

# FREE IN MADISON

## Brent's top ten free things to do in Madison

### 1. Henry Vilas Zoo

On June 30, 1904, Col. William F. and Anna M. Vilas gave a large tract of land to the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association "for the uses and purposes of a public park and pleasure ground." in memory of the Vilas' son, Henry, who died at a young age due to complications from diabetes. One of the family's stipulations was that admission to the park remained free.

### 2. Concerts on the Square

Every Wednesday night from mid June to Late July the Wisconsin Chamber led by Maestro Andrew Sewell hosts a free concert on the capital lawn. Attendees are welcome to put down a blanket and enjoy an nice picnic dinner while enjoying beautiful classical music.

### 3. Geology Museum

On your visit you can touch rocks from a time when there were volcanoes in Wisconsin; see corals, jellyfish and other sea creatures that used to live and swim where we now walk, stand under the tusks of a mastodon or take a look at the glowing rocks and minerals. If dinosaurs are your thing they have them too.

### 4. Bike Paths

The Madison Mayor's Platinum Bicycling committee has concluded that the bicycle is a vehicle for positive social change. Madison has long been one of the best places to bicycle in America and is the national model for bicycle friendly communities.

### 5. Dog Parks

Madison and the surrounding communities feature many on and off-leash dog parks. What could be more enjoyable for you or your dog then watching him retrieve a tennis ball from the lake at Warner Park.

### 6. The University of Wisconsin Union Terrace

This should be a no brainer to anyone who has ever met me. Enjoy free summer concerts, watch the sailboats have a tasty beverage, anyway you look at it there is no better place to spend time in the city (or maybe the world).

- Continued -



## FREE IN MADISON (cont.)

### **7. Free Art Exhibits**

There are many opportunities to see free art exhibits in the city but you cannot miss the shows at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art in the Overture center.

### **8. Libraries**

We have one of the best library systems in the world. In 2008 the system circulated over 4.66 million library books and media from nine different library locations throughout Madison – more than 20 check outs for every Madison resident.

### **9. Olbrich Botanical Gardens**

Stroll through 16 acres of outdoor display gardens including the Rose Garden, Thai Pavilion and Garden, Sunken Garden, and Perennial Garden. Enjoy a tropical paradise in Olbrich's Bolz Conservatory, a glass pyramid filled with exotic plants and flowers, small birds, an rushing waterfall and fragrant orchids. Outdoor Gardens are open daily and are free to all. Admission to the Bolz Conservator is \$1 per person and free to all on Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am to noon.

### **10. Walking Tour of Historic Homes**

Taking a historic walking tour is a great way to learn about Madison, it history and people. University Heights, Mansion Hill East and King Street. \$5/person for a guided tour unless a member of the Madison Trust.

