

Stepping into spring — and a bit of mud

Waukesha and Washington counties offer trails for hikers ready to embrace the change of seasons

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

For those not intimidated by a little mud, many area trails can be traversed for a spring hike.

As the weather slowly transitions, hiking enthusiasts will find a wealth of trails in the area.

In state parks in Waukesha County, trails in Lapham Peak Unit and the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit are open, according to Missy VanLanduyt, recreation partnership sections chief for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

"Some may be muddy in spots. But for the most part, all trails are open," she said.

The hiking trails in the southern unit are in good shape, according to VanLanduyt.

In Washington County, all trails are open at the Pike Lake Unit and Kettle Moraine Northern Unit, VanLanduyt said.

She said Tamarack trail is closed due to flooding.

This month, the DNR took over management of Lizard Mound County Park in the Town of Farmington at the request of Washington County, according to a press release.

It is open for hiking on the trails, but the gate will not officially open until May 1, according to VanLanduyt.

Lizard Mound is an effigy mound site and Native American ancestral burial ground.

"It is considered sacred by present-day Wisconsin tribal nations, along with Native communities forcibly displaced from the area in the past," the release said.

In Waukesha County, a park user survey conducted recently found hikers made up 77% of responders using county parks in 2021, according to Emily Heller, public communications coordinator for Waukesha County Parks and Land Use.

The survey found 47% of respondents participated in biking and cycling and 17% in running and jogging last year.

A few trail highlights in Waukesha County parks this spring include:

■ **Paved Trails at Fox River Park** — The 2.25 miles of paved trails are "great for muddy days in early spring," Heller said.

"Views of the Fox River and a 10-acre restored wetland scrape (can be seen) at

"(Lizard Mound) is considered sacred by present-day Wisconsin tribal nations, along with Native communities forcibly displaced from the area in the past,"

— Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

"The blue and green trails pass some valuable plant communities that are exceptionally rich in the spring. ... The forest is also perfect for observing forest-dependent birds such as cerulean warblers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, scarlet tanagers, great-crested flycatchers, barred owls and more."

— Emily Heller,

Public communications coordinator for Waukesha County Parks and Land Use on Muskego Park

the front of the park."

The scrape serves as wetland habitat for wildlife and has a variety of native grasses and flowers, according to Heller.

■ **Spring Wildflowers at Muskego Park** — The 60 acres of old-growth southern dry-mesic forest that are a Wisconsin State Scientific Area and part of the Old-Growth Forest Network, according to Heller.

"The blue and green trails pass some valuable plant communities that are exceptionally rich in the spring," she said, noting native plants and flowers include wild leek, toothwort, bloodroot, declined trillium, reflexed trillium, green dragon, and red baneberry.

"The forest is also perfect for observing forest-dependent birds such as cerulean warblers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, scarlet tanagers, great-crested flycatchers, barred owls and more," Heller said.

■ **Ice Age Trail, Monches Segment, Hartland** — The scenic 3.1-mile trail segment along the Oconomowoc River features spring and early summer woodland wildflowers and a large variety of birds, according to Heller.

■ **Retzer Nature Center, Town of Genesee** — It offers top spots for birders looking to catch a glimpse at grassland bird species,

