

Although inflation has decreased from the record highs of 2022, the overall cost of goods and services has continued to rise. Traveling may not be as economical as it used to be. Here are some enjoyable and budget-friendly activities to consider this summer:

- *Explore or camp at a State Park:* State Park passes cost \$28 and are valid for an entire year. Wisconsin boasts over 50 diverse state parks and forests, along with numerous trails and recreational areas. Pack some snacks or a picnic and spend a day exploring one of these parks. Most state parks offer affordable camping options, and some even have cabins for those who prefer a less rugged experience. Witness the beauty of nature as the parks bloom in spring, thrive in summer, and change colors in the fall!
- *Visit the library:* The Watertown Public Library underwent an expansion project in 2022, creating a welcoming environment for all ages. The library features a vibrant children's area with a wide range of activities, as well as extensive options for adults. With a library card, you gain access to a vast collection of free books and movies to borrow!
- *Attend a Farmers' Market:* Lake Mills Farmers Market runs every Wednesday from 2PM to 6PM between May 1st and October 23rd. Lake Mills recently hired a market manager who has introduced a variety of new vendors and kids' activities. Enjoy live music as you browse through the various market stands and stay for the City Band concert after the market closes. Watertown is home to Wisconsin's longest-running farmers' market! It is open every Tuesday from 7AM to 12PM and boasts many vendors to visit.
- *Explore Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison:* This zoo stands out as one of the few in the country that offers free admission. Pack a lunch and visit the zoo to encounter diverse species from around the globe.
- *Plan a beach day:* Lake Mills offers two picturesque beaches, Bartels Beach and Sandy Beach. Entry is free at Sandy Beach for Lake Mills residents, while a small fee applies to non-residents. Bartels Beach welcomes visitors at no charge. Don't forget sunscreen!
- *Watch a movie at Towne Cinema:* Towne Cinema in Watertown is an independent movie theater that has been around since 1913. They offer \$4 movie tickets and a great way to cool off on a hot summer day!
- *Catch a movie at the outdoor theater:* Take advantage of the outdoor theater experience, possibly in its final year before its owners retire. Enjoy double feature movies on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday nights throughout the summer!

Visit the Watertown Chamber and Legendary Lake Mills websites for more local event info!

