

Summer 2025

TheParkNextDoor

magazine



A Summer Unfurled

Look inside for: Summer Beaches, Lavender Farms, Sculpture Parks, Sacred Effigy Mounds, Summer Reads, and more!



Happy Summer, All ~

June is upon us, finally. Though the temperatures are still on the cool side. At least there is plenty of green to go around. I have a thing for ferns lately. Something about their lush green colors, the way they unfurl. So lovely and graceful in a woodland of dappled light. My husband and I recently took an early June hike at Lizard Mound State Park. It was in full greenery, including ferns. It is the summer issue *spotlight park*. Check out the feature, and see why it's one of my favorites.

If the beach is where you prefer to hang out in the heat of summer, *Of Sand & Water* will point you in the direction of 28 beaches, including several along the Lake Michigan shore, and plenty of inland lakes to help you keep your cool.

If things in bloom are more your style, make plans to visit one of the state's many lavender farms. *For Love Of Lavender* offers details on 16 Wisconsin lavender farms. All sure to smell heavenly.

What's summer without flowers? Make plans to collect a bouquet of your own. *U-Pick Flower Farms* features a list of nine Wisconsin flower farms where you can spend some time admiring their beauty, and then take a bit of it home with you.

Absorb a bit of Native American history this summer, and visit some of the burial mounds located in parks throughout the state. *Sacred Ground* will introduce you to some of the most peaceful sacred spaces and effigy mounds.

Take some time to relax with a good book this season. *Summertime Reads* has six titles to consider. All have a connection to nature, in one way or another.

Explore your creative side with a beachside photo walk. *Life's A Beach Photo Walk Fun* will get you started. If you're feeling the need to immerse yourself in artful exploration, *Arts & Parks* offers eleven outdoor sculpture parks and gardens that combine nature and art in tandem. Each one unique, all family friendly.

Find more summer ideas online. *Summer Dreams* provides links to four web features that might suit your seasonal style.

A quick reminder that back issues of TheParkNextDoor Magazine are available free online. There are plenty of features that make for adventure in all seasons.

Savor the days, friends ~

Kimberly



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

What's Inside

It took a while to get here, but summer has finally settled in! After such a long wait, you'll want to make the most of it while it lasts. Wisconsin provides plenty of opportunity to bask in the glow of sunshine and green. Make some plans to enjoy it.

Enjoy a day at the beach? We've got a list of over 25 beaches throughout the state for a splashing good time. Our feature **Of Sand & Water** will have you refreshed and relaxed all summer long.

Speaking of relaxing...the heavenly scent of lavender will calm your senses, and treat your eyes to blooming beauty at 16 lavender farms across the state. **For Love Of Lavender** will introduce you.

One of my favorite local Wisconsin State Parks is gorgeous all summer. **Spotlight On Lizard Mound State Park** illustrates why you'll want to put this park on your to explore list.

Seeking a bit of peace, history, and beauty? Spend an afternoon on **Sacred Ground**, appreciating historical effigy mounds and their surroundings, which represent many of the Native American peoples of Wisconsin.

Back again, is an updated list of some of the great flower farms in the area. Make plans to support one of these local growers, and beautify your life with a fresh cut bouquet of your own making with **U-Pick Flower Farms**.

Feel the need to kick back and relax with a cool beverage and a good book? We've got six great titles to consider for **Summertime Reads**.

Explore your creative side by taking a photo walk. **Life's A Beach Photo Walk Fun** provides 20 simple beach-themed photo prompts to get you started.

Keep the inspiration going and visit one of eleven spectacular sculpture parks and gardens listed in **Arts & Parks**. Check out a photo gallery wrap-up of peonies in **Elegance Blooms at Ovans Peony Farm**.

There's more to consider: **Summer Dreams** provides links to online features that will keep the fun going all season long.

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Support The Park Next Door & Its Purpose



North Point Park - Sheboygan

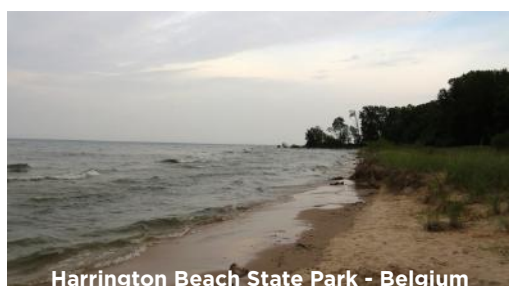
Summer is the perfect time for a wander along a lakeshore, or to enjoy a festive day at the beach. Whether you prefer to set up your beach blanket in the sand with a good book and a picnic, spend the day swimming until your skin wrinkles, or just dip your toes in the water to cool off, Wisconsin has plenty of beachfront to offer.

From man-made swimming holes at local parks, to full-on sandy beaches along the Lake Michigan shore, and beautiful, scenic lakes throughout the state. Bring on the warm, sunny weather, and get out and enjoy the blissful days of sand and water.

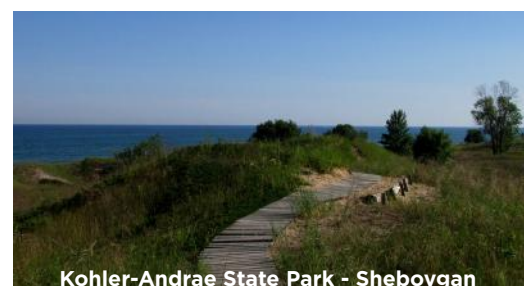


Summer on the Lake Michigan shore.