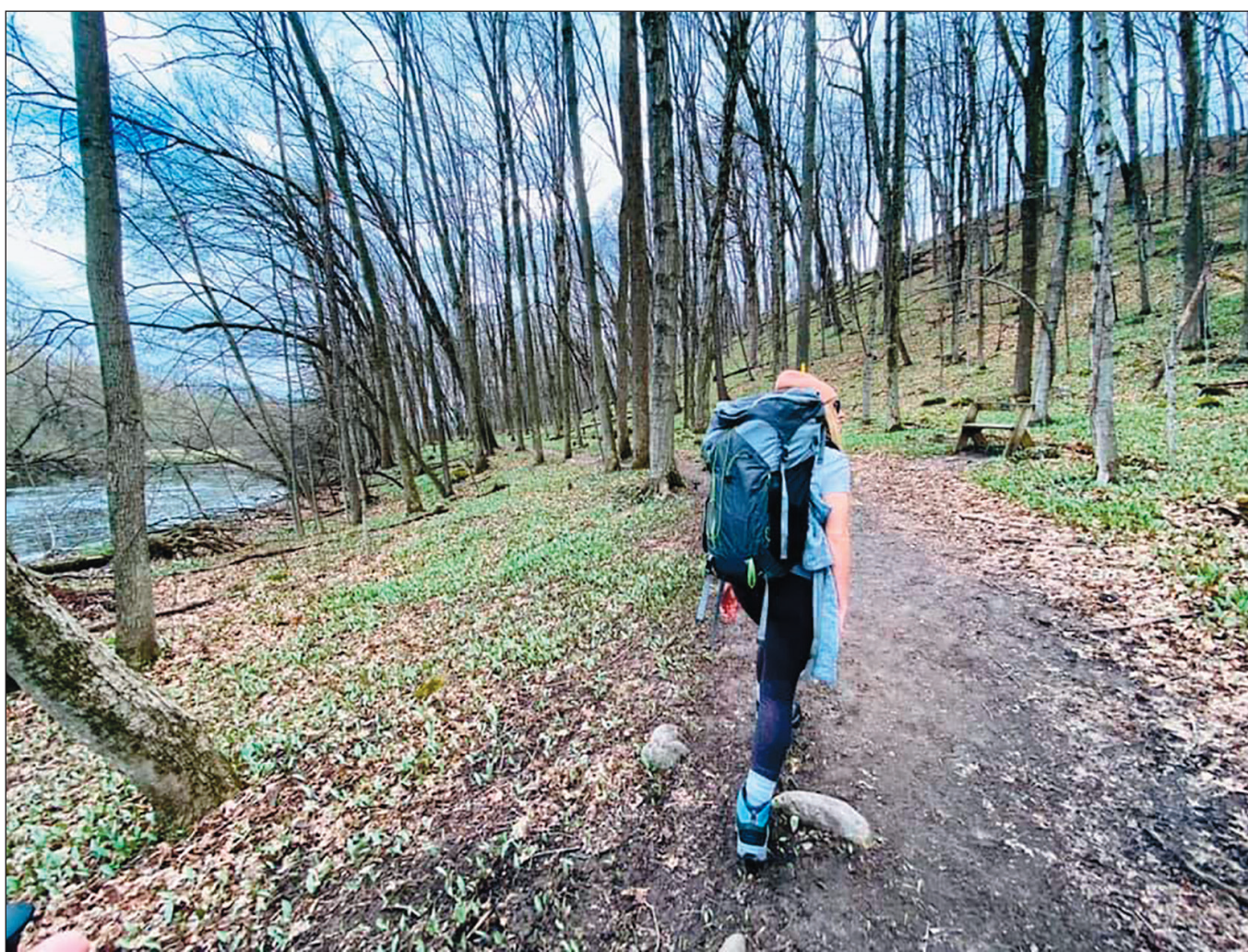


Photo submitted by Waukesha County Parks and Land Use

A hiker walks the Ice Age Trail, Monches Segment, by Hartland. The area is a scenic 3.1-mile trail segment that goes along the Oconomowoc River. It features spring and early summer woodland wildflowers and a large variety of birds, according to Emily Heller, public communications coordinator for Waukesha County Parks and Land Use.



Photo by Washington County Parks, submitted by the Wisconsin DNR

This month, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources took over management of Lizard Mound County Park in the Town of Farmington, according to a press release.

It is open for hiking on the trails, but the gate will not officially open until May 1, according to the DNR. Lizard Mound is an effigy mound site and Native American ancestral burial ground, the release said.

according to Heller, naming bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, Henslow's sparrows, among others.

She added that the newly renovated Discovery Trail is paved and features "Exploration Stations" for outdoor education, sensory-based play experiences and STEM activities.

Those heading out on the trails in the near future will find it is a good time for birding, especially along waterways, VanLanduyt said.

"Most of our properties



Photo submitted by Waukesha County Parks and Land Use

Spring ephemeral wildflowers are seen at Muskego Park. The park has 60 acres of old-growth southern dry-mesic forest that are a Wisconsin State Scientific Area and part of the Old-Growth Forest Network, according to Emily Heller, public communications coordinator for Waukesha County Parks and Land Use.

blers and maybe some vireos as we get closer to and into May."

