

in good company
**Rockford
Illinois**



where to
Dine

where to
Adventure

where to
Entertain

where to
**Bring Your
Game**

where to
**Play &
Learn**

food • drink • music • events



Where Rockford *Meets*

205 W. State St., Rockford, IL | (815) 977-4524 | Open 11am - 2am
districtdowntown.com



R.B.I.
Bar & Grill

3870 N. Perryville Rd.
Rockford, IL
(815) 877-5532
Open 7am - 2am
rbisrockford.com



Onyx
Bar & Grill

1001 West Lane Rd.
Machesney Park, IL
(815) 904-6842
Open 11am - 2am
onyxbargrill.com

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You're In Good Company

You can call it a Midwestern feel or a small town feel or even an American feel, but at the root, it truly is a Rockford feel. We are Real. Original. Rockford. We are the home of Cheap Trick and Sock Monkeys. Where our Peaches aren't fruit but baseball legends, and IceHogs make us hockey fanatics. Where there is so much green space to roam that two nicknames – "The Forest City" and "The City of Gardens" – describe us perfectly.

The Rockford feel is about community and the people that call it home. Rockfordians are passionate about their town and region – from the great forest preserves to the Rock River, from Swedish pancakes to potato chips, from Jane the T. rex to 815 T-shirts.

And we hope that with this Visitor's Guide you will get a taste of our local flavor through the stories and voices of our people. Discover our great city and region through their eyes and experience Real. Original. Rockford.



Downtown Rockford



(Cover) Taco Betty's rooftop in Downtown Rockford

Photos used throughout the guide thanks to RACVB, Rockford Park District, Graham Spencer, Tyler Yomantas, and Rachel Cordano.

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Stay a while at one of our hotels

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

102 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61101-1102

Phone – 815.963.8111

800.521.0849 (USA & Canada)

Fax – 815.963.4298

800.691.7035 (USA & Canada)

Email – info@gorockford.com

Website – gorockford.com

To the best of our knowledge, all information in this guide was accurate when it was printed in fall 2017. We encourage you to phone for information prior to planning a trip around a specific attraction or event. The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is not responsible for changes in rates, amenities, policies or hours.

Visit gorockford.com or call **800.521.0849** for more details!

where to Dine



Prairie Street Brewhouse nestled on the banks of the Rock River has become one of the premier outdoor dining destinations in northern Illinois.

Enjoy Rockford's Best Burgers

15th & Chris

This is the kind of place where Instagram photos are as plentiful as the toppings on the burgers. Each burger has a personality all its own, just like the shop's owner, James Purifoy.

Beef-a-Roo

Want to try a Real. Original. Rockford fast food joint? Then head to one of the seven locations of Beef-a-Roo. Known for their great burgers and shakes (and don't forget the cheese fries), this local "chain" is beloved by Rockfordians of all ages.



Behr Den

Tucked away nicely on the grounds of Behr Iron and Metal, the open-to-the-public diner serves breakfast and lunch Monday - Friday. Get the Behrger with two hamburger patties and you won't be hungry the rest of the day. And get the chili. Ask for a bucket of jalapeños.

Buddy's Burgers

Don't sleep on this Loves Park hidden gem. Burgers are stacked high and you'll leave stuffed and satisfied.

Doc's Diner

A classic diner feel and a classic diner taste. Go with the classic bacon cheeseburger and you'll leave happy.

Garrett's

Tee up the perfect night by ordering the half pound burger and then work off the calories with a bucket of golf balls on their on-site driving range.

Octane

The Cheap Trick inspired Budokan Burger features pineapple and sweet teriyaki glaze. Rock n' Roll!

Olympic Tavern

Your classic American pub-style burger. No frills, but perfectly perfect. Get them for \$5 on Mondays.

Vintage @ 501

Considered by many locals as the best place for burgers in the city, you won't be disappointed with the Kobe beef sliders.

When Coffee is Key

Coffee, coffee everywhere and plenty of drops to drink. We might not be Seattle, but Rockford sure does know a good cup of coffee. We have Starbucks, but it is our fleet of local roasters that make our take on the classic cup of Joe all the more refreshing.

JavaMania

This local coffee "food truck" keeps festival-goers and farmers market shoppers smiling and energized.

Katie's Cup

Located in Rockford's Midtown District, Katie's Cup is the kind of coffee spot where the locals sit, sip and read the paper.



Meg's Daily Grind

There are several popular Meg's locations throughout the city and an ever-rotating blend of delicious brews. Try a pastry or dessert while you're there.



Octane

Hosting a constant flow of business meetings throughout the day, this coffee shop is a great place to catch up with friends. Grab a coffee to go after a lunch or dinner at this downtown staple.

Rockford Roasting Company

The roasters that celebrity chef Alton Brown has championed, RoRoCo, as the locals call them, is a hipster's delight.



Wired Café

Nestled along a cozy corridor of shops along State Street in downtown Rockford, the warm and friendly atmosphere makes it the perfect place to grab a drink while shopping or festival-going.



Tavern on Clark

Where to Raise Your Glass

Rising from the banks of the Rock River in downtown Rockford is the **Prairie Street Brewing Company**, featuring the original Rockford beer, the Nikolob – known as the beer that made Milwaukee jealous. PSB has made a name for itself with pub food and the summertime Dinner on the Dock concert series. Just a few quick hops away is **Carlyle Brewing Company** serving up classic eats like pizza and hot pretzels that pair perfectly with their 10 plus brews on tap, and don't forget about their root beer. Nearby in Machesney Park is **Pig Minds Brewing Co.** that takes a different spin. Once referred to as a "vegan wonderland," the menu doesn't disappoint, and that includes the ever-changing lineup of beers.

The good brews news doesn't end there. The craft brew scene goes on and on thanks to local clubs, bars and eateries that specialize in picking the right draughts, wines and spirits. If you're looking to grab a pint before or after an IceHogs game, try **Blue Line Sports Pub**, or sample one of the 28 beers on tap at **Olympic Tavern**. Swing by **The Oasis**, **Rural on Tap** or **Aero Ale House** for great selections of beer and great conversation. For wine aficionados, try out South Beloit's **DC Estate Winery** for a wide selection of wines (don't forget to try the DC Sweet Riesling with its hint of apple and floral notes). Or sample from **Tavern on Clark's** state-of-the-art Cruvinet wine system that executes the perfect pour for every glass. •

Meet the Brewers



Brian Endl
Pig Minds Brewing Co.



Chris Manuel, Dustin Koch & Reed Sjoström
Prairie Street Brewing Company



Rocio Perez & Don Carlyle
Carlyle Brewing Co.



District Bar & Grill

Spice Up Your Day *Experience Rockford's Culinary Scene*

Breakfast in Rockford starts at the **Stockholm Inn** which serves more than 717 Swedish pancakes each day. Add some lingonberries and you automatically become a full-fledged Rockfordian. Locals swear by the old-school feel of **Potato Shak** and its diner atmosphere (Tip: Cash only at the Shak), and **Lydia's Café** is a neighborhood haunt with a touch of sophistication. If you are downtown, check out **Capital House** for quick breakfast treats. Need a doughnut? Hop over to **By the Dozen Bakery** in Machesney Park.

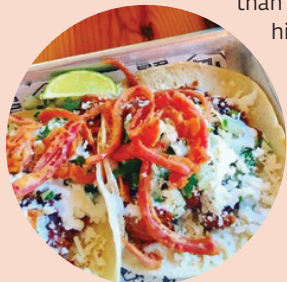
Lunch is sometimes best when it is light and fresh, so head over to **Fresco at the Gardens** (located inside Anderson Japanese Gardens) for great food and great views, **Mary's Market** is the perfect spot for soup and a sandwich, or snag a table at **Lucha Cantina** for a taste of Mexican-American flavors. When downtown Rockford, check out the daily specials at **The District Bar & Grill** or **Irish Rose Saloon**. If you have a little extra time, swing over to **Big Pappa's Barbecue** for some amazing Texas-style brisket or burnt ends, or grab a quick slice of pizza from **Mamma Mia's**.

Dinner spots have the bar set high with the likes of **Josef Barbados** setting the standard for fine dining, or go old-school and old-world with a stop by **Der Rathskeller**. If you are weary after a day of travel, stop by **Tavern On Clark** for a welcoming dinner menu and plenty of great drinks (same goes for **Alchemy** and **Big Al's Bar**). **Franchesco's** and **Five Forks** give you an upscale feel at prices that won't break the bank, and **JMK Nippon** will wow you with their table-side cooking displays and excellent sushi bar. For the perfect appetizer, try the made-to-order guacamole at **Mexico Clasico**.

Dessert should be part of every great meal. From perfectly baked treats at **YOLO's Sweets** and **Sugarjones** to the Rockford-famous granitas at **Zammuto's** to the epic (yes, EPIC) ice cream at **Dairyhäus** in Rockton, we've got it all. Oh, and seriously, you need to try the homemade, cinnamon-sugar doughnut holes drizzled with chocolate at **Woodfire Pizza**. And a pie from **Katie's Pie shop** ... and the sundaes at **Dari Fair** .. OK, we'll stop talking about dessert ... or maybe one more ... cookies from **Bella Luna Bakery!** •

One Chef Cooks Up Three Restaurants

A few years ago, as Paul Sletten's two downtown Rockford restaurants – **Abreo** and **Social Urban Bar & Restaurant** – were taking off and accolades were pouring faster than the craft cocktails his establishments are known for, it was asked, "What will Paul come up with next?" Well, we recently



found out as the popular, hipster-infused taco/cocktail joint **Taco Betty's** opened in the summer of 2017 to lines stretching out the door and wait times at over an hour. Now that the hype has subsided, the wait time has dwindled, but the customers continue to flock to one of downtown's hottest spots (don't forget to check out the views from the rooftop dining experience). Not every downtown has three highly rated and successful restaurants by the same chef; luckily, for Rockford, we have Paul.



Taste a **Slice** of Rockford

2

Pino's on Main Pizza

We may have a winner for best pizza in town. The sauce! The cheese! The crust! Hop over to this northwest Rockford hotspot and proclaim that Rockford has the best pizza in country.

3

Woodfire Brick Oven Pizza

Young enough to still be considered a rookie in the biz, Woodfire took a loyal following from Rockford City Market thanks to the best pizza crust in town and parlayed that into a trendy downtown eatery.

1

Lino's

When one thinks of restaurants in Rockford, they think Lino's. A tried and true mainstay that can rival any other pizza. If you love pizza, you will love Lino's.



6

GreenFire Restaurant, Bar & Bakery

Known for its brunch and baked goods, you must try their pizzas inspired by the French country-side. Try the Prosciutto and Goat Cheese ... never mind, just try them all.

5

Capri Restaurant & Pizza

Opened in 1963, this old-school pizza place knows what it's doing. Catch a peek of the artists at work through their viewing window as you enter. Leave happy.

