

## Traveler

### Heritage Hill State Park — with its own greens and golds — is Green Bay’s other hallowed destination.

*Story by Natasha Kassulke, photos from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism*

As you enter the grounds of Heritage Hill State Park, you are welcomed by one of the best views in Green Bay — that isn’t surrounded by stadium seating and Brett Favre’s retired number. Your eyes will follow the gentle slope of greens and golds past historic buildings down to the beautiful Fox River, rather than the home field for the Green Bay Packers. On any given day you might encounter a military reenactment or perhaps a wedding, instead of a football game.

In a city that is football fanatical, Heritage Hill State Park, a 48-acre outdoor museum and park in Green Bay, features 25 structures from Wisconsin’s past — the fur trade in 1762, Fort Howard in 1836, small towns in 1871 and ethnic farms in 1905. And it keeps growing.

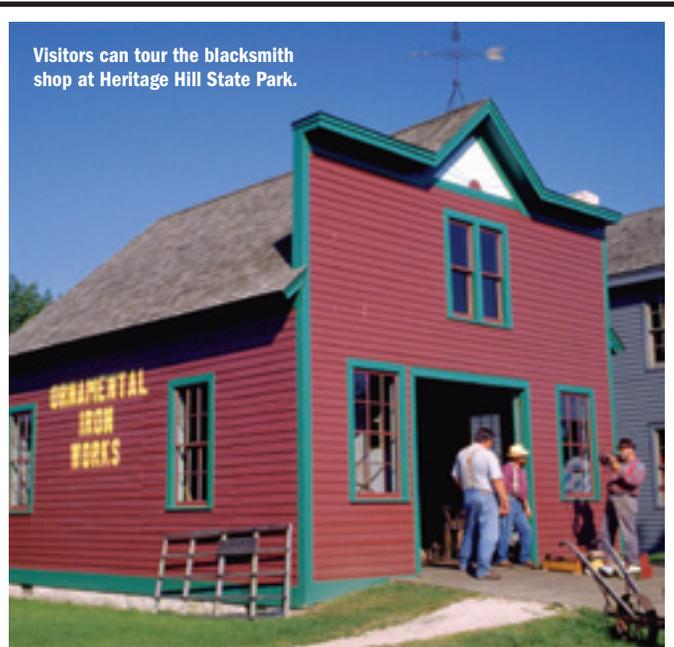
Recently, the park held a grand opening of the restored \$2.1 million guardhouse. In 2009, portions of the original guardhouse were located in Green Bay, purchased and then relocated to Heritage Hill. It is now one of the four original buildings from Fort Howard.

Heritage Hill State Park is an unusual property in the state park system since the park and museum are operated by two partner groups. The Heritage Hill Corporation, a nonprofit organization, is charged with operations as well as maintenance and development of the park under terms of a lease with the Department of Natural Resources. The Heritage Hill Foundation solicits and manages donated, granted and bequeathed funds to help support the growth as well as the operation of the park.

The relationship between Heritage Hill State Historical Park and the Department of Natural Resources provides an

excellent example of a public and private partnership.

Heritage Hill receives a small portion of its funding from the state. The balance comes from admissions, donors and the Heritage Hill Foundation, which also is the Friends of Wisconsin State



Visitors can tour the blacksmith shop at Heritage Hill State Park.

Parks group for Heritage Hill State Historical Park.

The park is busy year-round and events include garden walking tours, cooking and canning workshops, history and military camps, learning labs on how to build a log cabin and more. The park also offers school field trips and discovery days. Approximately 18,000 school children visit the park each year for general tours and hands-on programs.

On Oct. 17 and 24 (3 to 8 p.m.) the park features “A Brothers Grimm Halloween at Heritage Hill.” During the event, trick-or-treat in a family-friendly environment, play snap apple, and find out which fairytale character will be strolling the grounds. Enjoy the outdoor movie showing on the green of classic Brothers Grimm shorts and much more.

December brings the popular “The Spirit of Christmas Past” event on Dec. 12 and 19 (noon to 6 p.m.). Experience an old-fashioned Christmas with horse-drawn wagon rides, historic dancing, cooking, crafts and music from local musicians. Enjoy the many Christmas trees decorated with natural, homemade and Depression era decorations. See different types of Christmas meals and styles of cooking in Fort Howard and the farm. Visitors will be able to frost their own sugar cookie and purchase s’mores and hot chocolate. Premium admission rates apply during this event: Adults \$11, seniors (62 and older) \$10, children (4 to 15) \$8, children (3 and under) free.

Structures at the park are as varied as the events.

One of the more unusual is the Bark Chapel. The Jesuit priests would use these structures as places of worship as well as for their dwellings. Original structures were constructed of sapling framework with elm bark. The Bark Chapel



Heritage Hill is a living history museum.

# What's cooking?

## RED WINE MARINATED VENISON STEAKS

John G. Motoviloff

This is a go-to recipe for marinating venison — whether burgers, steaks or roasts. You might be tempted to use olive oil in the marinade, since it goes so well with red wine in other situations. Resist this and go with canola or vegetable oil. The stronger flavor of olive oil can bring out a gamey taste in venison.