As to the spring bloom, Robson said the area is currently behind in wildflower phenology compared to last year at this time.

"But with some sunny days and warm nights we can definitely expect to see some growth and blooming soon after," she said.

The DNR website has a full list of updated trail conditions available, according to VanLanduyt, who said the state agency urges practicing a principle of leaving no

trace behind when visiting the trails.

She urged planning ahead of time for potential conditions.

"Don't be a fair weather fan. Be prepared. Bring a coat and hat," she said. "Wear appropriate footwear and be prepared to get muddy."

The DNR also encourages hikers to walk through muddy sections of trails instead of around them, as walking off the trail can damage surrounding habitats, according to VanLanduyt.

Where to hike in Waukesha County

■ For more information on the Waukesha County trail system regarding spring hiking, walking and birding, visit: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/trails>. The site covers the fee-based parks, Retzer Nature Center and the Paved Recreational Trails.

■ For fee-based parks in Waukesha County, a daily park entrance permit or annual park entrance sticker are required for vehicles. The park's Automatic License Plate Reader System is active and vehicle license plates are automatically recorded. Guests have to pay within five days of a visit to avoid a violation ticket. Printed instructions are available at the park entrance

huts, however, the huts will not be staffed for fee collection.

Waukesha County Trail Highlights

■ **Paved Trails at Fox River Park**
W264-S4500 River Road, Waukesha
<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/foxriver>

■ **Spring Wildflowers at Muskego Park**
S83-W20370 Janesville Road, Muskego
<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/muskego>

■ **Ice Age Trail — Monches Segment Hartland**
<https://www.iceagetrail.org/plan-hike/>

Discovery Trail & Story Hike at Retzer Nature Center

Trail information: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/retzertrails>
Discovery Trail and "Exploration Stations": <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/discoverytrail>
Guests visiting in April will have the chance to do the spring "Story Hike" on the Orange Trail. Hikers will enjoy reading the children's book "Begin with a Bee" by Liza Ketchum while walking through a 0.75-mile loop. Open daily through April 30. More information at: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/storyhike>

— Eileen Mozinski Schmidt,
Special to Conley Media

State Fair continues to add headliners

WEST ALLIS — The Main Stage lineup for the Wisconsin State Fair continues to shape up. The fair runs from Aug. 4-14. The announced headliners so far and ticket prices are:

■ Thursday, Aug. 4 — Toby

Keith with Alex Miller; \$65-\$75.

■ Saturday, Aug. 6 — Comedian Jeff Dunham; \$49-\$59.

■ Sunday, Aug. 7 — Happy Together Tour with hits from the '60s and '70s hosted by The Turtles, with Gary Puckett &

The Union Gap, The Association, The Buckingham and more; \$37 and \$47.

■ Monday, Aug. 8 — Zach Williams with We The Kingdom; \$37-\$49.

■ Tuesday, Aug. 9 — Kidz Bop Live 2022; \$25-\$35.

■ Wednesday, Aug. 10 — Comedian and Wisconsin native Charlie Berens; \$25-\$40.

■ Friday, Aug. 12 — Nelly with Ginuwine; \$48-\$52.

■ Sunday, Aug. 14 — The Oak Ridge Boys; \$32-\$42.

Brady Street Festival to return

MILWAUKEE — The Brady Street Business Improvement District announced the return of the Brady Street Festival on Saturday, July 30, from 11 a.m. to midnight.

"To the delight of our residents and businesses, the Brady Street Festival will return this July to showcase our eclectic neighborhood. The Festival promises to have a little something for everyone," said Teri Regano, owner of Regano's Roman Coin.

There will be three stages of live music featuring some of the best Milwaukee bands,

activities, and vendors and exhibitors lining the street's nine blocks.

"If you haven't been to Brady Street in a while, the Brady Street Festival is a great time to check out the new businesses that have opened in the past two years, including; Pete's Pub, St. Bibiana, Würst Bar, Bandit, Nomad Coffeebar, Black Ink MKE, Twisted Plants (opening soon), and Nashville North (opening soon)," said Rachel Taylor, executive director of the Brady Street BID.

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Bringing the past to life

Area parks offer historical experiences

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

Read the letters in the possession of the Germantown Historic Society and some of the experience of German immigrants will come alive.

