



PORT WASHINGTON HIKING CHALLENGE

HIKING GUIDE 2024

JULY OCTOBER
5 - 31

- 1 Entry for registering
 - 1 Entry per hike
 - 1 Entry per discovery item
- More entries means more chances to win \$200, \$100, or \$50 Sherper's giftcards!

#PWHIKINGCHALLENGE2024



EMBARK ON AN ADVENTURE.

2024 Port Washington Hiking Challenge

#PWHIKINGCHALLENGE2024

Take on the challenge! This is your comprehensive "Port Washington Hiking Guide". It contains over 20 hiking destinations that are within a 3.5 hour radius from Port Washington. This guide not only includes these hiking locations, but also maps and links for more information on each hiking destination; to help you feel prepared before you even step out the door for your adventure. You will also be provided with a list of "Discovery Items" that will include native and invasive plant species, animals, birds, etc. with pictures so you can hunt for them and learn along the way.

We are challenging individuals, pairs, or families to get outdoors and make the most of our Wisconsin trail systems, parks, and outdoor recreation areas. Let's improve our mental and physical wellness while enjoying the great outdoors! The more hikes you complete and discovery items you find means more entries you will receive which means a greater chance to win gift cards to Sherper's! The more entries you receive the more of a chance you will have to win a prize at the end! ****Our GRAND PRIZE: \$200 gift card will be awarded to the participant with the MOST hikes and discovery items.** (If there is a tie for the most, we will do a drawing with the names of the tied participants.)* All other entries will go into the drawings for the other prizes. The drawing will be held on Monday, November 4, for the \$100 (x1), and \$50 (x4) gift cards. Winners will be contacted via phone and email.

1 Entry for Registering

1 Entry per Completed Hike (From the listed hike locations)

1 Entry per Discovery Item Found

Proof of Your Hike or Discovery Items Includes: Pictures of park/trail signage (with you or your family in it), watch/GPS record, pictures with hashtag #pwhikingchallenge2024 shared on Instagram, other fitness app stats, etc.

To Submit Proof: Email parksandrec@portwashingtonwi.gov or utilize the #pwhikingchallenge2024 hashtag on Instagram. **All proof must be submitted on or before October 31.**

(Note: In order to utilize the hashtag (#pwhikingchallenge2024) your Instagram profile must be set to public)



Port Washington Recreation Department

www.portwashingtonwi.gov

262-284-5881

bmacdonald@portwashingtonwi.gov





HIKE LOCATIONS

OZAUKEE COUNTY



Bratt Woods Natural Area

Located along the Milwaukee River in the Town of Grafton, WI, Bratt Woods is 17 acres. In addition to bordering the Milwaukee River this preserve contains mature oak, maple, and American beech trees all in gorgeous upland hardwood forests.



Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area

Cedarburg Bog is the most intact large bog in southeastern Wisconsin and composed of a mosaic of vegetation types. Once part of a large glacial lake, the bog is a relict community – a southern example of the type more commonly found in northern Wisconsin. There are six lakes remaining within the bog, all with varying sizes and depths.



Cedarburg Environmental Study Area

Located in the Town of Cedarburg, WI, CESA is 38 acres. This preserve contains wetlands, ponds, open meadow, conifer forests and mixed hardwood forests. Additionally, walking through the preserve you will see unique insects, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and an amazing array of ant hills.



Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

Located along Lake Michigan in the town of Belgium, WI, Forest Beach Migratory Preserve is 116 acres. This preserve contains a 5-acre hardwood forest with ephemeral (seasonal) ponds, open grassland and prairie, a partially wooded ravine and 5 constructed wetland ponds.



Harrington Beach State Park

Harrington Beach State Park has more than a mile of beach along Lake Michigan. This 715-acre park also features a white cedar and hardwood swamp, old field grasslands with restored wetland ponds and a scenic limestone quarry lake.



Highland Woods

The 84 acre natural area is a premier example of high quality old growth forest and an important wildlife corridor in the Pigeon Creek floodplain.