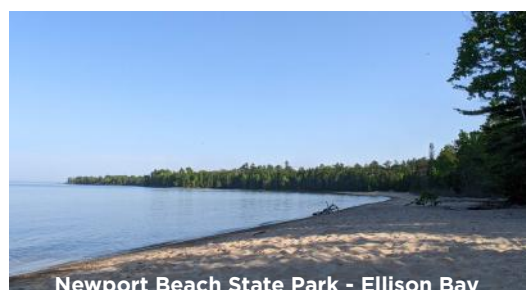
STATE PARKS ON LAKE MICHIGAN



Harrington Beach State Park - Belgium



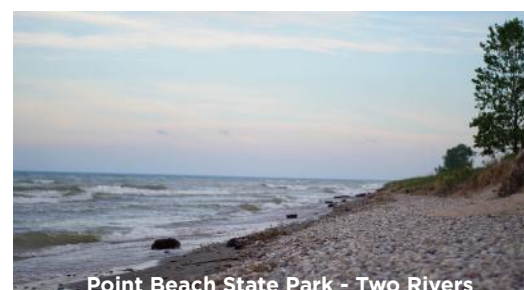
Kohler-Andrae State Park - Sheboygan



Newport Beach State Park - Ellison Bay



Peninsula State Park - Fish Creek



Point Beach State Park - Two Rivers

LOCAL PARKS ON LAKE MICHIGAN



Hika Bay Park - Cleveland



North Point Park - Sheboygan



Wind Point Lighthouse - Racine



Anclam Park - Baileys Harbor



Schoolhouse Beach - Washington Island



South Shore Park - Bayview



LOCAL PARKS WITH LAKES



Sandy Knoll Park - Trenton



Muskego Park - Muskego



Regner Park - West Bend



Indianhead Park - Mukwonago



Williams Bay Beach - Williams Bay



Crystal Lake Park - Beaver Dam



Tyranena Park - Lake Mills



Idle Isle Park - Muskego



Mukwonago Park - Mukwonago



STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS



Hartman Creek State Park - Waupaca



Pike Lake State Park - Hartford



Cadiz Springs State Rec Area - New Glarus



High Cliff State Park - Sherwood



Mauthe Lake State Rec Area - Campbellsport



Big Foot Beach State Park - Lake Geneva



Lake Kegonsa State Park - Stoughton



Ottawa Lake State Rec Area - Dousman



WISCONSIN DNR FIND A LAKE SEARCH FEATURE

Wisconsin has a bevy of lakes for swimming, boating, fishing, and more. The Wisconsin DNR website has a FIND A LAKE feature available on their website. You'll be able to pinpoint lakes for swimming, fishing, boating, and more, within different geographical areas in the state.

There's bound to be great fun on the water near you no matter where in Wisconsin you live. Check it out: [FIND A LAKE](#)





FOR LOVE OF LAVENDER

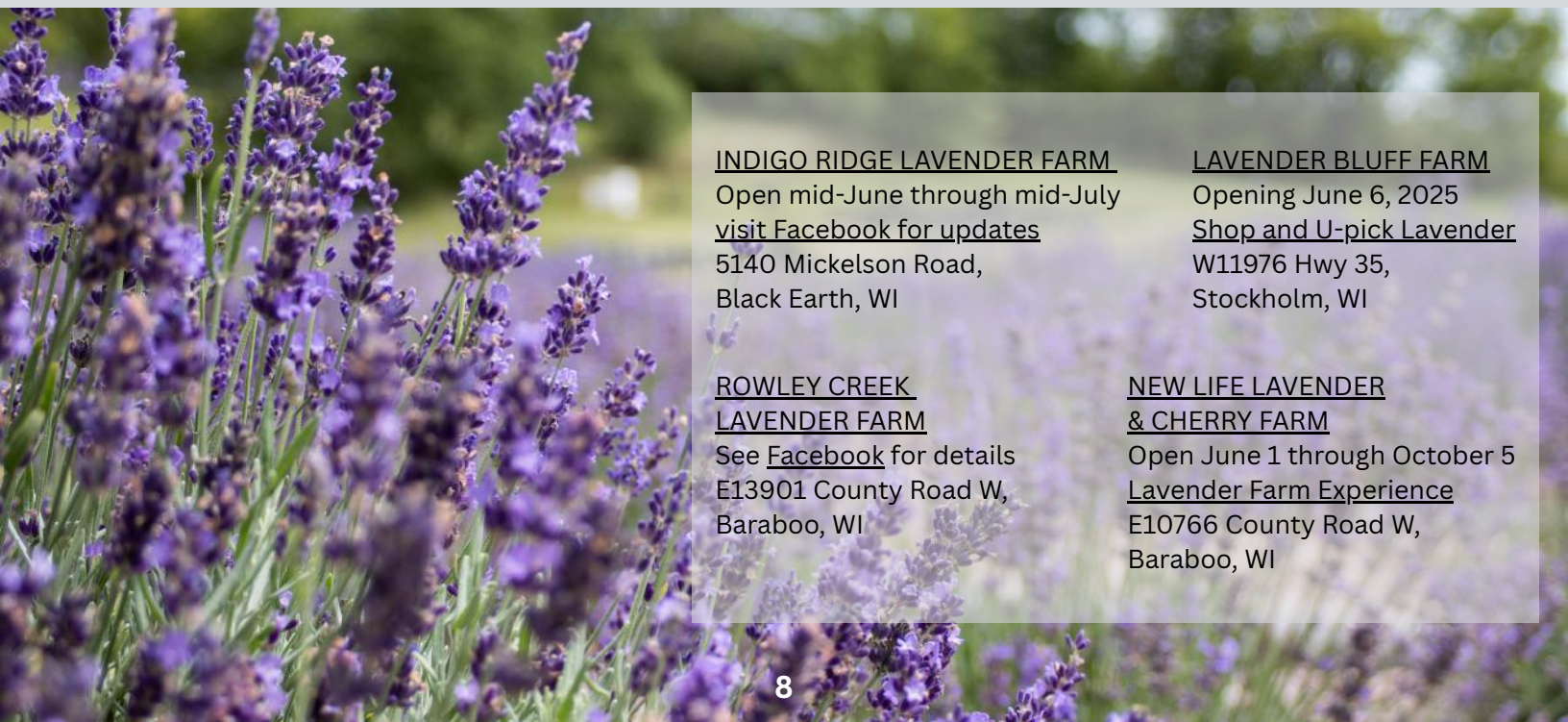
Ahhh, lavender. The scent of it is so heady and relaxing. The precious oils are used in aromatherapy, and all kinds of skin care and healing concoctions. Culinary lavenders are used in all sorts of food and drink, too. Of course, the blooms are delicately beautiful, - perfect for a timeless dried arrangement.

Once there were but a few lavender farms in the state, but in recent years lavender farming has grown in popularity, and is doing very well in Wisconsin.

After a bit of research, I discovered there are 16 lavender farms throughout the state. Many of them host events on the farm, have onsite shops, and online shops, too.

Summer is the perfect time to visit a lavender farm. For the beauty, for the homemade products, for the tasty treats like lavender lemonade and lavender ice cream. And for all kinds of events hosted on the farms, including yoga classes, art classes, workshops, even classes on how to grow your own lavender.

So, if you're a lavender fan, put one of these Wisconsin lavender farms on your summer fun list, and check out their websites and Facebook pages to browse the menu of items and experiences they have to offer.



