

GREATER WAUSAU

2022-2023 RECREATION GUIDE



PUBLISHED
BY THE



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2021-2022 RECREATION GUIDE

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Cover photo by Dennis Helke

The Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce invites you to enjoy this publication which uncovers why the Wausau area is a great place to work, play and live. Greater Wausau is about elevating your life, naturally. It's not just about living to work or working to live, but about living fully; about enjoying the kind of balance that allows you to approach every day with heightened anticipation.

You are close to the best of everything Wisconsin has to offer. But the Greater Wausau area isn't just about an abundance of exceptional experiences at your doorstep; you'll find an attitude here that elevates the richness of everyday moments.

This publication is brought to you by the



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Cycling group at Nine Mile Recreation Area in Rib Mountain by Rebecca Tuley

ROCK-SOLID REASONS TO LOVE MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE GREATER WAUSAU AREA

When residents of the Greater Wausau area are asked what they love about the region, the answers are varied. Some say skiing at Granite Peak and mountain biking at Nine Mile. Others like the friendly folks and craft beer. Still others are here for career opportunities and that small-town feel with big-city amenities.

For Rebecca Tuley, it's outdoor recreation and races.

“When I started my journey back into fitness, I didn't know as much about mountain biking as I would have liked,” said Tuley. “So, I reached out to CWOCC and organized Wausau's first women's mountain biking clinic.”

Women make up a third of Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC)

membership, which is about 320 total.

In addition to being a physician assistant for Aspirus, Tuley is coach and mentor of Tuley Trails. She started the guide service in 2019 to teach others — especially women and youths — about outdoor adventures like biking and triathlons.

Not too long before that, this Army veteran and working mom found herself in a rut. Mountain biking and mentoring got her back on track.

“My goal is to inspire others to be active and find something they enjoy doing that keeps up their heart rate,” said Tuley.

She's so energized by outdoor challenges that she purchased Wausau24, a 24-hour-long race at Nine Mile County Forest that's been in the area for decades.

In 2019, premier racing events really took

off with the Ironbull series that's home to 10 incredible events showcasing the beauty of Central Wisconsin. The Red Granite Grinder has permission from the state to use Rib Mountain State Park for approximately three miles of the bike race.

"It's a privilege to use Rib Mountain for that one and only race," said Andrea Larson, executive director of Ironbull. "We're a case study of how all park users can coexist on multi-use trails."

Larson is also a well-rounded athlete and active user of the trails system, whether it's for running, biking or snowshoeing.

Rib Mountain State Park does not currently have mountain bike trails, but cyclists are hopeful that change is on the horizon as the DNR reviews the 2005 Master Plan.

Rib Mountain stands as a tall example of what gravity mountain biking can do for an

International Mountain Biking Association Ride Center. The recreation alternatives for mountain biking include lift-assisted trails and close to 20 miles of trail that traverses the park's perimeter — an exciting possibility for families with varying abilities.

"Races make communities better," said Larson. "Not only do they draw people to an area and provide economic growth, but also bring awareness to sports."

Ironbull's events are growing every year, drawing folks from all around the Midwest. The Red Granite Grinder grew from 100 riders in 2019 to about 200 in 2020 and 330 in 2021. In 2020, over half of the racers in the Essential Gravel Bike Ride — a free event to get cyclists familiar with riding on that red gold — were new to the event.

"It's great to see our community coming together around outdoor recreation," Larson said.

NEW THIS YEAR

**FAT TIRE
BIKING AT
NINE MILE
RECREATION
AREA**



YEAR ROUND SWIM LESSONS



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**

1 SEE MAP
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NINE MILE



Photo by Dennis Helke

At more than 4,900 acres, Nine Mile Recreation Area south of Rib Mountain State Park offers more than 30 miles of single-track mountain bike trails, hosting several races annually. Nine Mile is also open for horseback riding, fishing, hunting and hiking, as well as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

2 SEE MAP
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CEDAR CREEK TRAIL



Photos by Kelly Puntney

Following the path of the Wisconsin River's east side in Rothschild, the Cedar Creek Trail is a paved path for both pedestrians and bike riders. Trail heads can be found near the Stoney Creek Inn and River Park. A bridge spanning the Wisconsin River at River Park connects the Cedar Creek Trail with trails in Rib Mountain.

ALSO

MOUNTAIN-BAY TRAIL: One of the largest rail-trails in Wisconsin spanning 83 miles between Rib Mountain and Green Bay.

RINGLE TRAILS: More than 10 miles of mountain biking trails for all seasons, with jump, gap and drop features. Located east of Wausau along Highway 29.

SYLVAN HILL PARK TRAILS: Three miles of trails on Wausau's east side with four downhill options for riders of different skill levels. This bike park also includes a pump track.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/TRAILS/ to find more on cycling.

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Big Sandy Creek in Easton by Thomas Mortensen

ATTRACTED TO THE OUTDOORS

FROM WINDING
RIVERS AND
SCENIC TRAILS
TO CONCERTS
IN PARKS, THE
WAUSAU AREA
OFFERS GOOD,
WHOLESOME
FUN FOR THOSE
SEEKING TO
MAKE MEMORIES.

Bill Bertram grew up in Illinois and spent summers camping in Wisconsin. Like many Midwest families, he was captivated by the abundant natural resources. It's one of the reasons he bought a home near Rib Mountain State Park in 1997.

“Rib Mountain is an incredible property, and we’re lucky to have it in our own backyards,” said Bertram.

TripAdvisor rates this State Park as the fourth best state park in Wisconsin. Encompassing nearly 1,600 acres, Rib Mountain State Park receives over 400,000 visitors annually.

Bertram, a year-round hiker and vice