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HIKE LOCATIONS



OZAUKEE COUNTY



Sauk Creek Nature Preserve

Located in Port Washington, WI, the Sauk Creek Nature Preserve is 27 acres. The creek runs north and south over limestone bedrock ledges and eventually flows into Lake Michigan. Floodplain forest runs along Sauk Creek and a series of wetland/spring seeps discharge water into the creek.

WASHINGTON COUNTY



Cedar Lake/Polk Kames Segment

Part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail system, it is variously referred to as the Cedar Lakes Segment and Polk Kames. The trail winds through a mixed forest made of old oaks, sugar maple, white birch and beech. In the interior is 0.8-mile white-blazed Kame Loop trail, which curves around a prominent kame.



Hepburn Woods

Located in the City of West Bend, WI, Hepburn Woods is 20 acres. This preserve contains wooded hills and is home to wild turkey, white-tailed deer and hosts a tremendous variety of migratory songbirds.



Ice Age Trail - Milwaukee River Segment

The Washington County Milwaukee River Segment of the Ice Age Trail runs for 6.8-miles between the Kewaskum Segment and the Fond du Lac County line near New Fane. This segment is a blend of open prairie and shaded woodlands.



Lac Lawrann Conservancy

Lac Lawrann Conservancy is a 145 acres nature preserve and is contiguous with Royal Oaks park adding another 25 acres. It is a vast expanse of water, sky, wetlands, native hardwood forest, red pine plantation, tall grass prairie, and glacial landscapes. The Conservancy serves as refuge to over 300 species of plants, over 200 species of birds, and a wide variety of mammals as well as reptiles and amphibians.



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HIKE LOCATIONS

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Schoen Laufen Park

Schoen Laufen (Beautiful Walk) Park is 39 acres and is considered Germantown's first environmental park. The park is located along the Menomonee River at the corners of Maple Road and Lilac Lane. A trail winds through a beech / maple forest with a great display of spring ephemerals

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Gerber Lake Wildlife Area

The 153-acre Gerber Lake Wildlife Area boasts pristine natural beauty. Hilly terrain, two small lakes adjoined by a channel, forest, and prairie make this property truly exceptional.

Maywood Environmental Park

The land now known as Maywood was gifted to the City of Sheboygan in 1973 by Mr. and Mrs. Ellwood H. May who owned Mayline Furniture in Sheboygan. Over the years additional acreage was added to the park to provide the 135-acres the community enjoys today. Maywood Environmental Park is open to the public year-round and offers environmental education opportunities, outdoor recreation, and hands-on experiences.

FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Hobbs Woods

Located about three miles south of Fond du Lac at N4145 Hickory Rd., Hobbs Woods is a 60-acre county park devoted to hiking and nature study.

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HIKE LOCATIONS



Milwaukee County



Seven Bridges Trail in Grant Park

Trails are unpaved and lannon stone paths, lannon stone staircases, and numerous foot bridges, visit during any season to see carpets of spring wildflowers, hear the songs of migratory birds, fabulous fall colors, the refreshing sound of water rushing in a brook. Following the trails, you'll be led among enormous trees such as the native beech, along creeks, into secluded areas, and onto the shore of Lake Michigan. Please exercise caution on the trail—especially after heavy rainfall!

Lakeshore State Park



In the heart of downtown Milwaukee, Lakeshore State Park is adjacent to the Henry W. Maier Festival Grounds and Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin. The park is an urban oasis offering a small beach and accessible paved trails that link to Milwaukee's other lakefront parks and the Hank Aaron State Trail.

Kenosha County



Bristol Woods

Bristol Woods Park is the most natural of all the Kenosha County Parks. This 200-acre park boasts 4.28 miles of hiking trails and is home to the weekly concert series Bristol Woodstock.



Petrifying Springs Park

Petrifying Springs Park is the flagship of Kenosha County Parks. Known to locals as "Pets," this park is the oldest in the system and offers a wide range of enjoyment for people of all ages throughout the year.