INDIGO RIDGE LAVENDER FARM
Open mid-June through mid-July
visit Facebook for updates
5140 Mickelson Road,
Black Earth, WI

LAVENDER BLUFF FARM
Opening June 6, 2025
Shop and U-pick Lavender
W11976 Hwy 35,
Stockholm, WI

ROWLEY CREEK
LAVENDER FARM
See Facebook for details
E13901 County Road W,
Baraboo, WI

NEW LIFE LAVENDER
& CHERRY FARM
Open June 1 through October 5
Lavender Farm Experience
E10766 County Road W,
Baraboo, WI



ISLAND LAVENDER FARM & MARKETS

Online, Shop & Farm
Visit [Facebook](#) for updates
10432 Hwy 42, Ephraim, WI

THE LAVENDER HOMESTEAD

U-pick Season Opening July 2
[U-pick Updates & More](#)
13905 Balsam Lane, Suring, WI

POTTER CREEK LAVENDER

[Reservations Required](#) Scheduled Tours &
Photography Bookings
3987 State Hwy 32, Pulaski, WI

PONDVIEW LAVENDER FARM

Season Opens June 5, 2025
[Special Events & U-Pick](#)
3735 Business Hwy 29, Chippewa Falls, WI

FRAGRANT ISLE LAVENDER FARM & SHOP

Mid-June to early September
[Special Events, Tours, U-Pick](#)
1350 Airport Road, Washington Island, WI

GLEN INNISH FARM

Farm, Shop, Workshops
[Reservations required](#)
E5427 Second Road, Kewaunee, WI

COUNTRY LAVENDER & ORCHARD

[Shop open Monday-Friday, 10am - 4pm](#)
[Also open by Appointment](#)
See [Facebook](#) for more
12819 State Road 67, Kiel, WI



OLD SCHOOL FARMSTEAD

Online & at Farmer's Markets
See [Facebook](#) for details & updates
W9577 Clinton Street, Darien, WI

EUGSTERS FARM MARKET

Mid-June to July
[Lavender Days](#)
3865 WI-138, Stoughton, WI

LO LAY LAR LAVENDER

[Online Shop & Farm](#)
U-pick Opening in June, 2025
6823 Maple Avenue, Cashton, WI

MAPLE GROVE LAVENDER

Online Shop & Farm
See [Facebook](#) for updates
1231 Koro Road, Ripon, WI

EDN FARM

Online Shop & Farm
See [Facebook](#) for Special Public
Events
s66w28796 River Road
Waukesha, WI





Lizard Mound State Park is a 22-acre historical park, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and stands as the best preserved effigy mounds in the state of Wisconsin. It was first designated as a state park in 1950. Management of the park was taken over by Washington County in 1980. It was a popular field trip location. Both I and my sister recall visiting the site on field trips during our middle school years.

In the spring of 2022 the park was transferred back to ownership and management by the Wisconsin DNR. New signage was put in place, and, as of winter 2025, a state park sticker is required for access.

These effigy mounds are unique to southern Wisconsin, the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk people. This is sacred ground, and should be treated as such. Please remember that walking on the mounds is prohibited, and it is illegal to disturb archaeological sites on state park grounds without a permit.



A mile-long walking trail weaves throughout the park, passing the linear, conical, lizard and bird shaped mounds. It passes through both prairie and woodland, and is an easy trek. Springtime brings wildflower blooms like jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, and mayapple. Come summer, unfurled ferns, and blooming native milkweed plants are plentiful on the prairie, with Monarch butterflies hovering above. Gray catbirds, American robins, goldfinches, and red-bellied Woodpeckers are just some of the songbirds spotted in the lush green landscape here.



Location: 2121 County Hwy A, Town of Farmington, WI (Washington County)



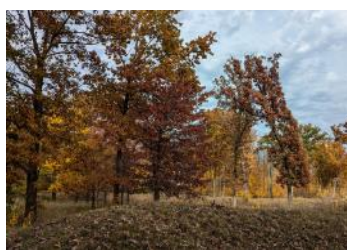
When I first returned just a few years ago, I discovered the added interpretive center with educational displays and signage, and audio exhibits that tell the story of the mounds. On recent visits, the audio part of the educational displays were not working. Hopefully, repair of this excellent feature will be part of the new state park management plan. The visuals are still quite helpful.



While spring and summer are beautiful in the park, autumn truly shines. The first time I visited in fall a few years ago I was nearly dumbstruck by its golden beauty. Pulling into the parking lot from the entrance drive we were greeted by a cascade of falling yellow maple leaves. Autumn leaves accented the effigy mounds so perfectly, and the range of autumn color throughout the park was simply stunning.



No matter the season, a sense of peace can definitely be felt here.





A sacred pyramid-shaped platform mound at Aztalan State Park

Native American history runs deep within Wisconsin. Well known Native American peoples throughout our history and state include Menominee, Ojibwe (Chippewa), Potawatomi, and Ho-Chunk (Hocak - Winnebago). Many of the lands they inhabited included sacred burial and effigy mounds. It is estimated that there were originally more than 15,000 mounds in the state at one time. Today, only thousands remain. They can be found in nature preserves, state, and local parks.

Burial mounds, of course, are considered sacred, and protected, land. Just as cemeteries are considered throughout our state. The mounds themselves are made in a variety of shapes - from conical, to animal shaped - deer, birds, bears, and panthers, for example. The amount of detail presented at each park, about the history of the mounds can vary. Some of the parks and preserves have worked with the appropriate Indian Nations to preserve, and present information about the mounds, the land, its people, and its history.

Please remember that walking on these sacred mounds is prohibited, and it is illegal to disturb archaeological sites on park grounds without a permit.



Sheboygan Indian Mound Park



I've found many of these spaces to be some of the most beautiful and peaceful places I have visited. *Lizard Mound State Park* is stunning in the fall, with falling autumn leaves defining the shapes of the mounds.

John S. Garman Nature Preserve, in partnership with the Ho-Chunk Nation, and Wisconsin Hocak artist Christopher Sweet, created some of the most beautiful educational displays within the preserve, and surrounding the sacred mounds that I have seen. They illustrate beautifully the lives and history of the people who once lived there. Christopher Sweet also recently created beautiful new signage and displays for *Indian Mound Park at Lake Koshkonong*.

There are many more historic, sacred sites across the state. I hope to visit more of them in the future, to learn more about the history, and the culture of Native people and their lands. I present just a quick summary here of nine that I have visited in recent years. I hope that you will find them intriguing, and worth taking a trip to witness their beauty for yourself.

