

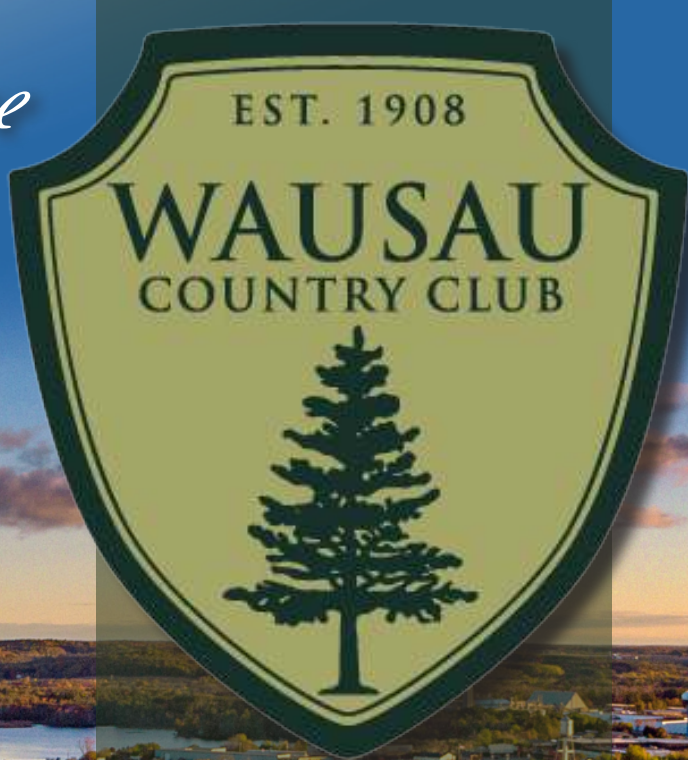
GREATER WAUSAU

2021-2022 RECREATION GUIDE

PUBLISHED
BY THE

GREATER WAUSAU
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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GREATER WAUSAU

2021-2022 RECREATION GUIDE

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The Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce invites you to enjoy this publication which uncovers why the Wausau area is a great place to work, play and live. Greater Wausau is about elevating your life, naturally. It's not just about living to work or working to live, but about living fully; about enjoying the kind of balance that allows you to approach every day with heightened anticipation.

You are close to the best of everything Wisconsin has to offer. But the Greater Wausau area isn't just about an abundance of exceptional experiences at your doorstep; you'll find an attitude here that elevates the richness of everyday moments.

This publication is brought to you by the



For more information about the Chamber
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Photo by Iris Otten

PADDLERS FLOCK TO URBAN WHITEWATER

Much like snowboarders perform their tricks on a half-pipe, those who participate in freestyle kayaking need a river feature to display their skills. And Wausau offers plenty of river features in an urban setting at Whitewater Park.

On pre-determined days, water from the Wisconsin River is released down the course and kayakers and canoeists make their way to the Wausau to paddle. Participants at these Recreational Release events are asked to pay a small usage fee and sign several waivers before they walk to the top of the dam and wait for the gate to open.

Once the dam lowers, the sound and scenery of the river change drastically. On the flat pool above the dam, the paddler's eagerness and adrenaline starts to fill their veins as they

paddle up to the lip of the dam. From this vantage point, paddlers are looking down chute 1/3 of a mile long, filled with rapids.

"The community of whitewater boaters is an awesome group of friendly enthusiasts who love exploring the outdoors," said Brian Scholz, event organizer. "We have paddlers from eight years old to 80 utilize the park. Everyone is extra friendly because one never really knows when they will need the hand of another as the saying goes 'we are all in-between swims.'"

Kayak lessons are a common sight when the water is running. The park is designed so the bottom features offer an easier opportunity for beginners to learn the basics of whitewater. New paddlers progress at their own pace and when people find themselves in an 'out-of-boat' experience, there are usually plenty of

other paddlers in the area available to help collect floating gear.

If you would like to participate in a Recreational Release event, bring your own boat, life jacket, helmet and paddle and navigate through the course or park yourself at a feature and practice techniques such as ferries, peel outs, rolls and more complicated moves. Wide-eyed onlookers are often amazed when they see someone in a kayak do a front somersault.

