

# Exploring Effigy Mounds



Wild sweet William  
NPS



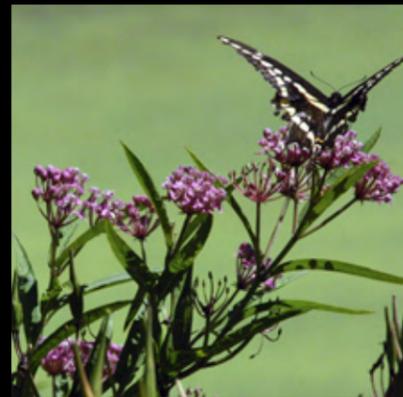
Dutchman's breeches  
NPS



Great blue lobelia and cardinal flower  
NPS



Bald eagle  
NPS



Swamp milkweed  
NPS

## Planning Your Visit

Effigy Mounds National Monument is three miles north of Marquette on Iowa 76.

Stop first at the visitor center, open daily except for certain public holidays. For hours and days of operation, call the monument or check the website.

There are picnic areas along Iowa 76 south of the visitor center but no picnic tables in the park.

Nearby towns offer lodging and restaurants.

Plants and animals of Effigy Mounds are typical of the upper Mississippi River valley. The park's main section has two units separated by the Yellow River. Both units are best explored by trails.

**North Unit** North of the visitor center a two-mile walk on the Fire Point Trail goes

past Little Bear Mound (outlined with pebbles) and conical and compound mounds, with good river views. South of the visitor center the one-mile Yellow River Bridge Boardwalk Trail (wheelchair-accessible) lets you explore a wetland environment. Rangers conduct programs from mid-June through Labor Day. A longer, self-guiding walk follows the Hanging Rock Trail past the Great Bear Mound, tall-

grass prairie, and river overlooks. Educational tours may be arranged in advance during the school year.

**South Unit** The trail system in the south unit leads through hardwood forest and restored tallgrass prairie (see map). Destinations include Marching Bear Group (10 bear and three bird mounds), Compound Mound Group, Founders Pond Overlook, and Nezekaw Point Over-

look. A parking lot is 0.5 mile south of the visitor center at the day-use area.

### For a Safe Visit

All archeological and natural objects in the park are protected by law. Vandalism, looting, digging, or altering the mounds or features is prohibited. • Use or possession of firearms is prohibited. • Watch for poison ivy, mosquitoes, and deer ticks. • Pets must be restrained by leash at all times. • Stay on trails. • The visitor center, museum, audio-

visual program, and public restrooms are wheelchair-accessible.

**Related Sites** Other Woodlands-era mound sites are the Fish Farm Mounds, north of Lansing, Iowa; Pikes Peak State Park in Iowa; and Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin. There are also mound sites that are open to the public in St. Paul, Minn., and throughout southern Wisconsin.



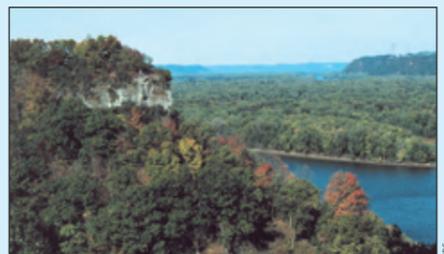
Marching Bear Group  
NPS



### View from Hanging Rock

A trail (3.5 miles one way) from the visitor center takes you to the Hanging Rock overlook, part of a large limestone outcropping. On your

way you will pass several mound groups. As you walk the trails, watch carefully for white-tailed deer, a common resident.



### Third Scenic View

Northward is a good view of Hanging Rock as well as the islands that make up the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

The park grounds are forested with mixed deciduous trees, oak, maple, walnut, shagbark hickory, birch, and aspen.



### View from Fire Point

A mysterious feature of Fire Point mound is burned clay. Found in the top layer of the mound, this clay was carried up from the Mississippi River banks.

The expansive view from here includes Pikes Peak State Park, far to the south, and Prairie du Chien across the river in Wisconsin.



### View from Eagle Rock

To the south here are Bluegill Pond, Buffalo Pond, and, on the far side of the Yellow River marshlands, the south unit of Effigy Mounds. Eagle Rock

is an excellent place to spot bald eagles, which nest along the rivers. November through March is the best time to see them.

Effigy Mounds National Monument is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

To learn more about the parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

**More information**  
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