Currently, there are 11 official Tribal Nations in Wisconsin. Their tourism bureau offers much to learn, see, and experience in our state. If you want to learn more, visit their website - [Native American Tourism of Wisconsin](#).





Ancient mounds along the trail at Lizard Mound State Park



Aztalan State Park pyramid mound

AZTALAN STATE PARK - Aztalan (Jefferson County)

Aztalan State Park spans 172 acres along the Crawfish River near Lake Mills. The ancient Aztalan village is found within the park. These ruins were once settled (around the year 900 A.D.) by a Native American culture known as the Middle Mississippian Tradition.

Some of the features built by this historic people were large, flat-topped pyramidal mounds and a stockade of vertically set logs surrounding the village. They hunted, fished, and farmed on the site, and lived here until approximately 1200 A.D., when the land was abandoned. The reason for departure still remains a mystery.

The park, which features three remaining pyramid-shaped platform mounds, was declared a Wisconsin State Park in 1952. Further to that, it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962

Other features include many walking trails, plenty of flowers, plants, trees, birds, and wildlife. Exceptional bird watching can be found here. There are two spots for putting in with a canoe or kayak. Fishing along the river here often yield northern pike, catfish, and walleye.

Entrance Fee: State Park sticker required / Hours: Open Daily 6 am to 11 pm / Parking: Parking lot available



Garman Nature Preserve

JOHN S. GARMAN NATURE PRESERVE - Waterloo (Jefferson County)

Garman Nature Preserve is 46 acres of woodland, walking trails, and sacred Native American burial mounds. The scenic, glacier-made hills climb upwards, toward the top for a view of the 22 conical burial mounds that line up alongside the walking trail. These sacred mounds were built by ancestors of the Hocak (Ho-Chunk) tribe. Typically round and dome shaped, they are usually about 10-20 feet across, and vary from 2-8 feet in height. The time frame of the mounds can be traced back to between A.D. 550 and A.D. 800.

As you walk the grounds you will pass oak, hickory, cherry, and maple trees. Some pines and spruce trees are scattered throughout as well. Some of the native plants and wildflowers along the trails are Mayapple, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Geranium, Violets, Canada Anemones, Lady Fern, and the rare, protected Yellow Giant Hyssop. On our walk in late summer, we viewed Joe Pye Weed, Spotted Touch-Me-Not, Woodland Sunflower, and Blue Cohosh.

Features at the preserve include educational displays, created by artist [Christopher Sweet](#), nearly two miles of trails, suitable for hiking, bird watching, and snowshoeing. Viewing of 22 Native American burial mounds at the top most area of the hill, a covered picnic shelter, restroom, and parking lot. Benches are stationed throughout, along the trail routes. Some of the trails can be a bit steep and rocky, but are definitely manageable. I took along a walking stick, and it came in handy at a few of the steepest spots.

A parking lot is available. / Entrance to the preserve is free. / Hours: open daily 6 am to 7 pm

HIGH CLIFF STATE PARK - Sherwood (Calumet County)

High Cliff State Park was officially opened in 1957, but its history goes back much further. With stunning views of Lake Winnebago, the cliffs of the park were formed by the settling and hardening of limy ooze at the bottom of the Silurian Sea, going back 400 million years ago. The cliffs, often called "the ledge" are part of the Niagara Escarpment.

In addition to the escarpment, there is an ancient history of Native American effigy mounds, and a limestone quarry. Out of 30 sacred effigy mounds, nine remain in High Cliff State Park. You can view these along the Indian Mounds Trail on the upper section of the park. The first mound, of a large panther, is about 285 feet in length! Signage along the trail defines the shapes of the mounds.



High Cliff State Park Indian Mounds Trail

Among all this history and scenic beauty, there are plenty of outdoor activities to enjoy. Hiking trails, a beach for swimming, horseback riding, fishing, archery, winter skiing, camping, biking, boating, picnics, a 40-foot observation tower with incredible views of the surrounding areas, and the beautiful Lake Winnebago.

Entrance Fee: Wisconsin State Park sticker required / Hours: Open Daily, 6 am to 11 pm

SHEBOYGAN INDIAN MOUND PARK - Sheboygan (Sheboygan County)

This natural and historical resource, is a sacred burial ground to members of the Effigy Mound People. Estimated to reside here from 500-1000A.D., the 18 mounds were known as the Kletzien Mound Group. In 1927, the Milwaukee Public Museum staff opened, studied, and partially excavated some of the mounds. Mound shapes include birds, reptiles, deer and other animals. In 1966 the park was established as a means of preserving the land, heritage and history of Wisconsin's Native American people.

There are two separate trails here. One that follows the marked effigy mounds, and a separate nature trail that follows the path down a stairway, through wetlands, along Hartman Creek, and back up the hill to the remaining portion of the trail. My first visit here was in the fall. I returned this spring to find it immersed in green, with birdsong and wildflowers throughout. Currently the boardwalk and walking trails through the wetlands area are closed for repair. But the main walking and burial mound trails are open.

Entrance Fee: None / Hours: Open daily from 4 am to 10 pm / Parking: Parking lot available



Sheboygan Indian Mound Park



Nitschke Mounds County Park

NITSCHKE MOUNDS COUNTY PARK - Burnett (Dodge County)

Nitschke Mounds Park is 54 acres of prairie, woodland, and, is home to a pre-historic Native American archaeological site with 37 visibly remaining burial mounds. Research estimates there were originally about 100 burial mounds within this park and the surrounding area. The park is located near the center of Dodge County (and adjacent to the Wild Goose State Trail), just west of Horicon Marsh. The mounds themselves are believed to have been constructed around 800 AD - 1100 AD, and represent one of the best surviving examples of the Mound Builders culture that once occupied the area. They resemble in shape birds, deer, buffalo, turtles, panthers, canines, and more.

There are detailed signs of the parks history posted in the picnic shelter, along with trail information. There are interpretive signs along the trail as well. At approximately a mile long, the trail winds its way through prairie, woodlands, past a pond, and circles back to the shelter area. A portion of the trail is covered in wood chips, though the area by the pond can be a bit flooded after a good rain. The trails are an easy walk, though there are not any all-access areas.

