**Family Friendly Things to Do in Bemidji**

**Summer 2023**

**Free Things to Do:**

* **Movement and Play Outdoors (MAP)**
	+ Free open play space for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups
	+ Fridays 9:30-11:30 starting June 9th-August 25th
	+ Paul Bunyan Center Playground (across from the airport)
* **Nature Play and Story time**:
	+ Mondays 10:30-11:30 starting June 6th
	+ North Country Park (30th Street behind Luekens North)
* **Mississippi Music at Bemidji Waterfront**
	+ Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm begins June 14th
* **The Story Tree Preschool Program at Bemidji State Park**
	+ Thursdays 10:00-10:45
	+ Registration required: Email Christa at christa.drake@state.mn.us
* Art Walk Downtown Bemidji: walk around downtown and find the art sculptures!
* Visit Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox
* Bemidji Rocks! Hide and search for hidden painted rocks around Bemidji

**Parks:**

* Bemidji State Park: playground, swimming, picnic areas, bathrooms, geocaching (free GPS rental), hiking trails. Cost: $6.00 parking pass
* Paul Bunyan Park: playground, Paul and Babe statues, bathrooms, picnic areas,
* Diamond Point Park: playground, swimming, bathrooms, picnic areas (next to BSU OPC rents canoes, kayaks, and other recreational gear)
* Cameron Park: playground, swimming, picnic areas, bathrooms
* City Park: playground, picnic, next to Skate Park and Disc Golf Course
* Nymore Park: playground, picnic area, tennis courts, next to dog park
* Algoma Park: playground, picnic area, baseball field
* Gordon Falls Park: playground, basketball court
* Grant Lake Park: playground, picnic area, swimming beach, bathrooms
* North Country Park: walking trails, pavilion, play area, picnic area, bathrooms
* Three Island Park: river swimming, picnic area, trails, scenic, bathrooms
* Elementary School Playgrounds open to public
	+ Paul Bunyan Early Childhood Center
	+ Central Elementary
	+ Northern Elementary
	+ JW Smith Elementary
	+ Lincoln Elementary
	+ Horace May Elementary
	+ Solway Elementary
	+ Gene Dillon Elementary

**Biking and Hiking Trails**

* Lake Bemidji Loop: 16 miles
* Bemidji State Park trails
* Paul Bunyan Trail
* Lost 40
* Neilson Spearhead Recreation Area
* La Salle Park
* Movil Maze
* Itasca State Park trails

**Play and Learn**

* Headwaters Science Center
	+ Sun: 1-5, Mon 9:30-5:00, Fri/Sat: 9:30-5:00
	+ $6.00 children 2-11, $9 ages 12+
* Beltrami County Historical Society Museum
	+ Wednesday-Saturday 10:00-6:00

**Summer Events**

* Bemidji Library Summer Reading Program: June 6th-July 30th register online
* Berry Picking:
	+ Thompson Farms (Oak Hills Rd) <https://www.thompson.farm/berry-picking-news>
	+ Ter-Lee Gardens (Bagley) <https://terleegardens.com/terlee-gardens-strawberries.htm>
* Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival: Aug 2nd-5th at Bemidji Lakefront
* Art in the Park: July 15th-16th at Library Park
* Beltrami County Fair: August 9th-13th, Beltrami County Fairgrounds
* Clearwater County Fair: Aug 2nd-6th, Bagley, MN
* Bemidji Jaycees Water Carnival: June 29th – July 4th Sanford Center and lakefront
* Fourth of July parade: Sunday, July 2nd at 1:00pm (fireworks July 4)
* Bemidji Area Farmers Market: Downtown Bemidji, Frizzell Furniture parking lot

**Pow Wows**

* Memorial Pow Wow Traditional Pow Wow: May 26-28 Veterans Memorial Pow Wow Grounds Cass Lake, MN
* Leech Lake Days Contest Pow Wow: June 23-25, Veterans Memorial Pow Wow Grounds, Cass Lake, MN
* Mii Gwitch Mahnomen Days Traditional Pow Wow: July 14-16 Ball Club, MN
* Onigum Traditional Pow Wow: July 21-July 23 Onigum, MN
* Cha Cha Bah Ning Traditional Pow Wow: Aug 25-27 Inger, MN

**Day Trips**

* Itasca State Park: *Mississippi River Headwaters, playground, picnic, camping, visitor center, biking, hiking trails, fire tower, naturalist activities*
* Children’s Discovery Museum and Judy Garland Museum: *Grand Rapids, MN Check website for hours and rates*
* Heart of Minnesota Emu Ranch: *Nevis, MN Call for summer tour times 218-652-2303 Adults $5 Children under 7 free.*
* Thief River Falls Waterpark
* Forest History Center Grand Rapids
* Brainerd Lakes Area: *Safari North Wildlife Park, Paul Bunyan Land, Pirates Cove Putt Putt, UpNorth Indoor Bounce House*
* Ely: *North American Bear Center, International Wolf Center*

**Check out these websites and Facebook pages for updated info on children’s activities and what’s going on in Bemidji**

* Bemidji Area Schools Community Education: <http://bemidjicommunityed.com/>
* Visit Bemidji Calendar of Events: <http://visitbemidji.com/calendar.html>
* City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation: [http://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B\_EV&SEC={832853B8-DA46-491F-9CC9-BE0A004207F2}](http://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B_EV&SEC=%7b832853B8-DA46-491F-9CC9-BE0A004207F2%7d)
* Headwaters School of Music and Art: <http://hwschool.org/>
* Bemidji Public Library <http://www.krls.org/branches/branch_bj.html>
* Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce <https://www.bemidji.org/>
* Bemidji Early Childhood Collaborative <https://www.bemidjiearlychildhoodcollaborative.org/>