4

Nunzio's

The Loves Park pizza place that keeps families coming back with their big portions and classic family-friendly Italian food.

6



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

- 1. Isla Del Mar**
623 Kishwaukee St., Rockford
- 3. Flying Pig**
151 Hawich St., Rockton
- 5. Potato Shak**
5529 N. 2nd St., Loves Park
- 7. 15th & Chris**
201 15th Ave., Rockford

- 2. Irish Rose Saloon**
519 E. State St., Rockford
- 4. JMK Nippon**
2551 N. Perryville Rd., Rockford
- 6. Der Rathskeller**
1132 Auburn St., Rockford
- 8. Dairyhäus**
113 E. Main St., Rockton

Get Ready to Roll

Izakaya

Rockford's Japanese Pub and Tapas Bar has a mile-long list of modern and traditional small plate cuisine options to choose from. The only local spot where you can find authentic sushi and beef sliders all on the same menu. Finish off the meal with a Red Bean Mochi for dessert and your day is complete.



JMK Nippon

Backed by years of experience, this adored sushi spot and Teppan full-service restaurant is the ultimate dining experience. Whether you're craving the Kelsey roll - a local favorite - or have a hankering for a more exotic dish like Tobiko, the flying fish egg, they've got you covered.



Marc's Fusion Cafe

It's a spectacle to sit and watch owner and head chef Marc hand roll sushi orders to perfection. There's an art to crafting beautiful dishes and he has just what it takes. With the generous portion sizes at this compact cafe, be sure to bring a large appetite.



Spider Sushi

With sushi creations named after superheroes like "Iron Man," "Batman," and "Captain America" you know you've found yourself dining in a fun spot. This level of greatness could only be matched by a perfect mix of other mouthwatering traditional Japanese dishes handcrafted by local hero and Master Chef, Miguel Rubi.





where to **Adventure**

With 42 forest preserves and a state park that attract millions each year, the Rockford region is home to amazing outdoor adventures.

Explore the Outdoors

Nature at The Confluence

The Rockford region's newest natural resource, The Confluence marks the point where the Rock River and Turtle Creek meet in South Beloit and is the halfway point of the Rock River's journey from Wisconsin to the Mississippi River. Ideal for canoeing and fishing, The Confluence has been designed as a community gathering place with a wide variety of educational programs offered throughout the year.

Nygren Wetland Preserve

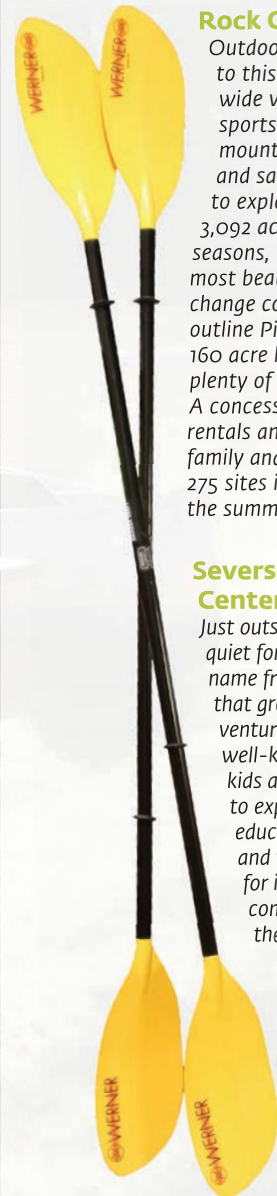
Owned and managed by The Natural Land Institute, a non-profit land trust and conservation organization, Nygren sits west of Rockton along Raccoon Creek near the Rock and Pecatonica Rivers. The 721-acre preserve features beautiful rolling hills and an abundant display of wildflowers. Migrating waterfowl and songbirds return to the preserve every year and create a peaceful respite for those hiking the 2.5 mile Dianne Nora Nature Trail that circles the large wetland.

Rock Cut State Park

Outdoor enthusiasts flock to this popular spot for a wide variety of outdoor sports – from hiking and mountain biking to canoeing and sailing, there is plenty to explore in the park's 3,092 acres. Perfect for all seasons, Rock Cut is perhaps most beautiful when the leaves change color each fall and outline Pierce Lake, a man-made 160 acre lake that provides plenty of fishing opportunities. A concession stand provides rentals and snacks for the whole family and camping in one of the 275 sites is popular throughout the summer.

Severson Dells Nature Center

Just outside of Rockford, this quiet forest preserve gets its name from the rock formations that greet hikers as they venture through the park's well-kept paths. A hands-on kids area allows young ones to explore the forest in an educational and fun setting and the preserve is known for its popular, intimate concerts held throughout the year.



Where to Cool Off

Rock River Trail

The **Rock River Trail** has quickly become a leader in promoting the Rock River as a destination. The Trail, which was established in 2010 to promote the river as a multi-use trail of recreation, scenic, and historical interests, runs a total of 320 miles through Wisconsin and Illinois and has been designated as a National Water Trail. In Rockford, the Rock River acts as a natural corridor for the community and is the perfect backdrop to many of the region's great events. Learn more about the Trail and the opportunities to hike, bike, boat or drive the great river at rockrivertrail.com.



Grab a Paddle

Canoeing and kayaking on the Rock River, Kishwaukee River and throughout Winnebago County has grown in popularity the past few years. Whether a novice or expert, the waters in the Rockford region are sure to delight. Need some help getting into the water? No worries, two local outfitters will get you headed in the right direction. **Larsen's Landing Outfitters** and **Rocktown Adventures** rent canoes and kayaks and outfit organized paddle trips and offer lessons and tips.



West Rock Wake Park

Find Adventure in Every Season

Summer

Summer adventures in Rockford start at **West Rock Wake Park**, one of Rockford's newest, coolest experiences. Owner Dan Jarrett spent 10 years in New York City plying his trade as a model, but wanted to come home to Rockford and bring the watersport he loves to beginners and longtime enthusiasts. The coolest part is that no boats are needed for skiing and boarding at West Rock thanks to powerful cable technology that propels riders across Levings Lake. For advanced riders, West Rock has an assortment of features from rails to jumps and kickers to ensure everyone gets a challenge. Best of all, the equipment you'll need is included in the by-the-hour fees.

Fall

Alpine Hills Adventure Park and Golf Center is a centrally located, 52-acre adventurous urban wonderland where kids and other family members can do everything from learning to golf to launching themselves off terrain park features on skis and snowboards to screaming through the air on zip lines 65 feet in the sky. Brought to you by fully-licensed, Rockford-based EBL



Alpine Hills Adventure Park

Zipline Tours, Zip Rockford's treetop canopy experience is as good as it gets in the Midwest. The safe but thrilling experience is enhanced by dual racing zips, double decker zips, and a super-wobbly, super-fun Indiana Jones suspension bridge to test your balance.

Winter

Another cool thing is the new vertically enhanced wintertime **Snow Park at Alpine Hills**: a snow-making equipped, inner city terrain park that's a perfect place to learn to tube, ski or

snowboard - or brush up on your mad snow sport skills.

The Snow Park at Alpine Hills offers mountains of fun in the heart of the city! This 5-acre snow park is divided into separate tubing and terrain park sections designed to accommodate riders of all abilities. The snow starts flying in December once the temperatures drop for the snow machines to do their magic and keep the park covered with fresh powder throughout the winter. The snow cat machines maintain the perfectly-groomed hills, making the rides down fast and safe. The handy surface lift will bring tubers and boarders to the top of the hill so more time is spent riding down and less time hiking up. Hot and cold beverages and snacks are available

at The Lodge, and fire pits located at the top of the hill provide warm relief from the cold outdoors.

Spring

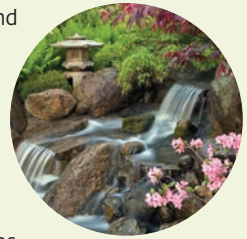
With the warmer weather expect the running, riding and race season to heat up in Rockford. Whether you're just starting out or you're experienced, there is a running or biking event for you in Rockford! From the popular **Rockford Marathon** each May to the obstacle course battle **Tough Mudder**, to a plethora of 5Ks, there is a level of competition for everyone. Plan to put a spring in your step with the annual **Meltfest** run each March. The list of events grows every year, so get the full list of races at www.gorockford.com/things-to-do/races. •

Take a Chill Adventure

All adventures don't necessarily involve adrenaline rushes. Sometimes our adventures lead us to a place of calm and reflection. The winding trails and paths and the beautiful flowers and trees in our gardens have helped us earn the nickname The City of Gardens. Check out these three popular spots the next time you are in town.

Anderson Japanese Gardens

With its precision and attention to detail, Anderson Japanese Gardens has earned rave reviews from journalists all over the world.



Continually ranked as one of the best in the United States, the gardens are well worth a full afternoon of exploration. And you can grab a bite to eat at the onsite restaurant, Fresco, while looking out over the garden.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens



The conservatory fits so perfectly along the banks of the Rock River it seems as if it were a natural element

of the city. The facility is the third largest conservatory in Illinois, offering an 11,000-square-foot plant exhibition area complete with water features, seating areas, and sculptures, all in a tropical plant setting. Stroll along the outdoor lagoon and take in the beauty as you walk through the adjoining Sinsissippi Gardens.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Known for its four season beauty, Klehm is a 155-acre living museum filled with spectacular gardens and rare trees. There's beauty in every season from fragrant magnolia trees in spring and a butterfly garden in summer to the brilliant colors of fall and snow-capped evergreens in winter.



A 1.8 mile, handicapped-accessible paved path winds through the arboretum, along with several chipped trails. Klehm is dog-friendly and any leashed dog is welcome.



Zip Rockford (top left), Snow Park at Alpine Hills (top right), Rockford Marathon (bottom left) and Tough Mudder (bottom right)

Where to... FORE!

It's been said you can't swing a flagstick in the Rockford region without hitting a great golf hole. But we don't just have quantity; we have quality. Golf Digest proclaimed Rockford the best mid-sized golf city in the United States thanks to our many green treasures. On top of that, green fees are as low as the cut on a bent grass fairway. From water-rich, bunker-laden championship tracks with intimidating tee shots to low-key yet fascinating municipal courses, Rockford truly is a one-of-a-kind hole-in-one where golfers of all skill levels are truly blessed. It's no wonder we are often said to be Illinois' "Hole-iest City."

Aldeen Golf Club

This Golf Digest Magazine 4.5 Star-Rated championship gem on Rockford's far east side is a picture-perfect course that will make you feel like Rory McIlroy (but it's OK if you don't play like him.)



Elliot Golf Course

Also on Rockford's east side, this course was built on relatively open, hilly farmland in 1968. It features wide fairways, distinct

elevation changes

and a solid mixture

of straight and

doglegged holes.

Elliot recently added

foot golf and other

new-fangled golfing

attractions that kids

absolutely love.



