, and golds.

Nervous about hiking during hunting season? We've got you covered for **Hiking Safely During Hunting Season**, including suggestions on locations for a **Hike Where Hunting Is Prohibited**.

It's no secret that our local parks are amazing. Even so, a brand new feature will shine a light on one brilliant park at a time. Beginning with a **Spotlight On Greenfield Park** in West Allis. Of course, it's especially lovely in fall...

Not sure what to do with all the pumpkins as the season winds down? Turn them into temporary wildlife feeders. **Upcycle Your Pumpkins** will show you how.

A chilly, rainy day is perfect for curling up with a good book. **Cozy Up With A Good Autumn Read** will introduce you to several titles worth your bookmark.

Fall is a great season to have some fun with photography. Take your camera out for a spin. Go solo, or with others, and let **A Fall Photo Walk Is Spooky Fun** be your guide with some seasonal prompts.

The beauty of autumn should be accessible to all. Find suggestions for all-accessible trails, boardwalks, and stellar views in **Accessible Autumn**, and more resources in **Nature Is For Every Body**.

Make plans to celebrate Halloween in one of our state parks or nature centers. **Get In The Spirit** presents you with options, whether you prefer a trick or a treat.

It might seem far off, but *Black Friday* is coming up fast. Avoid the crowds, skip the mall, and **#OptOutside** for a nature walk or hike instead. You can browse through **TheParkNextDoor** 24/7 for ideas. No credit card required.

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Falling For Autumn

Seasonal vibes on display at Wadewitz Nature Camp

Leaf Peeping:

A general term used to describe the act of traveling to view and photograph the changing colors of autumn foliage.

The term “leaf peeping” may have been coined in the New England states, where traveling to marvel at, and photograph, the changing fall foliage is a big tourism draw. However, Wisconsin residents need not journey to the east coast to enjoy spectacular autumn color. There’s plenty of this seasonal beauty right here at home. From local parks and preserves, state parks and natural areas, to notable destinations like Door County, the north woods, and Wisconsin Dells area, to name just a few.

Read on for some highlighted spots. Find even more in our *online feature*: **Fabulous In Fall - 50 Great Wisconsin Spots That Are Fabulous In Fall.**

Local Parks

Your local parks are a perfect spot to visit come September, October and November. From tree-lined paved paths to woodland trails, the sights and scents of the season are found at your park next door.



Kinsey Park, Brookfield



Ledge County Park, Horicon



Washington Park, Milwaukee



Jackson Park, Milwaukee

Want to know where and when colors are at their peak?
Check out the [Travel Wisconsin Fall Color Report](#).

State Parks

Wisconsin has a pretty fabulous state park and recreation area system. There are 51 of them, in fact, and they can be found in all areas of the state. Check out this [map](#) to see the locations, and read details about 30 of these gems.



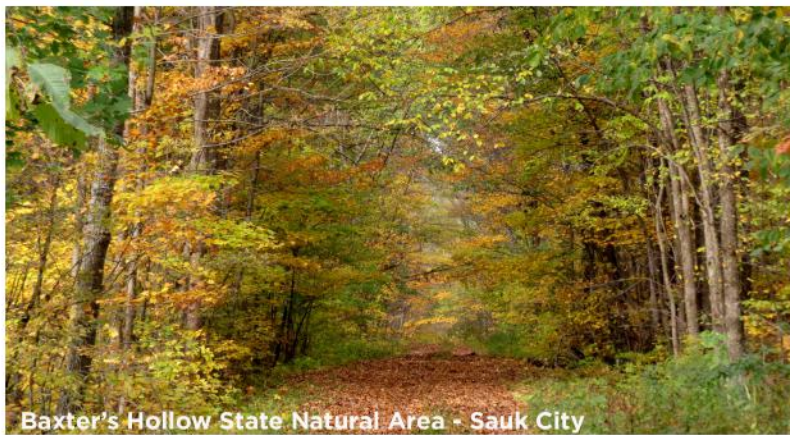
Harrington Beach State Park, Belgium



Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area, New Glarus



Lizard Mound State Park, Farmington



Baxter's Hollow State Natural Area - Sauk City



Aztalan State Park - Aztalan



Lake Kegonsa State Park - Stoughton



Devil's Lake State Park - Baraboo

For more information, and a Wisconsin Scenic Byways Map, click [here](#).



Hit The Road

Through sunshine, clouds, or drizzle, a leisurely drive is a great way to enjoy the changing foliage, and do a little sightseeing. Wisconsin is home to several scenic byways, and scenic roads. But, honestly, just pick a highway and follow it. You'll be treated to all kinds of seasonal beauty, farmstands, coffee shops, diners, and more.

If you're beginning your trek in Southeastern Wisconsin, you can't go wrong with a drive along the **Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive**. The entire drive is 114 miles, start to finish, south to north, or north to south. There are multiple sections that make their way from Walworth County, through Waukesha County, Washington County, and Fond du Lac County. With plenty of parks, nature areas and walking trails along the way.

You can find a series of maps of the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive [here](#).



