

Evansville Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

Magnolia Bluff, 4002 N. Croak Rd., is a 120-acre park featuring picturesque rock outcroppings and vistas. Because the park has steep areas and rock outcroppings, caution must be used by all park visitors. Found just south of Evansville, 1/2 mile south of the intersection of Hwy. 59 and Croak Road, the park includes three miles of hiking trails, picnic tables, grills, drinking water and restroom facilities. Two trails are featured. One is a bride and nature trail. The other is a cross-country ski and hiking trail. The bride trail was made possible through the efforts of the Tri-County Riders Club and is also open for walking. The cross-country ski and hiking trail was constructed by the YACC (Young Adult Conservation Corps) in 1981 with funding for materials and supplies provided by Rock County. The trails of Magnolia Bluff Park are open every day from dawn to dusk. 608-757-5451, www.co.rock.wi.us/parks-magnolia-bluff

The **Evansville Wildlife Area** is located south and east of the city. It currently contains 707 acres of state-owned property, 100 acres of easements and 40 acres of leased lands. The DNR also owns 223 acres of streambank protection land along Allen Creek immediately west of the wildlife area and west of State Highway 213. The Evansville Wildlife Area offers many recreational opportunities, including birding, cross-country skiing (no designated trail), fishing, hiking (no designated trail), hunting—especially noted for pheasants, trapping, wild edibles/gathering and wildlife viewing. The Evansville Wildlife Area was established in 1960 and is home to many grassland birds including pheasants, bobwhites, upland sandpipers, harriers and dickcissels. dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifeareas/evansville.html

Take a walk and take in some history by participating in an **Evansville Historic District Walking Tour**. Settled in 1839, the city of 5,000 has three historic districts with almost 200 structures and one park listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Customized, personalized walking tours with knowledgeable local history experts are offered. To make arrangements, simply call ahead. Or pick up a free

booklet with a map (found at Eager Free Public Library, Creekside Place and other downtown businesses) and go at your own pace. 608-302-1722, www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/visitors/history.htm

Experience Evansville's storied history by stopping in the Evansville Grove Society's historic **Baker Manufacturing Company office building museum** at the entrance to Evansville Park (15 Antes Drive). The museum is open Saturdays from 1-3 p.m. Extra hours are held during 4th of July weekend. The museum features a permanent Baker Co. and technology exhibit, along with temporary exhibits that change semi-annually. A historic photograph exhibit showcasing Evansville's history, meanwhile, can be viewed in the lower level of the historic Eager Economy Store (7 E. Main St.), which was recently restored to its 1904 appearance. This exhibit is available for viewing Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. www.grovesociety.org

Evansville's **Eager Free Public Library** (39 W. Main St.) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It opened in 1908, having been constructed with help of a \$10,000 gift from the estate of Almeron Eager. It is a fine example of Prairie School architecture. The library is open Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 608-882-2260, www.als.lib.wi.us/EFPL/

Happenings

Saturdays, May-Oct.-Evansville Farmers Market: Situated outdoors on East Church Street, next door to Creekside Place, the market operates 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. This is a producer-only market. The products that you will find there are produced locally by the folks who are vending them. There often is a free kids' entertainment booth featuring a simple craft. 608-728-8208, www.evansvillefarmersmarket.com

June 16-Strawberry Festival: Annual fundraiser for Evansville Education Foundation features fresh, homemade strawberry shortcake. Eat-in/take out. 3-7 p.m., Masonic Temple, 104 W. Main St. evansvillechamber.org

June 30-July 4-Community of Evansville Fourth of July Celebration: Come to Lake Leota Park for picnics, baseball tournaments, a car show and music.

Enjoy adult beverages under the big tent, or munch on fair food from local vendors. More music, park activities for kids and adults. And, of course, Evansville's famous fireworks king will create another memorable explosive, starry display. Live music every night, a parade on July 4 at 9:45 a.m. Events take place at Lake Leota Park (Leonard Park Drive). 608-882-0598, www.ecp-wi.org

July 4-Evansville 4th of July Fun Run/Walk: In Leonard Leota Park featuring 10k run, 5k run and walk and 1 mile run and walk. The 10k and 5k courses are certified. Proceeds benefit Evansville Soccer Club Scholarship Fund, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the Deb Olsen Scholarship Fund. evansvillerunwalk@gmail.com, evansvillechamber.org

Aug. 4-5-Evansville Inside Out Days: It's the community's famous garage sale extravaganza. Averaging 150-plus locations, this is a trash-to-treasure hunter's dream. Downtown Main Street and city-wide. Sale hours vary. 608-882-5131, www.evansvillechamber.org

Sept. 22-Oct. 1—Theodore Robinson Plein Air Painting Competition: Artists will paint outdoors (en plein air) and submit their works of art for prizes and auction. The contest is named for Evansville native Theodore Robinson who lived from 1852 to 1896, and was a well regarded contemporary of Monet. Post auction, the art will be exhibited at Creekside Place (102 Maple St.). If you visit, stop by Eager Free Public Library (39 W. Main St.) or Allen Creek Gallery (137 E. Main St.) for more information. 608-882-0598, www.ecp-wi.org/theodore-robinson-plein-air-competition.html

Sept. 23-Oktoberfest: Beer festival with great flavor and themes. Featured are almost 70 different beers from nearly 50 breweries around the world, with an emphasis on Midwest craft breweries. Local restaurants and caterers present signature dishes, all with an Oktoberfest flavor. Door prizes, raffles and a silent auction with proceeds supporting local causes. Main event 7-10 p.m. VIP event 6-7 p.m. Creekside Place, 102 Maple St. 608-882-0407, www.creeksideplace.org

Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's www.travelwisconsin.com, and other websites, unless noted.



ROCK RIVER THRESHERE INC.

61st Annual 4 Day Reunion

Labor Day Weekend • Sept. 1 - Sept 4, 2017

Located midway between Janesville and Edgerton on Hwy. 51 and Cty. Tk. M

40° 47'29.64"N 89° 02'30.74"W GPS Coordinates

Celebrating 61 Years of Rock River Threshere - 1956 to 2017

Live Music Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Nights

Friday - Precocious • Saturday - Rainbow Bridge • Sunday - Apollo's Rocket

- Large flea Market and Craft Show
- Food and Refreshments on Grounds
- Craftsman Demonstrations
- Multiple Era Military Displays
- Vendor Spaces Available
- Free Parking
- On Grounds Shuttle Service
- Collector Cars and Trucks Display

Our Featured Tractor Company



Come ride the Rock River Cannonball Train!

Debit/Credit accepted at the gate • Daily Parade of Power at 2 p.m.

Friday is Seniors Day, \$6 admission • DEBIT/CREDIT ACCEPTED AT GATE - ATM's available on the show grounds

Many Food Stands • Ample Parking with Shuttles • Admission \$8, children 12 and under Free.

Contact: www.threshere.org - For general info call: 608-868-2814 - Flea Market: 608-728-3407

Service animals **ONLY**, no pets on the grounds! • Check us out on Facebook @ Rock River Threshere

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