PLACES TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI near MILWAUKEE

Written by Chad Thomack

Ever wanted to try cross country skiing? Join one of our introductory programs or become a member and borrow some from any of our 3 locations. Once you have your skis in hand, check out some of my favorite places to ski.

Each of these locations has unique ecosystems to explore. Make sure to check on conditions before making the trek.

For more information on trails in SE Wisconsin, go to www.anythingwisconsin.com/secctrails.htm


Washington Park UEC 1859 N 40th St ph 414-344-5460

Great for beginners who want to hone their skills, but also has some nice hills for practicing your slalom. There are no groomed trails but the skis on site are great because you don’t have travel outside of the city.

Riverside Park UEC 1505 E Park Pl ph 414-964-8505

Great trails along the east side of the Milwaukee River from the North Ave. Pedestrian bridge up to Hubbard Park. North of Hubbard and Westside trails are challenging with many up and downhill sequences on a narrow trails. Keep an eye out for fallen trees and heavy trail use.

Menomonee Valley UEC 3700 W Pierce St ph 414-431-2940

You can leave from this branch and ski to Mitchell Park in the new 3 Bridges Park. There will be hills to climb and ski back down. You can also try skiing along the Hank Aaron State trail.

Brown Deer Park

Has groomed trails and is a great place to learn how to ski. This park can become very busy when conditions are ripe. Also has a great sledding hill and warming shelter.
Whitnall Park

Lightly groomed trails on a golf course. These trails are great for beginners as there are not many steep hills. Warming shelter and concessions available.

Milwaukee County Parks

Many of our Milwaukee County parks are great for skiing. Most are wide open without many obstructions but do not have groomed trails so in deep snow it can be a tiring (but rewarding) experience.

Havenwoods State Park

Mostly flat trails that are not groomed. Trails are not heavily used so they're great for skiing.

Kohler-Andrae State Park

Has groomed trails when snow conditions are right (6 inches or more of snow.) Fairly flat trails with small hills. Located along the Lake Michigan shoreline. These trails are some of my favorites.

Lapham Peak

Nestled in the heart of the Kettle Moraine state forest, these are some of the best groomed trails in SE Wisconsin (in my opinion). There are several different classes of trails from beginner to advance. They also have a trail system where snow can be made when Mother Nature does not give us enough snow. Not only do they make their own snow but also have a lit trail for evening skiing.