Sandy Hollow Golf Course

This hilly, challenging parklands design has no two holes alike. The greens tend to be just a shade on the slow side, but the golf course itself is fun and the green fees are low. If you have a morning tee time, show up a little early and enjoy one of Linda's delicious egg sandwiches or other breakfast delights with a cup of steaming coffee.

Sinnissippi Golf Course

Centrally located in beautiful Sinnissippi Park, this 9-hole golf course covers 3,230 yards and is very hilly and challenging. Sinnissippi Golf Course opened in 1912, making it Rockford's first public course.



Colored Sands Forest Preserve Overlooking the Sugar River

Parks & Preserves Offer A Great Escape

Outlined by hundreds of miles of trees, rivers and prairie, the **Forest Preserves of Winnebago County** make up the finest natural features in the Rockford region. With 42 forest preserves (and number 43 in the works) adventure seekers of all kinds have an abundance of opportunity to connect to nature through the more than 10,000 acres available. Founded in 1924, the first forest preserve in the region, **Hononegah Preserve** in Rockton, offers everything from camping to hiking to boating. In addition, several preserves offer sports fields, picnic shelters, playground equipment, educational classes and horseback riding.

Don't be surprised if wildlife catches your eye while exploring as hundreds of species of plants and animals inhabit these restored and managed lands. Even though more than a million people visit the preserves each year, it is still easy to find a quiet corner. Tackle the family friendly hiking trails at **Severson Dells** or **Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve**, both just minutes from downtown Rockford. Or hit the water in a canoe or kayak at **Kilbuck Bluffs Preserve**, **Two Rivers Preserve** or the **Kishwaukee River Preserve**.

Want to try your hand at fishing? Swing by the Forest Preserves main office at 5500 Northrock Drive in Rockford and you can borrow a few poles and tackle. While you are there enjoy the paved recreation path around the quarry lake and connect to the **Rock River Recreation Path**. •



Severson Dells Nature Center



Kishwaukee River Preserve



Nygren Wetland Preserve



1. Forest City Queen Riverboat

324 N. Madison St., Rockford

4. Nature at The Confluence Learning Center

306 Dickop St., South Beloit

7. Downtown Pedestrian Bridge

320 S. Wyman St., Rockford

10. Sandy Hollow Golf Course

2500 Sandy Hollow Rd., Rockford

2. Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

5500 Northrock Dr., Rockford

5. Nygren Wetland Preserve

3190 Rockton Rd., Rockton

8. Rock River Recreation Path

Davis Park to Mercyhealth Sportscore One

11. Sinissippi Gardens

1354 N. 2nd St., Rockford

3. Levings Park

1420 S. Pierpont Ave., Rockford

6. Pearl Lake

1220 Dearborn Ave., South Beloit

9. Trolley Car 36

324 N. Madison St., Rockford

12. Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza

N. Perryville Rd., Rockford



where to **Shop**

Downtown Rockford has become a popular shopping district that locals flock to, especially on Friday nights when the weather is warm. From skateboards to apparel or art galleries to antiques, downtown Rockford bustles with shoppers.



Experience Downtown RKFD

Arch Apothecary

Arch is a luxury beauty boutique with exclusive cosmetic and skincare lines. Expert licensed aestheticians and certified cosmetologists create the look that's perfect for you. From everyday eyebrow and lash upkeep to a special makeup application and blowout before that big night out, Arch is the one-stop-shop for your best look.

Bath & Body Fusion

From their best selling "Dream Cream" to their spunky bath bombs, this is the perfect shop to pamper your loved ones and even yourself. Specializing in personal care products that you can customize with 150 different scent combinations to choose from, BBF will be your BFF.



The Collector's Bench

Stop in to this sports lovers paradise and talk about your love of the 1980s Chicago Cubs while you see some of the finest sports memorabilia in the country. The shop is upscale and perfectly decorated like a man-cave. Or, simply grab a pack of trading cards like when you were a kid and enjoy.

Ground Floor Skateboards

On sunny summer days you might catch the shop's crew in the next door alley doing tricks. Inside, you will find an array of custom decks to outfit your perfect boarding experience. Grab some swag while you are at it as they carry a full line of shoes, shirts and hats.

J.R. Kortman Center for Design

A downtown institution for fun and funky souvenirs and art pieces. Doc and Jerry have been curating this boutique shop in downtown Rockford since 1986 and continue to delight shoppers with their unique and original items. Make sure to swing by the First Friday of the month and during special events to catch their ever-evolving upstairs art gallery.

Minglewood

A cute boutique featuring fair trade or made in the U.S.A. organic cotton and sustainable fiber fashions, sterling silver and beaded jewelry, handmade cold process soap, triple scented palm wax candles, perfume oils, tapestries and other decor to create a peaceful environment.

Where to Hunt for Treasures

Main Street Market

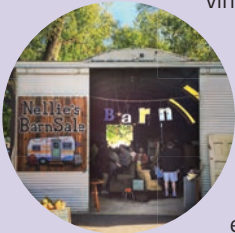
Perfectly and adorably crafted and conceived by our friends at Urban Farmgirl, this very popular, twice-a-year market at Midway Village in Rockford brings enthusiastic shoppers by the thousands for a day of vintage/reclaimed/upcycled shopping. Now there is no need to travel to Texas for the Magnolia Market – Rockford's Main Street Market has you covered.



urbanfarmgirl.com/mainstreetmarket

Nellie's Barn Sale

For more than a decade, Nellie's Barn Sale in Roscoe has been a popular stop for vintage merchandise enthusiasts. Spread out over two acres, with live music and a beer garden, this annual sale held each October is a must-see adventure.



Nellie's stays active throughout the year, so check their website for additional sales and special events.

nelliesbarnsale.blogspot.com

Pec Thing Antique & Flea Market

This is the ultimate antique flea market held every spring and fall at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds in Pecatonica. More than 500 dealers are arranged in five enclosed buildings and one shed and 40 acres of outside booths and a dozen food vendors. More than 20,000 people each year explore the treasures at the Pec Thing.



winnebagoountyfair.com



Urban Farmgirl

Spend a Day Picking

Hunting, Picking, Antiquing ... whatever you want to call it, it's always fun to snag that great "find." The Rockford region is filled with great stores that can offer up that sense of discovery that somehow blends words like nostalgia, vintage, modern, classic and art all into one and gives it to you in the form of the perfect wooden chair. Here are a few places to get that feeling when you are out and about ...

Urban Farmgirl

Handmade, vintage, unique finds and so much more. An amazing shop that will delight you and your friends as you browse the repurposed, hand-made and specially crafted items. Make sure to check their Facebook page for the latest updates and shop times.

Salvaged By Sonya

Have you ever gone to an estate sale and found that perfect item that accented all the other furniture in your living room? That's what it is like shopping at Salvaged.

Downtown Rockton

Quaint downtowns are supposed to look like this. Antiques and gift stores lining the street to spend a whole afternoon strolling the shops - and you should. Enjoy the treasures at Rubies n Rust Antiques, Main Street Antique Mall, Rich's Treasure Chest, Gracie's Nest, Country Cottage and the Village Loft of Rockton.

Salvage Too

With four floors to explore in an old warehouse on Rockford's southwest side, you are sure to find that unique piece that will transform your home. The shop specializes in architectural salvage, building materials, home furnishings and antiques. Make sure to check their hours before planning your visit.

Tique Furnishings

The downstairs showroom in the trendy Standard building in downtown Rockford is filled with hand-crafted, custom antique pieces made of Himalayan teak wood. Each piece has an upscale feel and design. •

Shop 'Til You Drop

Rockford Art Deli

This one-stop shop isn't your average deli. They're busting at the seams with Rockford pride offering a delectable assortment of art and web design, urban graphic design, screen printing – everything from tees to posters – and fun events to see their RAD screen printing skills in action.



Rocktown Adventures

This outdoor adventure shop has everything you need to gear up and head out all year long. Rent a kayak and enjoy scenic views of the beautiful Rock River during the warmer months and slip into snow shoes to hike the region's best trails, parks and preserves when the temperature starts to drop.

The Parlour

Leave this local barbershop and haberdashery feeling so fresh. The owners stay true to their roots by offering services from modern and traditional haircuts to relaxing hot lather shaves and providing stylish American made men's clothing and more.

Toad Hall Books and Records

Over 30 years of unique books, records and other unusual collectibles are housed in this local place for great shopping. Three floors are chock-full - in every nook and cranny – filled with historic memorabilia, stories of legends and everything in between.

Roxy Carmichael

When two sisters with a love for fashion come together to live out their dream, local boutique Roxy Carmichael is the result! This dynamic pair gives women and men the perfect gift items from purses, jewelry, accessories, clothing and shoes to home décor in the latest trends, fabrics, colors and styles!



Crimson Ridge

This trusted floral shop and specialty store is filled with a myriad of gift items. The latest brands and locally made items – from special keepsakes to funky socks and home decor – are hand-selected for every occasion.

Fleet Feet Rockford

Fleet Feet Rockford is a place where health and fitness are a top priority. Test out top-of-the-line products and take advice from experts who know the running world like the back of their heels, to help enthusiasts be the best athletes they can be.





Culture Shock

Shop in Real. Original. Rockford

Local Entrepreneurs Help Define a Destination

Winnebago Buy Local works from the inside out to draw people to the region for unique retail and dining experiences. The organization, founded in 2011, is a coalition of locally owned businesses where collaboration is key. Lauren Davis is the group's president, and she co-owns the funky Rockford gift and vinyl record shop **Culture Shock** (2239 Charles St.) with her husband, Skyler. They are the perfect example of young entrepreneurs leading the way in the Rockford region. Another young couple helping to spread the local love is Jarrod Hennis and Britney Lindgren who have taken **Rockford Art Deli** to amazing heights thanks to their screen printing abilities and their locally inspired (and super soft) T-shirts. Enjoy Illinois, the state's tourism bureau, even honored R.A.D. as one of its Illinois Makers.

Winnebago Buy Local boasts more than 200 members, and visitors can search a handy online directory for a local business that fits their needs, be that a restaurant for a night out or a boutique to find a new outfit. The group's collaborative focus has helped build its popular annual events like the **A Totally Local Ice Cream Social** in July and **A Local Holiday Market** in December. And each August, the group receives proclamations from municipalities throughout the county declaring it Winnebago Buy Local Month County-Wide. Winnebago Buy Local is active on social media with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (hashtag #buyWBL or #ShopSmallWBL and, of course, #gorockford). The group encourages visitors to tag locations and share photos during **Eat Local Saturday** – the first Saturday of each month – when they choose local restaurants, grocers, delis, coffee shops, etc. for eats and treats. •



Rockford Art Deli



A Totally Local Ice Cream Social



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1. Edgebrook
1639 N. Alpine Rd., Rockford

2. Toad Hall Books and Records
2106 Broadway, Rockford

3. Guzzardo Music Store
3010 Charles St., Rockford

4. J.R. Kortman Center for Design
107 N. Main St., Rockford

5. CherryVale Mall
7200 Harrison Ave., Rockford

6. 510 Threads Fashion Boutique
510 E. State St., Rockford

Explore Rockford City Market

Launched in 2010 with high hopes of creating activity, jobs, entrepreneurs and a world class experience, **Rockford City Market** is the place to be on Friday afternoons and evenings from May to September. Visitors shop for produce, prepared foods, handcrafted goods and more. City Market is what all Midwestern street parties should aspire to be as tree lined streets, the Millennium Fountain, a riverfront walking path and cool historic buildings add to the family friendly atmosphere. And it's all for a good cause – revitalizing downtown Rockford.