"We have letters where people wrote back to relatives and friends," said Jim Dix, president of the historical society.

Some say, "Times are really hard here. We have to clear the land. But we still think life is better here because we are free," Dix said.

Those who visit the Wolf Haus in the settlement at Dheinsville Historic Park, preserved as a mid-19th century home, can experience more of this type of history in person.

It is one of several historic parks around southeast Wisconsin offering a chance to understand history through original and restored buildings, re-created living spaces and museums.

"We try to teach (visitors) about the history of how Germantown developed. The whole pioneer experience," said Dix, who said many immigrants from Germany arrived in the 1840s and '50s when there was a lot of social unrest in Europe.

"There were lots of wars. Petty wars. The prince of one area goes against the prince of another area. Peasants had to go and fight for the prince and they didn't care about that," he said.

Add in poor economic conditions and religious persecution and German immigration to the U.S. began to tick upwards, according to Dix.

He said one entire Lutheran congregation moved to the Germantown area in 1838 just as the area was opening for homesteading.

The park area, once part of the hamlet of Dheinsville, is currently home to 12 historic buildings, according to Dix.

He said there were several small hamlets in the area around the time of the formation of the Wisconsin territory in 1836, which eventually formed Germantown.

"It was the first area of Washington County opened for homesteading," said Dix, who said the then-Germantown area was fully settled by the early 1840s.

Today, the historic village at



Submitted by Old Falls Village Park

A Civil War re-enactment at Old Falls Village Park in Menomonee Falls last year. The park hosts both a Civil War and World War II re-enactment that have been popular with visitors, according to Richard Burgess, president of the Menomonee Falls Historic Society.

Dheinsville Historic Park is owned by the village and operated by the historic society.

The area includes the Wolf Haus, which was built in 1854, and Christ Church, which was built in 1862 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. A barn on the property has been restored and includes a bell museum featuring a private collection of over 5,000 bells, and a restored fire engine.

Last year, the society built a large festival hall nearby.

The area is home to Germantown's Oktoberfest and Dix said people from around the Midwest regularly attend the dachshund races.

Old Falls Village Park: 'A good idea of what life was like'

Live events are also a draw at Old Falls Village Park in Menomonee Falls, which is situated on over 17 acres.

The park began with the donation to the village of a mid-19th century home from Emma Davidson, who was connected with the family who helped found Harley-Davidson Motor Company, according to Richard Burgess, president of the Menomonee Falls Historic Society.

The society manages the park for the village, said Burgess, who said over the past three decades, many additional original buildings have been added to the park, including an original railroad station, carriage house, a dairy and a one-room school house.

Old Falls Village Park hosts both a Civil War and World War II re-enactment that have been popular with visitors. This month, organizers are adding in a Revolutionary War re-enactment to the lineup, Burgess said.

"We're excited to have it. It gives us a trifecta of big events," he said.

He said volunteers manage the food and water and park facilities and the actors bring uniforms, equipment and other items from the era.

The history-themed events have been popular in the past, bringing over a thousand people to the park.

"In the World War II event, if you get into the swing of it, it puts you back like it was 1943," Burgess said. "You walk through their camps, the Allied camp is on one end and the Axis on the other. Everyone is in authentic uniforms. There is a mess tent where they eat. It's a good idea of what life was like on the front lines."

Burgess noted the re-enactments do include battles and some scenes performed by actors that might be better suited to older children, depending on guardians' judgement.

The U.S.O. dance hosted by the park on the Saturday of the World War II event is also a popular feature. It includes a swing band and many of the swing clubs in the area participate.

"That's really well attended," Burgess said. "Everyone's in uniform, including the band."

The buildings at the park are all furnished with period artifacts. Currently, a historic renovation project is ongoing in the depot, which is expected to be completed sometime next month, according to Burgess.

Old World Wisconsin: 'Where the magic happens'

History isn't every student's favorite subject, but at Old World Wisconsin the focus is on learning history as stories, according to Dan Freas, director at the open air museum in Eagle.

