



Gardens and Area Attractions

Businesses and Public & Private Gardens for Your Enjoyment

If you have the time, there are many possible attractions to visit near Beaver Dam or within Wisconsin/Minnesota. All are within driving distance, but some may require a day trip or be included on your way to or from the convention. Make sure to check ahead for hours and days attractions and gardens are open.

Horicon Marsh - About

The largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States, [Horicon Marsh](#) formed when Ice Age meltwater gathered behind a moraine. Recognized for its ecological importance by organizations like the United Nations and the National Audubon Society, massive numbers of migrating birds – 350,000 geese and ducks alone, and more than 300 species in total – pass through in spring and fall.

Management of the 32,000 acres of protected wetlands is shared by national and state wildlife refuges, each with its own visitor center. Additionally, a third visitor center is operated by the local nonprofit organization, Marsh Haven Nature Center [Marsh Haven](#). Over 13 miles long and up to 5 miles wide, this natural treasure balances conservation with a variety of uses for human visitors.

Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center (25 min)

Horicon Marsh has been formally recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention of the United Nations. This renowned marsh is now home to the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center.

The Wildlife Education Program has been conducted at the marsh since the mid-1980s. This program focuses on the abundant wildlife resources of the marsh, their ecology and applied management. The program relies on diverse wildlife to develop a wide range of educational programs aimed at introducing and sharing our native wildlife with a broad audience.

The Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, which was completed in 2009, brings a new modern design and provides for enhanced visitor services. For more information about the center, please visit [Friends of Horicon Marsh](#).

Address: N7725 Highway 28 Horicon, Wisconsin 53032

Phone: [920-387-7890](tel:920-387-7890)

Email: info@horiconmarsh.org

Blue Heron Landing (20min)

Renowned as one of Wisconsin's premier birdwatching sanctuaries, Horicon Marsh boat Tours unlock the gateway to its natural splendor. Kayakers and canoeists, we've got you covered with Tours & Rentals.

Address: 305 Mill Street, Horicon, WI 53032

Website: Horiconmarsh.com (Pontoon Tours)

Phone: (920) 643-7072

Email: blueheron@horiconmarsh.com

Rotary Botanical Gardens (1hr, 15min)

Located in Janesville, Wisconsin, Rotary Botanical Gardens is an award winning 20-acre, non-profit botanic showcase with 26 different garden styles and 4,000 varieties of plants. The Gardens are home to many dramatic and internationally themed gardens, including Japanese, Scottish, French Formal, Italian and English Cottage Gardens. Visitors to the Gardens may enjoy guided garden tours, shopping local artisans' works in the Cottage Garden Gallery Gift Shop, and a variety of educational classes and programs available for adults, youth and families.

Address: 1455 Palmer Dr., Janesville, WI 53545-5215

Website: rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Allen Centennial Garden (55min)

Allen Centennial Gardens is a beautiful botanical garden on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus. Filled with stretches of lush green trees, flower beds and landscaped lawns, this is one of the most appealing sites in the city. While it is mainly used as an outdoor classroom for students of agriculture and botany; the garden also is open for public recreation. Its cobbled paths, serene atmosphere and colorful backdrop makes it perfect for a quiet walk in the day. The garden also hosts a number of artistic and educational events, and portions of it can also be rented out for private functions.

Address: University of Wisconsin, 620 Babcock Dr. , Madison, WI 53706

Website: allencentennialgarden.wisc.edu

Phone:(608) 262-1549

Boerner Botanical Gardens (1hr, 20min)

Boerner Botanical Gardens features glacial fieldstone walls and original, handcrafted limestone statuary. The Garden House, built in 1939 features original wood work created by artisans from the 1930s. The *Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens* (FBBG) offers groups of 12 or more an opportunity to view Milwaukee County's premier outdoor venue with a one-hour, educational, docent-guided tour at a special group rate of \$15 per person.

Garden Tours available May through September include:

- Beautiful signature gardens
- Professionally labeled and evaluated plant collections
- One of the largest crab apple collections in Wisconsin
- Wetland area (teaching visitors about rainwater harvesting and recycling)
- Over 500 varieties of roses
- Individual gardens including herbs, annuals, shrubs, daylilies and peonies
- Wheelchair accessible Garden paths updated 2015 & 2020 (previous gravel walkways are now paved).

Address: 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corner, WI 53130

Website: boernerbotanicalgardens.org

Olbrich Botanical Gardens (40min)

At Olbrich, take in 14 outdoor gardens within the grounds, including the Rose Garden, the Herb Garden, the Meadow Garden and Serenity Garden. Maps at the visitor's desk help visitor's stay on track, or get lost in the greenery and wander through the wildflowers and roses. Free tram rides are available for guests who would like a guided, non-walking tour. If you do choose to walk, the outdoor gardens have no stairs, and you'll find benches galore to rest and take in the beauty.

Address: 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704-5808

Phone: (608)246-4550

Website: olbrich.org

The Paine Art Center and Gardens (50min)

The museum preserves the property's historic architecture, with the mansion as the centerpiece and many of the house's interiors as they were created by founders Nathan and Jessie Kimberly Paine. Selections from the museum's art collection, much of which was acquired by Nathan and Jessie, are featured throughout the mansion. Outdoors, the estate has evolved from an arboretum to nearly four acres of garden "galleries" with changing displays throughout the seasons.