Partially sheltered by a beautiful new steel pavilion, City Market happens rain or shine and features local growers and other vendors selling natural, locally grown and produced products including vegetables, fruits, eggs, meats, cheeses, flowers, herbs, baked goods,



wine and healthy snacks. Others include talented artisans and makers of fine handcrafted goods and craft brewers. A beer garden with live music takes place under the pavilion's shelter.

City Market is nestled in the midst of the city's historic commercial district along the Rock River's east bank and the Market's festivities often spill out to the many restaurants, bars and other businesses all within walking distance, some of which were incubated at City Market in past years. Take a stroll along State Street and pop into the many retail stores along the way or enjoy some of the pop up events, outdoor dining, and musicians that local organizations host throughout the summer.



If you are here midweek, hop up to downtown Rockton for their summertime **Rockton River Market** where you can shop for handmade items, fruits and vegetables. Live music accompanies the festivities each week from June to August.

Get the scoop on all the regions Farmers Markets at gorockford.com/events/farmers-markets.



where to **Entertain**

The Coronado Theatre's majestic architecture highlights the wonderful live music venues that make Rockford a popular stop for performers from all over the world.

Rock On in Rockford

Big Al's Bar

With live music every Friday and Saturday night, Big Al's is a great place to sample craft beer and cocktails and grab a meal while listening to great music.

District Bar & Grill

Local bands perform at this popular bar and grill located downtown. Music includes everything from rock to reggae and seasonal outdoor block parties.

Dusty Boots Saloon & Eatery

This country saloon serves up tasty food, diverse whiskeys, and live country music that would make Nashville jealous.

Hope & Anchor English Pub

A variety of music from blues to '80s rock n' roll are performed on Friday and Saturday nights by various local and regional bands and musicians.

Mary's Place

Mary's Place is the oldest bar in Rockford and everyone with words, beats, rhythm, and a love for music is invited (all styles welcome!).

Mulligan's Pub & Grill

Mulligan's one of a kind Irish Pub offers Tuesday Unplugged Nights where local artists perform folk, Americana or country music. Bands also play on the weekends and special events throughout the year.

Rascals Bar & Grill

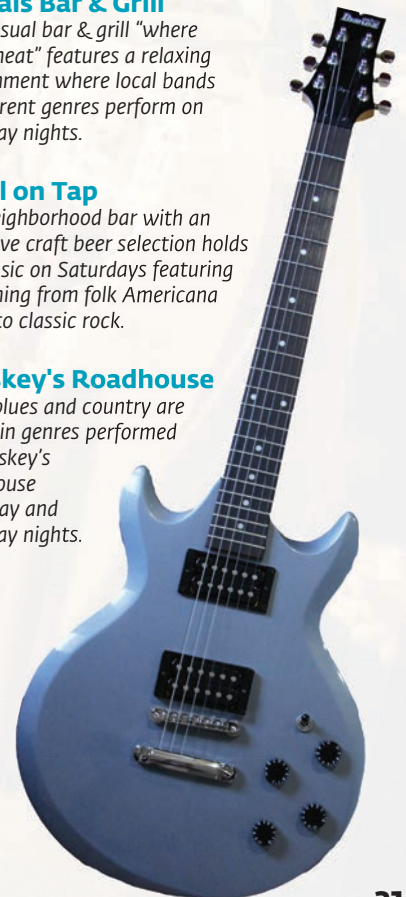
This casual bar & grill "where frenz meat" features a relaxing environment where local bands of different genres perform on Saturday nights.

Rural on Tap

This neighborhood bar with an extensive craft beer selection holds live music on Saturdays featuring everything from folk Americana music to classic rock.

Whiskey's Roadhouse

Rock, blues and country are the main genres performed at Whiskey's Roadhouse on Friday and Saturday nights.



Welcome to Trickford

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the City of Rockford banded together in 2016 to recognize and celebrate the long-overdue induction of local Rockford heroes **Cheap Trick** into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. For Rick Nielsen, Tom Petersson, Robin Zander and Bun E. Carlos April 8, 2016 was Heaven Tonight as they became the first Rockfordians to be so honored. The City of Rockford is also playing an active role in the celebration and recognition of the band's accomplishments. Rockford has ceremonially "officially, unofficially" been renamed "**Trickford**" in honor of its Hall of Fame artists whose boyhood streets have been renamed in celebratory fashion (look for the special street signs as you make your way through town:

- Spring Creek Road: Rick Nielsen Parkway
- Buckingham Drive: Tom Petersson Terrace
- Waterview Road (Machesney Park): Robin Zander Place
- Parkview Avenue: Bun E. Carlos Avenue

The "Trickford" name launched a new website to help fans learn about Cheap Trick's history and legacy in Rockford. The site features musician biographies, an interactive timeline, a Fan Trail, videos and more: **GoTrickford.com**

Of course a trip to Rockford isn't complete until you strum Rick's guitar and eat a Swedish pancake at the beloved Stockholm Inn.



Starlight Theatre at Rock Valley College

Ready for a Curtain Call



Pec Playhouse

The Rockford region is home to a strong theatre scene thanks to many talented individuals, but often it is our remarkable theatres that end up stealing the show. The **Starlight Theatre** at Rock Valley College hosts a series of shows each summer and visitors flock to the uniquely designed building by Rockford area native Jeanne Gang. With its mechanical roof that opens to embrace the stars, the theatre is a summer staple.



Nordlof Center

Take a quick drive out into the countryside and you will find the **Pec Playhouse** in Pecatonica. The intimate theatre was originally used to store hay but now features year-round shows to rave reviews. The playhouse is cared for by a fleet of dedicated volunteers.



Coronado Theatre

In downtown Rockford, the **Nordlof Center** is punctuated by the 280-seat J.R. Sullivan Theater that specializes in community theatre productions and intimate concerts and movie showings.

And certainly, the grand-daddy of them all, the historic **Coronado Theatre** is a delightful example of an "atmospheric-style" theater with gilded Spanish castles, Italian villas and Chinese dragons in relief on the sides and a starry false sky. •



Anderson Japanese Gardens

Find Inspiration in Art & Architecture

Anderson Japanese Gardens is one of the most tranquil and peaceful locations in all of Illinois. Continuously ranked as one of the top Japanese Gardens in the United States, AJG continues to attract visitors from around the world. The beautiful landscaping changes with the seasons and offers a bounty of winding paths to explore. The atmosphere is delightful during the summer as guests enjoy taking in the weekly **Tuesday Evening in the Gardens** concert series.

For Frank Lloyd Wright and architectural design lovers, Rockford is home to one of the most unique buildings in the country. The **Laurent House** is a single-story Usonian home and the only one Wright designed for a person with a disability and it is fully ADA accessible. The modest home was built with locally sourced materials and is so well done that the famous architect referred to it as his "little gem."

Rockford Art Museum boasts more than 17,000 square feet of gallery space, making it one of the largest art museums in Illinois outside of Chicago. Illinois artists make up much of the permanent collection, along with the ever-evolving featured showcases. For more than 70 years, their Rockford Midwestern has attracted artists from throughout the Midwest with more than 600 pieces being submitted for this juried showcase. •



Tuesday Evening in the Gardens



Frank Lloyd Wright's Laurent House



Rockford Art Museum

Take an Art Walk Along the River

Enjoy viewing an impressive collection of public art while getting the benefits of refreshing outdoor exercise by taking the two-mile self-guided Art Walk anytime you wish. Or, join the one-hour guided Art Tour departing Thursdays in summer from the Nicholas Conservatory lobby. You'll see 16 sculptures, some by local artists and all noteworthy. Scheduled group tours are available. To reserve a tour time, call the Rockford Park District at 815.987.8858.

Rock Men Guardians

Created by Terese Agnew, these three-ton statues situated along the Rock River Recreation Path "came to life" by careful placement of 40- to 100-pound boulders by the artist and helpers. The first two Rock Men were constructed in May of 1987, and the final two were constructed in October of 1988.



Symbol

Created by Kiev, Russia-born artist Alexander Liberman, the 30-ton Symbol was installed on the downtown mall in 1978. The sculpture's intent is to pay homage to Rockford's industrial metal-bending factories, the traditional economic mainstay of the city. In 1984, Symbol was disassembled and moved to its current location along the banks of the Rock River.



Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Tune in to Live Music

Music and Rockford go together like Hall & Oates, especially during the summertime when you can catch live (and FREE) music throughout the city every night of the week. Here are some of our favorite places to sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Concerts by the Creek

Saturday Nights (May – September)

These free family-friendly concerts at Spring Creek United Church of Christ feature performances of jazz, bluegrass, Dixieland, folk, R&B, Celtic and more.

Dinner on the Dock

Thursday Nights (May – August)

Come out to the docks at Prairie Street Brewhouse for live music, great food and refreshing drinks on the banks of the Rock River.

Jazz at Emerson

Second Sunday of each month (year round)

Listen to the swinging sounds of live jazz, relax with light refreshments and meet the artists after the concert at the Emerson House at the Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center.

Music at the Dells

Dates and times vary

Concerts are held at Severson Dells in what many say is the "best listening room in Northern Illinois." A variety of genres are highlighted throughout the year.

Music in the Park

June – August

Enjoy beautiful summer evenings at the Sinnissippi Park Music Shell featuring free performances by regional musical talents, including the Phantom Regiment and various local bands.

Music on the Mall

May – September

Local musicians perform their latest tunes of a variety of genres outside Mary's Market at Edgebrook each Friday evening.

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens

Tuesday Nights (May – August)

Join friends and family, socialize, stroll the gardens and enjoy a live concert in the picturesque setting of Anderson Japanese Gardens.

Tunes on the Terrace

Wednesday Nights (June – September)

Enjoy live music on the terrace overlooking the gardens outside Nicholas Conservatory every Wednesday evening in the summer.

Woodsong Concerts

Sunday nights (three concerts in the season: June, July, August)

Concerts are held outdoors on the lawn in Klehm Arboretum's magnificent Fountain Garden. •

Where to Catch the Locals

Rockford's musical legacy is cemented with the likes of Cheap Trick and Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child. And other bands like The Color Morale have made a name for themselves over the years. So, what Rockford musicians can you catch these days playing around town?