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HIKE LOCATIONS

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Menomonee Park

Located within the Villages of Menomonee Falls and Lannon, Menomonee Park is filled with a historical background from the stone quarrying period of 1880-1900. Historical remnants include an old stone crusher and the railroad spur from the quarry to the Bugline. The Park totals 464 acres of rolling field, high quality maple woods, cattail marsh, wetlands, and a 16 acre quarry lake.

SAUK COUNTY

Devil's Lake State Park

Situated along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Devil's Lake State Park offers magnificent views from 500-foot quartzite bluffs overlooking a 360-acre lake. Visitors enjoy nearly 30 miles of hiking trails, lakeshore picnic areas, swimming beaches, paddling opportunities, and year-round naturalist programs.

ROCK COUNTY

Carver-Roehl Park

This 53-acre park is Rock County's second oldest park and one of the most scenic. The park, including the Carvers Rock site, was acquired in 1950 from the Roehl family. The area had been discussed as a County park since the mid 1920s. Spring Brook Creek runs from north to south through the park, just north of its confluence with Turtle Creek.

DODGE COUNTY

Ledge Park

Ledge Park (83 acres) lies along the Niagara Escarpment, a natural rock ledge which divides the park into upper and lower areas and provides a breathtaking overlook of the famous Horicon Marsh and surrounding countryside.

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HIKE LOCATIONS



BROWN COUNTY

Neshota Park



Located in the southeast corner of the County, where the Neshota River is joined by King Creek, providing 260 acres of riverbed, steeply sloped valleys, and wooded hills. Neshota Park is a gorgeous setting for the naturalist, sightseer, hiker, dog walker, cross country skier, horseback rider, family road trip and so many other users.

GREEN COUNTY

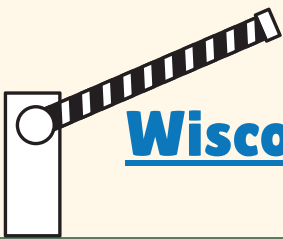
Sugar River State Recreation Trail



The Sugar River State Trail follows an abandoned railroad line in south central Wisconsin for 24 miles from New Glarus to Brodhead. A short access trail connects the Sugar River State Trail to New Glarus Woods State Park. Fourteen trestle bridges cross over the Sugar River and its tributaries, while the trail passes by farmlands, woods, rolling hills, and remnant prairies. The trail has also been designated as a National Recreational Trail.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Some of these parks and trails may require an admission fee! We advise that you plan ahead by checking online for admission fee information. It may be a good idea to bring along an extra \$10 just in case! Purchasing a Wisconsin State Park Vehicle Admission Sticker may save you some money if you plan on visiting a lot of State parks!



Wisconsin State Park – Vehicle Admission Sticker



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DISCOVERY ITEMS

PLANTS

INVASIVE SPECIES

An invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area. Invasive species can cause great economic and environmental harm to the new area. (If found, we recommend [reporting to WI DNR](#))

COMMON TANSY



BURNING BUSH



LILY OF THE VALLEY



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE



COMMON BARBERRY



EUROPEAN MARSH THISTLE



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DISCOVERY ITEMS

PLANTS

NATIVE SPECIES

Native species are considered to be native only if they originated in their location naturally and without the involvement of human activity or intervention. This usually means that those species evolved and are adapted to living in that particular environment, but this is not always the case.

BIG BLUESTEM



COMMON MILKWEED



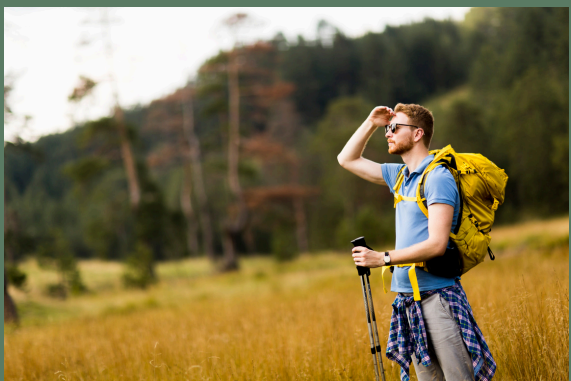
WILD BERGAMOT



LIATRIS (BLAZING STAR)