Mauthe Lake State Recreation Area - Campbellsport



Potawatomi State Park, Sturgeon Bay

SCENIC BYWAYS OF WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Great River Road - 250 miles along WIS 35

Lower Wisconsin River Road - 100 miles along WIS 60

Door County Coastal Byway - 66 miles along WIS 42/57

Wisconsin Lake Superior Scenic Byway - 70 miles along WIS 13

Nicolet-Wolf Scenic River Byway - 145 miles on WIS 55, 52, 32, and 70

"When the leaves fall, the whole earth is a cemetery."
-Henry David Thoreau

Consider The Quiet Places

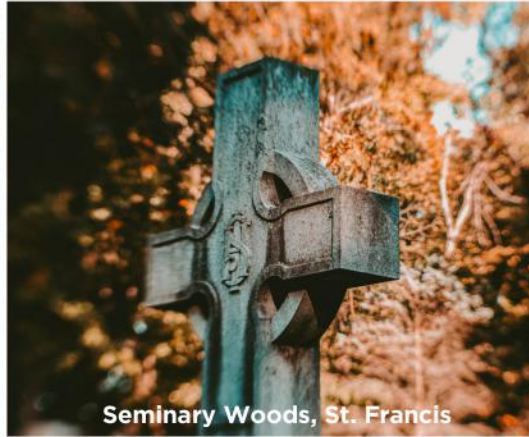
Cemeteries can be peaceful places to wander and appreciate the beauty of fall. There are several historical cemeteries in the Milwaukee area, and many others throughout the state.



A guardian angel at Calvary Cemetery, Milwaukee



Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee



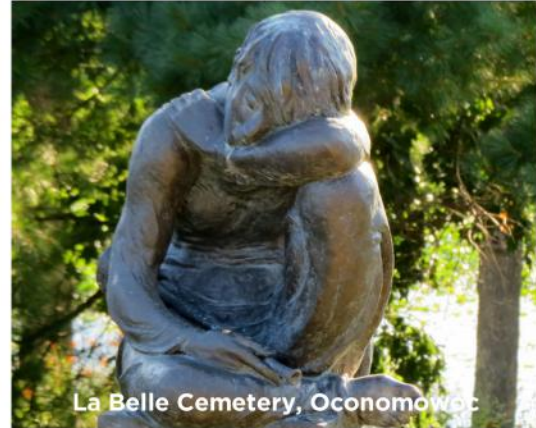
Seminary Woods, St. Francis



St. Adalbert Cemetery, Milwaukee



Mount Olivet Cemetery, Milwaukee



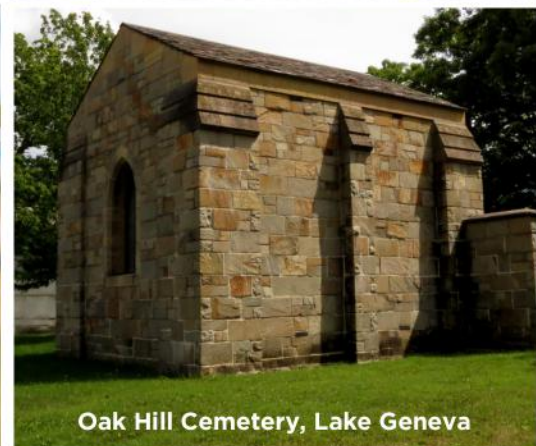
La Belle Cemetery, Oconomowoc



New Berlin Center Cemetery,
New Berlin



Riverside Cemetery, Oshkosh



Oak Hill Cemetery, Lake Geneva



Hiking Safely During Hunting Season

Fall is a spectacular season in Wisconsin, perfect for hiking. It's not too cold, and autumn color is bold and beautiful. But autumn also coincides with hunting season, so it's important to keep some safety measures in mind when on the trails. Personally, I try to stick to hikes in locations that prohibit hunting during this time. I just feel more comfortable not having to worry about it. Between local and county parks, nature preserves and trails, there are plenty of options for fall color walks. I'm providing a gallery of some of my favorites where hunting is prohibited.

Although there are exceptions, as a general rule, I would expect that any State Natural Area or State Wildlife Area allows some type of hunting. If you plan to hike in one of these areas, it's best to make blaze orange a wardrobe staple. Even some of our State Parks allow hunting in certain areas. It's good to check with the park office, or the park website to be clear. Some State Natural Areas in the Milwaukee area are actually owned by Milwaukee County, thus, they often prohibit hunting. Most of these areas should have signage on-site that indicates what activities are allowed.

Wisconsin has such a wide array of wonderful natural spaces, there is plenty for hunters and non-hunters alike. If your usual hiking spot is hosting hunters during the fall, take the opportunity to try somewhere new. And don't forget to check the [Wisconsin Fall Color Report](#) to see where the colors are peaking in your area. Happy Hiking!



Play It Safe With These Seasonal Hiking Tips



Be Familiar With Hunting Season Dates in your area - in general, Archery season runs from September 14, 2024 - January 5, 2025, and in some areas through January 31, 2025.

Gun season start dates vary depending on the categories. They start as early as October 5, and can run through December 1, 2024, with stipulations. Check with the Wisconsin DNR for more specifics. Keep in mind that dates and regulations can vary by county.

It's best to hike at local and neighborhood parks and trails during this time. Many nature preserves and conservancies allow hunting on their properties, so it's best to check before going.