The park also offers events for competitive paddlers. Wausau has hosted the International Canoe Federation's Junior World/U23 race twice, most recently in 2012. Wausau has also hosted national events like the American Canoe Association's Open Canoe Slalom Nationals, The ICF Age Group Nationals, and local events like the Midwest Freestyle Championships, which is in its seventeenth year.

ABOUT

Whitewater Park began development of a kayak course in 1972, making it one of the oldest parks in the country.

For more information, visit WausauWhitewater.org

If dipping a paddle into the rushing water is a bit too intense for you, the park also offers great viewing areas for spectators and a lot of volunteer opportunities. Help is needed in registration, t-shirt sales, food vendors, tent set-up, info booth, announcers, and more involved positions like event coordinators, fund raisers, park maintenance, and timing and scoring.

Hotels and camping are all within eyesight of the park, as well as a new music hall, coffee shop and brew pub.

The advertisement features a background image of a workshop with several axes and hatchets resting on wooden blocks. A large, semi-circular logo with the text "Blades & Boards" and an illustration of two crossed hatchets is centered over the image. Below the logo, the text "Hatchet Throwing" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a white banner contains the address "3109 Rib Mountain Dr", phone number "715-298-4253", website "BladesandBoardsLLC.com", and the tagline "Bring in your own food | Events of all kinds | No experience needed".

Blades & Boards

Hatchet Throwing

3109 Rib Mountain Dr | 715-298-4253 | BladesandBoardsLLC.com

Bring in your own food | Events of all kinds | No experience needed

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NINE MILE



Photo by Dennis Helke

At more than 4,900 acres, Nine Mile Recreation Area south of Rib Mountain State Park offers more than 30 miles of single-track mountain bike trails, hosting several races annually. Nine Mile is also open for horseback riding, fishing, hunting and hiking, as well as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

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CEDAR CREEK TRAIL



Photos by Kelly Puntney

Following the path of the Wisconsin River's east side in Rothschild, the Cedar Creek Trail is a paved path for both pedestrians and bike riders. Trail heads can be found near the Stoney Creek Inn and River Park. A bridge spanning the Wisconsin River at River Park connects the Cedar Creek Trail with trails in Rib Mountain.

ALSO

MOUNTAIN-BAY TRAIL: One of the largest rail-trails in Wisconsin spanning 83 miles between Rib Mountain and Green Bay.

RINGLE TRAILS: More than 10 miles of mountain biking trails for all seasons, with jump, gap and drop features. Located east of Wausau along Highway 29.

SYLVAN HILL PARK TRAILS: Three miles of trails on Wausau's east side with four downhill options for riders of different skill levels. This bike park also includes a pump track.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/TRAILS/ to find more on cycling.

A photograph of the Ho-chunk Gaming Wittenberg building at night. The building is a multi-story structure with a modern design, featuring large windows and a prominent entrance. In the foreground, there is a large, illuminated stone monument with a feather sculpture on it. The sky is dark blue, and the building's lights are on, creating a warm glow.

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Photo of Marathon Park by Kelly Puntney

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY A DEVOTED DEPARTMENT

The Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department serves as the manager of 3,401 acres of parkland and more than 30,000 acres of county forest. Seventeen county parks, 33 city parks and ten forest units are maintained and operated by the department. With this natural bounty, the organization offers an abundance of recreational opportunities for all ages.

“Many of our city and county facilities are prepared to, or already, host large-scale and small-scale community events and sporting events.” said Jamie Polley, the organization’s Director. “Nine-Mile County Forest & Recreation Area is our largest event venue, hosting events such as The Ragnar Relay, the Badger State Games, the Wausau 24 race,

high school cross-county running races and nordic ski and snowshoe races.”

Not all of the spaces managed by the department are built around outdoor sports. Wausau’s 400 Block is home to numerous community events, such as the annual Chalk Fest each July. In addition, Oak Island and Fern Island Parks offer a unique space for the Blues Fest and other outdoor events.

Marathon Park on Wausau’s west side boasts a pair of indoor ice rinks along with an outdoor hockey rink each winter. The park also offers an amphitheater, three playgrounds, campsites and a trail which circles this 80 acre park.

