

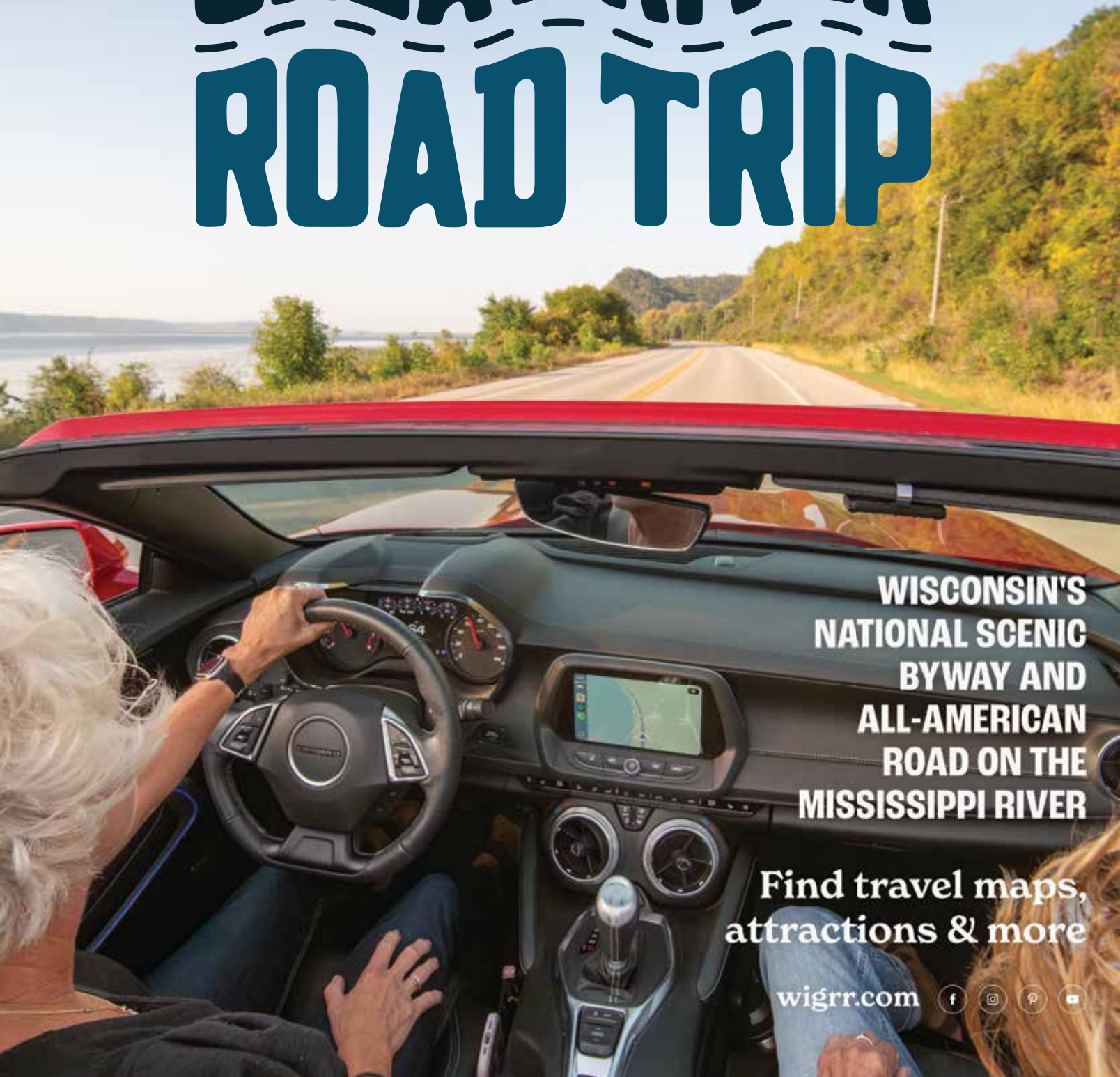


*Wisconsin*

2026 TRAVEL & VISITORS GUIDE



# GREAT RIVER ROAD TRIP



**WISCONSIN'S  
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ALL-AMERICAN  
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# Welcome to Wisconsin's All-American Great River Road!

**W**elcome to the Wisconsin Great River Road—and Wisconsin's ONLY All-American Road. Great times and adventures are yours to be discovered. Check out our 250 miles of gorgeous vistas, beaches, forests, parks, historic sites, attractions, and exciting “experiences.” This is the “Mississippi River Coast of Wisconsin!”

This Visitor Guide is designed to help you plan your journey and create an itinerary filled with one-of-a-kind adventures. Whether you're exploring scenic overlooks, paddling quiet backwaters, visiting historic sites, or savoring local culinary favorites, every mile offers something new to discover.”

Let's make some memories you will treasure forever.....right here! Wisconsin's Mississippi River lifestyle is a reset for you—a way to connect with nature while exploring the 33 river towns along the route.

Experience the amazing parks, overlooks and historic spots. Taste the culinary/eatery offerings. Join us and “let the good times roll” while you listen to the music of “The Driftless” and capture your own stories of wonderful times.

The Wisconsin All-American Great River Road curves along the Mississippi River and bluff lands through 8 Wisconsin counties. As a designated National Scenic Byway, the Wisconsin Great River Road offers abundant outdoor recreation and authentic small-town charm. Here, visitors are always welcomed and treated like locals.

On behalf of the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road, thank you for choosing to visit us. Please return again and again.



*Sherry Quamme*

Sherry Quamme,  
Chairperson  
WI Mississippi River  
Parkway Commission

Wisconsin  
**GREAT RIVER  
ROAD TRIP**

Photo Credit: Jay Olson

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**To order additional travel guides:**  
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Visit [www.wigr.com](http://www.wigr.com) for more information about events.



**Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission**

PO Box 171, De Soto WI 54624

Cover Photo: Jason Ray Photography

Printer: CPC Printing Services

Interior photos courtesy of Travel Wisconsin unless otherwise credited.



# Bienvenido al Gran Río de Wisconsin y a la ÚNICA All-American Road de Wisconsin

Grandes momentos y aventuras están a su alcance para que los descubra a lo largo de las 250 millas de hermosas vistas, playas, bosques, parques, sitios históricos, atracciones y emocionantes “experiencias culturales”.



¡Esta es la “Costa del Río Mississippi de Wisconsin”!

Esta Guía de Viajes y Actividades es su plan para crear sus itinerarios para las experiencias más únicas que pueda imaginar.



Crearemos algunos recuerdos que valorarás para siempre... ¡aquí mismo! El estilo de vida del Río Mississippi en Wisconsin es un excelente reinicio para usted, una forma de pasar tiempo de calidad con la familia mientras explora las 33 ciudades ribereñas a lo largo de la ruta.



Conduzca por la carretera. Experimente los increíbles parques, miradores y lugares históricos, tómese el tiempo para hacer algunas compras y disfrute de las ofertas culinarias y gastronómicas que se ofrece.

El All-American Great River Road de Wisconsin va a lo largo del Río Mississippi y atraviesa ocho condados de Wisconsin de este National Scenic Byway. Es el hogar de innumerables especies de aves y vida silvestre. Siempre será bienvenido en los numerosos sitios históricos, parques estatales y siete centros de interpretación. Además será tratado como uno de nosotros en cualquier lugar que visite.



En nombre del All-American Great River Road de Wisconsin, gracias por elegir visitarnos y le damos la bienvenida.

Por favor regresa una y otra vez.

Editorial credit: Amy Webber, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Photo credit: Travel Wisconsin

# Great River Road Attractions

## Buena Vista Overlook

City park with a stunning overlook of the Mississippi River, hiking trails, and picnic areas. Visitors can watch barges traveling upriver and locking through Lock & Dam #4, with views of sand islands and backwaters. [almawisconsin.org/hiking.html](http://almawisconsin.org/hiking.html)



## Cassville Car Ferry, Cassville

The Pride of Cassville Car Ferry connects the Great River Road and the Iowa Great River Road. Operating since early settlement days, it remains Wisconsin's oldest operating ferry service. [www.exploreassville.com/ferry-daily-operations](http://www.exploreassville.com/ferry-daily-operations)



## Dickeyville Grotto, Dickeyville

Located on Holy Ghost Parish grounds, this shrine complex was created by Father Mathias Wernerus between 1925 and 1930. Built from stone, mortar, and colorful objects from around the world, it reflects devotion to faith and country. [www.dickeyvillegrotto.com/](http://www.dickeyvillegrotto.com/)



## Grandad Bluff, La Crosse

Rising 600 feet above La Crosse, Grandad Bluff offers panoramic views of the Mississippi River Valley across Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Family-friendly trails, picnic areas, and scenic overlooks make it ideal for taking in the Coulee Region. [explorelacrosse.com/places/grandadbluff-la-crosse/](http://explorelacrosse.com/places/grandadbluff-la-crosse/)

## Kinstone, Fountain City

Explore Wisconsin's own "Stonehenge." This modern megalithic site features stones up to 35 tons and 23 feet tall within a peaceful sculpture garden. The 30-acre bluff-top property includes stone circles, a labyrinth, natural buildings, and sweeping views. [www.kinstonecircle.com/](http://www.kinstonecircle.com/)



## Laura Ingalls Museum, Pepin

Located in Laura Ingalls Wilder's birthplace, this museum preserves her legacy and the pioneer era. Exhibits include memorabilia, antiques, and souvenirs for fans of the Little House stories. [www.lauraingallspepin.com/home/](http://www.lauraingallspepin.com/home/)



For a complete list of events and happenings along the route, visit [www.wigrr.com](http://www.wigrr.com)

## Maiden Rock Bluff State Nature Area, Maiden Rock

Overlooking Lake Pepin, this 400-foot limestone bluff stretches nearly a mile above the Mississippi River. It is one of the few river bluffs where Peregrine Falcons successfully nest and is tied to a historic Native legend.

