

Free

Resident Guide



La Crosse & Vernon
Counties, Wisconsin

- Hunting Seasons
- Fishing Seasons
- Recreation Trails
- DNR License Centers
- Residential Services
- Local Attractions
- Parks & Rec. Info
- Area History
- Local Events

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Scan the QR Codes to go to the individual county pages.

La Crosse County



Vernon County



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LOCAL AREA EVENTS

JANUARY

Midwest Farm Show | La Crosse
Great Tri-State Rail Sale | La Crosse
Wedding & Bridal Expo | La Crosse

FEBRUARY

Snowflake Ski Jump | Westby
Boat, Sport, Travel, RV and Hunting Show | La Crosse
Mardi Gras Costume Ball | La Crosse
Greater La Crosse Golf Expo | La Crosse
Winter Rec Fest | La Crosse
Junior Ski Jumpers Competition | Westby
Winter Roots Festival | La Crosse
Upper Mississippi Outdoor Expo | Onalaska

MARCH

La Crosse Area Home & Builders Show
Custom Auto Show | La Crosse
Model Railroad Show | La Crosse
St. Patrick's Day Parade | La Crosse
Polar Plunge | La Crosse
Maple Syrup Fest | Lanesboro
Rocco's Memorial Gun Show | Onalaska

APRIL

Beer, Wine & Cheese Festival | La Crosse
Easter Egg Hunt | Westby
Carve In 2 at Bekkum Library | Westby
Viroqua Partners City-Wide Rummage Sale (April-May)

MAY

River to Ridge Run/Walk | La Crosse
Annual WAMO Dart Tournament | La Crosse
Syttende Mai Norwegian Festival | Westby
Syttende Mai Banquet & Coronation | Westby
West Salem Village-Wide Rummage Sale
Midwest Tenkara Fest | Coon Valley

MAY (CONTD.)

Speedway Season Opener | West Salem
Veteran's Memorial Ride | La Crosse
La Crosse Area Day
Historic Downtown La Crosse Day

JUNE

Artspire | La Crosse
Norskedalen's Midsummer Fest
Coulee Rock Club Gem & Mineral Show | Onalaska
Celebrate Onalaska | Onalaska
Butterfest | Sparta
Dairy Days | West Salem
Flea Market (June-Aug.) | La Crosse
Bacon Fest | La Crosse
Riverfest (June-July) | La Crosse
Wild West Days | Viroqua
Lobsterfest | La Crosse

JULY

Art Fair on the Green | La Crosse
La Crosse Interstate Fair
Jazz Party & Art Show in the Park | La Crosse
Krazy Daze | La Crosse
Rail Fair | La Crosse
Youth Outdoor Fest | La Crosse
4th of July Fireworks | La Farge, Westby
Driftless Music Festival | Viroqua
Festival Foods Salute to the 4th | La Crosse
Freedom Fest | La Crosse
Storytelling Festival | La Crosse
Cheech's Deecefest Family Music Festival
St. Elias Mediterranean Festival | La Crosse
Outdoor Quilt Show | Westby

AUGUST

Bangor Lions Fun Daze
Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull
Labor Day Celebration | Hillsboro
Kornfest | Holmen
Lions Car Show | Holmen
Great River Folk Festival | La Crosse
Great River Jazz Fest | La Crosse
Irishfest | La Crosse
Coulee Con | La Crosse
Applefest | La Crescent
Bicycle Festival (Aug.-Sept.) | La Crosse

SEPTEMBER

Elvis Explosion | La Crosse
Between the Bluffs Plein Air Festival | La Crosse
Rocco's Memorial Gun Show | Onalaska
Cranberry Festival | Warrens
Midwest Music Fest | La Crosse
Pride Fest | La Crosse
Oktoberfest | La Crosse

OCTOBER

UW-La Crosse Homecoming Weekend
Viroqua Partners Safe Trick-or-Treat

NOVEMBER

Holiday Fair | La Crosse
Thanksgiving Day Dinner | La Crosse
Viroqua Fire Dept. Toys For Tots Chili Supper
Viroqua Partners Twinkle Fest
Rotary Holiday Lights (Nov.-Dec.) | La Crosse

DECEMBER

Caroling of the Choirs | Viroqua
Old Fashioned Christmas | Westby
Frothbite Beer Festival | La Crosse
Nye Gala | La Crosse

**Events are subject to change.*

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RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Administrator.....	(608)785-9700
Community Development.....	785-5792
County Clerk.....	785-9581
County Surveyor.....	785-9626
County Treasurer.....	785-9711
District Attorney.....	785-9604
Emergency Management.....	789-4811
Emergency Services Department.....	785-9634
Extension.....	785-9593
Facilities Department.....	785-9770
Finance Department.....	785-9580
Health Department.....	785-9872
Highway Department.....	786-3810
Human Services.....	784-4357
Information Technology.....	785-9601
Land Conservation Department.....	785-9867
Parks (Shelter Reservations).....	785-9770
Sheriff.....	785-9629
Solid Waste.....	785-9572
Veterans Service.....	785-9719

VERNON COUNTY

Administrator.....	(608)637-5396
County Clerk.....	637-5380
County Treasurer.....	637-5365
District Attorney.....	637-5357
Extension.....	637-5276
Health Department.....	637-5251
Highway Department.....	637-5452
Human Services.....	637-5210
Information Technology.....	637-5312
Land & Water Conservation.....	637-5480
Sheriff.....	637-2123
Solid Waste.....	634-2900
Veterans Service.....	637-5323

FIREWOOD



Burn it where you get it!

Invasive pests like the Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth have devastated millions of trees in the United States. Where these pests come from, the population stays in control because, they have natural predators. The United States does not have these natural predators so the populations have the chance to grow to extreme numbers.



Emerald Ash Borer

Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

Preventing the Spread

- Buy local firewood.
- Burn all firewood completely at each destination.
- Move only Certified firewood out of a quarantine county or across state boundaries.
- Use firewood from nearby sources to heat your home or cabin.
- Tell your friends and family about the importance of not moving firewood.
- Don't move hardwood firewood out of a quarantine county, unless it is state or USDA certified.
- Don't move opened firewood bundles.
- Don't move firewood long distances to or from your lake home or cabin.

Invasive Pests are a Problem!



The first permanent settler in the area was fur trader Nathan Myrick in 1841. He set up a trading post with Eben Weld on what was referred to at the time as Barron's Island. The lumber industry began over-taking the fur trade business and by 1848 Myrick had noted that there were already eleven sawmills on the Black River. La Crosse became the main site for cargo boats to unload their goods. Local merchants were middlemen, collecting commission for storing and forwarding goods. The growing demand for boats to be built and fixed became an important industry which helped the village grow. La Crosse County was formed from Crawford County in 1851. In 1856 the La Crosse settlement became a city and the first mayoral election took place with Thomas Benton Stoddard as the first mayor of La Crosse. The La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad was completed in October of 1858 and the Southern Minnesota Railroad was built from Wells, Minnesota, connecting La Crosse to the west. Eventually bridges were built across the Mississippi River ending the need for ferries. By 1900 La Crosse County had a population of 42,997. Today, La Crosse County is home to approximately 111,791 residents with the city of La Crosse as the county seat.

