

What is an Invertebrate?

An invertebrate is an organism without a true backbone. This means that it has neither a cartilage or bony spine. The majority of invertebrates instead rely on an exoskeleton to protect their vital organs.

Quick Invertebrate Facts

- They may be aquatic or terrestrial, native or non-native, herbivorous or predatory
- There are over 1.3 million identified species of invertebrates, roughly 1 million of those are classified as insects
- Did you know? The world's insect population has decreased by at least 45% since 1980!

Invertebrates at Lakeshore State Park rely on the proximity to Lake Michigan, and our plentiful prairie plants for habitat and sustenance. While walking through the park, keep an eye out on the prairie forbs (flowering plants) for pollinators, the leaves of grasses and stems of forbs for invertebrates eating, and watch where you step-you may crush a crayfish claw or two! The gulls feast on both the native and non-native species of crayfish, biting their claws off before swallowing the rest whole. If you see something that looks like a mosquito, don't fret-at Lakeshore State Park we have non-biting midge flies, but no mosquitoes!

Hundreds of Invertebrates

The list provided here is by no means exhaustive. There are hundreds of different invertebrates that reside and migrate through Lakeshore State Park. If you find one that is particularly interesting or rare, please let us know! If you need help identifying it, our naturalists can also assist with this task.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about your visit or if you would like to share your experience or photos with us, please feel free to contact us or visit our Facebook page.

Park Manager
414-274-4281

Tom Kroeger: Thomas.Kroeger@wisconsin.gov

Naturalist Guides
414-274-4282

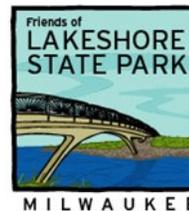
Angela Vickio: Angela.Vickio@wisconsin.gov

Anne Duffy: Anne.Duffy@wisconsin.gov

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeshoreStateParkMKE>

The Friends of Lakeshore State Park partners with the WDNR and the community to establish LSP as Milwaukee's premier urban oasis. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the park and its partners by raising funds for educational programming, events and infrastructure, as well as providing volunteers to enhance park services. To donate to this organization, please see the Friends website at FriendsLSP.org



500 N. HARBOR DR. MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

Invertebrates at Lakeshore State Park



500 N. HARBOR DR,
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

Lakeshore State Park is host to a variety of pollinators and other invertebrates. The diversity of the prairies allow insects to thrive here throughout the growing season, and they provide an overwintering habitat for species that do not migrate. These animals may be creepy crawlies, but check them out-they are vital to our ecosystem and can be beautiful and interesting!



Common Invertebrates of Lakeshore State Park

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Familiar Bluet



Green Darner



Black Saddlebag



Bees, Hornets and Wasps

Eastern Carpenter



Honey Bee



Eastern Yellowjacket



Running Crab



Spiders

Dark Fishing



Long Jawed Orbweaver



Beetles

Milkweed Beetle



Milkweed Bug



Calligrapha Beetle



Spotted Cucumber Beetle



Lady Beetle



Asian Beetle (NN)



Common Eastern Bumblebee



Golden Northern Bumblebee



Green Metallic Bee (*Agapostemon splendens*)



Shield Bug



Lightning Bug



Goldenrod Soldier Beetle



Mud Dauber



Great Black Wasp



Bald Faced Hornet



Other Terrestrial Invertebrates

Midge Fly



Green Lacewing



Praying Mantis



Jagged Ambush Bug



Helophilus Syrphid Fly



Syrphus Syrphid Fly



Japanese Beetle (NN)



Darkling Ground Beetle



Butterflies and Moths

Monarch Butterfly



Webworm Moth



Cabbage White Butterfly



Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

Virile Crayfish



Rusty Crayfish (NN)



Pond Scud (Amphipod)



Grasshoppers, Crickets and Leafhoppers

Carolina Locust



Green Striped Grasshopper



Red Legged Grasshopper



Black Swallowtail Butterfly



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly



Common Buckeye Butterfly



Zebra Mussel (NN)



Quagga Mussel (NN)



Aquatic Sow Bug (Isopod)



Candy-striped Leafhopper



Field Cricket



Hummingbird Clearwing Moth



NN=Non-Native to Wisconsin