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/statenaturalareas/](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/statenaturalareas/)



## Potosi Brewery & National Brewery Museum, Potosi

Home to the National Brewery Museum and Great River Road Interpretive Center, this restored 1850s brewery features a microbrewery, restaurant, and gift shop in a historic setting. [www.potosibrewery.com/](http://www.potosibrewery.com/)



## Prairie Moon Sculpture Garden and Museum, Cochrane

Self-taught artist Herman Rusch created nearly forty large concrete and stone sculptures using inventive materials. This colorful folk-art environment is preserved by the Kohler Foundation.

[www.kohlerfoundation.org/preservation/preserved-sites/prairie-moon-sculpture-garden-andmuseum/](http://www.kohlerfoundation.org/preservation/preserved-sites/prairie-moon-sculpture-garden-andmuseum/)

## Riverside International Friendship Gardens, La Crosse

These public gardens celebrate La Crosse's sister-city relationships with themed landscapes representing countries including China, Germany, France, Norway, Ireland, and Cameroon.

[www.riversidegardens.org/](http://www.riversidegardens.org/)



## Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse

Set on more than 100 acres in the Mississippi River Valley, this spiritual destination features chapels, gardens, devotional areas, a café, and gift shop. Admission is free and group tours are welcome.

[guadalupeshrine.org/](http://guadalupeshrine.org/)

## Soldiers Walk—Memorial Park, Arcadia

This 54-acre park offers a walk through U.S. history along Soldiers Walk. Amenities include an aquatics center, playground, athletic fields, and scenic green space for families. [soldierswalkmemorialpark.com/](http://soldierswalkmemorialpark.com/)

## Stonefield, Cassville

Located near Nelson Dewey State Park, Stonefield features a recreated 1900s rural village, the State Agricultural Museum, and the homesite of Wisconsin's first governor, Nelson Dewey.

[stonefield.wisconsinhistory.org/](http://stonefield.wisconsinhistory.org/)



## Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien

This restored Victorian mansion was built in 1870 by the family of entrepreneur Hercules Dousman. Today it reflects the estate's British Arts-and-Crafts elegance of the 1890s. [villalouis.wisconsinhistory.org/](http://villalouis.wisconsinhistory.org/)

# Dining and Supper Clubs

## PIERCE COUNTY

### Chef Shack

W6379 Main St. • Bay City

### Harbor Bar & Restaurant & Marina

N673 825th St. • Hager City

Lucille's • 216 Broad St. • Prescott

### Prescott Roadhouse

127 Broad St. • Prescott

Shady Grove Hwy 65 • Ellsworth

### Two Rivers Lodge

117 Broad St. • Prescott

### Vino in the Valley

W3826 450th Ave. • Maiden Rock

## PEPIN COUNTY

### Harbor View Café

314 1st St. • Pepin

### Hop, Dish & Vine

N2047 Spring St. • Stockholm

### Pickle Factory

205 1st St. • Pepin

### Villa Bellezza Winery

1420 3rd St. • Pepin

## BUFFALO COUNTY

### The Golden Frog

112 N. Shore Dr. • Fountain City

### The Hillside Fish Shop

W124 HWY 35 • Fountain City

### The Lost Pirate Tiki Bar & Grill

175 S River Rd. • Buffalo City

### Monarch Public House

19 N. Main St. • Fountain City

### Walker's Silvermoon

S1582 St. Rd 35 • Alma

### The Wing Damn Saloon

1 North Shore Dr. • Fountain City

## TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

### Beedles Bar and Restaurant

Corner of HWY 35 & State Rds 54/93  
Trempealeau

### Elmaro Vineyard

N14756 Delaney Rd. • Trempealeau

### The Historical Trempealeau Hotel

11332 Main St. • Trempealeau

### Sullivans Supper Club

W25709 Sullivan Rd. • Trempealeau

### Wason Supper Club

W21282 State Rd 54 • Galesville

## LA CROSSE COUNTY

### 4 Sisters Restaurant

100 Harborview • La Crosse

### Blue Moon Restaurant

716 2nd Ave N • Onalaska

### Digger's Sting

122 3rd St. N • La Crosse

### The Freighthouse

107 Vine St. • La Crosse

### Hungry Peddler

3429 Mormon Coulee Rd. • La Crosse

### Houghton's Jackson Street Pub

1002 Jackson St. • La Crosse

### Ka Lia's Kitchen

2964 Airport Rd. • La Crosse

### Old Towne Inn

100 E Old Town Rd. #8201 • Westby

### Osteria Emilia

501 Front St. S. • La Crosse

### Red Pines Bar and Grill

W7305 CTY Rd Z • Onalaska

### River Café

23991 3rd St Suite B • Trempealeau

### Schmidty's

3119 State Rd. • La Crosse

### Three Rivers River View Bar and Restaurant

111 Front St. • La Crosse

## VERNON COUNTY

### Driftless Café

118 W Court St. • Viroqua

### Great River Roadhouse

9660 WI-35 • DeSoto

### Pikes Den

315 Main St. • DeSoto

### Rocky's Supper Club

101 S. Main St. • Stoddard

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

### The Barn Restaurant

32800 Co Rd K • Prairie du Chien

### The Blackhawk

225 W. Blackhawk Ave.  
Prairie du Chien

### Ferryville Cheese

163 Main St. • Ferryville

### Huckleberry's Restaurant

WI-35/Hiawatha Pioneer Trail  
Prairie du Chien

### Jones Black Angus

37640 US-18 • Prairie du Chien

### River Top BBQ

64040 County Rd N  
Prairie du Chien

### Sunrise Orchards

48340 WI-171 • Gays Mills

### Swede's Swing Inn

130 Main St. • Ferryville

### Wooden Nickel Saloon

136 Main St. • Ferryville

## GRANT COUNTY

### Ace's Pizza

106 N Main St. • Potosi

### Bagley Hotel & Bistro

175 S. Bagley Ave. • Bagley

### J&J's Sandbar

1110 E. Amelia St • Cassville

### Moons Town Pump

118 West Amelia St. • Cassville

### Potosi Brewing Company

209 S. Main St. • Potosi

### Son Chasers Social Club

218 E. Amelia St. • Cassville

### Village Bar & Supper Club

3410 Cty Rd HHH • Kieler

### Up the Street

13215 Main St. • Glen Haven

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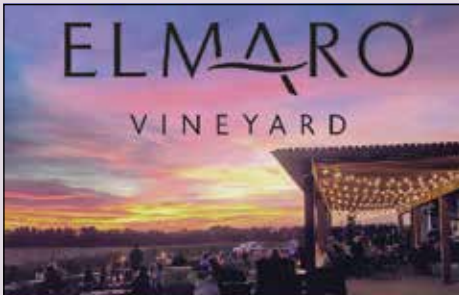
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# Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries

## Breweries

### **608 Brewing Co.**

83 Copeland Avenue, La Crosse

### **Pearl Street Brewery**

1401 St. Andrew Street, La Crosse

### **Potosi Brewing Company**

209 S. Main Street, Potosi

### **Skeleton Crew Brew**

570 Theater Road, Onalaska

### **Turtle Stack Brewery**

125 2nd Street S, La Crosse

### **The Vault**

3207 Main St, Glen Haven

## Distilleries

### **Birch Point Distillery**

310 Skihill Drive, Westby

### **La Crosse Distilling Co.**

129 Vine Street, La Crosse

### **Township 23 Distillery**

W2362 Co Rd D, Nelson

## Wineries

### **Belle Ame Vineyard**

W10829 875th Avenue,  
River Falls

### **Bemis Bluff Winery**

E2960 Hageness Road, Eleva

### **Brambleberry Winery**

234 Leonard Street, West Salem

### **Branches Winery**

E6796 Old Line Road, Westby

### **Danzinger Vineyards**

S2015 Grapeview Lane, Alma

### **DnA Vintners**

1223 Caledonia Street, La Crosse

### **Elmaro Vineyard**

N14756 Delaney Road,  
Trempealeau

### **Lost Island Wine**

570 Theater Road, Onalaska

### **Maiden Rock Winery & Cidery**

W12266 King Lane, Stockholm

### **Seven Hawks Vineyards**

17 North Street, Fountain City

### **Spurgeon Winery**

16008 Pine Tree Road,  
Highland

### **Sugar Creek Winery**

13418 Chellevoid Road,  
Ferryville

### **Tenba Ridge Winery**

N27587 Joe Coulee Road, Blair

### **Vernon Vineyards**

S3426 Peterson Lane, Viroqua

### **Villa Bellezza Vineyards & Winery**

1420 3rd Street, Pepin

### **Whispering Bluffs Winery**

196 S Main Street, Potosi

### **Wild Hills Winery**

30940 Oak Ridge Drive, Muscoda

### **WineSitter Brewhouse**

2711 South Avenue, La Crosse

## Cidery

### **Maiden Rock Cidery & Orchard**

W12266 King Ln, Stockholm



Wisconsin  
**GREAT RIVER  
ROAD TRIP**



For a complete list of events and happenings along the route, visit [www.wigrr.com](http://www.wigrr.com)

## ★ ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

This distinctive designation is awarded by the Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program. To reach the “All American Road” status, the drive must be a tourism attraction unto itself with multiple intrinsic qualities and one-of-a-kind features that can be found nowhere else.