CITIES:

LA CROSSE (County Seat) – pop. 51,840

ONALASKA – pop. 16,644

VILLAGES:

BANGOR – pop. 1,400

HOLMEN – pop. 7,342

ROCKLAND – pop. 628

WEST SALEM – pop. 4,731

TOWNS:

BANGOR – pop. 583

BARRE – pop. 1,014

BURNS – pop. 979

CAMPBELL – pop. 4,441

FARMINGTON – pop. 1,733

GREENFIELD – pop. 1,538

HAMILTON – pop. 2,301

HOLLAND – pop. 3,042

MEDARY – pop. 1,455

ONALASKA – pop. 7,658

SHELBY – pop. 4,592

WASHINGTON – pop. 738

**Populations are approximate.*

CAMPBELL

In 1851, the town of Campbell was settled. It was named for former Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin, Erasmus D. Campbell. In May of 1851 one of the area's first settlers Joseph French arrived. Most of the settlers were of French Canadian descent, primarily from Quebec. They settled the area that is part of a large island bordered by the Mississippi and Black Rivers and Lake Onalaska. The island is known as "French Island". Today, Campbell is home to approximately 4,441 residents.

LA CROSSE (COUNTY SEAT)

In 1841 La Crosse was settled by fur traders. They had a trading post and traded heavily with the Ho-Chunk Native Americans. In 1848 the lumber industry over-took the fur trade. The town grew rapidly at this point, expanding from six to eight homes, to a population of 745 in a three year period. On March 14th, 1856 La Crosse became a city as well as county seat. Today, La Crosse is home to approximately 51,840 residents.

ONALASKA

In 1851, Onalaska was founded by Thomas G. Rowe, a New York Native. Rowe named the settlement Onalaska after a favorite poem titled, "The Pleasures of Hope," by Thomas Campbell. The site of Onalaska is located on a ridge that overlooks Lake Onalaska, the Black River, the Mississippi River and the bluffs three miles away in Minnesota. Early industry was led by lumbering, but today the community is widely recognized as the sunfish capital of the world. Today, Onalaska is home to approximately 16,644 residents.

ROCKLAND

The first settlers landed in the area in the mid 1800s. They were primarily of German, Dutch and Irish descent. They cleared the forested land and built homes and farms. As the population grew, small businesses became established which included a sawmill, a feed mill and several cheese factories. The first town meeting was held in 1856. The town had only five one-room school houses until the 1960's when they were included into surrounding school districts. Today, Rockland is home to approximately 628 residents.

WEST SALEM

The first settler, Thomas Leonard arrived in 1851. He moved to the area from New England and along with his family, built the first log cabin on the settlement. A neighboring village, Neshonoc, was founded by Monroe Palmer. There was a rival between the two towns until the railroad arrived. Leonard donated his land to the railroad and a depot was built there, meanwhile Palmer wanted the railroad to buy his land. Leonard's village over-took Neshonoc when most of its settlers moved to what was to become West Salem. The name originally suggested for Leonard's village was Rupert however, West Salem was the name that was chosen. Today, West Salem is home to approximately 4,731 residents.



Vernon County was named after president George Washington's home Mt. Vernon and the green pastures located throughout the area. Vernon County was originally named Bad Axe County but it was renamed in 1862 because residents thought "Bad Axe" was considered unfavorable. Early on, Vernon County was formed from portions of Richland and Crawford counties. The first settlers arrived to the area in the spring of 1844. John McCullough was considered the first settler of Vernon County which was then part of Crawford County. Many settlers were farmers and were attracted to the lush lands for agriculture as well as the Mississippi River to the west. Populations increased with the rise of agriculture and the introduction of steamboats in the upper Mississippi River. In 1900 Vernon County had a population of 28,351. Today Vernon County is home to approximately 29,324 residents with the city of Viroqua as the county seat.

CITIES:

VIROQUA (County Seat) – pop. 4,335

WESTBY – pop. 2,045

VILLAGES:

CHASEBURG – pop. 306

COON – pop. 683

COON VALLEY – pop. 714

DE SOTO – pop. 366

GENOA – pop. 263

LA FARGE – pop. 775

ONTARIO – pop. 476

READSTOWN – pop. 395

STODDARD – pop. 799

VIOLA – pop. 667

TOWNS:

BERGEN – pop. 1,317

CHRISTIANA – pop. 871

TOWNS (Cont).

CLINTON – pop. 1,354

FOREST – pop. 583

FRANKLIN – pop. 923

GREENWOOD – pop. 770

HAMBURG – pop. 848

HARMONY – pop. 739

HILLSBORO – pop. 1,302

JEFFERSON – pop. 974

KICKAPOO – pop. 566

LIBERTY – pop. 167

STARK – pop. 349

STERLING – pop. 713

UNION – pop. 531

WEBSTER – pop. 676

WHEATLAND – pop. 533

WHITESTOWN – pop. 509

**Populations are approximate.*

DE SOTO

De Soto was originally recognized as Winneshiek Landing until it was renamed "Desoto" in honor of Hernando De Soto, who discovered the Mississippi River. Early industry was led by logging and businesses included sawmills, breweries, hotels, a creamery and a variety of specialty shops. Its proximity to the Mississippi River allowed for easy transport of goods and the area continued to develop until the arrival of the railroad in 1882 which halted river traffic. Today De Soto is home to approximately 366 residents.

HILLSBORO

In 1850 the earliest settlers to the area began to arrive. Hillsboro was named after early settlers Valentia Hill and his brothers. One of the first businesses was the saw mill which was followed by a grist mill on the Baraboo River. From there, a blacksmith, hotel and school were established. In the 1880s the first creameries were established and the first hospital was established in 1911. Today Hillsboro is home to approximately 1,302 residents.

LA FARGE

The first post office in the La Farge area was established in 1863, a few miles south of its present site. The first postmaster Mr. S.W. Green named the post office La Farge, after coming across the French name in a book. The post office was relocated to an area referred to as De Jean's Corners, and from there the village got its start. The first hotel, The La Farge House, was established in 1895. Soon after a photography studio, general store and a stave and heading factory were also established. The railroad was built through the village in 1897 and the community began to thrive and was incorporated in 1899. Today La Farge is home to approximately 775 residents.

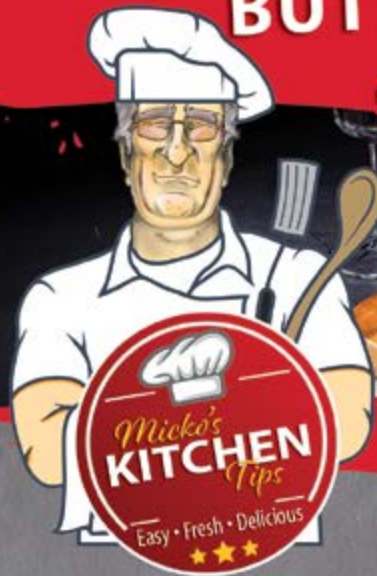
VIROQUA (COUNTY SEAT)

Moses Decker, Viroqua's first settler, arrived in 1846 along with his sons. The village was platted in 1850 by Samuel McMichael and in 1851 Decker, along with the community, constructed a house that was needed for a meeting place. It also served as a courthouse and later became a school and a church. In 1852 Decker donated forty acres of land to help Viroqua become the new county seat of Vernon. Today Viroqua remains the county seat and is home to approximately 4,335 residents.

WESTBY

The Westby area was originally occupied by the Sac, Fox and Winnebago Indian tribes. Their population decreased in the area after the Black Hawk War of 1832. In 1837, the Winnebago ceded all their land that was east of the Mississippi to the United States and in 1848, Norwegian immigrants began settling in the area. Ole T. Westby established a general store in 1867. When the railroad was built through the area, a station was built and named Westby, honoring Ole T. Westby. In 1896 Westby became incorporated as a village and was incorporated as a city in 1920. Today Westby is home to approximately 2,045 residents.