"We're really trying to emphasize storytelling. That's what it's all about. If we can make those stories more interactive, the guest

www.OldFallsVillage.com

Dheinsville Historic Park & Museums

What: Three 1850s restored museums directed by the Germantown Historical Society through membership and donations. The Christ Church Museum, Wolf Haus Museum and Bast Bell Museum. Part of an original 1850s settlement on a 9-acre park.

Where: at Holy Hill Road, Highway 145, Fond du Lac Avenue and Maple Road.

How much: Bast Bell Museum is \$6 per adult, \$5 for seniors and \$2 for children. The additional two museums are free. Tour group fees arranged through the historic society. Visit the website for additional information.

When: Tours by appointment. Call 262-628-3170 or email Germantownhistoricalsociety.org.

More info: Germantownhistoricalsociety.org



Submitted by the Germantown Historic Society

The Wolf Haus, built in 1854, is at Dheinsville Historic Park in Germantown. "We try to teach (visitors) about the history of how Germantown developed. The whole pioneer experience," said Jim Dix, president of the Germantown Historic Society.



Submitted by Old World Wisconsin

Plowing at Old World Wisconsin. Dan Freas, director at the open air museum in Eagle, described it as a combination history and nature park in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

isn't simply a spectator. They're playing a role," Freas said.

"That's really where the magic happens."

Freas described Old World Wisconsin as a combination history and nature park. Situated on 600 acres in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the site was created in 1976.

Now part of the surrounding forests, prairies and ponds, the site includes several major areas to visit: an entrance complex, a collection of buildings resembling a rural village from the late 1800s, and sections showing what life was like on the farms and in churches of the time.

"Our focus is to tell the stories in an interactive way of those that came before us. Folks from other parts of the world or other parts of this county, and came to Wisconsin to start a new life," he said.

Old World Wisconsin's earliest buildings come from the

time of Wisconsin's state formation, according to Freas, who said the location is of interest to visitors from out of state as well.

"Essentially the story we're telling is really the story of the rural experience in the Upper Midwest," he said.

The site draws many multi-generational family groups of visitors, which Freas said often helps serve as a springboard for conversations about family history.

He said Old World Wisconsin continues to look for ways to make sure the site offers experiences that personally connect to all visitors.

"It's all about relevance. Something we're working hard to do is no matter what your personal background, to make it relevant to you and your story," Freas said.

This includes uncomfortable parts of the history, according to Freas.

"We don't want to sugar-coat it to make it look like life in the past was all easy and

everybody was happy and nobody fought about anything," he said.

Homesteading in Wisconsin began following the signing of the treaty between the U.S. federal government and the Wisconsin territory Native American tribes, which was signed in 1833, according to Dix of the Germantown Historic Society.

"The predominant tribe in southeast Wisconsin at that time period was the Potawatomi. In 1838 their land would be transferred to the U.S. government, and that is when the land was made available for homesteading for \$1.25 per acre," he said.

At Old World Wisconsin, Freas said discussions are ongoing about how to share the story of the original people of the land.

"We are adamant that we want to tell that story. We want to partner with the tribes that exist in Wisconsin and to create a venue for them to tell their story," he said.

A walk into the past

Old World Wisconsin

What: Open-air museum featuring 60 restored historic structures located on 600 acres, featuring locations from the 1840s to the 1910s and stories of America's heartland.

Where: Located off of Highway 67, just south of the Town of Eagle at W372-S9727 Highway 67.

When: Spring hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from April 30 to June 12.

How much: during the spring season ages 13 to 64 — \$15.99, seniors 65 and up — \$13.99, ages 5 to 12 — \$9.99, children under 5 — free. Wisconsin Historical Society members receive free general admission and 10% off special experiences.

Popular annual events include:

■ **Halloween Legends and Lore** in the middle of October, featuring stories brought by settlers or created in Wisconsin. Designed as a

family-oriented program.

■ **Home for the Holidays**, focusing on early holiday traditions in Wisconsin.

More info: oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org
oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org/plan/#hours_admissions

Revolutionary War Re-enactment

What: Old Falls Revolutionary War Days, an experience of the American Revolution

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and beer garden from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 21 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 22

Where: Old Falls Village Museum and Park — Pilgrim Road and Highway Q, Menomonee Falls

How much: \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, and free for children 5 and younger

More info: 262-250-3901 or email mfhhistory@yahoo.com or visit

Biggest concert season in over 15 years at Maier Festival Park

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. (MWF) and FPC Live are billing 2022 the biggest concert season in over 15 years at Henry Maier Festival Park with 38 shows scheduled this season from May through October, including Summerfest, at the BMO Harris Pavilion and American Family Insurance Amphitheater.