However, *if you're going to hike at locations where hunting season is observed*, be sure to hike mid-day, when you will be most visible, wear bright colors (blaze orange is tried and true), and stay on marked trails. Be sure not to drown out the sounds of your surroundings with earbuds or headphones. You'll want to be able to hear any hunting type of activity in the area. For even more detailed hunting schedules and regulations, visit this [WDNR](#) page.

Protect your pets. If walking with your dog, be sure to keep it on-leash. Even better, take it to one of your neighborhood dog parks instead. See our [dog_park](#) special feature for some options.

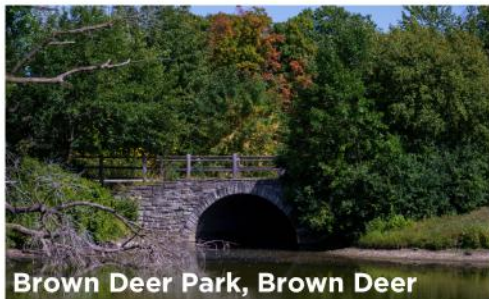




Hike Where Hunting Is Prohibited

Wisconsin has a wide variety of parks, nature preserves and conservancies that are especially beautiful in fall. If you prefer to get out into nature, but want to avoid hunting areas, we have a list of over 100 spots to visit during hunting season where hunting is prohibited. Here are a selection of these places. For the complete list, visit the [special feature online](#).

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS



ADDITIONAL PARKS AND PRESERVES IN SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN



Havenwoods State Forest - Milwaukee



Malone Park - New Berlin



Eagle Nature Trail - Eagle



Richfield Historical Park - Richfield



**Sauk Creek Nature Preserve
Port Washington**



Saller Woods - Rochester



Rice Lake Nature Trail - Whitewater



Hawthorn Hollow - Kenosha



Greenway Arboretum - Fond du Lac



Ledge County Park - Horicon



**Pheasant Branch Creek Conservancy
Middleton**



Carlin-Weld Park - Palmyra



Indian Mound Park - Sheboygan



Van Der Brohe Arboretum - Two Rivers



Carver-Roehl County Park - Clinton



Autumn colors aglow along the trails to the lagoon at Greenfield Park.

I live nearby, so Greenfield Park, in West Allis, is a regular stop on my nature walk list. It's convenient, it's true, but no matter, it has so much to offer in all seasons. A large lagoon on the northeast side of the grounds is surrounded by a paved walking path, and is a popular spot for locals - folks out on a daily walk, joggers, nature photographers, bird watchers, dog walkers, and kids on their bicycles. The park offers plenty of picnic tables, benches, fishing spots, two children's playgrounds, and connections to the popular **Oak Leaf Trail**.



An October view across the lagoon.

The paved trail along the lagoon splits off and heads west, past two more ponds, and a large woodland area, with several winding walking trails. On the southern end of west side of the park is an open air shelter, available for rental, a children's playground, and lots of open space for picnic tables and general use. There is a separate parking lot on this side as well.



Wildlife sightings of deer, muskrat, a wide variety of bird species, and waterfowl are common in the park. Great blue herons and osprey have been known to nest here, along with ducks and geese. Turtles can often be seen sunning themselves on a log in the ponds.





The woodland trails are golden in fall at Greenfield Park.



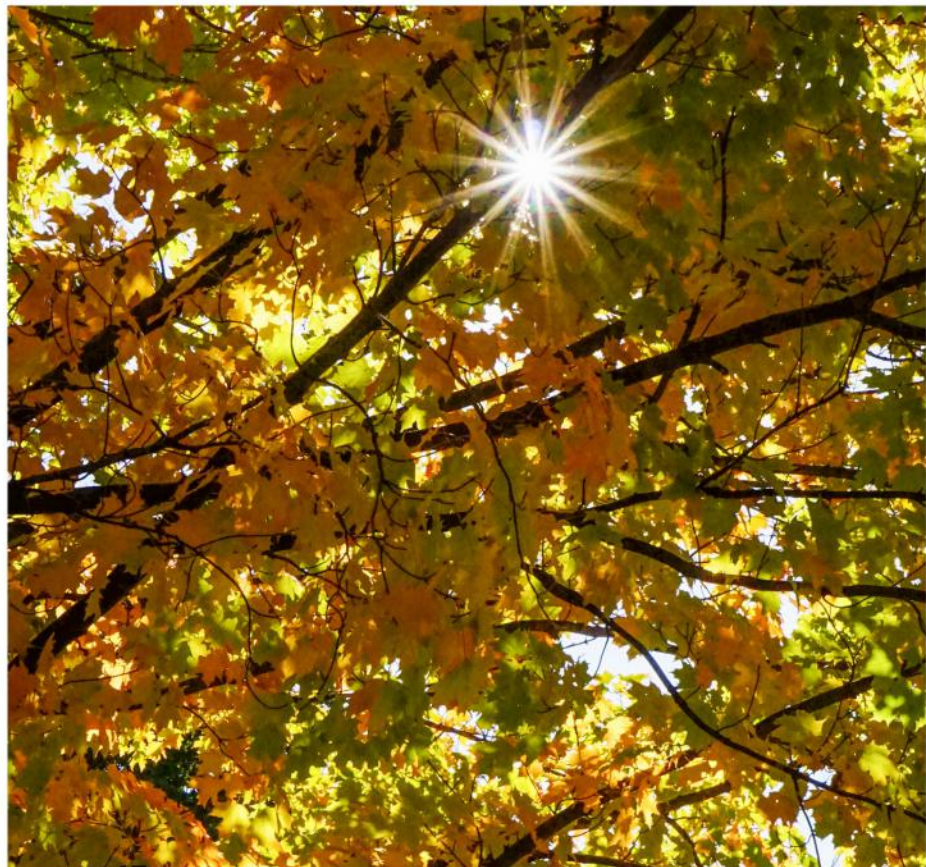
Native prairie garden along the lagoon.

