



Oconomowoc History Lesson

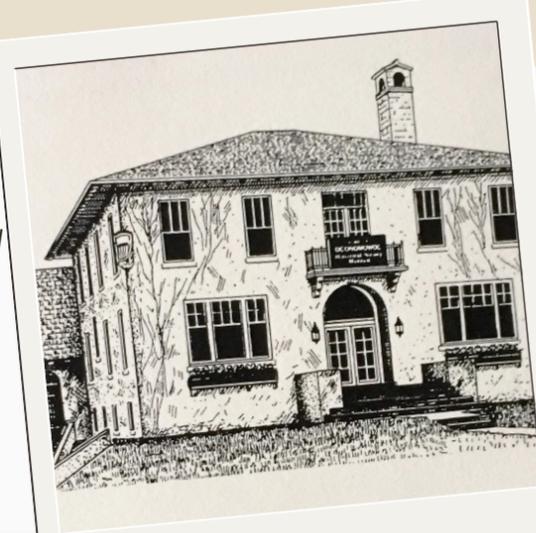
Oconomowoc's beautiful natural areas were a huge attraction piece for settlers here in the early 1800s. It's natural beauty continued to be a draw for wealthy entrepreneurs from Midwestern areas. These well-off families built summer homes in the area and traveled here to escape from the city.

This itinerary is chock-full of info, but it's also a very active way to explore. The majority of it gets you out and about. You may want to break this up over a couple of days or for the adventurous tackle it in one! Just make sure you plan time for rest with some good food and drink possibly from local establishments.

Museum & Historical Society

Your first stop to get a fill of Oconomowoc history is the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society and Museum. A hidden gem in the city, the museum takes you deep into the history of Oconomowoc from its early settlers to some rich stories from its past.

The museum is open seasonally from May through November. [Visit the website](#)



Lunch at the Depot

One wealthy Oconomowoc traveler was really into first impressions. So much so that he built the city a state-of-the-art train depot downtown because the current one was not a suitable coming and going point to such a beautiful area. Today, the train depot operates as popular restaurant, Maxim's. Grab lunch here and watch as the trains continue to pass by, you can see the historic landing where passengers once loading and unloaded.

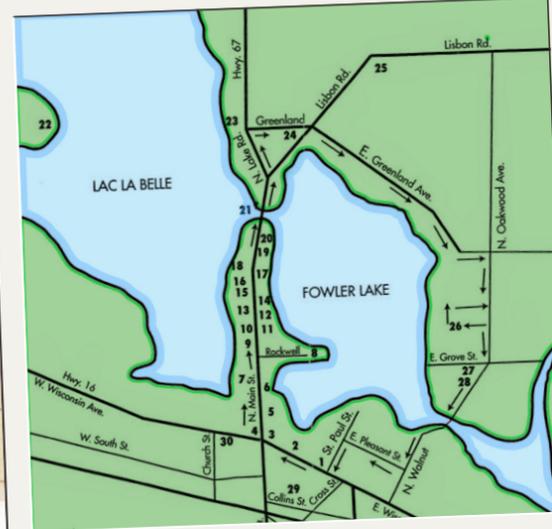
Check out the Menu.

There's also an incredible model train display inside.



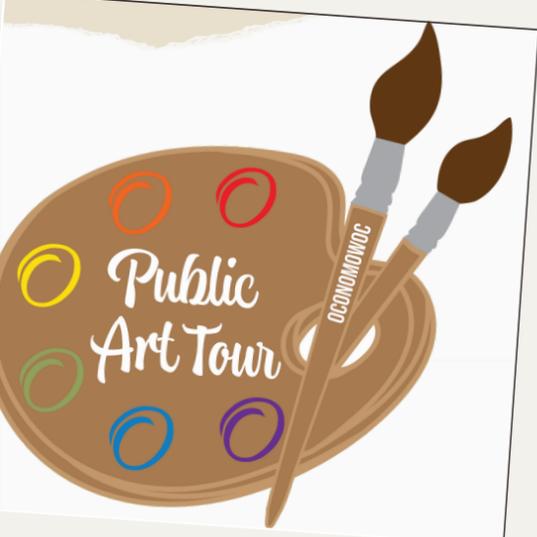
Historic Walking Tour

Those fancy summer homes mentioned earlier? Many are still around and the exteriors preserved in their architectural glory. Take the Historic Walking tour and check them out. You'll also learn about other historic structures and locations in the area. Grab a copy of the walking tour brochure at the museum or [view it digitally here.](#)



Public Art Tour

There's nearly two dozen public art pieces around the city. Many of them right downtown. This is a perfect pairing with the historic walking tour as many are in the same vicinity. All of the art pieces tie into Oconomowoc's history. Check out an interactive version of the art tour [here](#) and set out to see it all!



Chapman Park

This beautiful natural park space is outside of town in the city's Pabst Farms area. Much of this historic farmland where the beer's namesake is from has since been developed, however Chapman Park is a piece that remains in much of its natural state with a historic barn in the backdrop.

Park at the entrance to the park and enjoy a beautiful walk while you learn about Bill Chapman. The park was dedicated in his memory for his many contributions to the city. Plaques along the walking trail tell his story. Stop at a scenic sitting spot and view the area. Try to think back to what was once all open farm fields.



Break Time!

As mentioned earlier, make time for breaks to enjoy all the great shopping and dining Oconomowoc has to offer. You can find plenty of eateries from downtown to Pabst Farms.

[Explore them in our directory!](#)