

Parade of Prairies

July 11th

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Parade coordinated by



gottfriedprairiearboretum.org
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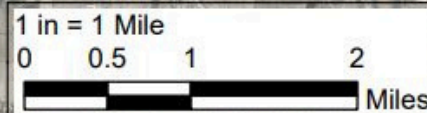
Site Map & Guide

Get ready for the first-ever Parade of Prairies!

We're opening the gates to 5 of Fond du Lac County's most stunning native landscapes. See nature in High-Def: From important pollinators to the "ocean" of tallgrass and wildflowers. Tour one, two, or conquer all of them! It's the perfect summer Saturday road trip. Watch for signs directing you to each prairie site. For questions or if you get lost, call: Lisa Mick 920-960-0840.

Prairie	Time for visiting*	Address
#1 Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum	8:45 am- 9:30 am	400 University Dr
#2 Congregation of Sisters of St Agnes (CSA) Prairie	10:00 am- 10:45 am	320 County Rd K
#3 The Prairie House Studio Prairie (Bill Nettelhorst)	11:30 am- 12:45 pm BRING A LUNCH for picnic in the prairie	Near N8494 Minawa Beach Rd (towards Lake Winnebago)
#4 Laudolff Ledge Conservation Area	1.00 pm- 1:45 pm	N9141 US Hwy 151
#5 Greenway Arboretum	2:30 pm- 3:15 pm	79 W Pioneer Rd (behind Salvation Army)

*PLEASE NOTE: Bathrooms are not available at these sites. Extra time is scheduled between prairie visits to stop at gas stations for bathroom and refreshment breaks.





Parade of Prairies

Prairie Descriptions

#1: Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum

Nestled in the heart of Fond du Lac, adjacent to the Fond du Lac County Campus on University Drive, lies a hidden gem waiting to be discovered: the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum. The Gottfried was planted in 1993 with seed collected from remnants of the last remaining original prairie sites in Fond du Lac County.

More than just a County park, the Gottfried is a vibrant living museum of over 50 acres of diverse restored ecosystems. This sanctuary is defined by more than 40 acres of restored native prairie, 10 acres of lowland shrub communities, three miles of interpretive hiking trails, a tranquil wildlife pond, and five and half acres of an innovative arboretum, showcasing the unique "Tension Zone" of Wisconsin, where northern and southern tree communities beautifully overlap. Whether you're a hiker, a cyclist looking for a scenic ride, a snowshoer, a birdwatcher, or simply seeking a peaceful escape, the Gottfried offers something for everyone.

#4: Laudolff Ledge Conservation Area

Laudolff Ledge Conservation Area is the newest addition to the Fond du Lac County Parks system and is located along US Highway 151 on the East side of Lake Winnebago. In an effort to preserve property along "The Ledge" for future generations to enjoy, Fond du Lac County acquired this unique piece of land from Laudolff Enterprises, LLC in 2020 with assistance of the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant.

This 24.6-acre parcel contains 965 linear feet of wooded Niagara Escarpment with ledgerrock ranging from 45-60 feet in height as well as 18-acres of former cropland, which has been restored to its native, original habitat of tall-mesic prairie. Laudolff Ledge Conservation Area offers space for many outdoor recreational activities, including hiking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking.

#2: CSA Prairie

The CSA Prairie is located on the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Eeyamquittoowauconnuck (Brothertown), Menominee, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, and many indigenous groups of North America who have passed through or called Wisconsin their home at some point in the last three centuries. As a way of recognizing the Native Peoples who were its original caretakers and returning that land, once again, to everyone, the Sisters of St. Agnes have protected the land into perpetuity by creating a conservation easement document, which is held by Glacial Lake Conservancy. This prairie sits on top of the Niagara Escarpment and is adjacent to 26 acres of dry-mesic woodlands. It was designed and created by Connie Ramthun circa 2002 and is a great example of how previously harmed land can be healed. The prairie features walking paths among many diverse plant species, bluebird houses, and an American Kestrel nesting box. CSA property is privately owned, but open to the public for reflection and prayer on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visitors wishing to utilize the grounds outside of the standard hours may call to make arrangements.

#5: Greenway Arboretum

The Greenway Arboretum is a natural area along the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River with entrance to the area on the west side of the S. Main St. and West Pioneer Rd Pick and Save parking lot, (park in this lot); and just behind the Salvation Army Store. The trail wanders about ½ mile to the north along the river ending just before the railroad crosses the river. Additional trails are inland around the prairie, woodland, and an oak hickory restoration area.

The vision of the Greenway Arboretum volunteers is to create a healthy prairie that will sustain oak and hickory savanna, and to restore the natural habitat around the E Branch of the Fond du Lac River. This effort will provide a heritage for generations of Fond du Lac City residents. You are invited to discover the beauty of nature while hiking or snowshoeing the trails depending on the season.

#3: The Prairie House Studio Prairie

Bill Nettelhorst has graciously opened his 25-acre private prairie for you to enjoy! His prairie was planted in the spring of 2000, and this is the first summer after a spring burn. You will find a comfortable mowed tractor path that traverses through strong stands of three of the major tall prairie plants and silphiums: Prairie Dock, Compass Plant and Rosinweed, plus five different prairie grasses: Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, and Sideoats Grama. As a special treat (weather permitting), you will get a chance to admire two full-size prairie sculptures: A bison named Prairie Spirit (won 2nd place at the Wisconsin State Artists Exhibition) and a Sandhill Crane named Sandy. Both were created from prairie materials.



Pack a lunch since we will have a lunch break outside of Bill's art studio.

SAVE the DATE!
PRAIRIE FEST AUG 1ST

Celebrate nature with yoga, prairie tours, environmental education and art displays, short nature pop-up presentations, and more at this year's Prairie Fest on Saturday, August 1 from 8:00 AM – Noon at the beautiful Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum.

Prairie Fest is a FREE family-oriented environmental education event with activities for all ages. Check gottfriedprairiearboretum.org or Facebook for more details.