The "Live at the Lakefront" lineup is packed with artists including Alanis Morissette, Lil Wayne, Keith

Urban, AJR, Pitbull, Phoebe Bridgers, Machine Gun Kelly, Halsey, Steve Miller Band, and more. The first show of the season is the KISS End of the Road World Tour on Wednesday, May 11 at the Amphitheater, which recently completed a \$51.3 million dollar renovation.

"We are thrilled to be bringing world class artists to Milwaukee before, during, and after Summerfest," said Don Smiley, CEO of Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., in a news release.

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Sunday May 22, 2022 3:00

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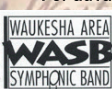
A benefit concert for Adaptive Community Approach Program (ACAP) and Healing Hearts of Southeast Wisconsin

Admission: \$15 (\$10 in advance)

For advance tickets, contact: wasband.org 262-333-8012

acap-waukesha.org 262-521-1120

healingheartswisconsin.org 262-751-0874



“On a really hot day, we might be at capacity.”

— Mona Bauer,

Customer and administrative services manager for the city of Waukesha Parks and Recreation programs

Dive in and beat the heat!

Despite lifeguard shortage, area counties keep swim spots open

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

From outdoor lakes to city-run pools, there are a variety of options for swimming this summer.

Although a shortage of lifeguards has had an impact, there are still places in Washington and Waukesha counties where swimmers can take a dip.

In Waukesha, both Buchner Pool and Horeb Springs Aquatic Center are now open, according to Mona Bauer, customer and administrative services manager for the city of Waukesha Parks and Recreation programs.

“People are excited, they couldn’t wait to get in,” she said, of opening day, this month.

Bauer noted that the pools do have capacity limits.

“On a really hot day, we might be at capacity,” said Bauer, who said patrons are allowed to stay and wait for more space to open if they choose to.

Both city pools had enough lifeguards to open, however Bauer said there are still positions available.

“We are always looking for more. We are hiring, we are training all the time,” she said.

Bauer noted that there are many new employees working at lifeguard and front desk positions and asked patience from the public as these workers learn their new jobs.

She added that there are experienced staff members working at both pools.

“We do have some very good veteran staff at both pools who do a terrific job for us,” Bauer said.

There are membership passes available, including a \$151 ultimate pass for five people that includes slides at both pools, according to Bauer, who said members have to be residents. A basic pass for five is \$133.

Bauer added that both pools accept cash and credit cards for daily fees.

Those who purchase a pass can obtain pictures and key tags at the front desks at the pools or in the main office, which is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“The line is short and

Waukesha County

The county park system has swimming beaches at Fox Brook, Menomonee, Minooka, Mukwonago, Muskego, and Naga-Waukees Parks.

The beaches are open daily from sunrise to sunset, swim at your own risk.

For more information, including beach water quality and conditions, visit <https://www.waukesha-county.gov/swimming>.

Washington County Discount Summer Swim Pass

■ Discounted access / extended hours at Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center in the city of Hartford. Every household in the county can receive resident admission.

■ Discounted access / extended hours at West Bend YMCA Family Adventure Pool in West Bend.

■ Discounted resident access for Washington County parks swimming and beaches. County residents can purchase daily admission online to the county’s three swimming facilities for \$2.50: Sandy Knoll County Park, Ackerman’s Grove County Park, Leonard J. Yahr County Park. Daily passes may be purchased at: https://www.washcoparks.com/parks/passes/daily_swim_pass/purchase/

