



Town of Baraboo

Baraboo is a city in Sauk County, Wisconsin, along the Baraboo River. The population was 10,780 at the time of the 2000 census. The city is located mostly within the Town of Baraboo.

Baraboo is home to Circus World Museum, the former headquarters and winter home of the Ringling Brothers circus and now the largest library of circus information in the US. This living museum has one of the foremost collections of circus carts, and occasionally hosts a parade of these artifacts through the streets of Baraboo.

The Al Ringling Theater is an active landmark of the city's rich cultural history. This grand scale movie palace is larger and more elaborate than one would normally find in a town the size of Baraboo, owing to the financial assistance of the Ringling family. The Al Ringling home still exists and is kept in good condition.

Baraboo is also home to the International Crane Foundation, the world's foremost organization dedicated to the study and conservation of the world's 15 species of crane. Aldo Leopold's famous Shack and Farm, celebrated in A Sand County Almanac is also within the Baraboo vicinity.

Together with surrounding communities (including West Baraboo and the Town of Baraboo), the Baraboo micropolitan area was, according to the 2000 census, home to about 15,000 people. The city forms the core of the United States Census Bureau's Baraboo Micropolitan Statistical Area, which includes all of Sauk County (2000 population: 55,225). The Baraboo mSA is just northwest of the Madison metropolitan area, with which it forms the Census Bureau's Baraboo-Madison Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Geography: According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 13.7 km² (5.3 mi²), all land.

Baraboo is home to the Baraboo Syncline, a doubly-plunging, asymmetric syncline in Proterozoic-aged Baraboo Quartzite. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin, most notably Charles R. Van Hise used the syncline to prove that small-scale deformational structures in isolated outcrops reflect larger regional structures and established top-facing to occur inside elaborately deformed strata. These two principles sparked a global revolution in structural geology during the 1920s. The nearby Baraboo Hills are designated one of the "Last Great Places" by the Nature Conservancy because of unique rocks, plants and animals. Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin's largest state park, contains large areas of the Baraboo Hills. The hills near Baraboo were created by glacial action, and in some points poke up from the flat terrain nearby to form a stark contrast. Apparently some of these features were created when a glacial pocket was formed eons ago, or in other words were the advance of the glacier halted, creating some of the unique features of the Baraboo hills.

Demographics: As of the census of 2000, there were 10,771 people, 4,467 occupied households and 2,403 families residing in the city. The population density was 783.2/km² (2,030.2/mi²). There were 4,718 housing units at an average density of 345.0 persons/km² (894.3 persons/mi²). The racial makeup of the city was 97.12% White, 0.51% African American, 0.77% Native American, 0.52% Asian, 0.00% Pacific Islander, 0.41% from other races, and 0.66% from two or more races. 1.57% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 4,467 households out of which 31.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 46.9% were married couples living together, 10.8% have a woman whose husband does not live with her, and 38.8% were non-families. 32.1% of all households were made up of individuals and 13.5% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.33 and the average family size was 2.96.

In the city the population was spread out with 24.9% under the age of 18, 8.8% from 18 to 24, 30.5% from 25 to 44, 20.1% from 45 to 64, and 15.7% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 36 years. For every 100 females there were 93.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 90.0 males.

Recommended attractions:

Devil's Lake State Park is a state park located in the Baraboo Range, just south of Baraboo, Wisconsin. This 9,117 acre (36.90 km .) state park is known for its 500 foot (150 m) high quartzite bluffs along the 360 acre (1.5 km .) Devil's Lake, which was created by a glacier during the last ice age approximately 12,000 years ago. The sand at the bottom of Devil's Lake is thought to be deposited by glaciers. However, the Baraboo Hills are much older; they are approximately 1.6 billion years old and were once part of the Baraboo Range which is thought to have been taller than the Rocky Mountains. During the autumn, the park's brilliant foliage makes it a popular attraction. The lake is surrounded by a mixed conifer-deciduous forest. Its scenic beauty along with its proximity to the Wisconsin Dells has made it one of the most popular of Wisconsin's state parks for both day use and overnight camping; the park receives over 1.2 million visitors annually.

The **Great Annual Bicycle Adventure Along the Wisconsin River (GRABAAR)** is a 500 mile, 7 day supported bicycle tour of Wisconsin from Eagle River to Prairie du Chien. It has been run in the last week of June, for 21 consecutive years by the Bike Wisconsin organization.

Circus World Museum: Museum that pays tribute to more than 200 years of the American circus through a vast collection of related archival material and historical artifacts