

## OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

# Park Hopping in Oz



Submitted photo

**Left**, Waubedonia Park in Fredonia includes rustic campsites, fishing, hiking and picnicking. **Right**, the Shady Lane Natural Area in the town of Fredonia is a 62.5-acre property rich in wildflowers and providing a perfect spot to bird watch.

The Ozaukee County Park System is home to many beautiful parks where visitors can enjoy picnics, hiking and host events in the many reservable pavilions and shelters, including new (completed in 2022) pavilions at Covered Bridge Park and Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve. Ozaukee County parks offer a whole host of activities for you and your family and friends to enjoy.

#### Camp along the Milwaukee River

Waubedonia Park, bordered by the Milwaukee River, makes for a lovely weekend getaway in Fredonia! There are 17 rustic campsites that are open from the first Saturday in May through the third Saturday in October, weather permitting and by reservation.

Spring is a beautiful time to see the variety of blooming wildflowers as well as the migrating birds that use the river as a travel corridor.

At Waubedonia Park, you can fish for smallmouth bass and northern pike practically right in front of your campsite. Bring your canoe and kayaks and use the convenient public launch for a day of paddling on the Milwaukee

River. The park also holds two baseball diamonds, three tennis courts, picnic areas, a playground area and an open-air shelter building.

#### Tendick Nature Park Disc Golfing and Archery

Purchase a day or annual pass to access Tendick Nature Park's 18-hole disc golf course. Disc golf is played like ball golf using a flying disc. One stroke is counted each time the disc is thrown and when a penalty is incurred. The object of the game is to acquire the lowest score.

The disc golf course has 36 tournament quality pro and recreational distance concrete T-pads and PDGA certified baskets. The front nine winds through tight woods, while the back nine is mostly open and long with rolling hills and grasslands. It's a great way to see the park's wooded and restored prairie natural features, as well as to bring out some friendly competition!

The 142-acre park also features an archery range with two yardage-marked ground-level ranges, and one yardage-marked 12-foot elevated platform range. All targets are made of excelsior bales.

#### Hiking in the Ozaukee County Park System

The Ozaukee County park system is full of many beautiful hiking trails through a variety of ecosystem types. Visit Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve and hike atop bluffs or along the beach of the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Stop by Hawthorne Hills County Park — Shady Lane Natural Area to walk through undeveloped woodland along the Milwaukee River. Mee-Kwon County Park Woods Natural Area offers trails through beautiful mature woods. While hiking, watch for wildlife, take photos and spot native wildflowers.

#### The Ozaukee Interurban Trail Celebrates 20 years

Watch for events this year celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Ozaukee Interurban Trail. Walk, bike and in-line skate your way through the 30-mile paved trail, and check out Ozaukee's numerous walkable downtowns. The Ozaukee Interurban Trail runs along woodlands, wetlands, farmlands and waterways, including the Milwaukee River, Lake Michigan and the Lake

Michigan National Marine Sanctuary. Visit parks, restaurants, breweries, shops and more along the route.

View more info about the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, including an Interactive Trail Map and parking recommendations, online at [interurbantrail.com](http://interurbantrail.com).

#### New Ozaukee County Parks — Restoration in Progress Little Menomonee River Fish and Wildlife Preserve

Located in the city of Mequon, the Little Menomonee River Fish and Wildlife Preserve is a new, 56-acre park that includes over 2,000 feet of shoreline on the Little Menomonee River.

The Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department is currently working on master planning for the park, including envisioning future picnic areas and walking trails. Restoration of the park's natural habitat began in 2019, which includes a restored stream channel and three different wetlands, each with distinct habitats and functions.

There is an ephemeral wooded pool created to provide habitat for

amphibians and reptiles, an emergent marsh that provides habitat for fish, and a deeper wetland with open water and marsh that attracts and provides habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Forested wetland and wet prairie habitats are found around the wetlands and provide additional bird habitat. The wildlife habitats within the park make it a great spot for wildlife viewing and photography.

#### Ulaos Creek Nature Preserve

This 7-acre parcel in the village of Grafton east of Gateway Drive is now Ozaukee County's newest park. Generously donated to the county in 2021, Ulaos Creek Nature Preserve will offer public access to the Ulaos Creek watershed; the focus of a decades-long largescale restoration project to restore its stream reaches from historic dredging, straightening and land use changes.

This property is slated to become host to numerous environmental programs. Keep your eye out for more news on development of passive-use recreational amenities planned for the site.