



Getting Back to Nature in the Fox Cities

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With winter weather soon coming to an end, everyone is itching to get outdoors. We have had enough cold weather and being cooped up inside that it is time we start planning our outdoor spring adventures.

The Fox Cities is home to a variety of trails, nature, and wetland preserves available right in our backyard that are ready to explore. We have worked to curate a list of the best locations in the Fox Cities to truly take in nature. These locations provide the best views of the Fox Cities and double as a great backdrop to make memories and capture experiences.

Location #1: High Cliff State Park

The Red Bird Trail at High Cliff State Park starts at the family campground and Indian Mounds trailhead with a short loop of 3.4 miles and a long loop of 3.8 miles. This is a mostly level trail that provides panoramic views of Lake Winnebago, historical limestone quarries, the Chief Red Bird Statue, and a must experience observation tower. This trail is perfect to explore and make a day of it by adding on a picnic or capturing some incredible sunset views.

Location #2: 1000 Islands Environmental Center

1000 Islands is home to signature views from the Fishing Pier as well as the bench overlook on the Nelson Trail. The Fishing Pier is located right outside the nature center and provides upstream views to see the falls. For a more personal experience with nature, starting at the Nature Center and heading on the Nelson Trail until the boardwalk turns to gravel, you will find a secluded bench for you to take a seat and take in the views. (Tip: 1000 Islands has goats on the property each spring that can make your adventure extra special!)

Location #3: Bubolz Nature Center

The Four Seasons Trail at Bubolz Nature Center is great to experience all the sugar bushes in bloom and get up close with all the migratory birds on-site. The observation deck near the Nature Center also provides tremendous views as well as the Turtle Pond where you may even get to feed the turtles on Memorial Day weekend.

Location #4: Heckrodt Wetland Reserve

Pond views are the must see stops to experience at Heckrodt Wetland Reserve. From the nature center, you will follow the Orange Trail to the Green Trail and both the Locust Pond and Bartz Pond are magical in spring with water views, blooming greenery, and the sounds of birds and frogs all around.

Location #5: Loop the Lake Trail

Loop the Lake Trail provides a variety of views in several of our communities but an evening walk for sunset views along the Fox Cities Trestle between Fox Crossing and Menasha is unmatched. This trail provides a unique balance of urban and nature with the lights from the cities of Neenah and Menasha in the distance and nature and the lake surrounding you. You can appreciate how close you are to nature while never leaving the city.