“The Wisconsin All-American Great River Road is such a special place with so many unbelievably inspiring places and people. This is such an honor to have the Wisconsin Great River Road take its place as one of only 15 All American Roads awarded this year in the USA. Proving its uniqueness and unparalleled travel experience.”

—Sherry Quamme, Chair of the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission.


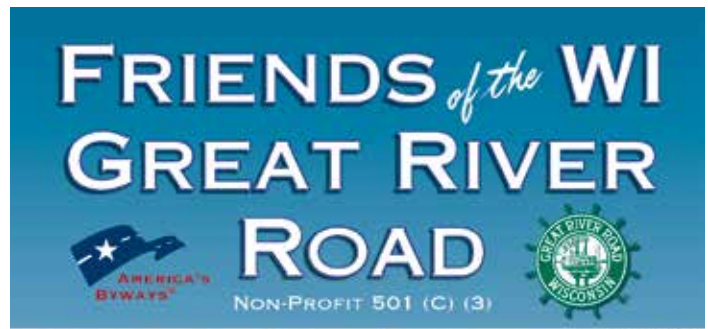
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## Mississippi River Operation Pollination

On September 28, 2023, the largest “Operation Pollination” (OP) project in the world called the Mississippi River Operation Pollination (MR-OP) Partnership was launched with a signing ceremony in La Crosse, Wisconsin by multiple organizations that have a stake in protecting the Mississippi River’s natural environment.

The major goal of the MR-OP Partnership is to establish pollinator and butterfly restoration projects along the whole Mississippi River corridor from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico using Rotary’s OP.

The MR-OP Partnership signees want all of us to work together to educate communities about the vital importance of pollinators to the well-being of humans and to restore and maintain pollinator habitats that will protect the various insects, birds, and other animals that pollinate plants. After all, pollinators are responsible for much of the food we eat. **Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies**, and small animals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of the food we eat. **Simply put: “No pollinators, no food.”**



**PRESERVE • PROTECT • ENHANCE**

The Friends of the Wisconsin Great River Road is a Non-Profit 501 (C) (3) organization dedicated to maintaining the natural scenic beauty and recreational activities that Great River Road (HWY 35) offers. Wisconsin’s only National Scenic Byway, the Great River Road spans the length of the Mississippi River Coast of Wisconsin. You can help!

Mail your tax deductible donation to:  
*Friends of the WI Great River Road • Po Box 171 • De Soto, WI 54624*

**WWW.WIGRR.COM**

## Birds and Other Wildlife

In the Upper Mississippi River valley along the Wisconsin Great River Road is one of the most important places for birds such as waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.

### Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge

Lies within the Mississippi Flyway, a migration pathway for birds. In the Springtime you can see songbird migration. Summertime you can see great blue herons, egrets, and American white pelicans. In October you can see migrating tundra swans and bald eagles. Along the Wisconsin Great River Road more than 145 species of amphibians and reptiles live in or around the Upper Mississippi River.

### Van Loon State Wildlife Area & McGilvray Bridges

located north of Onalaska HWY 53 is home to five historic and rare bowstring arch truss bridges. The Black River Bottomlands is full of wildlife. During fall you can see woodpeckers as well as bald eagles.

# PIERCE COUNTY

MAIDEN ROCK  
BAY CITY  
DIAMOND BLUFF  
HAGER CITY  
PRESCOTT

Pierce County is located in west-central Wisconsin along the Mississippi River, where it borders the Minnesota metro area across scenic riverbanks and rolling bluffs. Known for its stretch of the Wisconsin Great River Road and world-class trout streams, the county offers a blend of outdoor adventure and rural charm. Visitors can explore hiking trails, river overlooks, and charming river towns while enjoying fishing, paddling, and scenic drives. A highlight stop is the Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center in Prescott, featuring engaging hands-on exhibits, interpretive displays, and outdoor signage that share the stories, history, and natural beauty of the region.



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center
- Pierce County Fair
- Kinnickinnic State Park
- Crystal Cave (longest known cave in Wisconsin), Spring Valley
- Mississippi River Bridge from Prescott, WI to Hasting, MN
- Mississippi River Bridge from Hager City to Red Wing, MN
- Lake Pepin
- Rush River Ice Sculptures
- The Prescott River Walk District
- Vino in the Valley
- The Ellsworth Creamer
- Glen Parks Swinging Bridge
- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Creamery and Observatory

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

- Prescott Winterfest—January
- River Falls Blue Grass—April
- 100 mile Garage Sale—May (Prescott—Fountain City)
- Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival—June
- Party in Park—June
- Pierce County Fair—August
- River Falls Bacon Bash—September
- Maiden Rock Country Christmas—December

[www.co.pierce.wi.us](http://www.co.pierce.wi.us)

[www.backroadspiercecounty.com](http://www.backroadspiercecounty.com)

[www.freedomparkwi.org](http://www.freedomparkwi.org)

[www.prescottwi.com](http://www.prescottwi.com)

**TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO: Ellsworth, River Falls, Spring Valley**

## PIERCE COUNTY



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For a complete list of events and happenings along the route, visit [www.wigrr.com](http://www.wigrr.com)



## WELCOME TO THE GREAT RIVER ROAD VISITOR AND LEARNING CENTER - FREEDOM PARK IN PRESCOTT WI.

Our center and park have a lot to offer visitors. Come and enjoy some unique stories of the region told through our exhibits. Learn about the river and its migratory bird path on our interpretive signs situated alongside our beautiful bluff line walking path.

A spectacular vista of the mighty Mississippi awaits a picture. Looking for the right map? We have many travel literature offerings for free. And while you are here relaxing in our park by one of our many native pollinator gardens, you might just secure a memory from your travels on the Great River Road in Prescott WI.

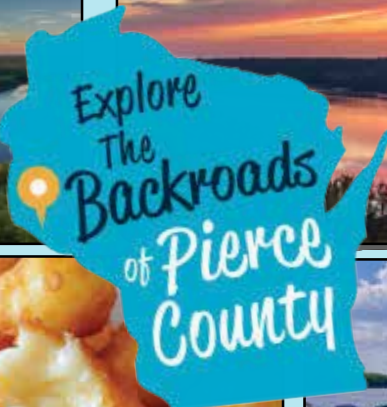
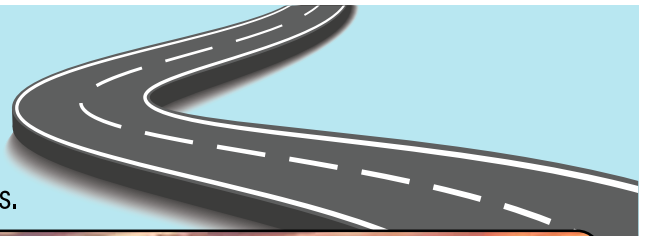


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[www.freedomparkwi.org](http://www.freedomparkwi.org)

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# Parks, Refuges, and Natural Areas

## PIERCE COUNTY

Mississippi River National River & Recreation Area, National Park Service  
Kinnickinnic State Park  
Trenton Bluff Prairie State Natural Area  
Kinnickinnic River Gorge & Delta State Natural Area  
Rush River Delta State Natural Area  
Morgan Coulee Prairie State Natural Area  
Plum Creek Woods State Natural Area

## PEPIN COUNTY

Chippewa River State Trail (bike & pedestrian), Durand  
Marina at Lake Pepin, Pepin  
Five-Mile Bluff Prairie State Natural Area  
Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area  
Nine Mile Island State Natural Area  
Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area

## BUFFALO COUNTY

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge  
Buffalo River State Trail (bike & pedestrian), Mondovi  
Merrick State Park, Fountain City  
Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area  
Tiffany State Natural Area, Nelson  
Nelson-Trevino Bottoms State Natural Area, Nelson  
Whitman Bottoms Floodplain Forest State Natural Area, Buffalo City  
Trempealeau Meadow State Natural Area  
Riecks Lake Park & Campground, Alma  
Dike Road, Lock & Dam #5, Buffalo City  
Great River State Trail, Buffalo Siding  
Thrive! Park, Nelson

## TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

Trempealeau National Wildlife & Fish Refuge

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
Great River State Trail (bike & pedestrian)  
Perrot State Park, Trempealeau  
Trempealeau Mountain State Natural Area  
Great River Trail State Natural Area  
Brady's Bluff Prairie State Natural Area  
Tamarack Creek Bog State Natural Area  
Borst Valley Meadow State Natural Area  
Chimney Rock Oak Savanna State Natural Area  
Hawkinson Creek Wet Prairie State Natural Area  
Vosse Coulee State Natural Area  
Pietrak County Park, Arcadia