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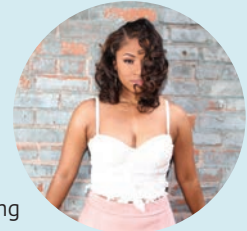
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Ashley Armelin

Born in Texas, but raised in Rockford, Ashley is one of the top R&B artists in the region, boasting a resume that includes working with Roc Nation and Grammy-winning artists (along with opening for Nelly during his stop in Rockford). Just try to get her hip hop beats out of your head.

facebook.com/AshleyArmelin

Bun E. Carlos

Yep, that's right, Cheap Trick's drummer might not be touring with the band, but you can still catch him as part of Bun E. Carlos and The Monday Night Band at Mary's Place on an occasional Monday night throughout the year.

facebook.com/BunECarlosofficial

Phantom Regiment

Beloved as Rockford's roving ambassadors, The Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps tours the country every year and plays to packed crowds in the Rockford region. They earned recognition as the Drum Corps International World Champions in 1996 and 2008. You will want to catch their energetic shows if you get the chance.



facebook.com/regiment

Taboo Blah Blah

Lincoln Flowers and Gavin Epperson (and then a handful of others off and on) make up this band that is a staple at local bars and community events. Rustic rock with a bluesy/country vibe. A perfect sound that is easy to listen to, both familiar and new.

facebook.com/tabooblahblah

1. Davis Park at Founder's Landing

320 S. Wyman St., Rockford

3. Midtown Ethnic Parade & Festival

Midtown District, Rockford

5. Rockford Symphony Orchestra

711 N. Main St., Rockford

7. Rock River Anything That Floats Race

Rock River (downtown)

2. Rockford's River Lights

East & west banks of the Rock River downtown

4. Mary's Place

602 N. Madison St., Rockford

6. Erlander Home Museum

404 S. 3rd St., Rockford

8. 317 Studio & Gallery

317 Market St., Rockford

where to **Bring Your Game**



Rockford native and Toronto Raptors guard Fred VanVleet helped launch the FVV Summer Camp & Fan Fest at the UW Health Sports Factory in 2017.

HEALTH SPORTS FACTORY

Catch All the Action

Hoops at the UW Health Sports Factory

While Rockford might not host professional basketball, basketball is what the UW Health Sports Factory was built on and it continues to showcase Rockford Hoops tournaments and regional showcases throughout the year. Local basketball hero Fred VanVleet of the Toronto Raptors and the RACVB host the annual Fred VanVleet Basketball Camp and Fan Fest each year as a way to bring the sport to kids throughout the region.

Rockford BMX

Northern Illinois' premiere BMX race facility for over 20 years is ranked the #2 Central Division track by the ABA in 2004 and the #8 BMX track in the U.S. by Transworld BMX magazine in 2002. Beginners and experts are welcome to participate or just take in the action on the track at Searls Park.

Rockford Rage

The Rockford Rage is Rockford's only all-female flat track roller derby league. Participants in this skater-run, not-for-profit league are dedicated to skating, competing and entertaining. In 2010 the Rage became one of 11 new members of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association. Bouts are held at the Indoor Sports Center at Mercyhealth Sportscore Two.

Rockford Rivets

With a name unique to Rockford and strongly tied to the city's manufacturing history, the Rockford Rivets is the local Northwoods League elite college wood bat baseball team. Put on your black and gold and cheer the Rivets on at the Rivets Stadium located in nearby Loves Park. The Northwoods League is the largest organized collegiate baseball league in the world with 18 teams.



Ski Broncs Water Ski Show Team

The pride of Loves Park is none other than the Ski Broncs Water Ski Show Team that delights families throughout the summer at Shorewood Park with shows on the Rock River every Wednesday and Friday night. Be dazzled by the daring jumps, the graceful ballet line and even witness the famous prefab human pyramid!



Rockford IceHogs at the BMO Harris Bank Center

Cheer for Rockford on the Ice

Since 1999 Rockford has been home to the **Rockford IceHogs**, an American Hockey League Affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks. With home games located downtown at the **BMO Harris Bank Center**, hockey loving locals and visitors alike love to go “hog wild” over the IceHogs.

The intimate seating at the BMO means you get to be right up on the action and the great crowd interaction gets the place rocking. A variety of themed nights adds to the fun with plenty of giveaways and prizes for fans in attendance.

Notable players that once graced the rink in Rockford include current Blackhawks like Corey Crawford, Scott Darling and Brandon Saad.

The Rockford IceHogs began play in October of 1999 as members of the United Hockey League and won their first ever United League Championship Colonial Cup in May of 2007.

Looking for an extra-special experience at the game? You can reserve a spot on the Hamboni as it does laps pre-game and during intermission. With room for 10, it’s a great way for a group or family to have some extra fun. •



Rockford IceHogs vs. Chicago Wolves

Batter Up, Hear That Call

Beyer Stadium was the home of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League’s **Rockford Peaches** from 1943 to 1954. The stadium has been restored and is now home to the **Rockford Starfires** Women’s Hardball/Baseball League.



The **Rockford Peaches**, a top-flight women’s baseball team formed in 1943 by Chicago Cubs owner Phil Wrigley, started a run which lasted for 12 years, calling Beyer Stadium on 15th Avenue home. The team is featured in the Baseball Hall of Fame and was immortalized through the movie *A League of Their Own*, starring Tom Hanks, Madonna, Geena Davis and Rosie O’Donnell.



Of course, their on-field play was something to cheer about as the team won the league championship in 1945, 1948, 1949 and 1950.

Today, you can still catch several

tournaments and games hosted at Beyer Stadium throughout the year and a team of volunteers (the Friends of Beyer Stadium) continue to revitalize the field and the surrounding area. **The International Women’s Baseball Center** has relocated its headquarters in a building across the street from Beyer Stadium.



Unlock Rockford's Locker

Mercyhealth Sportscore Two

Rockford's mega sports facility features indoor and outdoor play, hosting major youth championship events throughout the year. With 26 multipurpose fields and the 80x120 yard indoor fields, it is one of the premier facilities in the United States.

Rockford IceHogs

The Chicago Blackhawks affiliate keeps fans coming back year after year with their exciting games and the chance to catch the future of the NHL. The BMO Harris Bank Center's intimate feel has fans on top of the ice for an exciting night of hockey.

Illinois' Holiest City

Some of the finest golf courses in Illinois and the Midwest are right here in Rockford. Grab you clubs and hit the links, starting with the highly-rated Aldeen Golf Club.

Mercyhealth Sportscore One

The facility that launched Rockford as an amateur sports paradise. Situated along the scenic Rock River, this facility hosts baseball, softball, and soccer throughout the year.

Football Frenzy

Our Friday nights are buzzing with local high school football matchups and our facilities host regional showcase tournaments like the NFA7v7. Catch local hero Dean Lowry making plays with the Green Bay Packers on any given Sunday.

Wrestling Kids

Every March, Rockford becomes the center of youth wrestling as we host the annual IKWF Championships at the BMO Harris Bank Center.

Ultimate Frisbee

This increasingly popular sport has found a home in Rockford as we have hosted the USA Ultimate championships for the past few years. If you want a calmer Frisbee experience, try our fun Frisbee golf courses throughout the region.

Hit the Ice

With two ice arenas available for residents and visitors, there is plenty of opportunity to hit the ice for hockey or figure skating, or stop by one of the arenas for open skate opportunities.

A vibrant photograph of a woman and a young girl enjoying a water slide. They are riding a red inner tube down a blue slide, with water splashing around them. The woman is in the back, holding the girl, and both are smiling. The background features large, colorful circular structures in blue and yellow.

where to **Play & Learn**

Magic Waters has Illinois' largest wavepool! 707,000 gallons of heated water alternates between wild ocean waves and calm relaxing water to give you a mix of thrill and relaxation.

Adventure with the Family

Carlson Ice Arena

Located near the I-90 tollway at Riverside Boulevard and Perryville Road, the Carlson Ice Arena features a 200 x 85 feet ice rink with seating for 600 spectators. This facility is home to the Sabora Playworld, a three-level soft play structure designed for children ages 5-12 and a Tiny Tots Playspace designed for children 4 and under. Open skate times vary – check ahead at rockfordparkdistrict.org/public-skate-hours.

Don Carter Lanes

The area's largest bowling center boasting 42 lanes of play, Don Carter Lanes is always hopping with guests looking for a strike. Along with bowling, guests can grab a bite to eat from Shooter's Bar & Grill or hop into the game room for extra fun. Stop in late night on Fridays and Saturdays for Cosmic Bowling, music and games.



Laser Quest

Lasers. Fog. A 10,000-square-foot arena filled with great hiding spots and more than 500 mirrors. Code names like Hamburger, Cupcake, Princess and Ninja. These are just a few of the elements that make laser tag one of the most popular entertainment activities around for people of all ages and the perfect adventure for a rainy or cold day. After the laser tag fun, check out the nerve-wracking Escape Room. See if you and your friends can solve all the puzzles and leave the room as champions!

Magic Waters Waterpark

Magic Waters Waterpark is Illinois' premier waterpark experience. Conveniently located off of Interstate 90, you can't help but be greeted by its monster slides as you come into town. With a massive wave pool and an expansive kids area surrounded by a lazy river and cabanas for relaxing, Magic Waters is the perfect summertime adventure for the family.

Step Back into History

Rockford was established in 1834. Originally named Midway because it was halfway between Chicago and Galena, it eventually became known as Rockford because of the Rock River's rocky ford bubbling near the original settlement. Several museums celebrate the region's fascinating history...

Heritage Museum Park

Located in a historic home built in the 1850s, the Ethnic Heritage Museum has six galleries devoted to the primary immigrant groups that settled in southwest Rockford — African-American, Hispanic, Irish, Italian, Lithuanian and Polish. Next door is the newly renovated Graham-Ginestra House.



Macktown Living History Education Center



Explore the lifestyle experienced by fur trader Stephen Mack in 1834 along the Pecatonica River in Rockton. Just a short drive away is the Rockton

Township Historical Society museum where you can learn about the Wagon Wheel Resort, Olympic skater Janet Lynn and the "Grout" House.

Midway Village Museum

Midway features a replica Victorian era town with costumed interpreters, exhibitions celebrating our ubiquitous Sock Monkeys and Rockford Peaches and much more.



Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum

In 1865 Robert Tinker, inspired by Swiss architectural style, built the Tinker Swiss Cottage on Kent Creek near downtown Rockford. Now a historic home/museum, the cottage boasts a wonderful garden and a glimpse into a time gone by.



