

Rep. Hebl: Winter is a chance to take in Wisconsin's natural beauty

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Our state has some of the best state parks in the country, whether it's for biking, hiking, birdwatching, picnics, or other outdoor activities. Wisconsin has 49 state parks, 15 state forests, and 44 state trails – and they don't close just because it is getting cold out!

It can be challenging to get enough exercise and stay healthy when the weather turns cold. Wintertime offers some fantastic outdoor opportunities, such as skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing. Select parks even offer [snowshoe rental](#) if you are looking to learn something new for winter.

And don't forget about your furry friends! Bringing your (leashed) pets to the park is a good way to get them the exercise they need. Sometimes pets will get cabin fever and taking them to a park to search for new smells and new trails is a good way to use up some of their energy (see [DNR's rules](#) for pets in parks before you go).

No matter the season, Wisconsin's parks and forests are some of the most beautiful areas of our state. There are tons of incredible opportunities to take in nature and to join in conservation. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continues to host events in winter throughout the state. I encourage everyone to brave the cold and head to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events> to see if there are any events that might interest you.

Have a safe, healthy, and active winter!