BUTTERED-UP Steak



Simple meal with a Gourmet Feel

INGREDIENTS

2 steaks (ribeye or sirloin are good choices)

Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 cloves garlic, minced

Fresh herbs (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Take the steaks out of the refrigerator and let them come to room temperature for about 30 minutes. This helps the steak cook more evenly.

2 Preheat your oven to 400°F.

3 Season the steaks generously with salt and pepper on both sides.

4 Heat a large skillet over high heat until very hot. Add the steaks and cook for about 2-3 minutes per side, until nicely browned.

5 Remove the steaks from the skillet and place them on a baking sheet.

6 In the same skillet, add the butter and garlic. Cook for about 30 seconds, stirring constantly, until the garlic is fragrant.

7 Pour the garlic butter over the steaks on the baking sheet.

8 Place the baking sheet in the oven and cook for about 5-7 minutes for medium-rare doneness, or longer if you prefer your steak more well-done.

9 Remove the steaks from the oven and let them rest for a few minutes before slicing.

10 Serve the steak with any remaining butter from the baking sheet and fresh herbs if desired.

Barbecue



BARBECUE DO'S:

- use proper barbecue equipment and tools, such as a grill, tongs, and spatulas.
- preheat your grill before placing any food on it.
- marinate your meat before cooking to enhance the flavor.
- keep a close eye on your food while grilling to prevent overcooking or burning.
- use a meat thermometer to ensure that your meat is cooked to the correct internal temperature.
- let your meat rest for a few minutes before slicing or serving to allow the juices to redistribute.
- keep your grill and utensils clean to prevent any foodborne illness.

BARBECUE DON'TS:

- use lighter fluid to start your grill. Instead, use a chimney starter or electric starter.
- overcrowd your grill. Leave enough space between the pieces of meat to ensure even cooking.
- use a fork to flip your meat. Piercing the meat can cause it to lose its juices and become dry.
- baste your meat with sugary sauces too early in the cooking process, as it can burn and create a bitter taste.
- leave cooked meat out in the sun for too long, as it can spoil quickly.
- assume that meat is fully cooked by its color. Always use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature.
- leave your grill unattended while it's still hot. Always make sure to properly cool it down before leaving it.



Enjoy your delicious
buttered-up steak!

PREP: 35 MIN • TOTAL: 50 MIN

Eat Breakfast

A healthy balanced breakfast every morning is very important. It allows your body to run smoothly throughout the day and can help with weight control while lowering your cholesterol levels. It will improve things like concentration, performance and strength. Also studies have shown that women who skip breakfast have a higher chance of developing diabetes and men who skip breakfast have a higher chance for heart disease.

Eat Your Greens

Leafy greens and vegetables contain phytochemicals which help to fight diseases. This will help against things like metabolic syndrome, diabetes, cancer and strokes. Vegetables are also rich in fiber which helps with hunger. The recommended amount of vegetables for the average person is around 2 ½ cups a day.

Drink Enough Water

Many people don't get enough water throughout the day. It is recommended that the average person drinks roughly a half gallon a day which is equal to about eight 8 ounce glasses. Water helps rid the body of toxins and with unwanted weight gain by flushing out by-products of fat in your system. Water also helps your immune system, energy levels, focus and mood.

Take a Walk During Lunch Break

Your body and mind benefit greatly when getting out for a quick walk. A walk can help with weight management, blood pressure, bone strength, balance and coordination. Plus it helps you focus by getting extra blood flow and oxygen to your brain. Also a lot of people don't get enough vitamin D in their diet and getting outside is one of the easiest ways to ensure you are getting your vitamin D.

Get Up and Move

It is important to try and get around 10,000 steps in per day. It is very hard on our bodies when we are slumped over a desk or kicked back in a recliner all day. Studies have shown that just from walking more you can lower your risk of high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes. It may be hard to get the 10,000 steps in every day but doing small things like getting up from your desk every so often and doing a lap around the office or parking farther away from your destination will help.

Floss and Brush

This might not seem like the most significant health issue but it is very important. If you don't floss and brush daily you build up plaque on your teeth and at the gum lines. This can lead to things like gum disease and if not treated can enter the bloodstream and trigger inflammation in the arteries causing things like heart disease, diabetes, erectile dysfunction in males and delayed conception for women.



PARKS & RECREATION

BLACK HAWK PARK

Blacktop Rd. | De Soto | (608) 637-5480
Located in De Soto, Black Hawk Park features camping, canoe, boat and motor rentals, backwater flatbottom rides, and boat launches.

DUCK EGG COUNTY FOREST

Irish Ridge Rd. | Viroqua | (608) 637-7335
Located in Viroqua, Duck Egg County Forest offers fishing, hunting, hiking and horseback riding.

ESOFEA/RENTZ MEMORIAL PARK

Park Rd. | Westby | (608) 637-5485
Located in Westby, Rentz Memorial Park features 16 rustic campsites, 8 electric campsites, 4 full hookup RV sites, hiking trail, picnic shelter, trout pond, open areas for softball or kickball or volleyball, and a section of the North Fork Bad Axe River running through it.

GOOSE ISLAND PARK

W6488 Cty. Rd. G1 | Stoddard | (608) 788-7018
Located in Stoddard, Goose Island Park features a campground, Canoe and Kayak rentals, a boat launch, playground equipment, a swimming beach, nature trails, volleyball and basketball courts, and a miniature golf course.

JERSEY VALLEY COUNTY PARK

Co. Rd. X | Westby | (608) 637-5485
Located in Westby, Jersey Valley County Park features a man-made lake, beach, swimming area, picnic pavilion and a hiking trail.

KOORYUMJIAN - LOST CREEK COUNTY FOREST

Pine Rd. | Hillsboro | (608) 637-5476
Located in Hillsboro, Kooyumjian - Lost Creek County Forest offers fishing, hunting and hiking.

RUNGE HOLLOW RECREATION AREA

County Rd. Y | Westby | (920) 424-3050
Located in Westby, Runge Hollow Recreation Area Features a boat launch and fishing pier.

SIDIE HOLLOW COUNTY PARK

E6051 Co. Rd. Xx | Viroqua | (608) 637-7335
Located 3 miles from the city of Viroqua, Sidie Hollow County Park features 74 campsites, 2 picnic shelters, 38 acre lake, trout streams, fishing piers, a boat launch, multi-use hiking and mountain bike trails and two playground areas.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE & FISH REFUGE

N5727 Cty. Rd. Z | Onalaska | (608) 779-2399
Located on the Mississippi River near Onalaska the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge features nature trails, fishing piers, boat launches and wildlife watching opportunities.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

N4668 Cty Rd. VP | West Salem | (608) 789-8599
Located in West Salem, Veterans Memorial Park features canoeing, fishing opportunities, recreational trails, baseball fields, a beach volleyball court, outdoor shuffleboard, shelter houses, and a campground.

WAYSIDE PARK & COON PRAIRIE TRAIL

Hwy. 14 | Westby
Located in Vernon County, Wayside Park features hiking, biking, in-line skating, jogging, and cross-country skiing.

WILDCAT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

E13660 Hwy. 33 | Ontario | (608) 337-4775
Located in the Kickapoo River Valley, Wildcat Mountain State Park features hiking trails and nature trails, camping sites, horseback riding, and canoe rentals.