Discovery Center Museum

Dig into Discovery

On the banks of the Rock River in downtown Rockford sits **Discovery Center Museum** and **Burpee Museum of Natural History** which are connected for an easy day of exploring for the family. And with free on-site parking, the trip is certainly affordable.

Ask any mom, dad, grandma or grandpa and they'll agree; kids have so much fun at the Discovery Center they scarcely realize they're learning. Often rated as one of the best children's museums in the United States, Discovery Center boasts more than 250 hands-on exhibits and an award-winning outdoor park...all geared for kids ages 2 - 12.

Discovery Center's focus on science sets it apart from most children's museums. It entices visitors to use and make electricity, discover agriculture, get moving on the fitness floor, climb a mouse hole maze, play and learn about a favorite sport,

operate a flight simulator and so much more.

Burpee Museum of Natural History is best known for its young pup ... make that it's young T. rex! **Jane**, a stunningly complete juvenile T. rex skeleton that lived 66 million years ago is on display at Burpee in her own expansive exhibition. **Homer's Odyssey: From Badlands to Burpee** is a fascinating, in-depth look into the life of a Triceratops named Homer, and the **Ordovician Sea** is a fascinating look back to the days millennia ago when our region of the Midwest was an ocean. No wonder renowned Paleontology expert Robert Bakker said, "pound for pound, Burpee is the best natural history museum in the country. •



Burpee Museum of Natural History



Rockford Speedway

Setting the Pace for Family Fun

Historic Auto Attractions

Over 75 historic autos are displayed, including the world's largest collection of presidential limousines, John Dillinger's getaway car, Elvis Presley's personal car, Indy cars, TV Land cars and even the Batmobile. Kids will love the Turn-of-the-Century Room with an old west style stage coach and other period vehicles.

Kegel Harley-Davidson

Only one place can claim to be the "World's Oldest Family Owned Harley-Davidson Dealer" and that is Kegel's in Rockford. Since 1912, they have been selling and servicing bikes for Harley enthusiasts who keep coming back for more. While you are there grab a bite to eat in their in-house restaurant.

Lockwood Park

Fall in love with Lockwood Park as you experience life on the farm in the heart of a big city! Lockwood Park Trailside Equestrian Centre and Children's Farm is home to a variety of animals including pigs, llamas, sheep and more. Explore over 146 acres of gently rolling hills, meadows, a 15-mile trail system (hiking, biking, or horseback riding), playground, picnic areas, and much more.

Rockford Speedway

Since 1948, the speedway has had families flocking to its NASCAR-sanctioned track for a variety of races, concerts, demo derbies and plenty of other events. Its reputation has earned it the nickname "Mid-America's Finest Racetrack."

Volcano Falls Adventure Park

Volcano Falls Adventure Park features two 18-hole miniature golf courses perfect for beginners or those seeking a little

challenge on the mini-links, batting cages to practice that home run swing, and three different types of go-carts (Bridge Track, Slick Track and Kiddie Carts) give you the "need for speed." Inside, kids and adults alike will enjoy lazer tag and a newly renovated indoor arcade complete with a snack bar. Groups and parties are always welcome. •



Historic Auto Attractions (top left), Kegel Harley-Davidson (top right), Lockwood Park (bottom left), Volcano Falls Adventure Park (bottom right)



Historic Route 20

One of the oldest roads that spans the United States from coast to coast, the original highway takes you right through the heart of Winnebago County. Known as State Street as it goes through Rockford, you will pass everything from big box stores to quaint downtown shops. Take a pit stop at the RACVB office, 102 N. Main Street, and get the scoop on where else to visit while in the area.

Real. Originals

A city and a region often stake their claim to the foods and the novelties that call that place home. Rockford is no different. Home to the Sock Monkey, Cheap Trick, and the Rockford Peaches, we have our fair share of Real. Originals. Here are a few others that the locals like to boast about.



Jane the T. rex

As the world's most complete and best preserved juvenile *T. rex*, Jane certainly is one of Rockford's crown jewels. Her 21-foot skeleton highlights the Burpee Museum of Natural History's fantastic collection of fossils. Discovered in Montana in 2001, Jane is one of the most famous *T. rex*'s in the world.

Aldeen Park Dam

Aldeen Park Dam – Want to see an ever-changing canvas of Rockford art? Head to the dam at Aldeen Park and see years of graffiti covering the concrete. It's been a rite of passage for high school seniors since 1954 and a way for local artists to showcase their skills. Take in the art and enjoy a picnic at the park.



Ole Salty's Chips & Mrs. Fisher's Potato Chips

Two great chip companies call Rockford home and you can find them at grocery stores throughout the region. For a kettle-cooked style that gives you a satisfying crunch go with Ole Salty's. You can visit their factory store at 1920 E. Riverside Blvd. in Loves Park. For a home style, thick-sliced chip go with the classic Mrs. Fisher's that has been cooked in Rockford since 1932. Visit their factory store at 1231 Fulton Ave. in Rockford.

Sock Monkey

Rockford and Sock Monkeys go together like peanut butter and jelly. This Rockford icon got its start at the Nelson Knitting Company when the company's red-heeled socks were turned into monkeys during the depression. Today, Midway Village Museum hosts the annual Sock Monkey Madness Festival and is the unofficial home of the Sock Monkey.



where to Festival



January

Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition

Teams from throughout the state compete in the annual contest at Sinnissippi Park for a right to represent Illinois at the U.S. Nationals Snow Sculpting Competition.



July

4th of July Parade & Fireworks

Downtown Rockford hosts one of the largest fireworks displays in the entire state, let alone the Midwest. More than 100,000 watch this amazing show!



February

Discover Engineering

Celebrate National Engineers Week as dozens of professional engineers from local firms set up shop at Discovery Center Museum to give kids and adults hands-on experiences.



August

Winnebago County Fair

From demo derbies to tractor pulls to rodeos, the fair has been entertaining crowds for almost 100 years. Kids love the carnival rides, and the variety of fair foods keeps the crowds full throughout the week.



March

Paleofest

Check out this dino-sized weekend of paleontology fun at the Burpee Museum of Natural History. Guest speakers and special exhibits highlight the activities.



September

Greenwich Village Art Fair

Since 1948, this annual art fair is held on the second weekend after Labor Day every year. The two-day outdoor event features up to 150 artists, live music, local and regional vendors, and children's art activities.



April

Spring ArtScene

Shops and restaurants throughout the city host thousands of art-lovers with pop-up exhibits and special events. ArtScene provides a unique opportunity to explore the works of Rockford artists.



October

Head of the Rock Regatta

Since 1985, the Head of the Rock Regatta has been one of the premier rowing races in the Midwest. Held on the Rock River, the race attracts more than 60 teams from throughout the U.S.



May

Young at Heart Festival

Loves Park hosts this annual Memorial Day Weekend kick-off to the summer season with carnival rides, live music, a parade and plenty of great food stands.



November

Stroll on State

Always held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, this kickoff to the holiday season features the annual tree lighting ceremony, fireworks, visits with Santa, ice sculpting, vendors and more in downtown Rockford.



June

Old Settlers Days

Rockton's annual community celebration known for its popular concerts, community parade, 5K race and a carnival, perfectly placed in Rockton's quaint downtown.



December

All Aglow and Festival of Lights

Nicholas Conservatory hosts their All Aglow holiday display in the conservatory and outside. Across the street in Sinnissippi Park, take in the Festival of Lights with more than 50 displays in the park.

where to Stay

Bed & Breakfasts

Copperstone Inn

6702 Yale Bridge Rd., Rockton, IL 61072
815.629.9999

Campgrounds

Blackhawk Valley Campground

6540 Valley Trail Rd., Rockford, IL 61109
815.874.9767

Hononegah Campground

80 Hononegah Rd., Rockton, IL 61072
815.877.6100

Pearl Lake Campground

1220 Dearborn Ave., South Beloit, IL 61080
815.389.1479

Pecatonica River Campground

7260 Judd Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61063
815.877.6100

Rivers Edge Campground

12626 N. Meridian Rd., Rockton, IL 61072
815.629.2526

Rock Cut State Park Campground

7223 West Lane Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111
815.885.3311

Seward Bluffs Campground

16999 Comly Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61063
815.877.6100

Sugar River Campground

10127 Forest Preserve Rd., Durand, IL 61024
815.877.6100

Hotels

Alpine Inn

4404 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.399.1890

Baymont Inn & Suites - Rockford

662 N. Lyford Rd., Rockford, IL 61107
815.229.8200

Best Western Legacy Inn & Suites - South Beloit

5910 Technology Dr., South Beloit, IL 61080
815.389.4211

Candlewood Suites

7555 Walton St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.229.9300

Cliffbreakers Riverside Hotel & Conference Center

700 W. Riverside Blvd., Rockford, IL 61103
815.282.3033



Copperstone Inn & The Pavilion

Bed & Breakfast or Airbnb in Rockford

Copperstone Inn is one of the most luxurious bed and breakfasts you will ever visit. The original limestone home was built in 1858 in traditional Greek revival style. This grand majestic home exudes an ambiance of total elegance, comfort, and chic sophistication. Owners Richard Spanton Jr and Chrissie Spanton have developed a spot so popular, particularly for weddings, that even Hollywood celebrities are known to make the trip to celebrate at Copperstone. The Inn is available for rehearsal dinners, corporate retreats, weddings, bridal showers and upscale luncheons or cocktail parties.

If you are looking for other B&B-style experiences, check out Rockford on **Airbnb**. With 85 listings available as of press time, there are certainly plenty of options for solo travelers and larger groups, from downtown studios to full houses.

Comfort Inn - Rockford

7392 Argus Dr., Rockford, IL 61107
815.398.7061

Courtyard by Marriott Rockford

7676 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.397.6222

Days Inn Rockford

220 S. Lyford Rd., Rockford, IL 61108
815.332.4915

Equality Lodge

4605 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.977.5982

Extended Stay America - I-90

653 Clark Dr., Rockford, IL 61107
815.226.8969

Extended Stay America - State Street

747 N. Bell School Rd., Rockford, IL 61107
815.397.8316

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Rockford

7651 Walton St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.398.7400

Garden Hotel and Conference Center

200 Dearborn Ave., South Beloit, IL 61080
815.525.3600

Hampton Inn Rockford

615 Clark Dr., Rockford, IL 61107
815.229.0400

Hilton Garden Inn Rockford

7675 Walton St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.229.3322

Holiday Inn - Rockford

7550 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.398.2200

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites - Loves Park

7552 Park Pl., Loves Park, IL 61111
815.654.4100

Howard Johnson - Rockford

3909 11th St., Rockford, IL 61109
815.397.9000

La Quinta Inn & Suites Rockford

7401 Walton St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.227.1300

Motel 6

7712 Potawatomi Trl., Rockford, IL 61107
815.397.8000

Quality Inn & Suites of Loves Park

4313 N. Bell School Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111
815.282.9300

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center - Rockford

200 S. Bell School Rd., Rockford, IL 61108
815.226.2100

Red Roof Inn

7434 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108
815.398.9750

Residence Inn by Marriott

7542 Colosseum Dr., Rockford, IL 61107
815.227.0013

Sleep Inn of Rockford

725 Clark Dr., Rockford, IL 61107
815.398.8900

Staybridge Suites

633 N. Bell School Rd., Rockford, IL 61107
815.397.0200

Super 8 Motel - Rockford

7646 Colosseum Dr., Rockford, IL 61107
815.229.5522



Tie the Knot in Rockford

When you're planning your special day, look no further than the romantic venues of the Rockford region! Whether you're looking to do a simple or glitzy wedding, there is a location that will meet your needs. Our beautiful gardens and historic downtown buildings provide wonderful backdrops for the event of a lifetime. For after the wedding, our premier reception venues like **Giovanni's, Prairie Street Brewhouse, Radisson Hotel** or **The Standard** will leave your guests inspired.