In recent years a native prairie garden was cultivated on the west side of the lagoon. Come mid-summer you'll find it blooming with native flowers, and buzzing with bees, butterflies and birds.

The park is beautiful in all seasons. In winter the paved trails are often plowed, so it's a good spot to get in a winter walk without too much fuss. And it's lovely covered in freshly fallen snow.



Beautiful and frost covered in winter.





One of the smaller ponds dressed in autumn color.

To me, Greenfield Park really shines in the fall. The woodlands trails are golden, and the variety of trees surrounding the lagoon, and the other areas of the park are dressed in a vibrant palette of autumn hues. If you're looking to do some local leaf peeping Greenfield Park will not disappoint. If summer is more your bag, cool off at Cool Waters Aquatic Park during the summer months, or do a little angling, throwing in a fishing line or two in the lagoon.



Greenfield Park is part of the Milwaukee County Parks System.

Location: 2028 S. 124th Street,
West Allis, WI (Milwaukee County)

Open Daily: 6am - 10pm
Find a Map for the park [here](#).



Upcycle Your Pumpkins



& Offer Wildlife An Autumn Treat

What do you do with your pumpkins after the Halloween festivities are over? Whether you have carved them into festive works of art or not, they can be put to good use, either by composting them, or by turning them into a temporary, organic, wildlife feeder.

I'm terrible at carving pumpkins, so we tend to keep them intact, and put them out, along with some mini pumpkins and gourds as decoration in the flower beds or pots. Once Halloween is over, we cut open the top, and put them in the backyard for the birds, squirrels and chipmunks to enjoy.

Last year we decided to try something a little different and prep them to be used as wildlife feeders. You can cut pumpkins in a few different ways, depending on size, and where you want to put them. You can also drill holes for dowels so you can hang them from a tree or hook, if you like.

Cut them in half and scoop out the guts. You can cut up some of the pumpkin and save the pumpkin seeds for the critters, or you can compost them straight off. I removed the stem from the top of the pumpkin once it's cut in half, then I used both the top and bottom as feeder bowls. You can even carve it so that there is a ledge for the critters to perch on.



Mini pumpkins mixed in with the flower pot arrangements for a fall motif.



An ice cream scoop works well to clean out the guts and seeds of a pumpkin.

Chipmunks really enjoy the peanuts.



Sitting on the ledge enjoying a pumpkin seed.

For placement, I added some trimmed greens to our cleaned out raised beds and made space to put in a selection of pumpkin feeders. It was fun to look out the window in the morning to see squirrels, birds, and chipmunks scrambling about, snacking on the variety of seeds and nuts we provided, including some of the saved pumpkin seeds. I carved up bits of pumpkin for snacking as well.

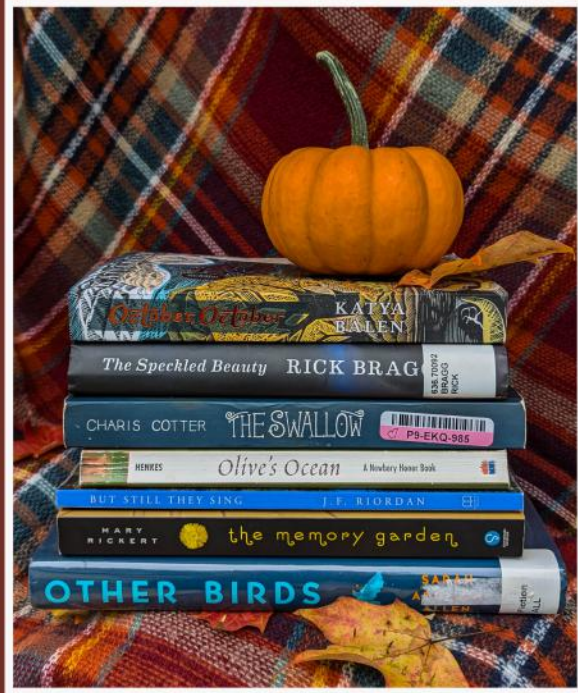


Cut up pumpkins and seeds put out for a wildlife snack.

Seeds can be a mix of different types. We used woodpecker nut mixes, along with black oil sunflower, safflower, and shelled, and unshelled peanuts. And worked in some of the pumpkin seeds as well. The squirrels tend to ignore the safflower seeds, but the birds and the chipmunks enjoy them. The juncos, sparrows, and house finches enjoyed the safflower and black oil sunflower seeds, as well as picking up bits and pieces of the nuts leftover.