WOODLAND PHLOX




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DISCOVERY ITEMS

TREES

TOP 22 BENEFITS OF TREES

 BUR OAK



 WHITE PINE



 SILVER MAPLE




 QUAKING ASPEN



 PAPER BIRCH



 NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR



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DISCOVERY ITEMS

IN THE SKY

 SANDHILL CRANE



 MALLARD DUCK



 RED HEADED WOODPECKER



 PEREGRINE FALCON



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DISCOVERY ITEMS

IN AND AROUND THE WATER

NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG



PAINTED TURTLE



EASTERN TIGER
SALAMANDER



BOREAL CHORUS FROG



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DISCOVERY ITEMS

ON THE GROUND



RED FOX



AMERICAN
BADGER



COMMON
GARTER SNAKE



BEAVER



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DISCOVERY ITEMS

INVASIVE CRITTERS (If found, we recommend reporting to WI DNR)

SPONGY MOTH



ZEBRA MUSSEL



CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL



EMERALD ASH BORER
(may submit photo of damage from this critter)



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WHAT TO PACK

BELOW ARE SOME SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING WITH YOU ON YOUR ADVENTURES.



Water (always bring extra)

- Bug Spray
- Sun Screen

Camera

- Kleenex
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Towels
- Plastic bags

- Blanket for a picnic
- Hammock

First Aid Kit

- Binoculars

Phone

- Selfie Stick
- Photo ID

Hand Sanitizer

- State Park Sticker

- Extra Clean Shoes
- Extra Dry Clothes/Layers
- Swim Suit
- Snacks & Food
- Cash
- Hiking Guide
- Backpack
- Cooler
- Ice

EXTRA RESOURCES AND TIPS

Looking for some tips on packing, photography, or more places to explore? Check out these resources and apps!

- [Wildlife Photography Tips](#)
- [Nature Photography Tips](#)
- [Exploring more State Parks](#)
- [Getting the most out your phone camera](#)
- [Hiking for Beginners](#)
- [Packing for a Hike](#)
- [AllTrails App](#)
- [Avenza App](#)
- [Seek App](#)



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MASTER CHECKLIST OF HIKES AND DISCOVERY ITEMS

HIKES

- Bratt Woods Natural Area
- Bristol Woods
- Carver-Roehl Park
- Cedarburg Environmental Study Area
- Cedar Lake/Polk Kames
- Devil's Lake
- Forest Beach
- Gerber Lake Wildlife Area
- Harrington Beach State Park
- Hepburn Woods
- Highland Woods
- Hobbs Woods
- Ice Age Trail - Mke River Segment
- Lac Lawrann Conservancy
- Lakeshore State Park
- Ledge Park
- Maywood Environmental Park
- Menomonee Park
- Neshota Park
- Petrifying Springs Park
- Sauk Creek Nature Preserve
- Schoen Laufen Park
- Seven Bridges Trail - Grant Park
- Sugar River State Recreation Trail
- Watts Lake Trail

DISCOVERY ITEMS

- American Badger
- Beaver
- Big Bluestem
- Boreal Chorus Frog

- Bur Oak
- Burning Bush
- Chinese Mystery Snail
- Common Barberry
- Common Garter Snake
- Common Milkweed
- Common Tansy
- Eastern Tiger Salamander
- Emerald Ash Borer
- European Marsh Thistle
- Gypsy Moth
- Liatris (Blazing Star)
- Lily of the Valley
- Mallard Duck
- Marsh Marigold
- Northern Leopard Frog
- Northern White Cedar
- Painted Turtle
- Paper Birch
- Peregrine Falcon
- Purple Loosestrife
- Quaking Aspen
- Red Fox
- Red Headed Wood Pecker
- Sandhill Crane
- Silver Maple
- White Pine
- Wild Bergamot
- Woodland Phlox
- Zebra Mussel



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Use code **PARKS** online at
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Coupon excludes sale/clearance merchandise, kayaks, canoes, and stand up paddleboards. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion.
Valid through 9/30/2024.



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