We would love to see your photos too, so use the hashtag **#rockfordwedding** to share them with us! Visit gorockford.com/wedding for more wedding inspiration!



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The Laurent House, located in Rockford, Illinois, is a pristine, hemicycle Usonian house designed by famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. It is the only house Mr. Wright ever designed for a person with a disability. For tours and special events, visit laurenthouse.com or call **815.877.2952**.



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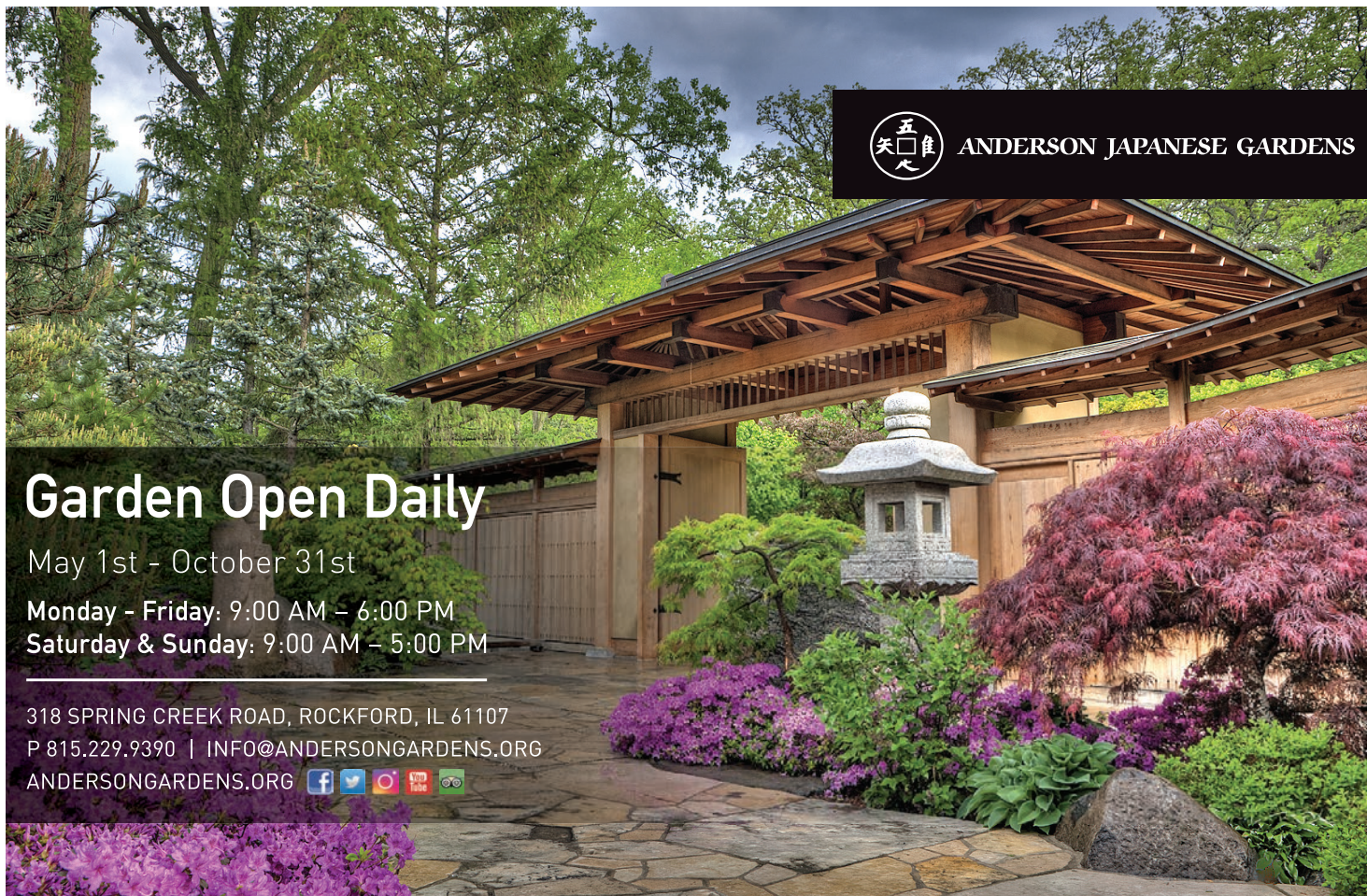
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2017-2018 ROCKFORD ICEHOGS SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 CLE 6:00
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 IA 6:00
15 MIL 4:00	16	17	18	19	20 GR 7:00	21 MIL 6:00
22 HER 4:00	23	24	25 IA 7:00	26	27 MIL 7:00	28 GR 6:00
29	30	31 CLE 6:00				

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 CHI 7:00	2 TEX 6:00
3	4	5	6	7	8 GR 6:00	9 GR 6:00
10	11	12 CHI 7:00	13	14	15 SA 7:30	16
17 SA 3:00	18	19	20	21	22 CHI 7:00	23 GR 6:00
24	25	26	27	28 IA 7:00	29 IA 7:00	30 CHI 7:00
31						

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 MB 7:00	3 CHI 7:00
4	5	6	7 SA 7:00	8	9 MIL 7:00	10 IA 6:00
11	12	13 CLE 7:00	14	15	16	17 CLE 6:00
18 SA 4:00	19	20	21	22	23 WBS 6:05	24 HER 6:00
25	26	27	28 TEX 7:00			

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 MIL 7:00	4
5	6	7	8	9 IA 10:30a	10 SA 7:00	11 MIL 6:00
12	13	14	15 IA 10:30a	16	17	18 GR 6:00
19 CHI 4:00	20	21	22 IA 7:00	23	24 IA 7:00	25 CHI 7:00
26	27	28 MB 7:00	29	30		

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 CLE 7:00	3	4	5 GR 6:00	6 CLE 6:00
7 MIL 4:00	8	9	10 ONT 9:00	11	12 SJ 9:00	13 BAK 9:00
14	15	16	17 CLE 6:00	18	19 CLE 6:00	20 GR 6:00
21	22	23 BAK 7:00	24	25	26 ONT 7:00	27 GR 6:00
28	29	30	31			

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 MIL 7:00	3 WBS 6:00
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 MIL 6:00
11 CHI 3:00	12	13 IA 7:00	14	15	16 GR 6:00	17 CHI 7:00
18	19 IA 7:00	20	21	22	23 MIL 7:00	24 CHI 6:00
25	26 MB 7:00	27	28 MB 7:00	29	30	31 SJ 6:00

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 Cleveland Monsters (CLE)
 Grand Rapids Griffins (GR)
 Iowa Wild (IA)
 Manitoba Moose (MB)
 Milwaukee Admirals (MIL)
 Rockford IceHogs (RFD)

PACIFIC
 Bakersfield Condors (BAK)
 Ontario Reign (ONT)
 San Antonio Rampage (SA)
 San Diego Gulls (SD)
 San Jose Barracuda (SJ)
 Stockton Heat (STK)
 Texas Stars (TEX)
 Tucson Roadrunners (TUC)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH
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 Binghamton Devils (BNG)
 Laval Rocket (LAV)
 Rochester Americans (RCH)
 Syracuse Crunch (SYR)
 Toronto Marlies (TOR)
 Utica Comets (UTI)

ATLANTIC
 Bridgeport Sound Tigers (BRI)
 Charlotte Checkers (CHA)
 Hartford Wolf Pack (HFD)
 Hershey Bears (HER)
 Lehigh Valley Phantoms (LV)
 Providence Bruins (PRO)
 Springfield Thunderbirds (SPR)
 WB/Scranton Penguins (WBS)

APRIL


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 SA 7:00	5	6 TEX 7:30	7 TEX 7:00
8	9	10 IA 7:00	11	12	13 CHI 7:00	14 CHI 7:00
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

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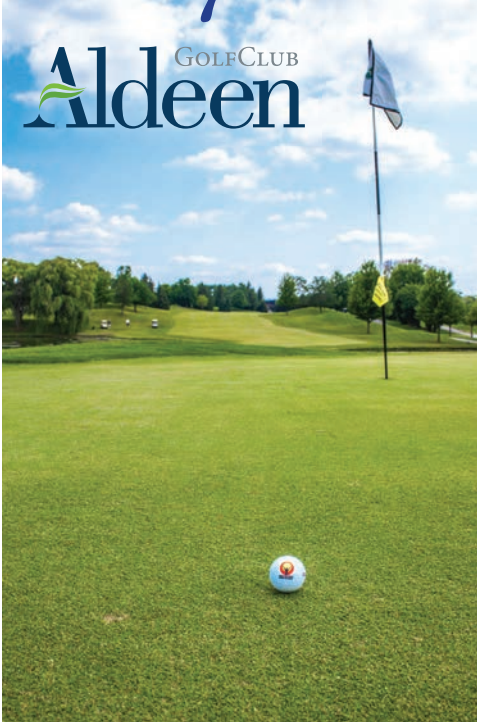
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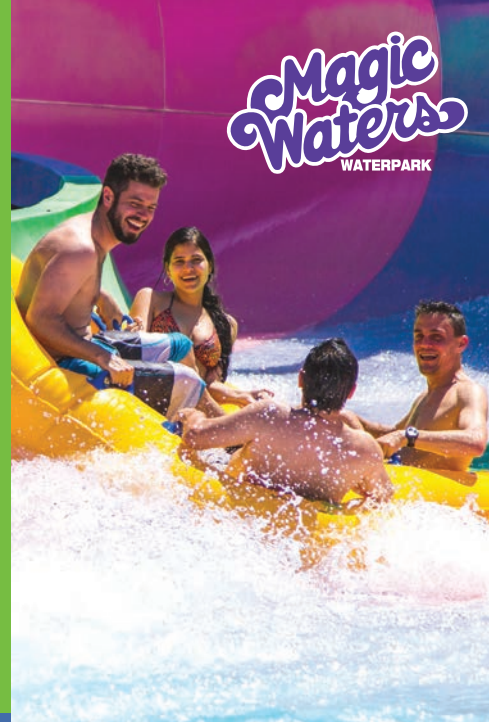
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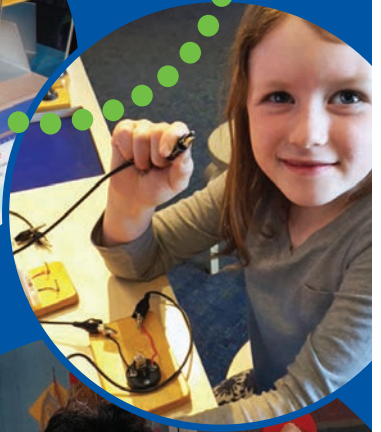