## LA CROSSE COUNTY

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
Grandad Bluff City Park & Overview, La Crosse  
Great River State Trail (bike & pedestrian)  
Marsh View Trail, Onalaska  
La Crosse State Trail (bike & pedestrian), Onalaska to Sparta  
Van Loon Wildlife Area  
Midway Railroad Prairie State Natural Area  
Great River Trail Prairies State Natural Area  
Greens Coulee Park Trail, Onalaska  
Holland Sand Prairie State Natural Area

## VERNON COUNTY

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
Blackhawk County Park, De Soto

Mt. Pisgah Hemlock-Hardwoods State Natural Area  
Battle Bluff Prairie State Natural Area  
Coon Creek Cliffs State Natural Area  
Kickapoo Valley Reserve  
Bergen Bluffs State Natural Area  
Romance Prairie State Natural Area  
Tunnelville Cliffs State Natural Area  
Hillsboro State Trail, Hillsboro  
Coon Prairie Trail, Viroqua & Westby  
Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario  
Old Settlers Overlook, between Stoddard & Genoa  
Sidie Hollow County Park  
Duck Egg County Park

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
Blackhawk Park, De Soto  
La Riviere Park, Prairie du Chien  
St. Feriote Island, Prairie du Chien  
Lawler Park, Walk of History, Prairie du Chien  
Hogback Prairies State Natural Area  
Kickapoo Wild Woods State Natural Area  
Limery Ridge Savanna State Natural Area  
Rush Creek State Natural Area  
Sugar Creek Bluff Natural Area  
Sugar Creek Park, Ferryville  
Wauzeka Bottoms State Natural Area

## GRANT COUNTY

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge  
Wyalusing State Park, Wyalusing  
Nelson Dewey State Park, Cassville  
Wyalusing Hardwood State Forest  
Dewey Heights Prairie State Natural Area  
Blue River Sand Barrens State Natural Area  
Wyalusing Walnut State Forest  
Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area





Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum



Stonefield State Agricultural Museum

# Historical Sites

## PIERCE COUNTY

Sea Wing Park State Historical Marker, Diamond Bluff  
 Bow & Arrow Formation State Historical Marker, Bay City  
 Conlin Log Home, Bay City  
 River Bluffs History Center, Bay City  
 Pierce County Courthouse National Historical Marker, Ellsworth  
 Plum City State Historical Marker, Plum City  
 Mero Mound Group, Diamond Bluff (restricted)

## PEPIN COUNTY

Maiden Rock State Historical Marker, Stockholm  
 Fort St Antoine Site State Historical Marker  
 Lake Pepin State Historical Marker  
 Laura Ingalls Wilder Wayside, Cabin & State Historical Marker, Lund  
 Pepin County Courthouse & Jail (last wooden courthouse), National & State Historical Marker, Durand

## BUFFALO COUNTY

City of Alma National & State Historic District, Alma  
 Beef Slough State Historical Marker, Alma  
 Fountain City State Historical Marker, Fountain City

## TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

Mississippi River Parkway: First Project State Historical Marker  
 Trempealeau Main Street, National & State Historic District

Trempealeau Platform Mounds National Historic District  
 Perrot State Park  
 Trempealeau Lakes Mound National Historic District  
 Decorah Peak State Historical Marker  
 Perrot's Post State Historical Marker  
 Brady's Bluff State Historical Marker  
 Galesville Bridge State Historical Marker  
 The Mississippi River Parkway: First Project Marker

## LA CROSSE COUNTY

McGilvray Bridges State Historical Marker, Holmen  
 Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center, Coon Valley  
 Gideon C. Hixon House, La Crosse  
 Mindoro Cut, Mindoro to West Salem  
 La Crosse Heritage Center, La Crosse  
 Heilman House, La Crosse  
 Dahl Auto Museum

## VERNON COUNTY

Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center  
 Coon Valley Goose Island National Archaeological Site  
 Stoddard Dams on the Mississippi State Historical Marker, Genoa  
 Battle of Bad Axe State Historical Marker, De Soto  
 Three Chimneys, Viroqua  
 Cheyenne Valley Settlers Heritage Park, Hillsboro  
 Round Barns, Viroqua, Westby, Hillsboro  
 Great River Road Interpretive Center, Genoa

Thoreson House Museum, Westby  
 Vernon County Museum, Viroqua

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

Villa Louis, National & State Historical Site & Marker, Fort Crawford Museum, National & State Historical Site & Marker; War of 1812 State Historical Marker, Villa Louis; St. Feriote Island; Dousman House Hotel, National Historical Landmark; 1800s Jail; Fort Crawford Military Cemetery; Old French Cemetery (1817), Prairie du Chien  
 Tainter Cave Petroglyphs, Lynxville  
 Foley Mound Group National Archaeological Site, Lynxville (restricted)  
 Governor Lucey Highway Marker, Ferryville  
 Tainter Cave Petroglyphs, Clayton (restricted)  
 Wall-Smethurst Mound Group, Lynxville (restricted)  
 Will Dilg Memorial, Hwy 82, Winneshiek Landing  
 Pete's Hamburger Stand

## GRANT COUNTY

Stonefield State Historic Site, Nelson Dewey Plantation, Cassville  
 Stonefield State Agricultural Museum, Cassville  
 Wyalusing State Park Mounds National Archaeological Site, Wyalusing  
 Eagle Valley Mound National Historic District, Glen Haven  
 Cassville Farmall Museum

# PEPIN COUNTY



**P**epin County invites visitors to slow down and enjoy the natural beauty of Wisconsin's Mississippi River corridor. Dramatic bluffs, rolling hills, wooded valleys, and scenic waterways create an ideal setting for bicycling, hiking, camping, fishing, and canoeing. The county is home to Lake Pepin, a favorite destination for sailing, birdwatching, and breathtaking sunsets. Charming river towns offer local dining, shops, and welcoming hospitality, while scenic overlooks along the Great River Road provide unforgettable views. From peaceful shoreline moments to outdoor adventure, Pepin County delivers a quintessential Driftless Area experience along Wisconsin's Great River Road.



Photo Credit: Dylan Overhouse

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Maiden Rock Historical Marker
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Cabin and Museum
- Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area
- Lake Pepin
- YMCA Camp Pepin
- Tiffany Bottoms
- Blues on the Chippewa-Durand
- Villa Bellezza
- Stockholm Pie & General Store

[www.visitpepincounty.com](http://www.visitpepincounty.com)

[www.destinationpepin.com](http://www.destinationpepin.com)

[www.stockholmwisconsin.com](http://www.stockholmwisconsin.com)

[www.thewestcoastofwisconsin.com](http://www.thewestcoastofwisconsin.com)

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

- YMCA Winterfest—February
- Trillium Festival—May
- 100 Mile Garage Sale—first full weekend in May
- Spring Fresh Art Tour—June
- Tour de Pepin—June
- Art Fair—Third Saturday of July
- Pepin Crazy Days—July
- Pepin/Buffalo County Fair—late July/early August
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Day—September
- River Road Doe on the Go—November
- Pepin Nouveau—third Thursday of November
- European Outdoor Christmas Market—mid November to just before Christmas Weekends
- God Jul—Holiday Season (December)

**TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO:** Durand, Arkansas

**PEPIN COUNTY**

**Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum**

306 Third Street, Pepin, WI

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[www.LauraIngallsPepin.com](http://www.LauraIngallsPepin.com)



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- Shop at Wisconsin's Prettiest Christmas Market
- Have a slice of pie at America's #1 Pie Shop
- Dance the night away at Blues on the Chippewa
- Shop, dine, and be entertained!
- Hike to the Maiden Rock Bluff Overlook
- Enjoy a sunset cruise on Lake Pepin
- Take an open air train ride into the Tiffany Bottoms
- Attend one of our many Art Tours & Fairs
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On Wisconsin's Great River Road



# Wisconsin's Mississippi River Valley

Canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding are a great way to site see and relieve stress all at the same time. You'll find canoe trails up and down the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, along with canoe areas and plenty of places to slip into the backwaters where the current isn't strong, and the wildlife is plentiful.

## Major Tributaries & Rivers of Wisconsin's Mississippi River Valley—Northern Segment

### Black River—Trempealeau County Area

190-mile-long river that first meets the Mississippi River in Lake Onalaska in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

### Buffalo River—Buffalo County Area

68-mile-long tributary formed at Osseo flows westwardly into Buffalo County, past Strum, Eleva and Mondovi.

### Buffalo River (North Fork Buffalo River)— Trempealeau County Area

16-mile North Fork has at times been considered the main stem of the 68-mile-long tributary formed at Osseo and flows westwardly into Buffalo County, past Strum, Eleva and Mondovi.

### Chippewa River—Buffalo County and Pepin County Area

Flows over 200 miles, starting about forty miles from Lake Superior and running southwest to the Mississippi River south of Pepin.

### Eau Galle River—Pepin County and Pierce County Area

Eau Galle River Wildlife Area is a 236-acre property located approximately 10 miles southwest of Menomonie or 4 miles north of Eau Galle.

### Kinnickinnic River—Pierce County Area

22-mile, spring-fed river is a world-class trout stream. The "Kinni" flows through the City of River Falls and is a popular recreation and natural area.