To keep them clean, it's best to scoop out the spent seeds at the end of the day, and assess the state of the pumpkins. If they've pretty much shriveled, it's time for the compost heap. Same thing if they get moldy. Otherwise, empty them out and refill the next day with the seeds of your choice, and replace as needed.





There's something so alluring about kicking back with a nice warm beverage and a good book during the autumn months. It's a great time to crack open an old favorite, or immerse yourself in a new cool weather tale. Here are a few reads, some old, some newer, to enjoy as the daylight hours grow shorter. A bit of wildness, a ghost story or two, the tale of a rescued dog, a coming-of-age story, a Door County memoir of sorts, and three Wisconsin writers in the mix.



October, October

Author: Katya Balyn

Published 2020 by Bloomsbury Childrens Books

Eleven year-old October lives with her dad in an off-grid cabin, in the wilderness of the forest outside of London. She revels in days spent in the natural world among the tall trees, growing their own food, observing the animals of the woods. But things are about to change, and October is not going to like it one bit. This coming of age tale is written for children 9-12 years old. But it's a lovely read at any age.

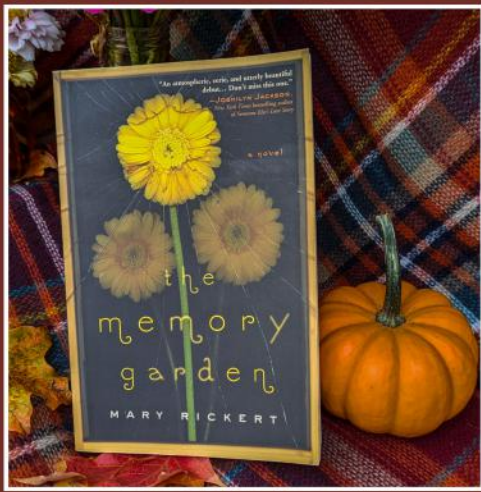
Other Birds

Author: Sarah Addison Allen

Published 2022 by St. Martin's Press

A tale of a young woman who inherits her deceased mother's apartment in a coastal, South Carolina town, and moves in just before starting college in nearby Charleston. She'll spend the last bit of summer getting to know the history of the apartment complex, and her neighbors, young and old. A bit of magic, a ghostly presence, and a secret or two just might be revealed.



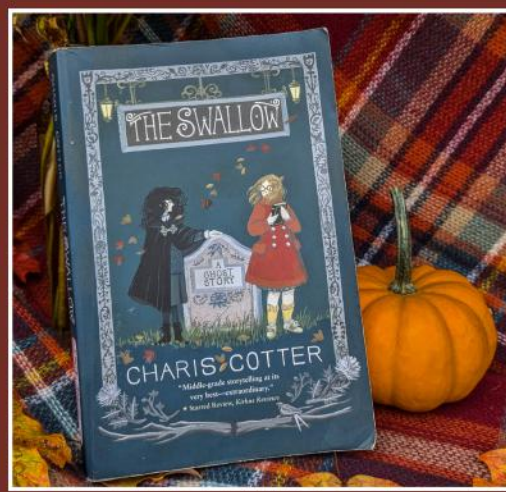


The Memory Garden

Author: Mary Rickert

Published 2014 by
Sourcebooks Landmark

Wisconsin writer, Mary Rickert, has conjured up a timeless mother-daughter tale with a bit of magic, old friends, secrets hidden and revealed, and an enchanting garden of blooms, moonlight, and mystery.

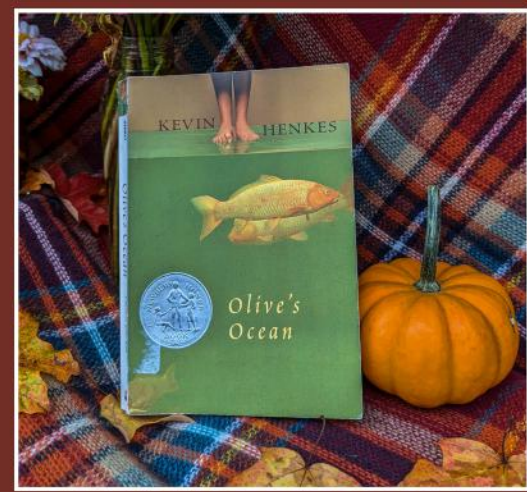


The Swallow

Author: Charis Cotter

Published 2017 by Tundra Books

Polly and Rose are two very different 12-year-old girls when they meet and become friends. Living next to a cemetery, they become enmeshed in a ghost story with more than a few surprises.

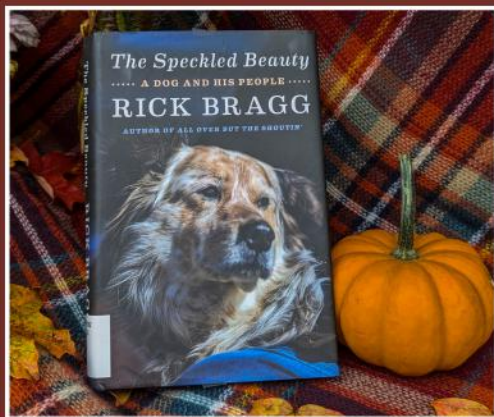


Olive's Ocean

Author: Kevin Henkes

Published 2005 by Harper Trophy

Martha Boyle and Olive were classmates, but not friends. Just weeks before the new school year begins, Olive's mother pays an unexpected visit to Martha. The first of many events that will change 12-year-old Martha's perception of her world.