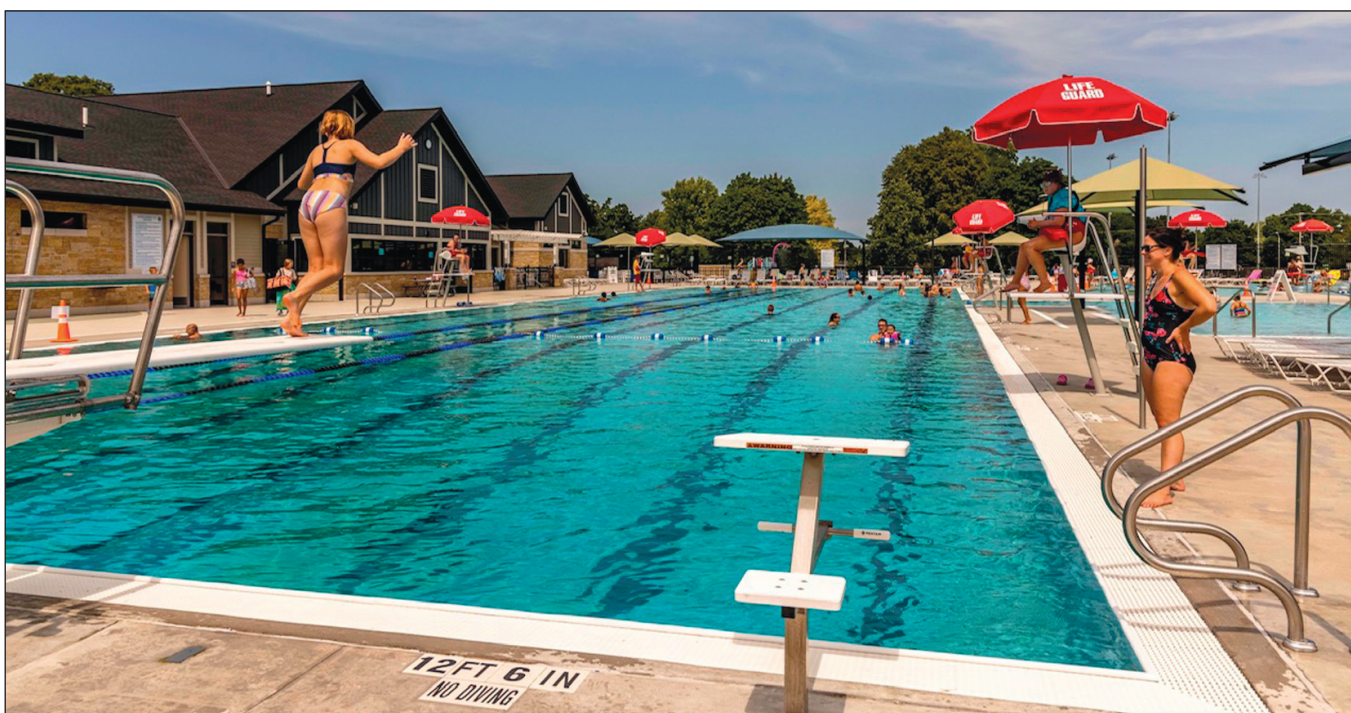
The coupons will be sent to residents in the July county newsletter. Coupons will also be available at: Washington County Parks and Planning Dept., 333 E. Washington St., West Bend; Washington County Golf Course, 6439 Clover Road, Hartford; West Bend YMCA Family Adventure Pool, 1111 W. Washington St., West Bend.

there’s air conditioning,” Bauer said.

The Elm Grove Recreation Department recently announced new pool hours: Monday-Friday — noon-4:30 p.m., Saturday — 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday — 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

In Waukesha County, six beach locations are open but not staffed by lifeguards.

Fox Brook Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka



Submitted by the city of Waukesha

The Buchner Park Pool, which opened June 10 for the season, features a current channel, slides, diving board, aqua bikes, aqua jog area, children’s pool and full-service concessions, according to a Facebook post from the city of Waukesha. Horeb Springs Aquatic Center is also now open, according to Mona Bauer, customer and administrative services manager for the city of Waukesha Parks and Recreation programs.

Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Naga-Waukees Park and Pewaukee Beach are “swim at your own risk” this summer, according to the county website.

Some locations have adjusted hours to match lifeguard availability.

The beach at Pewaukee Lake is also open without lifeguards for swimming at your own risk, according to Monica Kaskey, recreation supervisor with the City of Pewaukee.

Washington County

The public beach at Pike Lake State Park unit is also open. “Our conditions right now are excellent,” said Rob Wessberg, superintendent for Kettle Moraine State Forest — Pike Lake Unit.