### Rush River—Pierce County Area

49-mile-long tributary flows generally southwardly through Pierce County. It ends in Lake Pepin, about 1 mile west of the village of Maiden Rock.

### St. Croix River—Pierce County Area

A National Scenic Riverway forming part of the border with Minnesota, offering canoeing, boating, and hiking.

### Trempealeau River—Buffalo County and Trempealeau County Area

81-mile-long tributary flows into the Mississippi River near the village of Trempealeau, known for its scenic beauty, wetlands, fishing, paddling, hiking, and birdwatching. "Trempealeau" comes from French influence, meaning "the mountain whose foot is bathed in water," referring to Trempealeau Mountain.

### Trimbelle River—Pierce County Area

29-mile-long tributary flows for its entire length in western Pierce County, rising in the town of Martell and flowing generally southwardly through the towns of River Falls, Trimbelle, Trenton and Diamond Bluff.

## Car Ferry

Cassville Car Ferry from Cassville, WI to Millville, IA in Grant County



## Mississippi River Bridges

- Prescott, WI to Hastings, MN (Hwy 10)
- Hager City, WI to Red Wing, MN (Hwy 63)
- Nelson, WI to Wabasha, MN (Hwy 25)
- Buffalo County, WI to Winona, MN (Hwy MN 43 / WI 54)
- La Crosse, WI to MN (Interstate 90)
- La Crosse, WI to La Crescent, MN (Hwy 14)
- Crawford Co, WI to Lansing, IA (Hwy 82) \*\*Closed until 2027\*\*
- Prairie du Chien, WI to Marquette, IA (Hwy 18)
- Grant County, WI to Dubuque, IA (US 151 / Hwy 61)

## Major Tributaries & Rivers of Wisconsin's Mississippi River Valley—Southern Segment

### **Bad Axe River (North & South Forks)— Vernon County Area**

4.2-mile-long tributary which lies entirely within Vernon County.

### **Big Green River—Grant County Area**

Open banks and excellent trout numbers have made the Big Green River one of the most popular streams in Wisconsin.

### **Blue River—Grant County Area**

Located north of Montfort between Blue River Road and Biba Road is one of the most scenic trout streams in America.

### **Grant River—Grant County Area**

44-mile tributary winds through central Grant County to meet the Mississippi River just north of Potosi. Characterized by deep valleys bounded by rocky ledges and high bluffs, the river provides frequent rapids (Class I) with minimal portaging.

### **Kickapoo River (and West Fork)— Crawford County and Vernon County Area**

126-mile-long tributary of the Wisconsin River named for the Kickapoo Indians who occupied Wisconsin before the white settlers in the early 19th century.

### **La Crosse River— La Crosse County Area**

61-mile-long tributary that flows generally west-southwest through Sparta, Rockland, Bangor and West Salem.

### **Little Baraboo River— Vernon County Area**

A tributary in eastern Vernon County that flows eastward eventually joining the Baraboo River near La Valle.

### **Little Grant River—Grant County Area**

Located 15 miles southwest of Fennimore in Grant County.

### **Little Green River—Grant County Area**

Located about 15 miles northwest of Fennimore in Grant County and is a Class 1 trout stream

### **Little Platte River—Grant County Area**

42-mile tributary joining the Platte River northwest of Dickeyville.

### **Menomonee River—Grant County Area**

11-mile tributary flows from Grant County near Kieler, and joins the Mississippi River in northwest Illinois.

### **Platte River—Grant County Area**

47-mile tributary, in Grant County, flows into the Mississippi River about 3 miles southwest of Dickeyville

### **Root River—La Crosse County Area**

80-mile-long tributary in Minnesota that joins the Mississippi River just west of La Crosse near La Crescent, MN

### **Wisconsin River—Crawford County and Grant County Area**

Wisconsin's longest river, flowing 430-miles, joining the Mississippi near Prairie du Chien, known for its free-flowing lower section and rich wildlife.

## Mississippi River Locks & Dams

Lock & Dam #3, Red Wing, MN near Pierce County

Lock & Dam #4, Alma in Buffalo County

Lock & Dam #5, Minnesota City,  
MN north of Fountain City

Lock & Dam #SA, near Fountain City in Buffalo County

Lock & Dam #6, Trempealeau, in Trempealeau County

Lock & Dam #7, La Crescent, MN,  
just north of La Crosse

Lock & Dam #8, Genoa in Vernon County

Lock & Dam #9, near Lynxville in Crawford County

Lock & Dam #10, Guttenberg, IA, just north of Cassville

Lock & Dam #11, Dubuque, IA, near southwest  
Grant County

# BUFFALO COUNTY

FOUNTAIN CITY  
BUFFALO CITY  
COCHRANE  
ALMA  
NELSON

**B**uffalo County showcases some of the most dramatic scenery along the Mississippi River, with towering 500-foot bluffs and sweeping valley views. Buena Vista Park in Alma offers breathtaking panoramas of the river and surrounding landscape. In Fountain City, Kinstone Megalithic Garden features 30 acres of stone structures, native prairie, and peaceful walking paths. Nearby in Cochrane, the Prairie Moon Sculpture Garden and Museum displays more than 40 large stone and concrete sculptures created by Herman Rusch. Scenic drives, artistic discoveries, and remarkable overlooks make Buffalo County a memorable Great River Road destination.



## POINTS OF INTERESTS

- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
- Merrick State Park
- Tiffany State Bottoms natural area
- Riecks Lake Park & Campground
- Lock and Dam #4 in Alma
- Lock and Dam #5A in Fountain City
- Great Alma Fishing Float
- Wings Over Alma Nature & Art Center
- Prairie Moon Gardens and Museum in Cochrane
- Buena Vista Overlook
- Castlerock Arms & Armory Museum in Alma
- Kinstone Megalithic Garden in Fountain City
- Mississippi River Bridge, Nelson, WI to Wabasha, MN
- Mississippi River Bridge, Buffalo County, WI to Winona, MN
- Big River Theatre

## ANNUAL FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

- Birding by Mini Train in Tiffany Bottoms—May through Summer
- Fresh Art Tour—Spring Tour in early June
- Lock and Dam #4 Tour (Alma)—Spring & Summer
- Battles at Castle Rock Museum—July/August
- Annual Alma Music & Arts Festival—Labor Day Weekend (late August/early September)
- Buffalo/Pepin County Fair—late July to early August
- Fountain City Pumpkins & Pistons Extravaganza—September
- Fresh Art Tour—Fall Tour in early October
- Christmas in Alma—December

[www.buffalocountywi.gov](http://www.buffalocountywi.gov)  
[www.explorealma.com](http://www.explorealma.com)  
[www.visitfountaincity.com](http://www.visitfountaincity.com)

**TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO:** Mondovi, Waumandee

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# TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

**T**rempealeau County invites visitors to explore a striking Driftless landscape shaped by rugged bluffs, river valleys, and scenic waterways. Outdoor recreation is abundant, with opportunities for bicycling, hiking, camping, fishing, and canoeing throughout the county's parks and natural areas. Perrot State Park offers dramatic blufftop views where the Trempealeau and Mississippi Rivers meet, while Great River State Trail provides miles of scenic riding and walking. Charming river towns, wildlife viewing, and peaceful backwater sloughs add to the county's appeal, making Trempealeau County a memorable stop along the Wisconsin Great River Road.



**CENTERVILLE  
TREMPEALEAU**

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- First PROJECT Mississippi River Parkway Commission Historic Marker
- Perrot State Park
- Great River State Bike Trail
- Brady's Bluff
- Trempealeau Main St. National Historic District
- Lock and Dam #6
- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
- Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
- Mr. Whiskers—19 foot catfish statue
- Little Bluff Mounds Trail
- Soldiers Walk Memorial Park
- McGilvray Road Bridges
- Historical Trempealeau Hotel
- The Freedom Rock Wisconsin
- Trempealeau Community Heritage Society and Museum

## ANNUAL FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

- Catfish Days—July
- Howie & Dave's Birthday Bash—mid July
- Ashley for the Arts—first full weekend of August
- Them Coulee Boys Weekend—May
- Reggae Fest—June
- Trempealeau County Dairy Breakfast—June (Countywide Event)
- Honeycrisp Hootenanny—mid October
- Apple Affair (Galesville)—first Saturday in October
- Trempealeau County Fair—mid July
- Holiday Soiree/Trees in Trempealeau—early December
- Kris Kringle Market—mid December

[www.co.trempealeau.wi.us](http://www.co.trempealeau.wi.us)

[www.trempealeau.net](http://www.trempealeau.net)

**TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO: Blair, Galesville, Arcadia, Independence, Whitehall, and Osseo**

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY



- Great Friendly Atmosphere
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# Experience Memorial Park in Arcadia, Wisconsin

551 Memorial Park Dr. Arcadia, WI 54612  
[soldierswalkmemorialpark.com](http://soldierswalkmemorialpark.com)

## Plan Your Visit to Memorial Park

No visit to Wisconsin this summer would be complete without a visit to the 54-acre Memorial Park in Arcadia. Located only a couple hours away from the Twin Cities, this park offers the unique opportunity to walk through United States history along the Soldiers Walk while being surrounded by natural beauty.



