Events at Lakeshore State Park

Educational programs are available for teachers, community organizations, private events and to the public. Our public events include bird and plant walks, educational series, fishing clinics, the annual Urban Island Beach Party, and monthly beach bonfires, among others. To schedule a field trip, speaker or event, or for a copy of our education brochure, contact one of our naturalists or our park manager.

Park Manager: Tom Kroeger
414-274-4281
Thomas.Kroeger@wisconsin.gov

Naturalists: Angela Vickio and Anne Duffy
414-274-4282
Angela.Vickio@wisconsin.gov
Anne.Duffy@wisconsin.gov

To view scheduled public educational events, please see the Friends of Lakeshore State Park’s website and Facebook page at:

Friendslsp.org
Facebook.com/LakeshoreStateParkMKE

Additionally, transient boaters are welcome to dock at Lakeshore State Park for up to four consecutive days. For more information regarding boater policies, contact our visitor services associate:

Carolyn Thanig
414-274-4283
Carolyn.Thanig@wisconsin.gov

Lakeshore State Park is Wisconsin’s only urban state park, located just south of Discovery World and bordering Lake Michigan and the Summerfest Grounds. Over 250,000 people visit the park annually for biking, dog walking, hiking and running, fishing, and park events. It takes coordination between both the staff and the public to make sure it remains a place for everyone to enjoy.

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 listed above.
As seasons change, so do the prairies. Native forbs (flowering plants), present in spring and summer, transition to warm-season grasses swaying in the fall wind. These grasses provide many ecological benefits to the park and are a staple plant of midwestern prairies. While they may not attract as many pollinators as our prairie forbs, they are, undoubtedly, an equally important asset to the park.

1. Habitat: During warmer months, warm season grasses provide excellent nesting sites for small mammals and birds. The cover of their long blades provide an excellent buffer between animals and the cold winters we experience here at the park. Some of the grasses can remain upright, even with a foot of snow on top!

2. Protection: The tall grasses also provide a hiding place for young animals and insects. It is estimated that the establishment of a tall grass prairie can increase the bird life of the area by 10x!

3. Food: During spring and summer months, the native forbs provide an extensive amount of food for our many pollinator insects. The blades, roots and seeds provide food for a variety of wildlife. Walking past the prairies, you are bound to hear many insects and birds that are attracted to this food source.

4. Erosion Prevention: The deep roots of prairie grasses help to keep the soil in place, especially when we experience the gusty lakefront winds. A single acre of tall grass prairie can have up to 24,000lbs of roots!

5. Nutrient Cycling: The leaves of these native grasses and forbs die off and decompose, returning nutrients to the soil during winter. This decomposition enables the plants to re-emerge each spring.