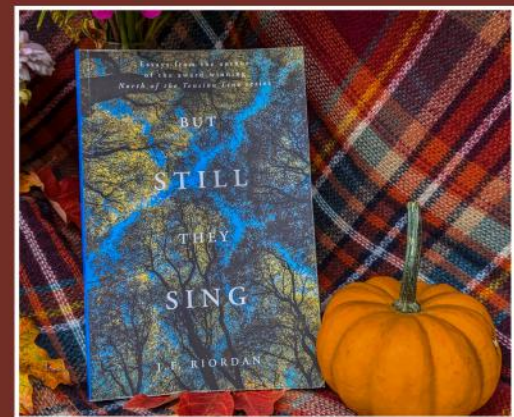


The Speckled Beauty

Author: Rick Bragg

Published 2021 by Alfred A. Knopf

It's hard to resist a good rescue dog story. One told with the heart and skill of writer Rick Bragg is especially touching without being too sweet. A feral pack dog that has all but given up turns up at Bragg's home, and, surprisingly accepts the love and shelter offered. Hard times bring the two together, in a story beautifully told.



But Still They Sing

Author: J.F. Riordan

Published 2023 by Beaufort Books

Call it a book of essays, call it a memoir, either way, *But Still They Sing* is a lovely, personal read. Wisconsin writer J.F. Riordan writes of love, loss, grief, the wild woods near her home, and the creatures that inhabit it. Tales of the everyday experiences during a pandemic, the love for her dogs, a favored relative, and a simple gratitude for living. It's an easy read, and one I think I will return to often.

A Fall Photo Walk Is Spooky Fun



If you've never gone on a photo walk scavenger hunt, fall is a perfect time to give it a try. You can go with a friend, a group, take the kids, or go solo. Take a walk in the neighborhood, the local park, wander your backyard, or spend the day in one of our great Wisconsin State Parks.

Make a list of ideas to snap photos of, grab your camera of choice - smartphone, instant, film, or digital camera - and let your imagination run wild. Follow the prompts, and then interpret them in your own way. There's no right or wrong way to snap. When you're done, have fun sharing the results of your exploration.

Following are two autumn themed lists you can use to start with. Or simply make up your own based on the location or theme of your choice.



When Seasons Fade

Wander through a local park or your yard, and look for signs of autumn.

- 1 Faded flower beauty
- 2 Nuts fallen from a tree
- 3 Berries on a branch
- 4 A lonely leaf on a branch
- 5 Red, yellow, and orange leaves
- 6 Seed heads from finished blooms
- 7 Squirrels gathering nuts
- 8 A birdbath
- 9 A bird in a tree
- 10 A pile of leaves
- 11 A tree stump
- 12 A buzzing or sleeping bee
- 13 Butterflies on a flower
- 14 A heart-shaped leaf
- 15 Fun, fall yard art



Spooky Season

Take a walk around the neighborhood and enjoy the spooky and festive Halloween decorations.

- 1 Hey there, Jack-o-lantern
- 2 What a tangled web we weave
- 3 Them bones, them bones
- 4 You're driving me batty
- 5 Some call me Binx
- 6 Let's have a howling good time
- 7 Here lies...
- 8 Double, double, toil and trouble
- 9 The witch is in
- 10 It's my boo-day
- 11 Will you join my fang club?
- 12 Let's do the monster mash
- 13 Traveling by broomstick
- 14 I want my mummy
- 15 I brake for zombies



Accessible Autumn

The beauty of the natural world, of autumn's beauty, should be accessible to all. Getting out into nature can be a greater challenge to those with physical disabilities. Whether the challenge is temporary, due to an injury or surgery, or to a permanent disability, there are accessible green spaces in Wisconsin to explore, and enjoy the change of seasons. Following are 12 worth visiting, along with links to other helpful resources.