*Persian Gulf War*



*9/11 Monument*



*World War II*



*Vietnam War Memorial*



*Civil War*



*James A. Reed*

Soldiers Walk, the featured attraction of the park, is a 500-meter walk that pays homage to all U.S. wars and conflicts with 29 monuments and memorials in chronological order beginning in 1848. Soldiers Walk Memorial Park was voted one of the top five best military museums in the U.S., and is referred to as the premier war memorial in the country outside Washington, D.C.

Additional features of Memorial Park include a seasonal Aquatic Center, a Kid's Kingdom playground, a variety of athletic fields and sport courts and much more for the entire family to enjoy.



### Visit the Ashley Pub

An English-Style Pub & Restaurant inside Ashley Store

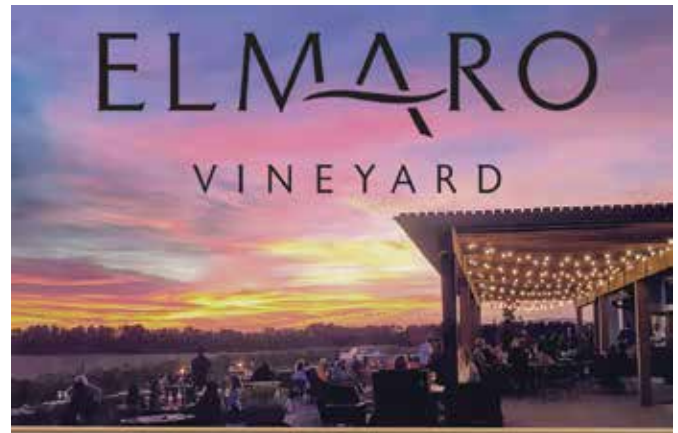
343 Dettloff Drive, Arcadia, Wisconsin 54612  
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# TREMPEALEAU COUNTY



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Trempealeau County Tourism



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# Wisconsin

- Northern Route -  
Following The Mississippi River

## Wisconsin Great River Road National Scenic Byway



Minnesota

Map Key			
	Bridge		Ski Area
	Full Service Marina		Museum
	Historic Site		Scenic Vista
	Golf Course		Park
	Travel Center		Visitor/ Interpretive Center
	Winery		



Minnesota

**Wisconsin**

- Southern Route -  
Following The Mississippi River

**Wisconsin Great River Road  
National Scenic Byway**



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	Travel Center
	Winery
	Ski Area
	Museum
	Scenic Vista
	Park
	Visitor/ Interpretive Center

# Visit all Interpretive and Visitor

## ★ Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center

200 Monroe Street • Prescott



Interpretive center and city park offers spectacular views and engaging local experiences that merge nature, culture, and community at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.

National Park Service partner site, Audubon Birding site, and Watchable Wildlife site.

## ★ Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge Visitor Center

N5727 County Road Z • Onalaska



The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge in Onalaska is home to a variety of exhibits about the Mississippi River region and its wildlife, as well as hiking paths and a

Mississippi River overlook where visitors can see bald eagles, migrating waterfowl, swans, and other birds.


## ★ Genoa National Fish Hatchery and Great River Road Interpretive Center

S5631 State Highway 35 • Genoa



The Interpretive Center features the intrinsic values of the Upper Mississippi River Region. Also included are two aquariums with live fish exhibits that depict natural riverine species of the

Upper Mississippi River and a stream aquarium with species that represent a Wisconsin stream. Hatchery grounds offer views of the Upper Mississippi River bluffs, hatchery ponds and the grounds are frequented by many different species of migratory birds and waterfowl.



★ **La Crosse Welcome Center**  
Rest Area 31  
190 Eastbound,  
Mile Marker 1 • La Crosse



★ **Prairie du Chien Welcome Center**  
211 S. Main  
Prairie du Chien



# Centers along the Great River Road

## ★ Fort Crawford Museum

717 S Beaumont Rd • Prairie du Chien



Fort Crawford stood guard over Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, from 1816 until 1856. Now, the Fort Crawford Museum displays the history of the fort, its city, and the many lives that crossed here.

Visit us May through October for a self-guided tour, reserve a group tour, or attend an upcoming event. Your group may setup a tour November-April by calling 608-326-6960

## ★ Villa Louis

521 N. Villa Louis Road • Prairie du Chien



When you walk through the doors of Villa Louis, you step into the life of one of Wisconsin's most historic families—The Dousmans. Located on the beautiful banks of the mighty Mississippi River, this National Historic Landmark offers a panorama of Wisconsin history, from the advent of the first fur traders through the splendor of the Victorian era.

Tour the stunning 1871 Italianate style mansion the Dousmans called home for more than four decades, and the surrounding estate. The 25-acre site includes over a dozen historic structures including the Dousman Office Building, Ice House, Preserve House, Blockhouse, the foundations of the first Fort Crawford, and the state's only War of 1812 battlefield.

## ★ Stonefield Historic Site

12195 County Road VV • Cassville



Your adventure through the former estate of Wisconsin's first governor tells the amazing story of the Badger State's agricultural advance from a struggling group of wheat farmers to America's Dairyland.

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## ★ The Potosi Brewing Company

209 South Main Street • Potosi



Originally founded in 1852 along the Great River Road and just a stone's throw from the Mississippi River, the Potosi Brewing Company brewed more than a century's worth of delicious craft beer before finally bowing to shifting market pressures and emptying its bright tanks for good in 1972.

Re-founded on its original site in 2008, the Potosi Brewing Company has brought craft brewing back to Main Street Potosi, Wisconsin. Today our fine people lovingly craft only the highest quality beer—in small batches and without compromise—forging a renewed tradition of excellence that's all our own.



### ★ Grant County Visitor Center

US 61/151, WIS 11/35  
Rest Area 106, Mile Marker 1  
Hazel Green (Kieler)



### ★ Wisconsin Welcome Center-Platteville

275 W Business Hwy 151  
Platteville

# LA CROSSE COUNTY



La Crosse County showcases some of the tallest and most dramatic bluffs along the Wisconsin Great River Road, rising above the scenic confluence of the Mississippi, Black, and La Crosse Rivers. Located within the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk Nation, the area offers a rich blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage. La Crosse is the largest community along the route, featuring riverfront parks, vibrant arts and dining, and historic neighborhoods. Visitors can take in sweeping views from Grandad Bluff, explore scenic trails, and enjoy year-round recreation that makes La Crosse County a standout stop.



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- McGilvray “Seven Bridges” Road
- Historic Hixon House
- Largest six pack of beer
- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and Visitor Center
- Grandad Bluff
- Lock and Dam #7
- Great River State Trail (Bike & Pedestrian)
- Van Loon Wildlife Area
- La Crosse State Trail (Bike & Pedestrian)
- Riverside International Friendship Gardens
- Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Sunny the Sunfish
- Dahl Auto Museum

[www.LaCrossecounty.org](http://www.LaCrossecounty.org)

[www.exploreLaCrosse.com](http://www.exploreLaCrosse.com)

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

- Onalaska Omni Center Spring Craft Show—April
- Between the Bluffs Beverages & Bites Fest—April
- Lobsterfest—June
- Moon Tunes—June-August
- Riverfest—July (4th of July Week)
- Country Boom—July
- La Crosse County Interstate Fair—mid July
- Holmen Kornfest—August (third weekend)
- Irishfest—mid August
- Oktoberfest—full weekend of September
- Ghoulees in the Coulees—October
- La Crosse Center Holiday Fair—mid November
- Rotary Lights—day after Thanksgiving through December 31

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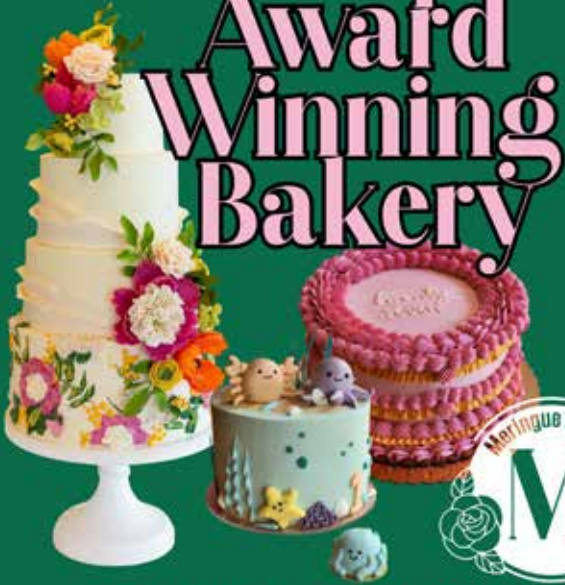

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## Great River Road Interpretive Center



**Upper Mississippi River  
National Wildlife and Fish Refuge  
La Crosse District Visitor Center**

Visitor Center Hours:  
May - October: Tues-Sat 9am-3pm  
November - April: Tues-Fri 9am-3pm



Photo Credit: Owen Johnson

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# Biking Rails to Trails

You can cycle along the WI GRR, adjacent trails and nearby scenic country roads. You can view the bluffs and abundant wildlife.

## Great River State Bike Trail

The trail follows the Mississippi River for 24 miles, just north of Trempealeau. Along the route are 18 different streams and waterways. You can watch the towboats and pleasure crafts as they maneuver thru lock and dam #6.

## La Crosse River State Trail

The trail links with Onalaska's Great River State Trail which runs eastward for 21.5 miles. There you can enjoy wetlands, lush green valleys, and peaceful small towns.