Fees: No Entrance Fee / Parking: Parking lot available

Hours: Open Daily Dawn to Dusk

DOROTHY CARNES PARK - Fort Atkinson (Jefferson County)

Dorothy Carnes Park is a 512 acre conservation park in Jefferson County, including nearly 9 miles of hiking trails, biking trails, cross-country skiing trails, effigy mounds, a State Natural Area, campgrounds, picnic areas, a reservable picnic shelter, and a great observation deck for viewing wildlife. There is an ADA accessible limestone trail to the observation deck.

A fenced off turtle-shaped Native American effigy mound is located along one of the walking trails. A detailed sign is in position, so you won't miss it. Sadly, there is not any further information detailed here about the mound.

Between the prairie trails, woodland trails, and Rose Lake, there is plenty of opportunity for bird watching here. Access to the park is provided on the Eastern and Western portion of Rose Lake, with parking provided at several locations. The eastern portion of the park includes an ongoing restoration of a log-cabin, along with multiple farmstead buildings, and several walking trails.

Fee: No Fee Required

Hours: Daily 4:30 am to 10 pm

Parking: Parking lots available

Location: N3220 Radloff Lane, Fort Atkinson, WI (Jefferson County)



Dorothy Carnes Park

DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK - Baraboo (Sauk County)



Devil's Lake State Park

The park is over 10,000 acres, and is Wisconsin's most popular state park. The lake was formed as a byproduct of the Wisconsin Glacier that moved into the area some 15,000 years ago. It deposited dams of rock and earth at the two open ends of Devil's Lake Gap, which rerouted the ancient rivers that flowed through the area. Then filled in to create Devil's Lake. The lake itself is spring-fed and the depth varies from 40-50 feet. The distance from the lake to the top of the quartzite bluffs is approximately 500 feet.

The park sits on ancestral Ho-Chunk land, and contains effigy mounds that are part of their cultural heritage. Nearly 100 species of birds nest in the park, and 880 plant species grow there.

The park has a total of 423 [campsites](#), with an additional 9 group campsites. There is a Nature Center at the park's north entrance. It is open every day from June - August. Tuesday-Sunday: 10am to 5pm. Mondays: 10am to 4pm.

Location: S5975 Park Rd, Baraboo, WI (Sauk County)

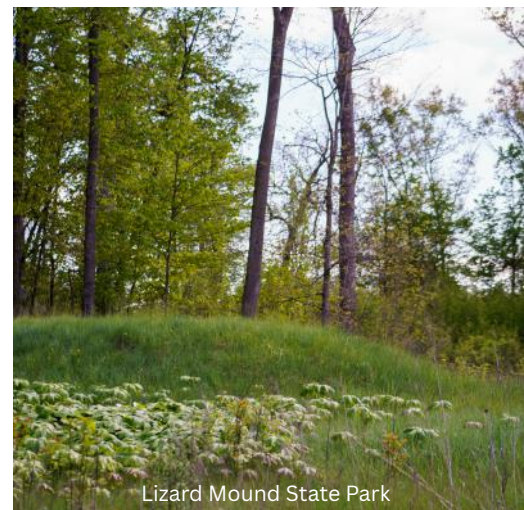
LIZARD MOUND STATE PARK - Farmington (Washington County)

Lizard Mound is a 22-acre historical park, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and stands as the best preserved effigy mounds in the state of Wisconsin. It was first designated as a state park in 1950. Management of the park was taken over by Washington County in 1980, then returned to the state DNR in 2022.

The park is beautiful in all seasons, but I highly recommend a visit during fall. This past October we visited, and it was simply stunning in autumn color. The fallen leaves accentuated the sacred mounds so beautifully. Trails are easy to walk, and it's generally a very quiet, peaceful park to enjoy.

Fees: State Park Sticker Required / Hours: Daily 6 am to 11 pm

Location: 2121 County Hwy A, Town of Farmington, WI (Washington County)



Lizard Mound State Park

INDIAN MOUNDS PARK - Fort Atkinson (Jefferson County)

Wisconsin has many parks and grounds that are home to historic Indian Mounds. Jefferson County is home to the *Lake Koshkonong Effigy Mounds* and Trail Park. The park has a group of 11 mounds estimated to be about 1500 years old. The mounds vary in shapes of animals, birds, and conical mounds. They vary in length from 75 to 222 feet, and in width of 15 to 30 feet. Each mound has a sign detailing the shape.

The woodland trail itself is an easy hike at under a mile. The park is a great spot for bird watching. The day we were there we saw a multitude of American Robins, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Least Flycatchers.



Indian Mounds Park

Recently artful signage was added to the park by Wisconsin Hocak (Ho-Chunk) artist [Christopher Sweet](#). The artwork details what life would have been like for the original inhabitants of this land, and illustrates the sacred meaning of the burial mounds. A detailed, artful kiosk with a park map, and illustrations of the shapes of the mounds was also added at the beginning of the short woodland walking trail. Welcome additions to a beautiful, peaceful, and sacred space.

The park is open daily, dawn to dusk. / Location: W7561 Koshkonong Mounds Road, Fort Atkinson, WI (Jefferson County)



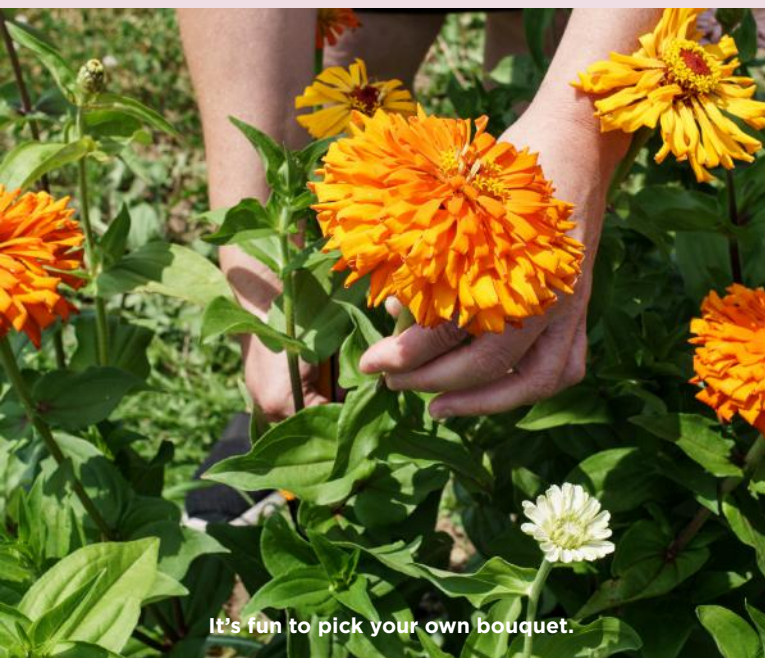
U-PICK FLOWER FARMS

If you're not the gardening kind, or your anxious to put together a stunning summer bouquet to brighten up your space, or give as a gift before your garden is ready, check out these fantastic local cutting flower farms.