Forest Exploration Center - Milwaukee



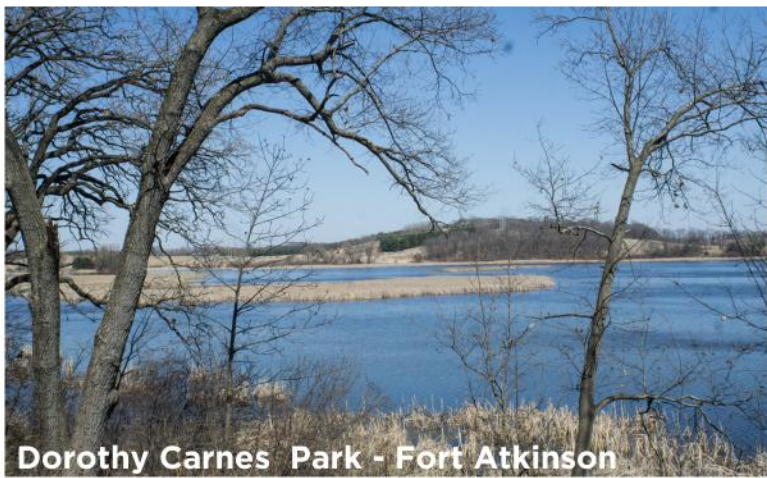
Wehr Nature Center - Franklin



Nixon Park - Hartland



Emerald Preserve - Oak Creek



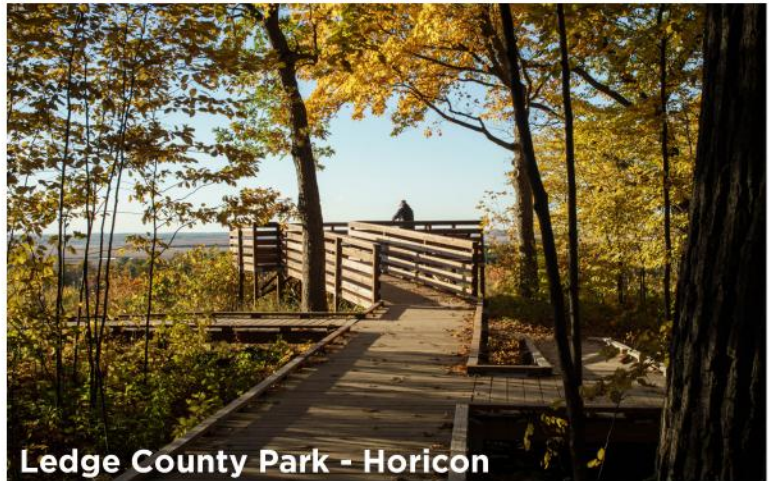
Dorothy Carnes Park - Fort Atkinson



Retzer Nature Center - Waukesha



Horicon Marsh Boardwalk Trail - Horicon



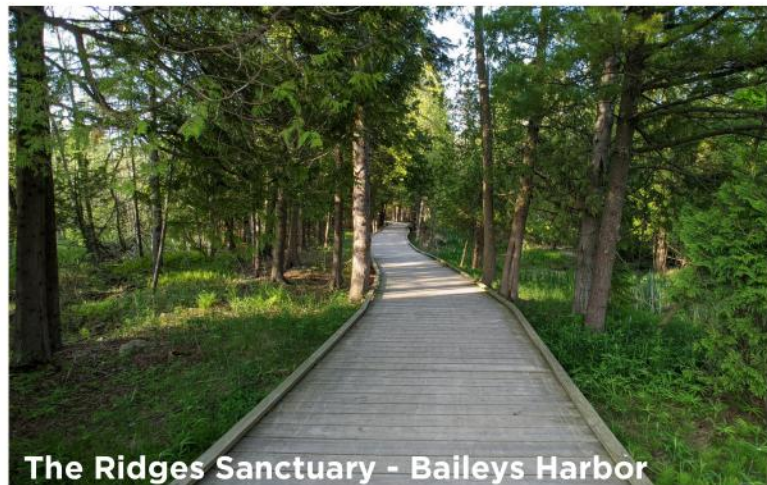
Ledge County Park - Horicon



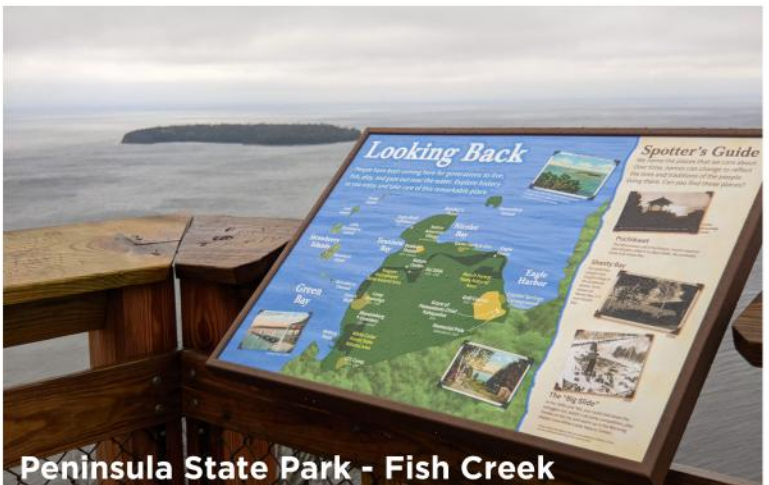
Magnolia Bluff County Park - Evansville



Pukaite Woods Nature Preserve - Mequon



The Ridges Sanctuary - Baileys Harbor



Peninsula State Park - Fish Creek



Nature Is For Every Body

Many of Milwaukee County Parks, and other community parks, feature paved trails around ponds and lagoons, which are accessible, other than during icy, inclement weather. Many of them are plowed during the winter months as well.

Wisconsin State Parks offer many all-accessible features, including ADA accessible trails, playgrounds, and camping cabins. Further information, along with a State Park Accessibility Map can be found [online](#).

There are other growing organizations that also serve to make the outdoors inclusive and accessible to all such as [Birdability.org](#) and [Accessibility.org](#).

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources State Park Accessibility Map and other features.](#)

[Birdability.org](#)
Mission: To share the joys of birding with people who have disabilities, and to ensure birding is accessible to everybody.