The water is tested for e-coli counts Monday through Thursday, according to Wessberg, who said conditions have been good so far this summer.

A vehicle sticker is required for entry, which can be purchased online or at forest headquarters on the way into the park, Wessberg said.

He does think attendance may be increased this summer due to some area pool closures or limited hours.

The pandemic has also increased numbers in recent seasons, according to Wessberg.

“People are finding out again about the great outdoors of Wisconsin,” he



Eileen Schmidt/Special to TimeOut

Justin Potvin heads into the water at Pike Lake in Hartford last week, while Becky and Lamont Potvin enjoy the water. The family lives in Hartford and enjoys coming to the lake for swimming during the summer, Becky Potvin said.

said.

There are many longtime visitors of the area who like to frequent the beach as well, according to Wessberg.

“A lot of families have been coming out for 20-plus years,” he said.

Wessberg also noted that just to the north of the swimming area is a beach for dogs.

“We have the only doggie beach in Washington County,” he said.

In Washington County, it was recently announced that federal American Res-

cue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be used to offer a “Discount Summer Swim Pass” coupon.

County Executive Josh Schoemann proposed using ARPA funds provided to counties due to the pandemic to supplement lifeguard pay or other financial assistance to ensure swimming facilities opened this summer, according to a press release.

Discussions between county and community officials also resulted in the discount coupon, the statement

said.

The coupon will allow county residents to receive resident admission at Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center in Hartford, amounting to 50% off for non-city residents.

In addition, the coupon will include discounted access and extended hours at West Bend YMCA Family Adventure Pool in West Bend, the statement said.

County park swimming and beach access will also be discounted to \$2.50, the release said.

Milwaukee County Zoo offers \$4 for the 4th

Reduced admission to celebrate Independence Day

MILWAUKEE — Celebrate the Fourth of July at the Milwaukee County Zoo with \$4 admission for all visitors on Monday, July 4. The \$15 parking fee still applies.

Spend the holiday with the zoo’s wildlife and mythical creatures alike.

See who’s new to the zoo. The Harbor Seal habitat features a female pup born on May 24 to mom Cossette and dad Ringo. Cossette and the pup are viewable to guests in the outdoor habitat most of the time, but they do venture inside if they choose.

Commonly called awkward “crawling seals,” they use their hind flippers to maneuver underwater only; these flippers can’t be rotated forward and so aren’t good for locomotion on land. Their front flippers are much more versatile though. Harbor seals also take naps with their bodies nearly submerged in water, exposing just the tips of their noses to the air.

Swing by the giraffe yard and meet the new baby. A female giraffe, Poppy, was born May 27 to mom Marlee and dad Bahatika. Poppy is named after the Remembrance Poppy, a symbol of



Courtesy of Milwaukee County Zoo

The Harbor Seal habitat has a new female pup, born on May 24 to mom Cossette and dad Ringo.

Memorial Day weekend when the calf was born.

You’ll notice that each of the giraffes has a unique pattern of spots, much like a human fingerprint. They also have only seven bones in their neck, the same as most other mammals.

Dino Don’s Dragon Kingdom offers an enchanting mythical world with more than 15 animatronic creatures, ranging in size from 10 to 40 feet. The exhibit ties in their existence to animals of the natural world and those on the brink of extinction today. Find them behind the Small Mammals building, with entrance \$3 per person.

The zoo is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 4. Admission gates close 45 minutes earlier.



Courtesy of Milwaukee County Zoo

The giraffe yard features a new baby, Poppy, a female giraffe.

‘SHINE!’ shines on at Summerfest

Show returns July 7-9

MILWAUKEE — and movement director “SHINE!,” a sensory-immersive journey created last summer, is back, this time at Summerfest from July 7-9.

Performed by Pink Umbrella Theater, it’s the story of six people coming out of COVID.

Unsure at first, they find their way in the non-verbal piece by writer and director James Fletcher

and Molly Kiefer.

The 45-minute sensory-immersive performance through sight and sound for all ages will begin at 4 p.m. July 7 and July 8 and 3:15 p.m. July 9 at Northwestern Mutual Community Park.

Visit www.pinkumbrellatheater.org or summerfest.com for tickets and more information.

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