Some of them offer both U-pick flowers and sunflowers (as well as apple picking in the fall). I usually end up returning a few times to satisfy my craving for cheerful arrangements while waiting for my garden to bloom. It's fun to pick just the blooms I want. Most offer pre-picked bouquet options as well.



Vibrant pink cosmos are a pollinators best friend



It's fun to pick your own bouquet.

You'll find a wide variety of species, colors, shapes, textures, and sizes. Lots of opportunity to be creative. Many of the farms offer specialty events and tours, as well as other home-grown items for sale as well.

Given Wisconsin's temperamental weather, be sure to check out their websites and/or Facebook pages for current field status. Heavy rains, and super dry days, among other things, can affect picking dates and hours.

It's best to bring your own gloves, clippers, and a vase or container for transporting your blooms home, if you can.



GIERACH ORCHARDS

To Be Determined - see Facebook
U-Pick Flowers
9616 W. Bonniwell Road,
Mequon, WI



ROOTS & STEMS FLOWER FARM

Flower Farm Opens Mid-July
U-Pick Flowers
11627 Highland Road,
Mequon, WI



FOR THE LOVE OF FLOWERS FARM

Opening July (TBD)
U-pick Flower Farm
12114 W. 5 Mile Road,
Franksville, WI



EUGSTER'S FARM MARKET

Late Summer, TBD, see Facebook
Eugster's U-Cut Flower Field
3865 WI-138,
Stoughton, WI



THE FLOWER BEE

Open Wednesday, July 24
U-pick Flower Farm
22428 7 Mile Road,
Franksville, WI

TWO BEES AND A BUD

Opening July 12
U-pick Flower Farm
1549 200th Avenue,
New Richmond, WI



BARNWOOD FARMS

Opening July, 2025
U-pick Flower Farm
E290 Johnson Road,
Waupaca, WI



57FARMSTORE

To Be Determined
U-Pick Flowers
4216 State Hwy 57,
Sturgeon Bay, WI



ONE EIGHTY PETALS

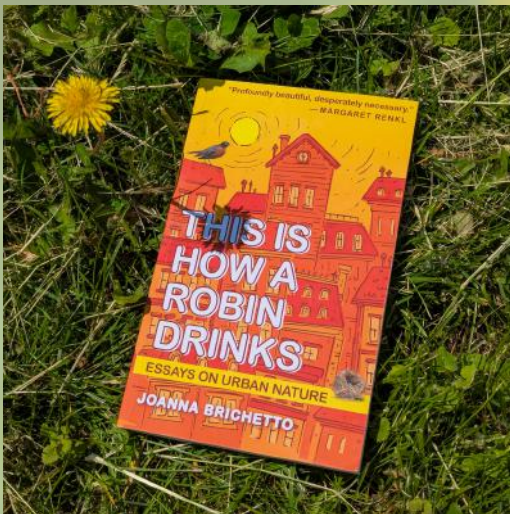
Currently Taking Reservations
U-pick Flower Farm
8999 S. Highland Road,
Fish Creek, WI



Summertime Reads



Looking for a good summer read? This selection of six titles share some common themes: appreciating the urban nature around us, coming together as a community to create a shared garden, a guide to backyard gardening for wildlife, overcoming grief and loss through a connection to nature, and a heartwarming tale of a common backyard bird rescue.

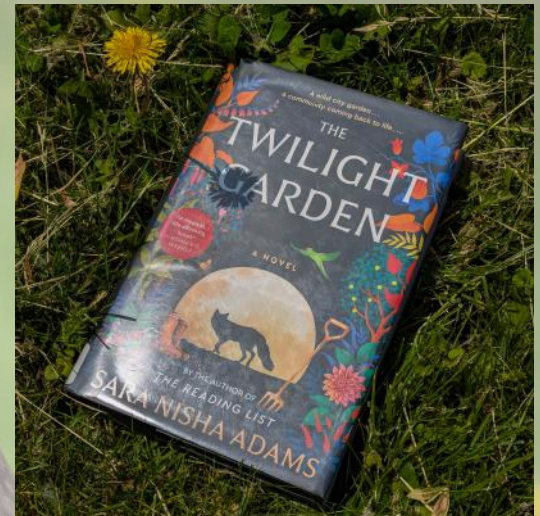


THIS IS HOW A ROBIN DRINKS - Essays On Urban Nature

Author: Joanna Brichetto
Published 2024 by Trinity University Press

No matter where you live, nature is right outside your door. Heck, it's on the front porch steps. These essays, by Nashville author Joanna Brichetto, detail the bits of nature found in everyday life.

From the backyard, to an abandoned shopping mall parking lot. Brichetto has a great respect for all living things, (maybe not ticks), and a good sense of humor, too. The essays follow a year of seasons. Savor each one.

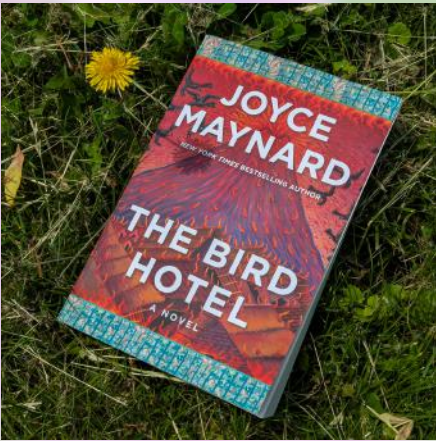


THE TWILIGHT GARDEN - A Novel

Author: Sara Nisha Adams
Published 2024 by William Morrow

The story of a shared garden in a small London neighborhood, once a sanctuary, but fallen into disrepair, will charm you with it's characters and community spirit.

New residents, Bernice and Winston, do not start off on good footing. But a mysterious parcel arrives, with photos of the garden in all its prior glory, prompting them to bring the faded space back to life. Soon the yard will be blooming with friends and flowers alike.



THE BIRD HOTEL - A Novel

Author: Joyce Maynard

Published 2025 by Arcade

Heartbreak and tragedy lead Irene, a young American woman, to a beautiful, but decaying lake front hotel in a small Central American village. Here at La Llorona, also known as The Bird Hotel, Irene longs to leave her past behind. Among the beautiful gardens, serenaded by colorful tropical birds and flowers, she comes to know the locals, and become a part of the community.