Address: 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh WI 54901

Website: thepaine.org

Bookworm Gardens (1hr, 10min)

Each garden area transports visitors into classic tales, blending nature and imagination. Perfect for families, it encourages exploration and storytelling, making reading a magical experience. Make sure to check days and hours of operation.

Address: 1415 Campus Drive, Sheboygan WI 53081

Website: Bookwormgardens.org

Green Bay Botanical Garden (1hr, 30min)

Green Bay Botanical Garden's 47 acres of display gardens and natural areas capture the beauty of northeast Wisconsin's four distinct and wonderful seasons. You will enjoy amazing beauty and adventure as you discover outstanding architecture that sets the stage for an all-star performance by plants specifically chosen for their ability to thrive in the upper Midwest. The Garden offers something for all ages, in all seasons.

Address: 2600 Larsen Rd., Green Bay WI 54303-4841

Website: gbbg.org

Phone: (920)490-9457

Morton Arboretum (2hrs, 35min)

Explore nearly 2,000 acres of exceptional gardens, trees and landscapes. The arboretum features more than 3,600 different plant species. There are 12 miles of foot trails for the hiker and 11 miles for drivers. Ride the Acorn Express, an open-air train during summer months. Other amenities include the Plant Clinic, Sterling Morton Library, Gift Shop, Coffee Shop, Ginkgo Restaurant, and picnic area for bag lunches (no grilling).

Address: 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532-1293

Website: mortonarb.org

Phone:(630) 968-0074

Chicago Botanic Garden (2hrs, 15min)

A must-visit for nature lovers, this sprawling compound of foliage comprises 27 different gardens ranging from formal British rose gardens to tranquil Japanese islands. A series of waterways connect the lushly landscaped hills and acres together. The scenic vistas here rival those of the older, European gardens. Pack a lunch and spend the afternoon wandering among the beautifully sculpted shrubbery. This peaceful escape from the city is a rare find. The onsite Garden View Cafe serves delicious meals, beverages, and coffee along with spectacular views.

Address: 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, IL 60022-1169

Website: chicagobotanic.org

Phone: (847) 835-6801

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Gardens (1hr, 45min)

This garden is worth a visit if you're a plant lover. Indulge in quality time with yourself, walking through the serene space. The place is ideal for visits with the family as well. There are hiking trails for outdoor lovers and specialty gardens.

Address: 2715 S Main St., Rockford, IL 61102-3925

Website: klehm.org

Phone: (815) 965-8146

Anderson Japanese Gardens (1hr, 35min)

The Anderson Japanese Gardens are a treat for the senses and a tranquil retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city. Cascading gardens with waterfalls and beautiful floral ornamentations ensure a peaceful time offering you the opportunity to connect with your inner self. The various trees planted translate the purpose of Anderson Japanese Gardens, from being a mere soothing destination to an educational one. Guided tours are arranged on prior intimation to help you connect with the nature. The garden also features a restaurant allowing you to dine close to nature.

Address: 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, IL 61107

Website: andersongardens.org

Phone:(815) 229-9390

Rose Hill Gardens (1hr, 35min)

Miniature and dwarf conifers can be difficult to find at retail garden centers. We do carry a nice selection of both here at Rose-Hill Gardens. We have several display gardens dedicated to showcasing these unique plants. They are excellent candidates for planting in hypertufa troughs and rock gardens. They also add great interest to the normally mundane winter garden landscape.

Address: 472 Rose-Hill Drive, Hobart, WI 54155

Website: rhgardens.com

Phone: 920-869-2540

Eberts Green House (35min)

Eberts is a large nursery center with greenhouses. Great for picking up some nice perennials, bedding plants, trees, shrubs, fruits and vegetable plants.

Address: W1795 Fox Rd, Ixonia, WI 53036-9719

Website: ebertsgreenhouse.com/

Honeymoon Acres (1 hr, 5 min)

Honeymoon Acres is a very large garden center with many greenhouses. They feature a wide selection of plants. Excellent plant and a diverse selection.

Address: 2600 Calumet Drive, New Holstein, WI 53061

Website: honeymoonacres.com/

Phone: 920-898-4490

Solaris Farms (2hrs)

Open to APS members only on Tuesday, **June 10** and Monday, **June 16**; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please do not plan your visit for other dates, as the farm cannot accommodate visitors. Solaris Farms is a peony growing operation featuring many new and collectible herbaceous hybrids, Lactifloras, species and woody peonies. The business is closed to the public, and serves as an outdoor growing and hybridizing laboratory. Due to the lateness of the convention, many of the early blooming herbaceous hybrids and woodies will be finishing their bloom season. Good Lactiflora bloom is expected, but is weather dependent. Note, bloom seasons in Wisconsin are highly unpredictable due to fast seasonal changes in the area.

Address: 70510 Pinesva Road, Reedsville, WI 54230

Website: solarisfarms.com

West of Lake Gardens (2hrs, 20min)

Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. West of the Lake Gardens are located directly on the shores of Lake Michigan, providing an outstanding backdrop to the formal gardens. The gardens are supported by the Ruth St. John and John Dunham Foundation and feature large formal gardens planted with annuals and some perennials. Note: no pets, food or professional photography.

Address: 915 Memorial Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54220”

Website: <https://www.westfoundation.us/>