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AREA ATTRACTIONS

BANGOR LANES

106 16th Ave. N | Bangor | (608) 486-2015

BLACK RIVER EXPRESS CANOE RENTAL

301 Washington Ave. S | Melrose | (608) 488-7017

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF LA CROSSE

207 5th Ave. S | La Crosse | (608) 784-2652

CLEMENTS FISHING BARGE

108 Main St. | Genoa | (608) 689-2800

EAGLE CAVE RESORT, LLC

16320 Cavern Ln. | Blue River | (608) 537-2988

THE FOREAKER SCHOOL

606 W Broadway St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-7396

HILLSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

678 Maple St. | Hillsboro | (608) 489-3594

LA CROSSE COMMUNITY THEATRE

428 Front St. S | La Crosse | (608) 784-9292

LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

145 West Ave. S | La Crosse | (608) 782-1980

LA CROSSE QUEEN CRUISES

405 E Veterans Memorial Dr. | La Crosse | (608) 784-8523

MARCUS LA CROSSE CINEMA

2032 Ward Ave. | La Crosse | (608) 788-1212

MT. LA CROSSE SKI AREA

N5549 Old Town Hall Rd. | La Crosse | (608) 788-0044

OLD ST. MARYS CHURCH MUSEUM

606 W Broadway St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-7396

PARK BOWL

202 N Main St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-7183

PEARL ST BREWERY

1401 Saint Andrew St. | La Crosse | (608) 784-4832

RIVOLI THEATRE

117 4th St. N | La Crosse | (608) 386-9508

THE SHERRY-BUTT HOUSE

795 N Main St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-7396

TEMPLE THEATRE

116 S Main St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-8190

TOP SHOTS POOL & DARTS

137 4th St. S | La Crosse | (608) 782-6622

TOWNSHIP BOWL

S2060 Cty. Hwy. HH | Hillsboro | (608) 333-0057

VERNON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

410 S Center Ave. | Viroqua | (608) 637-7396

VERNON SQUARE CINEMA

1230 N Main St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-8800

WALSH GOLF CENTER

4203 Cty. Rd. B | La Crosse | (608) 781-0838

WESTBY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

111 Bekkedal Ave. | Westby



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HUNTING SEASONS

DEER

Archery and Crossbow

Sept. 16–Jan. 7, 2024

Archery and Crossbow *Metro Sub-units only*

Sept. 16–Jan. 31, 2024

Gun hunt for hunters with disabilities: This is not a statewide season. ~ Oct. 7–15, 2023

Youth deer hunt ~ Oct. 7–8, 2023

Gun ~ Nov. 18–26, 2023

Muzzleloader ~ Nov. 27–Dec. 6, 2023

December 4-day antlerless hunt ~

Dec. 7–10, 2023

Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt ~

Dec. 24, 2023–Jan. 1, 2024*

*Only in valid farmland units. Please see deer regulations booklet for valid units.

BEAR

Zones A, B, D: where dogs are permitted

Sept. 6–12, 2023

with aid of dogs only

Sept. 13–Oct. 3, 2023

with aid of dogs

with aid of bait

with all other legal methods

Oct. 4–10, 2023

with aid of bait only

with all other legal methods not using dogs

Zones C, E, F: where dogs are not permitted

Sept. 6–Oct. 10, 2023

with aid of bait

with all other legal methods not using dogs

SMALL MAMMALS

Cottontail rabbit

Northern zone ~ Sept. 16–Feb. 29, 2024

Southern zone ~ Oct. 14 (9 a.m.)–Feb. 29, 2024

Milwaukee County ~ Year-round

Squirrels (gray and fox)

Statewide ~ Sept. 16–Feb. 29, 2024

GAME BIRDS

Crow

*To be determined

Pheasant

Statewide ~ Oct. 14 (9 a.m.)–Jan. 7, 2024

Bobwhite quail

Statewide ~ Oct. 14 (9 a.m.)–Dec. 6

Ruffed grouse

Zone A ~ Sept. 16–Jan. 7, 2024

Zone B ~ Oct. 14–Dec. 8

Sharp-tailed grouse ~ Season is under review.

Hungarian partridge

Statewide ~ Oct. 14 (9 a.m.)–Jan. 7, 2024

(Closed in Clark, Marathon and Taylor counties)

FURBEARERS

Coyote

Hunting ~ Continuous open season

Trapping ~ Oct. 14–Feb. 15, 2024

Fox, red and gray

Hunting ~ Oct. 14–Feb. 15, 2024

Trapping ~ Oct. 14–Feb. 15, 2024

Beaver

Trapping

Zone A (northwest) ~ Nov. 4–April 30, 2024

Zone B (northeast) ~ Nov. 4–April 30, 2024

Zone C (south) ~ Nov. 4–March 31, 2024

Zone D (Mississippi River) ~ Day after the duck season closes March 15, 2024

Muskrat & Mink

Trapping

Northern Zone ~ Oct. 21–April 15, 2024

Central Zone ~ Oct. 28–March 27, 2024

Southern Zone ~ Nov. 4–March 15, 2024

Mississippi River zone ~ Nov. 13–March 10, 2024

Bobcat

Hunting & Trapping

Period 1 ~ Oct. 14–Dec. 25

Period 2 ~ Dec. 26–Jan. 31, 2024

Fisher

Trapping

Various Zones ~ Oct. 14–Jan. 7, 2024

FURBEARERS (CONTD)

Otter

Trapping

North zone ~ Nov. 4–Apr. 30, 2024

South zone ~ Nov. 4–Mar. 31, 2024

Raccoon

Hunting & Trapping

Resident ~ Oct. 14–Feb. 15, 2024

Non-resident ~ Oct. 28–Feb. 15, 2024

Opossum, skunk, weasel, snowshoe hare and woodchuck ~ No season limits, bag limits, size limits or possession limits, but a license is required.

WILD TURKEY

2023 Youth turkey hunt ~ April 15–16

Spring 2023

Period A ~ April 19–25

Period B ~ April 26–May 2

Period C ~ May 3–9

WILD TURKEY (CONTD)

Period D ~ May 10–16

Period E ~ May 17–23

Period F ~ May 24–30

Fall 2023

Statewide Sept. 16–Nov. 17

Zones 1–5 ~ Nov. 18–Jan. 7, 2024

*Dates are subject to change please contact your local DNR office for specific hunting and trapping zone regulations. For general information on fire-arm safety training call: 1 (888) 936-7463.

*At the time of publication not all 2023 season dates were available. Check the WI DNR website for updates or scan the QR code.
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>



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You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses, cross-country ski passes and snowmobile trail stickers through the Electronic License System. Online: www.dnr.wi.gov, Toll Free: 1 (888) 936-7463
Or visit one of the ELS agents available throughout La Crosse & Vernon Counties:

GENOA

CAPTAIN HOOKS BAIT & TACKLE
108 Main St. | Genoa | (608) 689-2800

HILLSBORO

HILLSBORO COUNTY MARKET
E18590 State Hwy. 33 | Hillsboro | (608) 489-2423

HOLMEN

HOLMEN ACE HARDWARE
205 S Holmen Dr. | Holmen | (608) 526-3361

LA CROSSE

ACE OF LA CROSSE
4242 Mormon Coulee Rd. | La Crosse | (608) 788-9950

DICKS SPORTING GOODS 1187

4400 WI 16 | La Crosse | (608) 406-3684

DNR LACROSSE SERVICE CENTER

3550 Mormon Coulee Rd. | La Crosse | (608) 785-9015

LA CROSSE COUNTY CLERK

212 6th St. N Room 1500 | La Crosse | (608) 785-9581

QUILLENS ISLAND

201 Sky Harbour Dr. | La Crosse | (608) 783-6603

WALMART STORE #5127

4622 Mormon Coulee Rd. | La Crosse | (608) 788-1870

LA FARGE

PREMIER COOPERATIVE
210 W Main St. | La Farge | (608) 625-2324

ONALASKA

FARM & FLEET OF LA CROSSE
9438 US Hwy. 16 | Onalaska | (608) 781-3130

SHAFERS BOATS & BAIT LLC

W7221 North Shore Ln. | Onalaska | (608) 790-28880

WALMART STORE #1679

3107 Market Pl. | Onalaska | (608) 781-8282

READSTOWN

KICKAPOO KWIK STOP
Hwy. 14 W | Readstown | (608) 629-5775

STODDARD

GOOSE ISLAND CAMPGROUND
W6488 Cty. Rd. G | Stoddard | (608) 788-7018

WATERS EDGE MOTEL MARINA CAMPGROUND

201 N Pearl Street | Stoddard | (608) 457-2126

WESTBY

Westby Ace Hardware
405 S Main | Westby | (608) 634-3184

VIROQUA

NELSON MILL & AGRI CENTER
217 N Center Ave. | Viroqua | (608) 637-2192

WALMART STORE # 971

1133 N Main St. | Viroqua | (608) 637-8511

2023-2024 FISHING SEASON DATES

(Effective Date: April 1, 2023; Dates Inclusive)