Other city park types include: community

parks for large gatherings and events; specialized athletic and recreation facilities, such as swimming pools, a snow tubing hill with a 1,000 foot run, outdoor ice skating rinks and ball diamonds; and small urban garden type parks that provide many of the aesthetically pleasing urban green spaces that help define Wausau's character.

The department also offers multiple recreational programs for both City and County residents — from swimming lessons to pickleball, playground programs to water aerobics

“The Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department has the ability to combine the long-range vision of the County with the long-range vision of the City — moving both along together for the benefit of Marathon County.” said Polley. “The department also has amazing partnerships

with organizations such as Central Wisconsin Off-road Cycling Coalition, Nordic Ski Club, Wausau Kayak/Canoe Corporation, Wausau Area Disc Golf Enthusiasts, Wausau Area Pickleball and Wisconsin Woodchucks and more who not only use the City and County facilities but volunteer many hours and donate a great deal of funds to make improvements, making these facilities amazing.”



*Photo of Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
by Kelly Puntney*

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RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

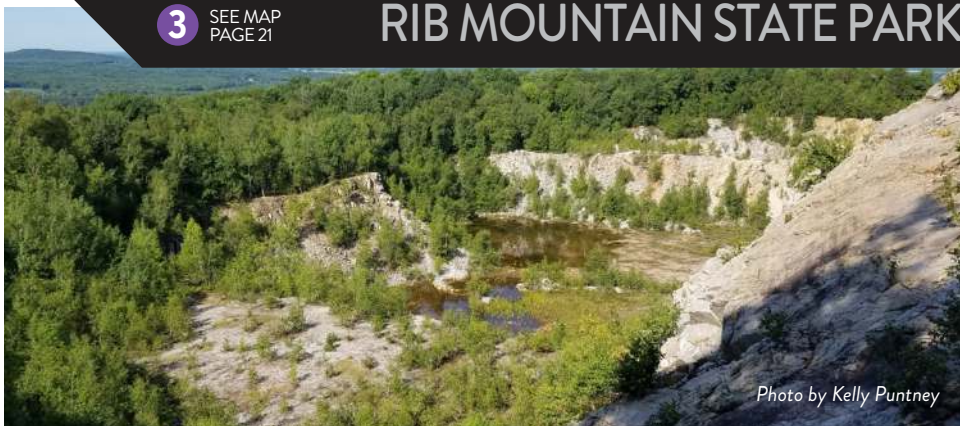


Photo by Kelly Puntney

With more than 13 miles of hiking trails (eight miles of which are accessible to people with disabilities), Rib Mountain State Park offers unmatched views of the surrounding area. Trails meander through wooded areas and often over and past geological formations. The Turkey Vulture trail leads to an abandoned quarry, pictured above.

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RIVER EDGE WALKWAY



The River's Edge Trail along the Wisconsin River in downtown Wausau connects many of the city's parks, from Oak Island on the south end of the trail to Winton Street on the north. Riverlife Park, pictured above, offers fun for all ages and is located near the point the trail leads under Bridge Street.

ALSO

ICE AGE TRAIL: The Plover River Segment of this statewide trail can be found east of Wausau along Highway 52. The trail features some boardwalk through swampier areas.

DELLS OF THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARK: Trails along a rocky gorge run along the north and south sides of the Eau Claire River, with bridges on both ends.

RIVER BEND TRAIL: A paved path in Merrill which follows the Wisconsin River for 2.5 miles. The trail includes historical markers, fishing opportunities and playground access.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/TRAILS/ to find more on hiking.



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LAKE WAUSAU



Photo by Tom Mortenson

Lake Wausau is more than 1,800 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 30 feet. Several public boat landings offer anglers an opportunity to try their luck catching musky, panfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, Northern pike and walleye. The lake plays host to water ski shows each summer and hundreds of paddlers.

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WAUSAU WHITEWATER



Photo by Tom Mortenson

Packed with plenty of playable 'holes' for paddlers, the Wausau Whietwater course is open to kayaks and canoes during scheduled Rec Release events each summer. The course offers a uniquely graded experience, with more difficult features upstream and gradually simpler features downstream, ending near Oak Island Park in Wausau.

ALSO

LAKE DUBAY: Straddling Portage and Marathon Counties, south of Wausau, this large lake offers a public beach, boat landings and plenty of fish varieties.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/WATERWAYS/ to learn more.