Over time, Irene helps to restore the hotel, though not without serious obstacles. She will face personal challenges, too, as her past catches up with her, and can no longer be ignored.

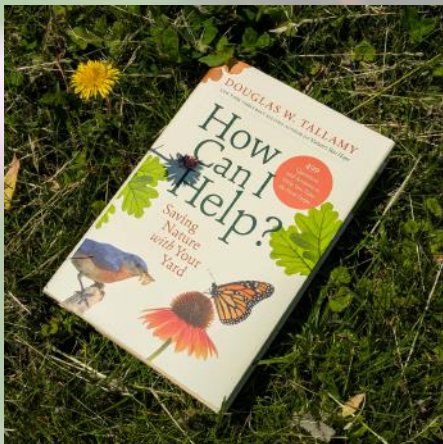
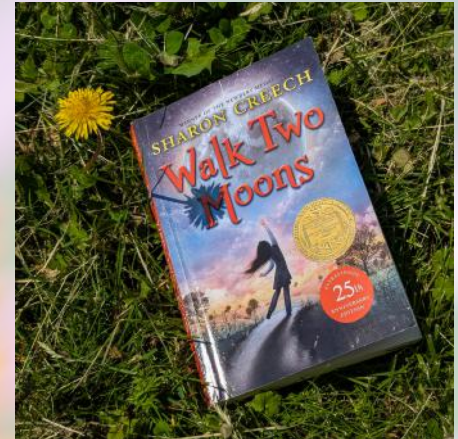
WALK TWO MOONS

Author: Sharon Creech

First Published 1994 by HarperCollins

This young-adult novel, tells the story of Sal, a thirteen-year-old girl who longs to be reunited with her missing mother. She sets off on a journey with her grandparents, from Ohio to Idaho, in a race to meet up with her mother by her birthday.

Sal, it seems, is a storyteller. As they journey westward, stopping at many of the tourist spots along the way, Sal tells her grandparents the story of Phoebe Winterbottom, one of her new friends from school. Phoebe and Sal, it turns out, have something in common. Both of their mothers are missing.



HOW CAN I HELP? Saving Nature *with* Your Yard

Author: Douglas W. Tallamy

Published 2025 by Hachette Book Group

The Homegrown National Park® (HNP) organization raises awareness and works to inspire everyday people to address the biodiversity crisis by adding native plants and removing invasive ones where we live, work, learn, pray, and play.

The prospect can be overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Douglas W. Tallamy has put together an informative question and answer guide to help in the approach to add more native plants and trees to your yard. Small, collective, steps can make a big difference in this growing effort to protect all manner of wildlife, including the human race.

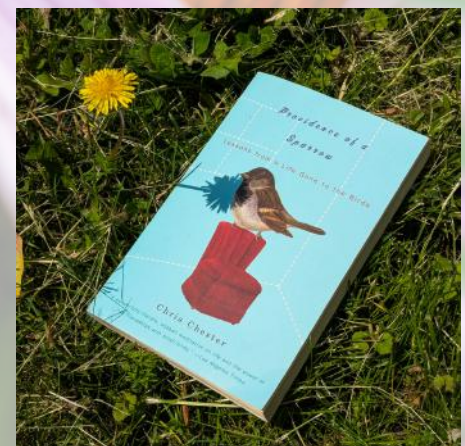
PROVIDENCE OF A SPARROW

Lessons From A Life Gone To The Birds

Author: Chris Chester

Published 2004 by Penguin Random House

The common house sparrow does not get enough love, if you ask me. This true tale of the rescue of a newly hatched house sparrow, and how it brings a new world to light for a young couple, warmed my heart in so many ways. The story of a little brown bird that brought big personality and joy to everyday life might just convince you to look at those plain little birds in the backyard with a new appreciation. One of my very favorite books.





Arts & Parks

Nature, to me, is already artful. It inspires artists of all genres. Displaying artworks in a natural setting is a brilliant way to appreciate both. There are some pretty spectacular sculpture parks and gardens in Wisconsin (and nearby).

From metal arts to concrete and stone, garden shelters and displays, nostalgic, larger than life figurines, and more. Pieces of whimsy, drama, tribute, and cultural history. A children's sculpture park with a wide array of engaging activities, a labyrinth garden with flowers aplenty, sculpture, and benches for resting. A children's garden, a fairy garden, walking trails, and nature-based fun.

Carve out some time to visit some of these eleven amazing locations this summer, and add some artful inspiration to your days. Follow the links for more photos and details about each listing.



Bobrowitz Sculpture Garden - Colgate

This spectacular six acre outdoor sculpture gallery displays the artworks of local sculpture artist Paul Bobrowitz. Clever, colorful, whimsical, thoughtful, and plentiful. Everywhere you look there is art. And things that will soon be art. The outdoor gallery is open to the public from sunrise to sunset. Keep in mind, this is not a park, but an art gallery. All pieces are for sale, but visiting is free. There is a sculpture that serves as a donation box, should you be inclined.

Location: N93W29174 Woodchuck Way, Colgate, WI (Washington County)
Hours: Daily, 9am - 5pm

Nick Engelbert's Grandview - Hollandale

Another unique art garden in Wisconsin! Nick Engelbert's Grandview is located among rolling hills just outside of Hollandale. Nick Engelbert's creative vision began in 1937 when he modified his simple family farmhouse with an elaborate framework around the entry, featuring embellished concrete. Eventually, he covered every inch of the outside surface of the house with concrete inlaid with shards of china, glass, beads, buttons, and sea shells.

The house itself now operates as a museum. The day we were there it was not open for viewing. Though we peered in the windows a bit. I would recommend checking first if you plan to tour inside the house/museum. The grounds, however, are open daily until dark.

Location: 7351 WI-39, Hollandale, WI (Iowa County)



Franconia Sculpture Park - Shafer, MN

Founded in 1996, Franconia Art Park is located in Shafer, MN. This 43-acre art and sculpture park drew us in for an intriguing, artsy, and fun summer afternoon. Easy walking trails wind through the park highlighting a wide variety of featured large scale sculptures. New features added on an ongoing basis.

Ample parking, picnic tables and restrooms are available on site.
Location: 29836 St. Croix Trail, Shafer, MN (Chisago County)



The Garden Door - Sturgeon Bay

Heading north, on Hwy 42, from Sturgeon Bay, you will find a blooming sanctuary of birds, flowers, and plants: [The Garden Door](#). These beautiful gardens are designed and maintained by members of the Door County Master Gardeners Association and reside on land owned and operated by the [University of Wisconsin Peninsular Agricultural Research Station](#).

