

# 101 Fun & Free Things To Do



## LAFAYETTE WEST LAFAYETTE

1. Grab your canoe or kayak and head to the **Bicentennial Nature Area** or one of the other waterways in Tippecanoe County.

2. Stroll down Main Street and visit galleries with refreshments, artists' demonstrations, and artwork for sale at **Downtown Gallery Walks**.

3. Walk, jog or roller skate on the **trails** around West Lafayette!

4. Visit the **Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering** at Purdue University; check out the statue and footprints commemorating man's first steps on the moon, then see a moon rock!

5. Delight in Indiana's natural beauty along with over 25 sculptures created by notable Indiana artists at the **Haan Museum Sculpture Garden**.

6. Go down to the corner of 5th and Main streets to see the "Farm Family" sculpture. Check out [homeofpurdue.com](http://homeofpurdue.com) and download a map of all the **public art** throughout the community!

7. Grab a partner and hit the pickleball courts at **McCaw Park**.

8. Stop at the **Tippecanoe County Public Library** and read a 100-year-old newspaper on microfilm.

9. Have an evening picnic, then take a jar and poke holes in the lid so you can catch fireflies at **Fort Ouiatenon**. But be sure to set them free before you go home!

10. **Puzzle mania!** Take on a Lafayette-West Lafayette puzzle challenge at [jigsawplanet.com/homeofpurdue](http://jigsawplanet.com/homeofpurdue).

11. **Fly a kite** at one of our many area parks.

12. Meet someone special under the **Bell Tower** on the Purdue campus.

13. Explore the site of the **Battle of Tippecanoe** where two Shawnee brothers, Tecumseh and The Prophet, had a dream of uniting many tribes into an organized defense against the white settlers.



Tippecanoe Battlefield



Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering

14. Collect leaves at **Purdue's Horticulture Park**.

15. Visit the **Purdue art galleries** to get a new perspective on life.

16. Hop on the free **CityBus Connector** and explore the Purdue University campus and downtown Lafayette!

17. Swing by one of our **libraries** and find books to help you plan the perfect garden.

18. **Go biking** and experience the beauty of Tippecanoe County.

19. Fish the Wabash River at **Davis Ferry Park**. Indiana fishing license required.

20. Hang out at **Tapawingo Park** in West Lafayette and enjoy being on the "banks of the Wabash."

21. Watch the ducks, relax and play in **Columbian Park's lagoon**.



## Celery Bog Nature Area

22. Watch the sunset over the Wabash River and trains pass by from the **Riverside Promenade Deck** at Riehle Plaza.
23. Watch Riverfest canoe races from the **Brown Street overlook**.
24. View the exhibits at the **Wells Community Center** and learn all about our cultural and arts organizations through The Arts Federation.
25. Explore **Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center** at the Tippecanoe Battlefield and bird watch through the observation window.
26. Enjoy the **Lafayette Citizens Band concerts** on Thursday evenings at Columbian Park during the summer.
27. Play chess on the tables at **Founders Park** on Purdue's campus.
28. Visit any of our **50+ fabulous parks!** Find out where they are by picking up a local Recreation Guide at the Visit Lafayette - West Lafayette Visitors Center.
29. Dance and relax on the lawn outside the Purdue Memorial Union during the **Purdue Summer Concert Series**.
30. Take a lunch to the **John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge** and watch the people as they walk across the bridge.

31. Meander along the marsh and through the woods at **Celery Bog Nature Area**.

32. Admire the **Black Cultural Center at Purdue** and then go inside to enjoy great art on display.

33. Mountain bike through five of our **off-road dirt path trails**.

34. Look for the gargoyles on the **Courthouse Square**.

35. Visit the **Arni Cohen Memorial softball fields** at Cumberland Park and enjoy a game under the lights.

36. Check out **homeofpurdue.com/blog** to learn about our diverse array of local restaurants.

37. Find all the wildflowers listed in the **Wabash Heritage Trail** brochure while you enjoy the views along the mighty Wabash River. Brochure available at the Visitors Center and online at homeofpurdue.com.

## Wabash Heritage Trail



38. Test your stomach by eating bugs at **Purdue's Bug Bowl** in mid-April or you can just watch!

39. Beauty, relaxation, and educational opportunities can all be found at the **Jules Janick Horticulture Garden Purdue University**.



## disc golf

40. Stand in the middle of any of the brick circles by the **Purdue Memorial Union** and clap. If you do it right, you can hear the echoes!

41. Watch the **Purdue football** team during their annual spring scrimmage game.

42. Visit the **Purdue Visitors Center**, in Stewart Center at Purdue, and discover all the reasons we are "Purdue Proud" in our community.

43. Grab a racquet and a partner and **play tennis** at one of several area locations.

44. Check out the **online calendar** so you won't miss any of the fun things to do in our community! homeofpurdue.com

45. Enjoy a good old-fashioned porch swing (even without the porch) at **Happy Hollow Park**.

46. **Disc golf** at Murdock Park or Purdue University.

47. Listen to the spring concert of the **Purdue Musical Organization**.

48. **Window shop** downtown while observing the beautiful architecture that includes plenty of looking up!



49. Get a taste of the international flavor of our community by experiencing **Global Fest**, held each fall.

50. Explore over **119 pieces of public art**, located throughout Lafayette - West Lafayette.

51. Volunteer your time at an organization of your choice. Get started by calling the **United Way of Greater Lafayette Volunteer Bureau**.



52. Enjoy cheering at a Little League game or play a game of catch with a friend at **Armstrong, Munger or Murdock Park**.