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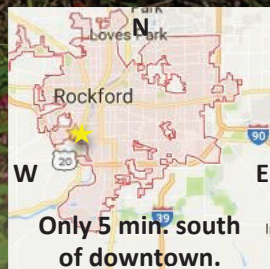
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GARDEN FAIR WEEKEND

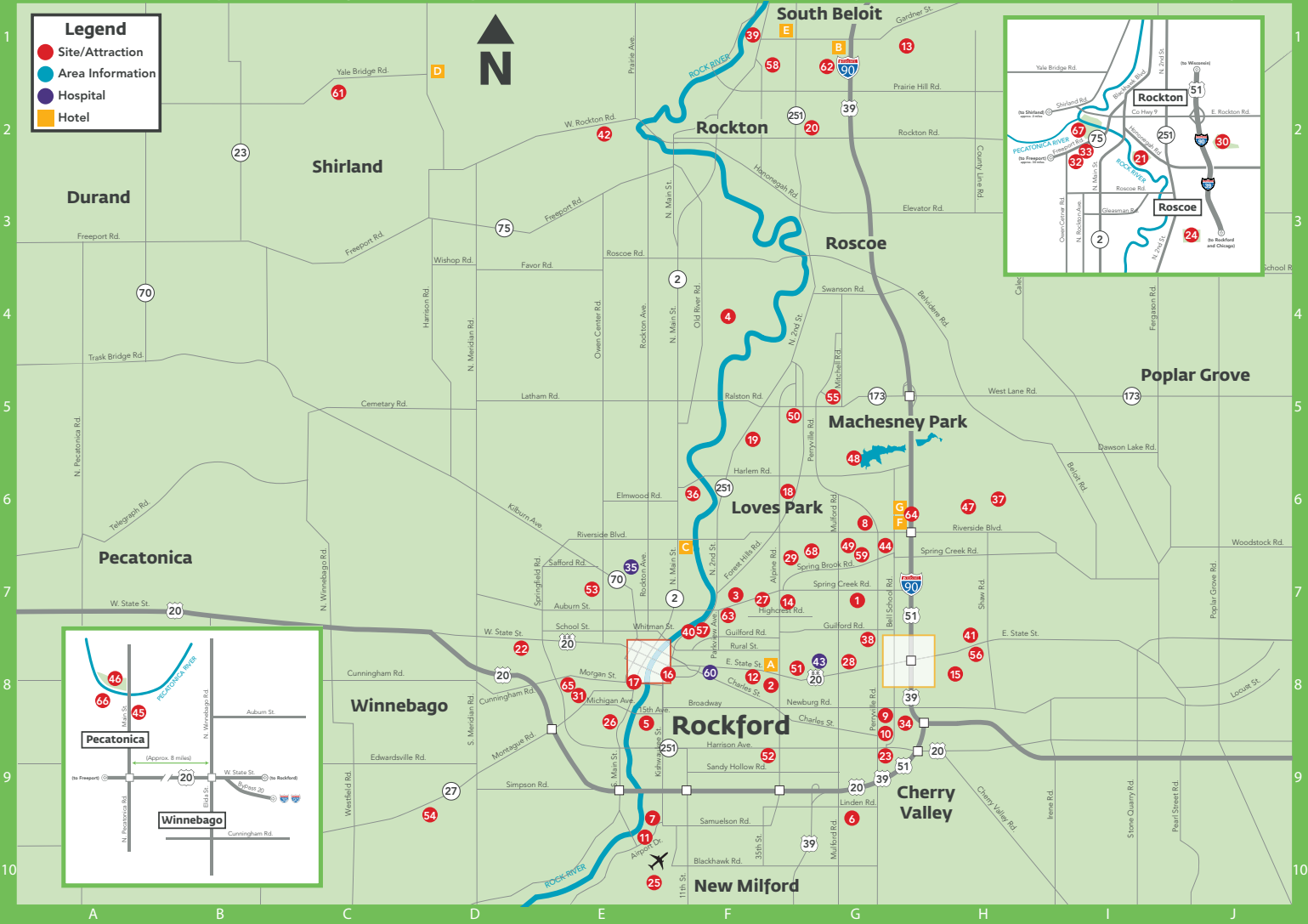
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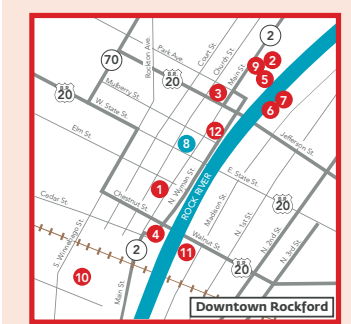


- 1 Aldeen Golf Club (G7)
- 2 Alpine Hills Adventure Park (F8)
- 3 Anderson Japanese Gardens (F7)
- 4 Atwood Homestead Golf Course (F4)
- 5 Beyer Stadium (E8)
- 6 Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve (G9)
- 7 Camp Grant Museum (E10)
- 8 Carlson Ice Arena & Sapura Playworld (G6)
- 9 The Cherry Bowl (G8)
- 10 CherryVale Mall (G8)
- 11 Chicago Rockford Intl. Airport (E10)
- 12 Don Carter Lanes (F8)
- 13 DC Estate Winery (G1)
- 14 Edgebrook (F7)
- 15 Elliot Golf Course (H8)
- 16 Erlander Home Museum (E8)
- 17 Ethnic Heritage Museum/Graham-Ginestra House (E8)
- 18 Forest Hills Diamonds (F6)
- 19 Harlem Community Center (F5)
- 20 Historic Auto Attractions (G2)
- 21 Hononegah Forest Preserve (small map)
- 22 Ingersoll Golf Course (D7)
- 23 Kegel Harley-Davidson (G9)
- 24 Kieselburg Forest Preserve (small map)
- 25 Kilbuck Bluff Forest Preserve (E10)
- 26 Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden (E8)
- 27 La Paloma Gardens (F7)
- 28 Laser Quest (G8)
- 29 Laurent House (G6)
- 30 Ledges Golf Course (small map)
- 31 Levings Park (E8)
- 32 Macktown Golf Course (small map)

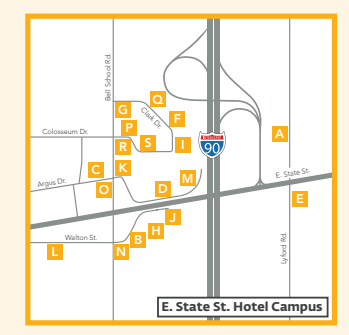
- 33 Macktown Living History Center (small map)
- 34 Magic Waters Waterpark (G8)
- 35 Mercyhealth Hospital (E6)
- 36 Mercyhealth Sportscore One (F6)
- 37 Mercyhealth Sportscore Two / Indoor Sports Center (H6)
- 38 Midway Village Museum (G7)
- 39 Nature at the Confluence (F1)
- 40 Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens (F7)
- 41 NIU – Rockford (H7)
- 42 Nygren Wetland Preserve (E2)
- 43 OSF St. Anthony Medical Center (G7)
- 44 Peace Plaza (Keeling-Puri) (G6)
- 45 Pec Playhouse Theatre (small map)
- 46 Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve (small map)
- 47 Rivets Stadium (H6)
- 48 Rock Cut State Park (G5)
- 49 Rock Valley College (G6)
- 50 Rockford Speedway (F5)
- 51 Rockford University (G8)
- 52 Sandy Hollow Golf Course (F9)
- 53 Searls Park / Lockwood Park (E7)
- 54 Severson Dells Forest Preserve (D9)
- 55 ShowPlace 14 Movie Theater (G5)
- 56 ShowPlace 16 Movie Theater (H8)
- 57 Sinnissippi Golf Course (F7)
- 58 South Beloit Municipal Park (F1)
- 59 Starlight Theatre (G6)
- 60 SwedishAmerican Hospital (F8)
- 61 Sugar River Forest Preserve (C1)
- 62 Turtle Creek Information Center (G1)
- 63 UIC Health Sciences Campus (F7)
- 64 Volcano Falls Adventure Park (G6)

- 65 West Rock Wake Park (E8)
- 66 Winnebago County Fairgrounds (small map)
- 67 Winnebago Forest Preserve Headquarters (small map)
- 68 Womenspace (G6)
- A Alpine Inn (F8)
- B Best Western Legacy Inn & Suites – South Beloit (G1)

- C Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort (F6)
- D Copperstone Inn (D1)
- E Garden Hotel & Conference Center (F1)
- F Holiday Inn Express (G6)
- G Quality Inn & Suites – Loves Park (G6)



- 1 BMO Harris Bank Center
- 2 Burpee Museum of Natural History
- 3 Coronado Performing Arts Center
- 4 Davis Park
- 5 Discovery Center Museum
- 6 Forest City Queen
- 7 Riverview Ice House
- 8 Rockford Area CVB
- 9 Rockford Art Museum
- 10 Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum & Gardens
- 11 UW Health Sports Factory
- 12 Veterans Memorial Hall



- A Baymont Inn & Suites
- B Candlewood Suites
- C Comfort Inn
- D Courtyard by Marriott
- E Days Inn Rockford
- F Extended Stay America – I-90
- G Extended Stay America – State St.
- H Fairfield Inn & Suites
- I Hampton Inn
- J Hilton Garden Inn
- K Holiday Inn of Rockford
- L La Quinta Inn & Suites Rockford
- M Motel 6
- N Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
- O Red Roof Inn
- P Residence Inn by Marriott
- Q Sleep Inn of Rockford
- R Staybridge Suites
- S Super 8 Motel



The Awe & Wonder of Stroll on State

Stroll on State presented by Illinois Bank & Trust is always held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Stroll is more than a community festival, it is a time for friends and family to gather and reflect as they celebrate the awe and wonder of the holiday season. Thanks to hundreds of volunteers, and a devoted following of more than 75,000 attendees, Stroll has become a hallmark for our great city. The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau considers it our love note to the community through the merriment of a parade, fireworks, ice sculptures, s'mores, music, and more. We invite you to mark your calendar now to join us in the celebration.

Happy Strolling!

strollonstate.com

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