Location: 4312 Hwy 42, Sturgeon Bay, WI (Door County)

Harmony Arboretum & Gardens - Peshtigo

Walking trails wind through a 17-acre prairie among native plants and grasses. A hardwood forest features walking trails among trees over 150 years old. It is a popular bird watching spot, and is alive with wildflowers in spring. Guided tours are offered on occasion. The forest, like the gardens, is open to the public.

Garden areas include: perennial, herb, shade, water feature, butterfly garden, raised bed vegetable gardens, along with a [Children's Learning Garden](#), which is open to the public, but is also a popular local school field trip destination.

Location: N3890 County E, Peshtigo, WI (Marinette County)



Labyrinth Garden Earth Sculpture - West Bend

The garden is near the front (Main Street) entrance to Regner Park in West Bend, with parking near by. The design is a traditional Cretan Labyrinth, and contains a single pathway that turns back on itself at least once before leading to the center. The grass pathways are lined with plants in a striking variety of color and texture. Butterfly favorites such as cone-flower are well represented, along with several types of lilies, poppies, cleome, blazing star, dahlias, daisies and more.

Location: 800 N. Main Street, West Bend, WI (Washington County)

Margie's Garden - Hales Corners

Margie's Garden is a colorful, flower-laden wonderland for kids. This gift to Boerner Botanical Garden's wish list, is a memorial to Margaret "Margie" Kezman, a local teacher who died in May, 2019. The larger than life flower sculptures add color and whimsy, as butterflies and bees buzz about the blooms throughout. A reading library is featured in the Enchanted Village, so kids can relax with a good book in the playhouse, or on a wooden stump seat. There are benches for resting and reading in the Secret Garden, as well.

Location: 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, WI (Milwaukee County)





M. Schettl Sales Sculpture & Oddities

This quirky retail business sells everything from doors, windows, pontoon boats, trailers, yard art, and more. Just browsing the grounds and buildings is an event.

It's so fun to see the unique sculpture and nostalgia they have curated and displayed on the grounds. Everything from a giant King Kong peeking out over one of the buildings, to multiple statues of Michelangelo's David. Sharks, eagles, pigs, horses, fairies, and more.

Location: 5105 County Road S., Oshkosh, WI (Winnebago County)

Rotary Botanical Gardens - Janesville

Gardens, statuary, wildlife, bridges...all these can be found at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin. This 20 acre, non-profit botanic showcase features over 24 different garden styles and 4,000 varieties of plants. Events, tours, and classes are scheduled throughout the year, and the facility is also available for weddings, meetings, and other events. It's a beautiful place to spend an afternoon.

Location: 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI (Rock County)



Stevens Point Sculpture Park - Stevens Point

Stevens Point Sculpture Park is a fantastic blend of nature trails and art installations. The park resides on 20 acres of winding woodland trails, via the Brickyard Trail, and connects to the [Green Circle Trail](#), a 27-mile hiking and biking trail that loops through Stevens Point. The sculptures are as varied as they are many; creations by local, regional, and national artists.

The walking trails are hard-packed crushed granite, perfect for hiking and biking, and wheelchair accessible during seasons of good weather. We walked the Sculpture Park trail combined with a portion of the Brickyard Trail for a total of just under 2.5 miles. The walk is an easy one.

Location: 901 2nd Street N., Stevens Point, WI (Portage County)

James Tellen Woodland Sculpture Garden - Wilson

James Tellen Woodland Sculpture Garden is nestled among a woodland path on James Tellen's log cabin property, and includes 15 unique, and meticulously crafted concrete sculptures. Near the entrance to the garden is a sculpture of St. Christopher, carrying a small child (c. 1920). This is reportedly one of the pieces that inspired James Tellen to embark on an artistic journey of creating concrete sculptures. A variety of scenes are depicted - biblical, natural, social. Some of the sculptures are in miniature, others life-size, all are works of art in a beautiful nature setting.

Location: 5634 Evergreen Drive, Town of Wilson, WI (Sheboygan County)



Elegance Blooms at Ovans Peony Farm

Peony blooming season may be short, but it certainly is splendid. It typically begins in mid-May, here in Wisconsin, wrapping up by mid-June. The city of Beaver Dam has been hosting a *peony festival* every June for the past 5 years. **Ovans Peony Farm** is front and center to the festival.

Folks from all over the midwest visit their farm to see over 100 varieties of these stunning flowers. Bouquets are sold, picnics can be booked onsite, and there is a charming gift shop with peony themed items, and more. I provided details on the festival, and other peony farms in the state, in the latest spring magazine issue. It's easy to see why it's become so popular.



True to form, I made it to the farm mid-afternoon on the last day of the festival. Bouquets may have been sold out, but the flower fields were bursting with beauty, and I wandered for a couple hours with plenty of other peony fans, taking in all the different kinds of blooms. Consider adding the festival to your schedule for next summer. I hope to get there sooner than the last day. :)





Summer Dreams

Let the magic of summer continue
with more local adventures from our online special features.

GONE FISHING

Summertime is prime fishing season in Wisconsin. Our local neighborhood, and bigger community parks in urban, suburban, and rural areas offer a wealth of fishing opportunities. There's a wide selection of nature preserves that feature fishing opportunities. Some are wilder than others. All offer peaceful spaces for anglers to try their luck at luring in a variety of species. Wisconsin state parks and recreation areas provide a wide variety of angling opportunity. From shoreline fishing along Lake Michigan, to inland lakes, rivers, streams, and more.

WISCONSIN ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORIES

The constellations above us offer a universe of discovery. For an up-close look at the night sky, the astronomy observatories here in Wisconsin can improve your view. Check out our list of observatories in Wisconsin, and make plans to attend one of their public events this summer. For even more opportunities and information, check out the Astronomy Clubs of Wisconsin [website](#) and the DarkSky International Organization [website](#).

EXPLORING DOOR COUNTY

If you've never been to Door County, summer is a great time to go. There's much to see and do, plenty of nature trails, beaches, gardens, galleries, shops and more. Check out our quick guide on visiting Door County and start making plans for a quick summer getaway.

NATURE IS FOR EVERY BODY

The beauty of the natural world 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. We've got a list of 12 worth visiting, along with links to other helpful resources.

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](#)



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



Let the days of summer unfurl