Early Inland Trout (catch & release)

Jan. 7 (5 a.m.) - May 5

General Inland Trout

May 6 (5 a.m.) - Oct. 15

General Inland Fishing

May 6 - March 3, 2024

Largemouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest

May 6 - March 3, 2024

Smallmouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest

June 17 - March 3, 2024

Large & Smallmouth Bass Southern Zone Harvest

May 6 - March 3, 2024

Large And Smallmouth Bass Catch & Release

At all other times of the year.

Musky Northern Zone Harvest

May 27 - Dec. 31

Musky Southern Zone Harvest

May 6 - Dec. 31

Northern Pike

May 6 - March 3, 2024

Walleye

May 6 - March 3, 2024

Lake Sturgeon

Feb. 11 - Feb. 26 (spearing)
Sept. 2 to Sept. 30 (hook-and-line)

Free Fishing Weekends

June 3-4, 2023
Jan. 21-22, 2023

**Contact the Wisconsin DNR for more information on specific fishing zones and dates:*

1 (888) 936-7463
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov>
or scan the QR code.



Village of Soldiers Grove

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Mosquitoes

Prevention & Health Risks



A MOSQUITO FREE YARD

Create an environment in your yard that invites animals that like to eat mosquitoes. Some things that enjoy eating mosquitoes are:

- Bats
- Frogs
- Fish
- Turtles
- Birds
- Dragonflies

To help repel mosquitoes, plant some of the different vegetation listed:

- Citronella
- Geranium
- Eucalyptus
- Rosemary
- Basil
- Anise
- Mint
- Marigolds
- Catnip
- Wormwood
- Tansy
- Lavender
- Cedar
- Cloves

Don't have stagnant water sitting around in things like buckets or tires.

BE SAFE WHILE OUTDOORS

When a mosquito bites you it can leave saliva in your body. If the mosquito is infected it can transfer diseases to you. A few of the more common diseases transmitted to people are:

- Dengue
- Encephalitis
- Malaria
- Yellow Fever.

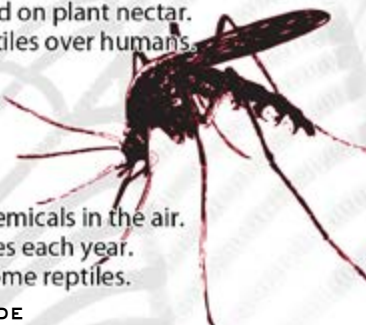
Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- Heartworm (mostly to dogs & cats)
- Encephalitis.

To reduce your chance of getting a disease from mosquitoes you can, apply mosquito repellent to your skin and clothing.

RANDOM MOSQUITO FACTS

- More than 3,000 different mosquito species can be found around the world.
- There are around 50 different mosquito species in the Upper Midwest.
- Female mosquitoes feed on blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar.
- Some mosquito species prefer to feed on animals or reptiles over humans.
- All mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle.
- One female mosquito can lay over 200 eggs at one time.
- Mosquito larvae only need a week in water to hatch.
- Mosquito eggs can survive for more than five years.
- Mosquitoes can fly around 1 to 2 mph.
- Mosquitoes find food by sight, infrared radiation and chemicals in the air.
- Around 1,000 Americans get ill or die from mosquito bites each year.
- Mosquitoes are a huge food source for birds, bats and some reptiles.



TICKS

Diseases & Prevention



You can get a tickborne disease if you are bitten by a tick that is infected • Tickborne diseases are increasing throughout the United States. • Personal protection methods can help reduce the odds of a tick bite while enjoying the outdoors

Some symptoms of a tickborne disease

- Many tickborne diseases have similar symptoms
 - Symptoms usually show up within 2-4 weeks of being bitten
- Watch for symptoms like:

- Rash
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle or joint aches



Tick Removal

Prompt tick removal is important.

Use tweezers to grasp the tick close to its mouth. Gently and slowly pull the tick straight outward.

Do not squeeze the ticks' body.

Wash the area and apply an antiseptic to the bite.

Watch for early signs and symptoms of a tickborne disease. Don't use folk remedies like Petroleum Jelly or a burnt match.



Blacklegged Tick Coverage

American Dog Tick Coverage

Lone Star Tick Coverage

Blacklegged (Deer) Tick
Lyme disease
Anaplasmosis
Babesiosis
Ehrlichiosis
Powassan virus disease

American Dog (Wood) Tick
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Tularemia

Lone Star Tick
Ehrlichiosis
Tularemia
Heartland virus disease
Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI)

Protect Yourself from Tickborne Diseases

1-Know when and where you're at risk
• Primarily Mid-May through Mid-July

- Wooded and brushy areas – Blacklegged Tick
- Grassy or wooded areas – American Dog Tick

2-Wear EPA-registered tick repellent
• DEET 20-30% on skin or clothing
• Permethrin 0.5% on clothing

3-Check yourself for ticks
• Shower after being outdoors
• Check at least once a day
• Remove ticks ASAP!



Boating safety is critical for anyone who operates a boat or spends time on the water. Here are some general boating safety tips to keep in mind:

- **Wear a life jacket:** Always wear a life jacket while boating. Make sure the life jacket is appropriate for your weight and is U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- **Know the weather:** Check the weather forecast before you go boating and keep an eye on changing conditions. If you notice darkening clouds, rough winds or sudden drops in temperature, get off the water.
- **Use navigation aids:** Use navigation aids like buoys and beacons to help you navigate safely.
- **Maintain your boat:** Keep your boat well-maintained and in good working condition. Make sure all safety equipment is in good condition and functioning properly.
- **Avoid alcohol:** Do not drink alcohol while operating a boat. It is illegal and increases the likelihood of accidents.
- **Watch your speed:** Observe speed limits and maintain a safe speed based on conditions. Remember, slower speeds may be necessary in crowded areas or in inclement weather.
- **Be aware of other boats:** Watch for other boats and be aware of their movements. Always assume other boaters may not see you.
- **Know the rules:** Learn and follow boating safety laws and regulations. This includes rules for navigation, safety equipment, and right-of-way.
- **File a float plan:** Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. File a float plan with a trusted person or a marina.
- **Take a boating safety course:** Consider taking a boating safety course to improve your skills and knowledge.