### INGREDIENTS:

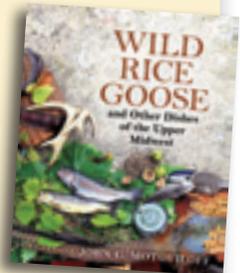
2 pounds venison steaks: medallions cut into roughly 4-ounce sections  
Salt and pepper to taste

### MARINADE:

1 cup dry red wine  
4 tablespoons vegetable or canola oil  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
¼ teaspoon salt  
Pinch of black pepper

### DIRECTIONS:

Trim venison of any skin, tendon or fat. Salt and pepper meat on all sides. Whisk together marinade ingredients. Pour over meat and marinate in a stoneware or other nonreactive container for several hours. Grill or broil to medium-rare. Serve with skin-on garlic mashed potatoes.

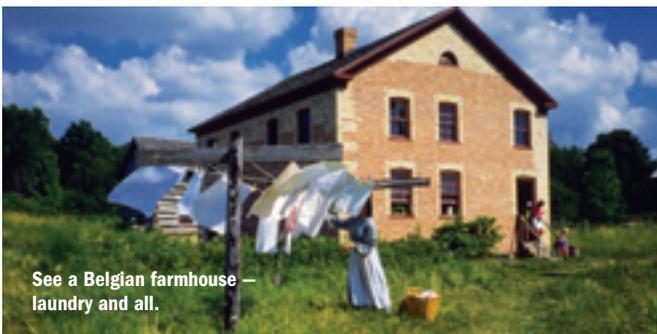


John G. Motoviloff is a publications editor for DNR's wildlife management program. He also is the author of "Wild Rice Goose and Other Dishes of the

Upper Midwest" (University of Wisconsin Press). The book is a must have guide to cooking wild foods that you can hunt, fish or forage for (and sometimes buy from a wild food vendor) in the Upper Midwest. You'll savor more than 100 other recipes like Morel Mushroom Scramble, Cathy's Plum Lake Bluegill and Orange Pheasant. The book retails for \$24.95 paperback and \$14.95 e-book. Motoviloff splits his time between Madison and a timber-frame cabin in the Kickapoo Valley. Other books by this author include "Fly Fisher's Guide to Wisconsin and Iowa."



Civil War reenactments are popular events at Heritage Hill State Park.



See a Belgian farmhouse — laundry and all.

at Heritage Hill is a replica.

The Fur Trader's Cabin was constructed around 1800. The building was found inside of a house that was being torn down in order to construct the Tilleman Bridge. The building is constructed in the French style of piece-on-piece, meaning one log upon the other. Grooved upright logs are set in the ground at the corners, doors and windows. The horizontal logs are cut to fit and placed on top of each other in the grooves. Cracks are chinked to give it a tight fit.

Other buildings include the Maple Sugaring House, the log Court House, Fort Howard Section (home to the Fort Howard School and Hospital). The Fort Howard Hospital is the oldest standing military hospital in the United States.

The Growing Community Area features trades found in Green Bay during the last half of the 19th century (housing the Moravian Church, Franklin Hose Company, YMCA Library, Print Shop, Blacksmith, Baird

Law Office, Allouez Town Hall, Tank Cottage and Victorian Bandstand). Heritage Hill records five buildings on the National Registry of Historic Homes. Tank Cottage is one of the oldest houses in Wisconsin.

The Ethnic Area traces the roots of farmers from the Brabant province of Belgium

### >>> FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CALL:**  
920-448-5150 or toll-free  
800-721-5150 or visit  
<http://heritagehillgb.org/> for  
information.

**ADMISSION:**  
(Monday through Friday, prior to  
May 31 and after Sept. 7) - \$5.

(June 1 through Sept. 7):  
Adults - \$10  
Seniors - \$9  
Children (ages 4 to 15) - \$7  
Children (3 and under) - free.

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Heritage Hill is on the east bank  
of the Fox River, just north of  
State Highway 172, at 2640 S.  
Webster St., Green Bay.

who began immigrating to Northeastern Wisconsin around 1853. Buildings include the Cheese Factory, Belgian Farm, Cotton House, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Roadside Chapel. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located on the site of the old Fort Smith. Bones of a soldier were found when excavating for the park. Every year a special Memorial Day ceremony is held at this site.

Heritage Hill is also one of Wisconsin's best kept secrets for weddings. Bridal parties can choose from two venues — a Moravian church and a Victorian gazebo. Built in 1851, the Moravian Church offers a rich history and quaint atmosphere. Inside the church natural light pours in through the eight 15-foot-tall clear glass windows. The church comes with a pump organ or baby grand piano for your use. It seats 150 guests.

Situated in the center of the park on a lush green lawn, the gazebo is the perfect spot for an outdoor wedding. The Victorian gazebo seats 500 guests.

Heritage Hill accepts reservations up to two years in advance. And it just may be a lot easier to score than season tickets to the Green Bay Packers.

Natasha Kassulke is editor of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.