53. Check out the great vintage finds at one of Greater Lafayette's **antique shops** or flea markets

54. Check out the **fountains on Purdue's campus**.

55. Grab your hammock and **chill at Purdue University**.

56. Observe wildlife at the **Ouiatenon Preserve Overlook**, a National Historic Landmark.

57. Visit the Christmas tree at the **Purdue Memorial Union** in early December and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season.

58. Take a **wagon ride** through the pumpkin fields and apple trees at Wea Creek Orchard.

59. Find a sycamore on the banks of the Wabash while walking the **Wabash Heritage Trail**.

60. **Tour our many churches** on a self-guided "Houses of Worship" walking tour and count the number of spires on the churches you see.

61. Enjoy the spring wildflowers or the autumn colors at **Clegg Memorial Garden**.

62. Visit the **Skywatch Tower Monument** in Cairo (follow Salisbury Street north of West Lafayette).

63. **Show your Boilermaker pride** at Purdue Homecoming events, Homecoming Parade, Boilermaker Crossing events, and Purdue Reamer Club Free Ride Fridays.

64. Visit the **West Lafayette Library** and enjoy the sights and sounds of "The Village".

65. Find out about interesting plants, get new gardening ideas, ask questions of master gardeners...all at the **Purdue Horticulture Show** in mid-April (part of Springfest at Purdue).

66. Admire and honor the "Most Precious Offering" sculpture at **Memorial Island**. The bronze sculpture is a memorial to area soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq and honors the parents who nurtured their soldiers from infancy.

67. Take a **bird watching hike** and see how many birds you can identify at the Celery Bog.

68. What's on your bucket list? Check out the seasonal **"HomeOfPurdue" bucket lists** at [homeofpurdue.com/blog](http://homeofpurdue.com/blog).

69. Check out the **Hops and Grapes Trail guide** at [homeofpurdue.com](http://homeofpurdue.com).

70. Cross country ski or hike one of the many scenic trails at **Prophetstown State Park** during the park's "free off-season" this winter.

71. Take a drive up the hill to the **Indiana Veterans' Home** and see the commandant's old home and a M60 Patton battle tank.

72. Tour nine historic neighborhoods located throughout Lafayette - West Lafayette. Visit **[tourdelafayette.com](http://tourdelafayette.com)** for information, including videos, historical plaqued properties and maps.



73. Take a magnet on your next visit to the **courthouse** so you can check if the woodwork is wood or metal.

74. Pull a sled, ride a bike, walk or drive to **see the holiday decorations** in all of the neighborhoods.

75. Take a jog around **Munger Park**.

76. Join the **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** at the Hanna Center in order to meet new friends.

77. Pet a rabbit or kiss a pig at the **Tippecanoe County Fair** in July.

78. Go green and join in the festivities downtown on the **John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge** during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

79. See what it was like to be a firefighter in the 1930s at the **Five Points Fire Station Museum**.



80. Learn about the scenic river, the mighty Wabash, that runs through the community and **observe the unique wildlife and unparalleled views** that can be found along its 18 mile scenic railway.

81. Find all four hiking entrances to **Happy Hollow Park**.

82. Maneuver your skateboard on the ramps at **Lafayette Skate Park**.

83. Music demonstrations, dancing and fun! Where? **Ouibache Music Festival**.

84. Take a child to **Columbian Park's playground** and tell stories about your own childhood.

85. Enjoy the breath-taking **holiday luminaria displays** lining Ninth Street Hill during the holidays.

86. View artwork at the **Round the Fountain Art Fair** the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend in May.

87. Cover your ears and watch the sky fill with fireworks after listening to the patriotic music on the 4th of July at the annual **Stars and Stripes Concert**.

88. View the **Living Nativity Scene** at Faith Church East in December.

89. Take your bocce set and have a great game at **Ross Hills Park**.

90. Appreciate three stages of music, outdoor food, beer and wine sales as well as street performers, sidewalk chalk and hand made hula hoops, drum circles and DJ's, belly dancers and balloon animals at recurring **Mosey Down Main Street** events.

91. Enjoy the conversation, free sights and great smells at the **Farmers' Market** every Saturday morning downtown Lafayette, Wednesday afternoon in West Lafayette and Thursday at Purdue from May through October.

92. Volunteer to walk a dog at one of our three local **animal shelters**. Or visit one of several local pet stores to view birds, fish and pets.

93. Learn about the community's diverse culture and traditions at the **Tippecanoe Latino Festival**.

94. Stroll through the curving avenues of the **Perrin neighborhood** and look at the iron fences, brick sidewalks, limestone curbs and cobblestones-remnants of another era.



95. Follow the **Purdue University tree trail**. Brochure available at the Lafayette - West Lafayette Visitors Center.

96. Wait for the first snow fall and then **go sledding** on the hill at Purdue's Slayter Center or Murdock Park.

97. Whistle when you go past the mural on the **Art Museum of Greater Lafayette** and then go inside and look at all the great art!

98. **Take a walk on history**. Go to Shamrock Park and walk the tow path of the Wabash & Erie Canal, which is a small mound on the south side of the park.

99. **Watch a soccer game** at one of the many soccer fields in the area and find out what is causing all the excitement.

100. Bring your walking shoes, sunglasses (or reading glasses), and stroll the **"Stories On The Prairie"** at the Wea Prairie Branch Library.

101. Find the **secret bridge** in the Highland Park Neighborhood. Hint: It was for children to use when going to school on foot or by bicycle.



SCAN ME  
homeofpurdue.com

Stop by the visitors center, at 301 Frontage Road in Lafayette, where you can pick up free brochures and regional maps. Take time to explore our website at [HomeOfPurdue.com](http://HomeOfPurdue.com) or follow the link to the right.

Everybody loves FREE!



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