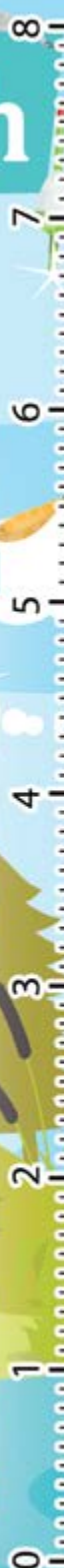
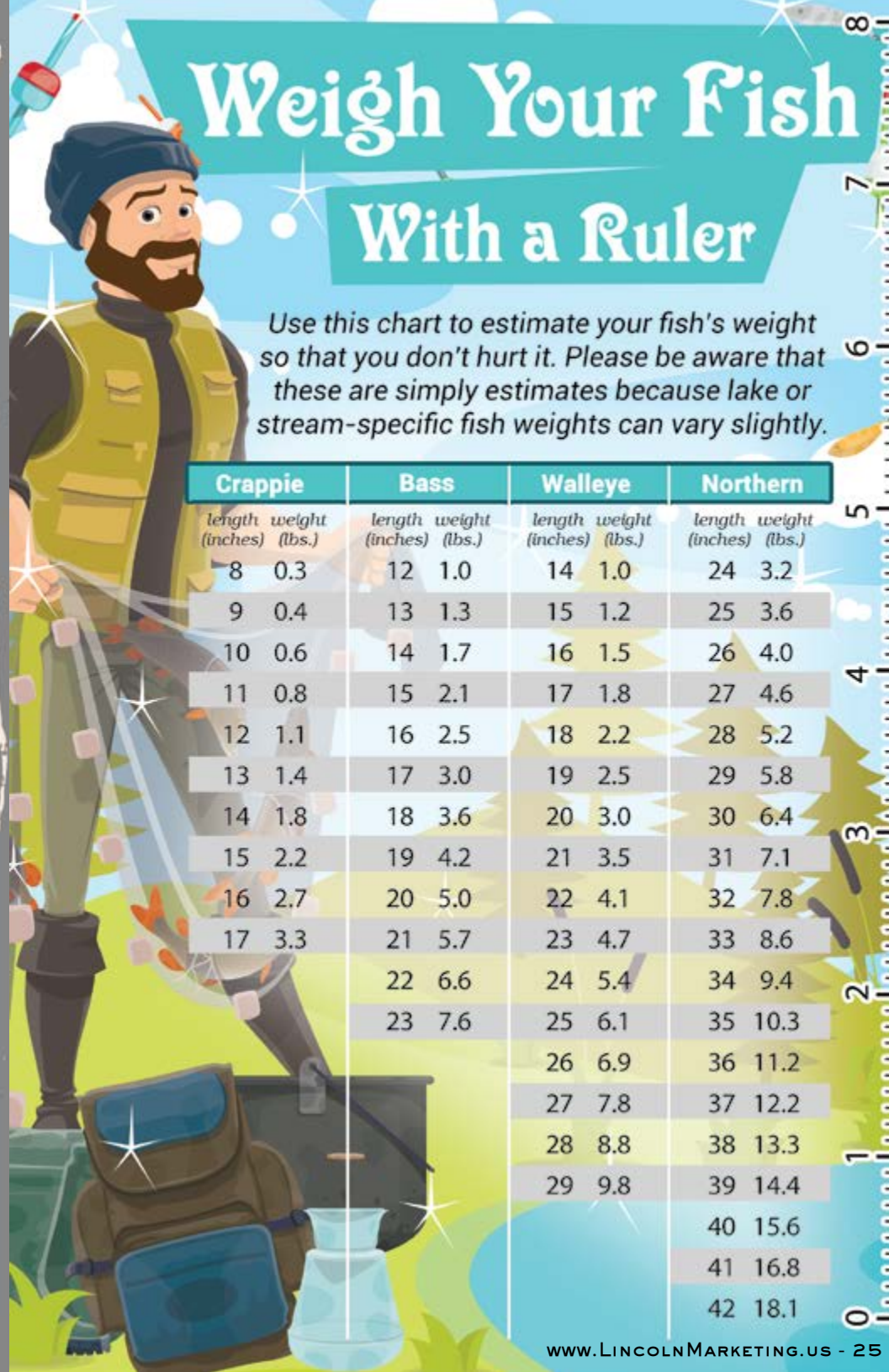


By following these general boating safety tips, you can reduce the likelihood of accidents and enjoy a safe and enjoyable time on the water.

Weigh Your Fish With a Ruler

Use this chart to estimate your fish's weight so that you don't hurt it. Please be aware that these are simply estimates because lake or stream-specific fish weights can vary slightly.

Crappie		Bass		Walleye		Northern	
length (inches)	weight (lbs.)	length (inches)	weight (lbs.)	length (inches)	weight (lbs.)	length (inches)	weight (lbs.)
8	0.3	12	1.0	14	1.0	24	3.2
9	0.4	13	1.3	15	1.2	25	3.6
10	0.6	14	1.7	16	1.5	26	4.0
11	0.8	15	2.1	17	1.8	27	4.6
12	1.1	16	2.5	18	2.2	28	5.2
13	1.4	17	3.0	19	2.5	29	5.8
14	1.8	18	3.6	20	3.0	30	6.4
15	2.2	19	4.2	21	3.5	31	7.1
16	2.7	20	5.0	22	4.1	32	7.8
17	3.3	21	5.7	23	4.7	33	8.6
		22	6.6	24	5.4	34	9.4
		23	7.6	25	6.1	35	10.3
				26	6.9	36	11.2
				27	7.8	37	12.2
				28	8.8	38	13.3
				29	9.8	39	14.4
						40	15.6
						41	16.8
						42	18.1



Be Aware of your Surroundings

- Always wear a properly fitting bike helmet as most serious injuries are to the head.
- Be sure your handlebars, seat and wheels fit snugly.
- Keep your bike in good shape by checking and oiling your chain, making sure your brakes work properly and maintaining your tire pressure.
- Always ride with both hands on the handlebars except when doing turn signals.
- When leaving a driveway, curb or alleyway always stop and check for traffic in both directions.
- Cross only at intersections.
- Use the crosswalk to walk your bike across busy intersections and follow the traffic signals.
- Never ride against traffic. Travel in the same direction as the cars.
- Whenever you can, use bike routes and avoid busy streets.
- Don't ride near parked cars as doors can open and cause accidents.
- Obey all traffic signs and traffic lights.
- When biking with friends, ride in a single file.
- Always pass other bikers or pedestrians on the left and say "On your left!" to make your presence known.
- Always use bicycle hand signals to alert traffic of your changing direction.



Drink lots of Water!



Know Your ATV

Read the owner's manual and know your vehicle thoroughly.

- Check your vehicle before you ride.
- Wear protective equipment and clothing.
- Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders.
- Supervise young or inexperienced riders.
- Never carry a passenger on vehicles meant for one rider.
- Do not operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Drive at speeds that are appropriate to trail conditions.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay away from thin ice, open water and wetlands.
- Know the weather forecast.
- Make sure headlights and taillights work properly.
- Maintain safe distances between other riders.
- Reduce your speed when riding at night.
- Yield to other motor vehicles and trail users.
- Young or beginning riders are encouraged to take a safety training course.

- Do not consume alcohol or take drugs prior to or during your snowmobile trip. Doing so increases your chances of injury or death.
- Slow down and don't cut to the inside of the trail corners. It's dangerous and illegal.
- If you snowmobile at night, don't override your lights.
- Always use the buddy system. Never ride off alone.
- Drowning is one of the causes of many snowmobile fatalities. Whenever possible, avoid the ice.
- Wear sensible, protective clothing designed for operating a snowmobile.
- Use a full size helmet, goggles, or visor to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips and other debris.
- Avoid wearing long scarves. They may get caught in moving parts of the snowmobile.
- Know the terrain you are going to ride. If unfamiliar to you, ask someone who has traveled over it before.
- Know the weather forecast, especially the ice and snow conditions.
- Be sure your snowmobile is in top-notch mechanical condition throughout the months of use.
- Familiarize yourself with the snowmobile you are driving. Thoroughly read the manual that accompanies the snowmobile.
- Do not pursue domestic or wild animals. That is not the conduct of a sportsman. Report such violations to the nearest law enforcement officer.