## Wyalusing State Park

Wyalusing State Park at Bagley features miles of scenic mountain bike trails for riders of all experience levels. Between the Mississippi Ridge Trail and the Whitetail Meadows Trail, visitors will find a quiet picnic shelter and a stunning overlook offering expansive views of the river.

## Hixon Forest and the Human Powered Trails

This trail offers easy rides for the family to hardcore bikers. The Trails are located in both the upper and lower Hixon Forest which takes advantage of the Bluffs..

## Northern Section: Nelson to Hager City

Nelson to Hager City is a 38-mile route that links Nelson, Pepin, Stockholm, Maiden Rock, Bay city and Hager City. Lake Pepin is a great stop for eagle watching.

## Southern Section: Lynxville to Genoa

Lynxville to Genoa along HWY 35 includes Lynxville, Ferryville, DeSoto, Victory and Genoa. Lock and Dam #9 is located in Lynxville. In Ferryville you have beautiful scenery and may see Eagles. In DeSoto they have full-service campgrounds. Genoa is home to the oldest fishing barge, Clement's Fishing Barge.

## Ora Trails

ORA Trails (Outdoor Recreation Alliance) maintains a network of multi-use trails in the La Crosse area, offering hiking, mountain biking, and trail running through the scenic blufflands of the Driftless Region. Trails wind along wooded ridges and connect to sweeping river valley overlooks, providing both challenging routes and family-friendly options.

## Great River State Trail

From Onalaska to Trempealeau, this 24-mile trail traverses along 18 different waterways, crosses over the Black River on a 287-foot former railroad trestle, and follows Lake Onalaska and the BNSF railway. Pass through Mississippi River bottomlands, visit Nicholls Hopewell Mound, and the Upper Mississippi and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuges. Perfect for any type of bicycle.

## Wisconsin's Mississippi River Trail US Bicycle Route 45

This new 262.7-mile route will follow the Mississippi from the Minnesota border near Prescott to the Illinois/Iowa border near Dubuque, completing Wisconsin's segment of the 10-state Mississippi River Trail network.

[www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/](http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/)



# Hiking

Hiking in the bluff lands that make up the landscape along the Wisconsin Great River Road offer many different nature experiences. Forests, oak savannas, prairies, river bottoms, and majestic overlooks can all be found.

## Mound Point Trail:

### Nelson Dewey State Park

This is an easy trail for a leisurely hike in popular Nelson Dewey State Park. It's a 2.2 mile, there and back, trail that welcomes your leashed dog. The trail features the Mississippi River and takes you to a pretty overlook by hiking through a hardwood forest. As you hike Mound Point you'll pass by the Native American mounds that give the trail its name.

### Sugar Creek Bluff: Ferryville

Sugar Creek Bluff is a 440-acre bluff land preserve. This scenic route provides an overlook of the Mississippi River and prairie flora. The hike is also great for bird enthusiasts with hawks, eagles and turkey vultures living in the region.

### Brady's Bluff: Perrot State Park

Brady's Bluff Trail is a winding trail up to the goat prairie at the top of the bluff. The park marks the meeting point for the Mississippi River and Trempealeau River and is known for its 500 foot bluffs and views of the surrounding wetlands and riverbank area. The park offers a variety of trails that will take you to different lookout points.

### Five Mile Bluff Prairie State Natural Area: Pepin

The 263 acre state natural area has no developed facilities or official marked trails. Located on 300 foot high river bluffs, Five Mile Bluff Prairie contains and excellent dry prairie overlooking the Chippewa and Mississippi Rivers. In Spring, large numbers of migrating hawks and eagles can sometimes be seen. Rustic trail, but worth it.



### Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area

Beautiful scenic views of the Mississippi River, Lake Pepin, and Pepin County are what you'll find at the top of the one and a half-mile trail to Maiden Rock Bluff, but don't write off this hike as easy based on the length of the trail. The trail takes you up 400-feet to the top of the bluff over hilly terrain and steep inclines, so be sure you are prepared. At the top, views of blue skies and the lush river valley are beautiful on a sunny summer day or during the fall.

### Cassville Bluff State Natural Area

Cassville Bluffs contains a variety of habitats including upland and lowland oak-hickory forest as well as rare oak savannas and goat prairies overlooking the Mississippi River. Because the preserve is adjacent to the Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge, it provides habitat for species that require large areas of connected forest, such as neotropical migrating birds. In spring, the forests are alive with vibrant color and song from the many warblers passing through.

### Hixon Nature Conservatory Trails

Nearly ten miles of hiking and multi-use trails crisscross the wooded bluffs on the eastern edge of La Crosse. Four designated parking areas provide convenient access to the trails, which can also be reached by bike or on foot via connecting trails from Myrick Park, or even downtown La Crosse via Riverside Park. The Hixon Forest Trails offer access to the popular Grandad Bluff Park and its stunning views of the city and river valley, as well as four other designated vistas. Hikers and mountain bikers can also connect to Upper Hixon Forest (across County Hwy FA).

## WISCONSIN STATE TRAILS

(bike & pedestrian)

Hillsboro State Trail, Vernon County

La Crosse River State Trail, La Crosse County

Great River State Trail, Buffalo, Trempealeau & La Crosse Counties

Buffalo River State Trail, Buffalo County

Chippewa River State Trail, Pepin County

# VERNON COUNTY

Vernon County lies in the heart of Wisconsin's Driftless Area, where rolling hills, deep valleys, and winding rivers create a landscape perfect for relaxing and reconnecting with nature. Visitors can explore a vibrant arts, crafts, and local food scene, tour through Amish country, and discover historic sites and museums that reflect the area's rich heritage. Outdoor adventure is always close by, with opportunities to hike, bike, and fish in some of the state's most scenic settings. Cultural festivals and community celebrations throughout the year add to the county's welcoming charm, making Vernon County a memorable stop along the Wisconsin Great River Road.

VICTORY  
GENOA  
STODDARD



Photo Credit: Elevate Media



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Wildcat Mountain State Park
- Hillsboro State Trail
- Lock and Dam #8
- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
- Battle of the Bad Axe Historical Marker
- 1920s Northern Wisconsin Co-op Tobacco Pool Warehouse
- Kickapoo Valley Reserve
- Old Settlers Overlook
- Genoa National Fish Hatchery and Great River Road Interpretive Center
- Round Barns: Viroqua, Westby & Hillsboro
- Clements Fishing Barge

[www.invernoncounty.com](http://www.invernoncounty.com)

[www.driftlesswisconsin.com](http://www.driftlesswisconsin.com)

[www.vernoncountywi.gov](http://www.vernoncountywi.gov)

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

- Kickapoo Valley Reserve Winterfest—January
- Snowflake International Ski Jump—February
- Trout West—Spring/early Summer
- Winding Roads Art Tour—early June
- Vernon County June Dairy Breakfast—mid June
- Stoddard/Bergen Annual Walleye Tournament—late May
- Driftless Music Festival—second Saturday of July
- Stoddard Annual Labor Day Weekend Bash—Labor Day Weekend
- Vernon County Fair—mid September
- Driftless Area Art Festival—third weekend of September

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO: Hillsboro, Viroqua, Westby

VERNON COUNTY



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# CRAWFORD COUNTY

Nestled in Wisconsin's Driftless Region, Crawford County features a striking landscape of towering bluffs, winding valleys, and welcoming historic river towns. Visitors can explore the Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Kickapoo Rivers by kayak or canoe, hike scenic blufftop trails, and enjoy breathtaking views along the nationally recognized Great River Road (WI-35). A scenic drive reveals quiet back roads lined with orchards, farmland, and rolling hills. After local apples gained national recognition in the early 1900s, the area grew into one of Wisconsin's most celebrated orchard regions—a legacy that continues today. Festivals, wildlife viewing, and outdoor recreation make Crawford County a memorable stop along the route.



Photo credit: Jason Ray Photography



Photo credit: Jason Ray Photography



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Mississippi River from Prairie du Chien to Marquette, Iowa
- Kickapoo River
- Lower Wisconsin Riverway
- Sugar Creek Bluff
- Prairie du Chien Travel Wisconsin Visitor Center
- Cabela's / Bass Pro
- Villa Louis—Great River Road Interpretive Center
- Fort Crawford Museum—Great River Road Interpretive Center
- Swede's Swing Inn—"Blue Moon the Ghost"
- Dawg House Hot Dogs
- Black Angus Supper Club
- Gays Mills Apple Orchards
- St. Feriole Island & "Walk of History"

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

- 70-Mile Along the River—May
- River Bluff Days—July
- Prairie Villa Rendezvous & Flea Market—June
- Family Fun Days—July
- Prairie Dog Blues Festival—July
- County Line Country Fest—July-August
- Crawford County Fair—August
- Annual Villa Louis Carriage Classic—September
- Driftless Area Art Festival—September
- Gays Mills Apple Festival—September
- Annual Harvest Festival—September
- Shihata's Orchard Fest—October

[www.visitferryville.com](http://www.visitferryville.com)

[www.prairieduchien.org](http://www.prairieduchien.org)

[www.crawfordcountywi.gov](http://www.crawfordcountywi.gov)

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A National Great River Road Interpretative Center  
The Lansing Blackhawk Bridge is temporarily closed, a full ferry is in place as bridges are located in La Grange and Phoenixia, Iowa.