[Access Ability Wisconsin](#)
Mission: Provide opportunities for individuals with mobility challenges to access nature and outdoor recreational experiences.

[Milwaukee County Parks - Parks For All Abilities](#)
Milwaukee County Parks has a dedicated resource page that provides links and information on accessible parks, beaches, nature centers, swimming pools, playgrounds, golf, handcycles and adaptive bikes, ice sleds, fishing, community gardening, multi-use trails and transport.

Get In The Spirit



Enjoy the spooky season by spending some time in nature. There are a roster of events planned at parks throughout the state.



Celebrate Halloween in Wisconsin State Parks

Horicon Marsh

Education Center

Family Friendly Event

Halloween Painting Class

Tuesday, October 15

6:30pm-8pm

Saturday, October 19

10am-11:30am

Registration Required
\$10 per person/painting

High Cliff State Park

Family Friendly Event

Halloween Campground Walk

Saturday, October 19

4pm-8pm

Park Sticker Required

Merrick State Park

Family Friendly Event

Not So Spooky Skelebration

Costumes Encouraged

Saturday, October 19

4:30pm-7:30pm

Park Sticker Required

Mirror Lake State Park

Family Friendly Event

Halloween Hike with Mystery Guest

(Two Hikes to Choose From)

Saturday, October 19

6pm-8pm

Park Sticker/Pass Required

Devil's Lake State Park

Family Friendly Event

Friends Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest & Hike

Saturday, October 26

3pm-5:30pm

State Park Sticker Required

Devil's Lake State Park

Family Friendly Event

Friends Annual Halloween Hike

Saturday, October 26

6pm-8pm

State Park Sticker Required



Havenwoods State Forest



Bat Hike

Family Friendly Event

Thursday, October 31
6pm-7:30pm

Flashlight with a red light preferred

Richard Bong State Recreation Area

Family Friendly Event

Eco-Halloween Hike

Costumes Encouraged
Saturday, October 26
5pm-8pm

State Park Sticker Required

Willow River State Park

Family Friendly Event

Flashlight Scavenger Hunt

Costumes/Flashlight Encouraged
Saturday, October 26
6:30-8:30

\$5 per person
or \$10 per family

State Park Sticker Required

Buckhorn State Park

Halloween Movie Night

Age 16+

At the Amphitheater
Popcorn Provided
7pm-9:30pm

State Park Sticker Required

Check Out These Other Seasonal Events



OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

Halloween Legends & Lore

Ghost Stories, Games,
Food & Drinks

Family Friendly Event

Fridays & Saturdays

October 11-12

October 18-19

October 25-26

5:30pm - 9:30pm

Tickets & Registration Required

The Hollows At Phantom Lake YMCA in Mukwonago

Family friendly hike through a wonderland made of 3,000 carved pumpkin displays of fairylands, Viking ships, mermaids, witches and wizards on the wooded trails of Phantom Lake.



October 4-5, 11-13, 17-20

Tickets & Registration Required

36th Annual Halloween Haunts at Wehr Nature Center



300 pumpkins in an enchanted forest light up the trail for a family friendly, slightly spooky event.

October 17 - 19, 6pm - 8:30pm
Advanced Ticket Purchase Required

#OptOutside

Instead of hitting the mall on Black Friday, 2024, take the opportunity to get out on the trails for a bit of fresh air, some peace and quiet, and enjoy the late autumn beauty. Visit *TheParkNextDoor* to find a hike near you.



Have a seat and enjoy the scenery at Forest Exploration Center.

ART FOR YOUR WALLS FROM THE PARK NEXT DOOR

If you're a Wisconsin nature fan, you can decorate your walls, phone case, home decor, or stationery with images from the parks, nature preserves, and trails of Wisconsin featured on The Park Next Door.

Fine Art America is the world's largest art marketplace and print-on-demand technology company.

They have been helping artists sell wall art, home decor, apparel, and other products since 2006, and are home to hundreds of thousands of artists, photographers, graphic designers, illustrators, and iconic brands.



Want to support local artists in your area? They have a search feature to do just that! You can visit my online shop to see the current offering of images and custom products.

You can find my shop at: <https://1-kimberly-mackowski.pixels.com/>

Simple Ways To Support The Park Next Door And It's Purpose

Sign up for the website newsletter. I generally send out one email per month. Occasionally, if there is something special to share, I may send another, or send it a little earlier than usual if content warrants it. I know how overwhelming a full inbox can be. [Sign up here.](#)

Feel free to **forward/share** the monthly emails with like-minded friends and nature enthusiasts. And remember, if you do subscribe, to open the emails. If they don't show as open, eventually the service suspends the email address.

Share your discoveries. If you've visited a local park or preserve that isn't yet on the website, let me know. I'd love the opportunity to check it out, and share it, too.

Share a favorite feature, blog, or location listing. If a specific feature page, blog, or location tickles your fancy, please share it with friends, or on your social media feed. Every little bit of exposure helps.

Follow The Park Next Door on Instagram for updates on everyday explorations and happenings. [@theparknextdoor](https://www.instagram.com/theparknextdoor)



Thank You for your support,
and for your love of our parks and preserves.



be leaf
in the beauty
of fall