Snowmobile Hand Signals



PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING

Please respect private property and no trespassing signs. Stay on trails. Exercise extreme caution on all lakes and streams. Obey all state and local laws and ordinances. Do not operate snowmobiles/ATVs on county roads or state highways.

The Best of Wisconsin Outdoors

Fishing:

- Bass: Pelican Lake, Oneida County
- Walleye: Lake Winnebago, Winnebago County
- Muskellunge: Big Saint Germain Lake, Vilas County
- Northern Pike: Lake Mendota, Dane County

Hiking:

- Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk County
- Ice Age Trail, Throughout Wisconsin
- Amnicon Falls State Park, Douglas County
- Copper Falls State Park, Ashland County

Golf Courses:

- Whistling Straits, Sheboygan County
- Milwaukee Country Club, Milwaukee County
- Erin Hills, Washington County
- Blackwolf Run, Sheboygan County

Mountain Biking:

- Rock Lake, Bayfield County
- Hickory Ridge, Chippewa County
- Alpine Valley, Walworth County
- Pleasant View, Dane County

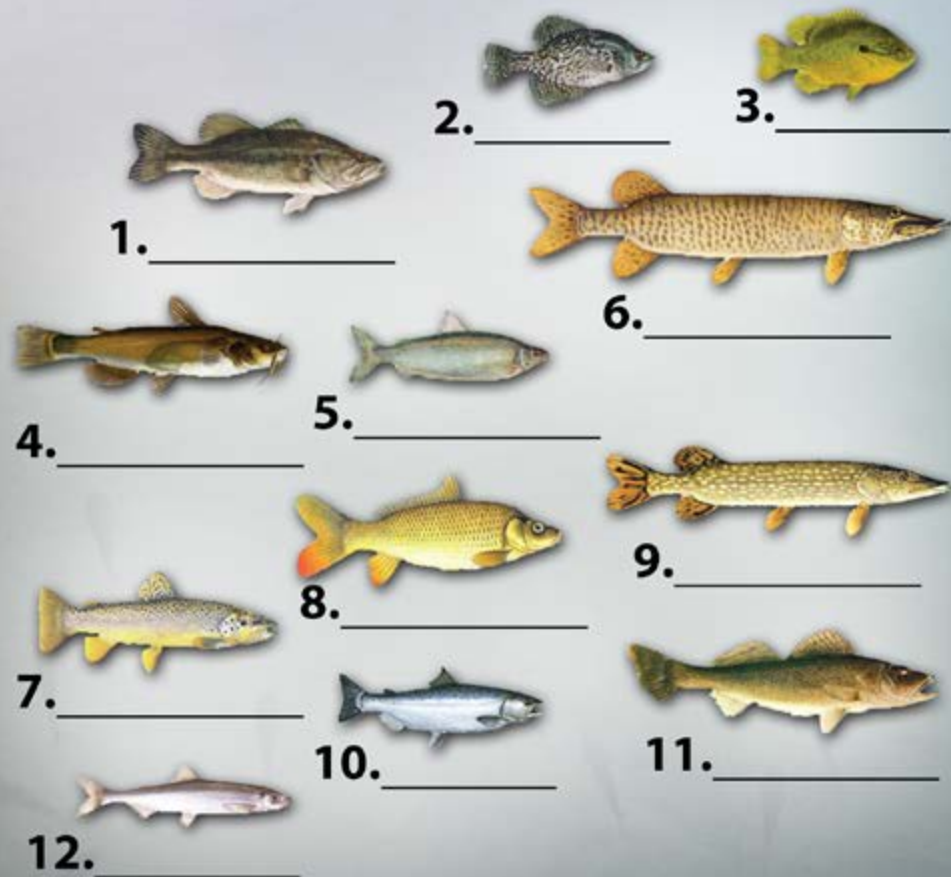
Skiing:

- Bruce Mound, Clark County
- Granite Peak, Marathon County
- Christie Mountain, Rusk County
- Cascade Mountain, Columbia County



MIDWEST FISH QUIZ

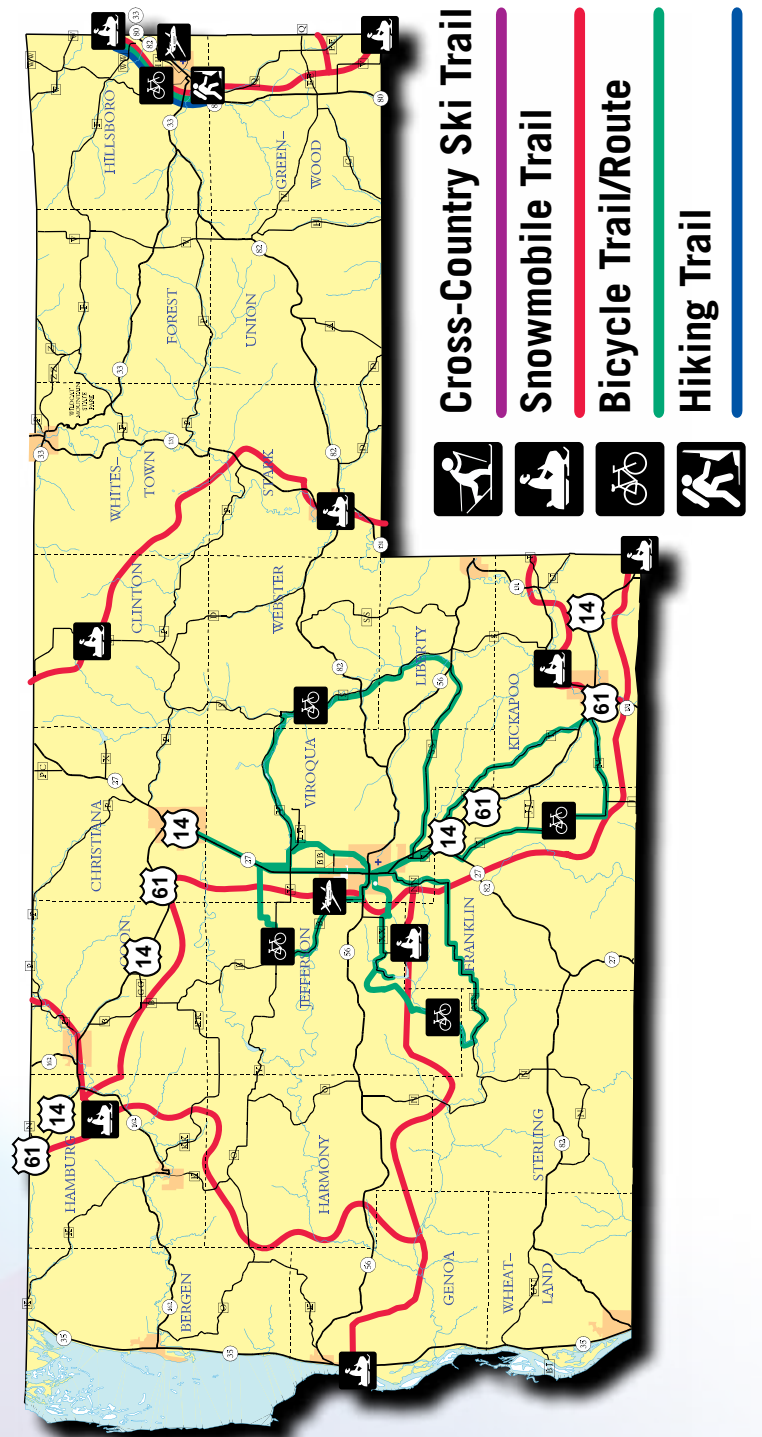
Do you know the Midwest fish species?
Identify the fish below.