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# CRAWFORD COUNTY


WHERE HISTORY IS MADE

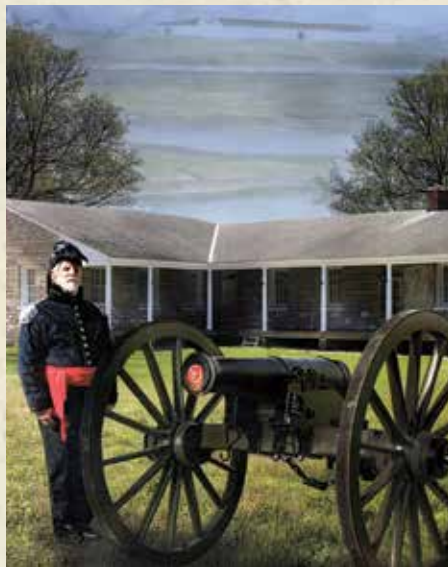
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# State Parks Along the Great River Road

Beauty of open space and the importance of preserving historical heritage

Wisconsin was the first state to set aside land for a state park. There's always something new happening in Wisconsin's state parks, whether it's new trails to walk or bike on.

Some of the best land is located along Wisconsin's Great River Road, a 250-mile stretch of Highway 35 running adjacent to the Mississippi River from Kieler, WI in the south, to Prescott in northern Wisconsin. The rivers, bluffs and valleys of Western Wisconsin provide some of the most gorgeous scenery in the world.

**Wyalusing State Park** is located at the south end of Wisconsin near Prairie du Chien. This site is where the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers meet. Not only is this a great place to spend the day hiking, kayaking, and exploring its caves, but it also offers plenty of nighttime appeal.

Perched high above the Mississippi River, **Nelson Dewey State Park** offers sweeping views from its 500-foot bluff and a peaceful setting to experience Wisconsin's natural beauty. Visitors can camp, hike scenic trails, or enjoy a picnic while taking in dramatic river valley vistas. Named



Perrot State Park



Perrot State Park



Wyalusing State Park

for Wisconsin's first governor, Nelson Dewey, the park blends outdoor recreation with rich history. Just across the road, Stonefield Historic Site invites travelers to explore Wisconsin's agricultural heritage and historic buildings, making the area a rewarding stop along the Great River Road

Sheer beauty can be found at a variety of altitudes for visitors of **Perrot State Park** in Trempealeau. Known for its bike trails that take riders to Onalaska and La Crosse, this more traditional state park also attracts many hikers who want to see the spectacular views from Brady's Bluff which is more than 500-feet high.

**Merrick State Park** which is 322-acres located along the Mississippi River and surrounded by the hills of Wisconsin's Coulee Region is popular with anglers and

boaters. The marshy backwaters are home to a variety of fish, birds, animals, and plants.

**Wildcat Mountain State Park** Located on a ridge rising steeply above the Kickapoo River in Ontario, the park has 6 miles of cross-country ski trails groomed for both classic and skate skiing. Winter activities include snowshoeing, hiking, camping and visiting the Ice Cave. The observation point in the upper picnic area overlooks the Kickapoo River. Spring, summer and fall visitors enjoy canoeing, horseback riding trails, trout fishing, and nature trails. Camping facilities include a family camp, group camp and horse camp.



Perrot State Park



Wyalusing State Park

# GRANT COUNTY

**G**rant County is where scenic beauty, river adventure, and rich history meet along the Wisconsin Great River Road. Rolling hills, deep valleys, dramatic bluffs, and spring-fed streams create a stunning landscape bordered by the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Visitors can enjoy boating, fishing, and peaceful river views, or hike and camp at Nelson Dewey State Park, known for sweeping overlooks. Stonefield Historic Site showcases Wisconsin's agricultural heritage. In Cassville, travelers can ride the Cassville Car Ferry for a memorable river crossing. Potosi Brewing Company features the National Brewery Museum and Great River Road Interpretive Center, making Grant County a perfect blend of relaxation, discovery, and scenic charm..



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Cassville Car Ferry
- Wyalusing State Park
- Nelson Dewey State Park
- Stonefield State Historical & Agricultural Site Great River Road Interpretive Center
- Dickeyville Grotto
- Potosi Brewery
- Potosi National Brewery Museum Great River Road Interpretive Center
- Mississippi River Bridge Grant County, WI to Dubuque, IA
- Grant County Visitor Center
- The Potosi Point

[www.grantcounty.org/tourism](http://www.grantcounty.org/tourism)

[www.exploreacassville.com](http://www.exploreacassville.com)

[www.potosiwisconsin.com](http://www.potosiwisconsin.com)

[www.visitglenhavenwi.com](http://www.visitglenhavenwi.com)

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

- Music in the Park—May-August (third Wednesday of the month)
- Cassville's Mississippi Market—May-September (fourth Saturday of the month)
- Cassville Riverfest—June
- Bagley 4th of July/Independence Day Celebration—July
- Cassville 200th Bicentennial Celebration—July
- Hometown Festival Week—July
- Southwest Music Festival July
- Southwest Wisconsin Auto Club Car Cruise—July
- Cassville Car Cruise—Saturday of Labor Day weekend
- Potosi/Tennyson's Catfish Festival—August
- Grant County Fair—mid to Late August
- Potosi Brew Fest—fourth Saturday in August
- Masonic Lodge Car & Antique Tractor Show—September
- Dairy Days—September
- Historic Re-Enactment—September
- Farm to Table Dinner—September
- Back Home for Christmas Craft & Vendor Show—November
- Christmas in Cassville—November

**TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO:** Platteville, Lancaster, Fennimore, Muscoda, and Hazel Green

**GRANT COUNTY**



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GRANT COUNTY




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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[WWW.VI.BELMONT.WI.GOV](http://WWW.VI.BELMONT.WI.GOV)



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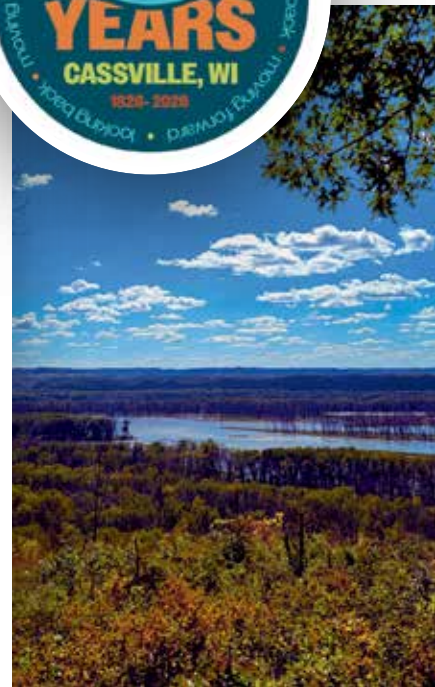
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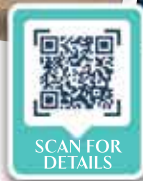


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# A Paddlers Paradise

**C**anoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding are a great way to site see and relieve stress all at the same time. You'll find canoe trails up and down the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, along with canoe areas and plenty of places to slip into the backwaters where the current isn't strong, and the wildlife is plentiful.

## Perrot State Park—Trempealeau

Take a 2-3 hour looping trail to explore Trempealeau Bay. An added benefit to the park is the specially adapted kayak that is available for those with disabilities.

## Lytles Landing—Onalaska

When you enter Brown's Marsh, there are no motorized boating allowed and the serene waters are perfect for the first time paddler. Lake Onalaska is a well-marked trail that allows visitors the opportunity to see untouched areas of the Mississippi.

## Goose Island Campground & Park—La Crosse

La Crosse's largest county campground, the canoe trail has 7 miles of moderate paddling that will take 4-5 hours as half of the trip will be paddling against the current. Canoe rentals are available.

## Ambro Slough Canoe Area, near Prairie du Chien

This area is on the backwaters of the Mississippi River. It gives you a feel of paddling on a shallow lake. It is possible to do a loop by paddling up the slough and then coming downstream on the channel if you're a more experienced paddler.

## Grant River—Cassville

It is a small river that flows entirely within Grant County. It's not a long river, but it is a fun one. The river has a beautiful scenery, clear water, rock foundations, and views of bluffs and Wisconsin farms.





# Best Places to Fish

For a real Mississippi River Experience, try these floats and barges.

## GREAT ALMA FISHING FLOAT

Alma, Wisconsin in Buffalo County  
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## TREMPLO FISHING BARGE

Trempealeau, WI in Trempealeau County  
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## BEST DAM FISHING FLOAT

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## CLEMENTS FISHING BARGE

Genoa, Wisconsin in Vernon County  
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[www.clements-fishing.com](http://www.clements-fishing.com)

## HUBBARD'S FISHING FLOAT

Lynxville, Wisconsin in Crawford County  
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## CASSVILLE FISHING DOCK

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## TROUT STREAMS

With over 460 trout streams classified by the Wisconsin DNR, this region boasts many opportunities for trout fishing. These streams can be found in any of the eight Wisconsin counties that border the Mississippi River.

Trout stream classifications and maps are available at: [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/trout/index](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/trout/index)

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