Answers: 1. Bass 2. Crappie 3. Sunfish 4. Catfish 5. Herring 6. Muskellunge 7. Trout 8. Carp 9. Northern Pike 10. Salmon 11. Walleye 12. Smelt

LA CROSSE COUNTY TRAILS

VERNON COUNTY TRAILS



A state trail pass is required for all people age 16 or older biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding or in-line skating on certain trails. A state trail pass is not required for walking or hiking. Wisconsin state trail pass fees are the same for residents and non-residents.

Wisconsin resident or non-resident state trail pass fees
 \$25 - Annual \$5 - Daily

WORD SEARCH



G K G G H E D O F A K O W W H O W I V X R T G L H D U O L L
 N B H A I O V X Y L T E Q B A R R E S X B H N L K D F K Z L
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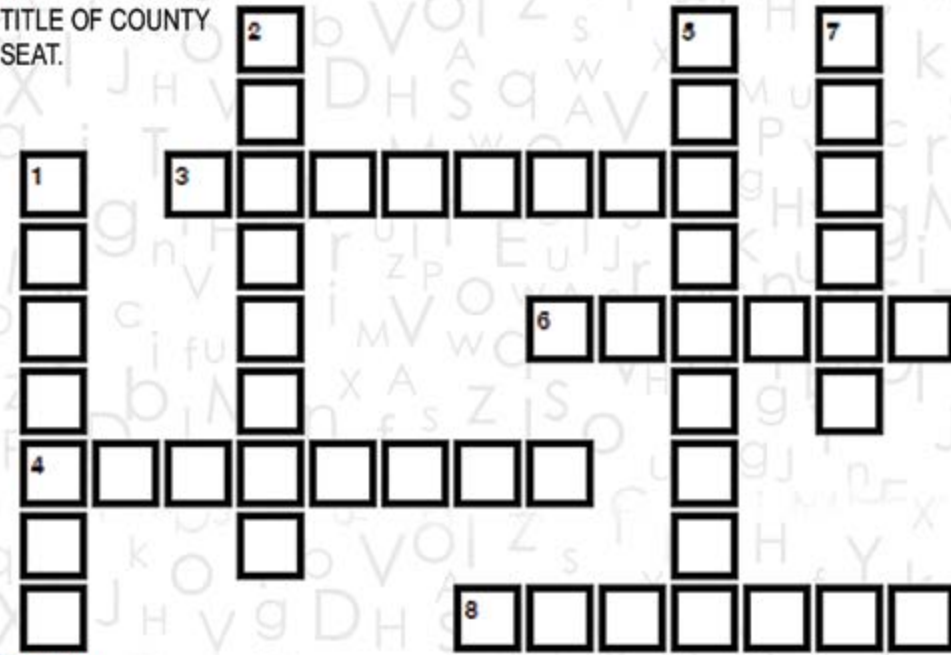
- WASHINGTON
- VIROQUA
- BANGOR
- ONTARIO
- GREENWOOD
- CHASEBURG
- ONALASKA
- KICKAPOO
- ROCKLAND
- CAMPBELL
- VIOLA
- BURNS
- BARRE
- LAFARGE
- WEBSTER
- LACROSSE
- HOLMEN
- GENOA
- MEDARY
- WESTBY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Read Guide for Clues)

ACROSS

- 3. PART OF THIS TOWN HAS AN ISLAND CALLED "FRENCH ISLAND".
- 4. THIS CITY HELD ITS FIRST TOWN MEETING IN 1856.
- 6. THIS AREA WAS ORIGINALLY OCCUPIED BY THE FOX, SAC & WINNEBAGO NATIVE TRIBES.
- 8. MOSES DECKER DONATED 40 ACRES OF LAND TO HELP THIS CITY LAND THE TITLE OF COUNTY SEAT.



DOWN

- 1. THIS VERNON COUNTY CITY HAS THE SMALLEST APPROXIMATE LISTED POPULATION AT 167.
- 2. THIS CITY WAS NAMED AFTER ONE OF THE FOUNDERS (THOMAS G. ROWE) FAVORITE POEMS TITLED, "THE PLEASURES OF HOPE".
- 5. THIS CITY WAS NAMED AFTER A MAN, VALENTIA HILL & HIS BROTHERS.
- 7. THIS LA CROSSE COUNTY TOWN HAS AN APPROXIMATE LISTED POPULATION AT 4,592.

Healthy & Environmentally Friendly Lawn

Choose a type of grass that thrives in your area. 3" is the optimal height for most grasses, it allows the roots to become strong and healthy. It also helps to absorb more water. Don't bag the lawn clippings, it's a natural fertilizer. Keep your mower blades sharp.



Don't water every day. Give your lawn a good soaking once or twice a week. Your lawn should get about an inch of water each week, whether it be from rain fall or a sprinkler. Water your lawn in the early morning, preferably before 10am. Watering at night time can create fungus growth.



Don't use pesticides. Correctly identify what the problem is and try a non-chemical method first. If you have to use a chemical based pesticide, try spot treating the problem area. All pesticides are toxic to some degree. Make sure to read all labels.



Fertilizers can harm the environment. Use natural organic or slow-release fertilizers. The best time to fertilize your lawn is in the fall.



COMPOSTING in Your Backyard

Yard trimmings and food scraps make up nearly 15% to 30% of waste produced by the average household in USA. Composting leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps, creates a nice black dirt to use around your yard. It also can reduce what goes to landfills and your use of fertilizer and water around your yard.

How to get started composting

1. Make a compost bin or you can buy one
2. Place yard waste in and mix in kitchen scraps
3. Water as needed, to keep moist
4. Mix it with a shovel or pitchfork once in a while

What to compost

Food scraps such as banana peels and coffee grounds are good to compost. The best results come from mixing the right materials like, nitrogen-rich (greens), carbon-rich (browns), water, and air. Get the mixture correct and you will have good quality compost.

What not to compost

Although a lot of stuff is compostable, you should stay away from composting things that will attract scavengers or create bad odors. Some things you should not add to your compost are pet feces, diseased plants, weeds gone to seed, ashes, dairy, oils and food with meat or bones.

How long will it take?

Most likely you will produce compost in six months to a year depending on your management methods. To make compost faster keep the correct moisture levels and turn the pile every once in awhile.

Using the finished compost

Compost is not a fertilizer but it can contain nutrients which improves plant growth. By using compost, you can improve the soil around your plants, flowers and throughout your yard, it also reduces your use of fertilizer and water. Another good use for your compost is to use it for your potted plants.





Wisconsin

Fun Facts:



1. The first practical typewriter was designed in Milwaukee in 1867.
2. Green Bay is Wisconsin's Oldest City.
3. Wisconsin snowmobile trails total 15,210 miles of signed and groomed snow highways.
4. Wisconsin is the dairy capital of the United States.
5. The first Ringling Brothers Circus was staged in Baraboo in 1884.
6. In 1882 the first hydroelectric plant in the United States was built at Fox River.
7. The state is nicknamed the Badger State.
8. Wausau is the Ginseng Capital of the World.
9. Two Rivers is the home of the ice cream sundae.
10. Sheboygan is the Bratwurst Capital of the World.



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