

Did you know that Wisconsin used to be under the ocean? It's true! It also used to be on the equator. About 425 million years ago, during the Silurian Period of the Earth's geologic history, much of North America was covered by a shallow, tropical sea. Reefs flourished with corals, crinoids, brachiopods, and many other plant and animal species. You can still see the Silurian Reef today, and fossils of the amazing creatures that lived there. You don't have to go to the equator, and it's a lot closer than you might imagine.



The Silurian Reef outcroppings of the Milwaukee region were the first-recognized fossil reefs in North America. To the right is a list of eight local sites where visitors can see—and in some cases, collect—Silurian Reef fossils. Use the map on the next page to plot your fossil-hunting adventure, and the Silurian Reef fossil chart to identify your fossils. **HINT: The best places to find and collect your own fossils are the beach sites at Atwater, Doctors, and Grant Parks.**

Silurian Reef Sites

IN THE MILWAUKEE METRO AREA

Story Quarry Reef

American Family Field

This is the oldest and best known example of Silurian formations in North America. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Natural Landmark.

Schoonmaker Quarry Reef

68th & State, Wauwatosa

Remnants of the reef outcrop can be found at the north edge of the parking lot behind Walgreens.

Lime Kiln Park

2020 Green Bay Road, Grafton

Some of the original five lime kilns from the late 1800s are still standing.

Hartung Park

W. Keefe Ave, Wauwatosa

Built on the site of a former quarry with a rich geological history.

Quarry Lake Park

3533 Northwestern Ave, Mt. Pleasant

A former limestone quarry; it is now a spring-fed lake.

Beach Sites

Atwater Park

4000 N. Lake Dr, Shorewood

Doctors Park

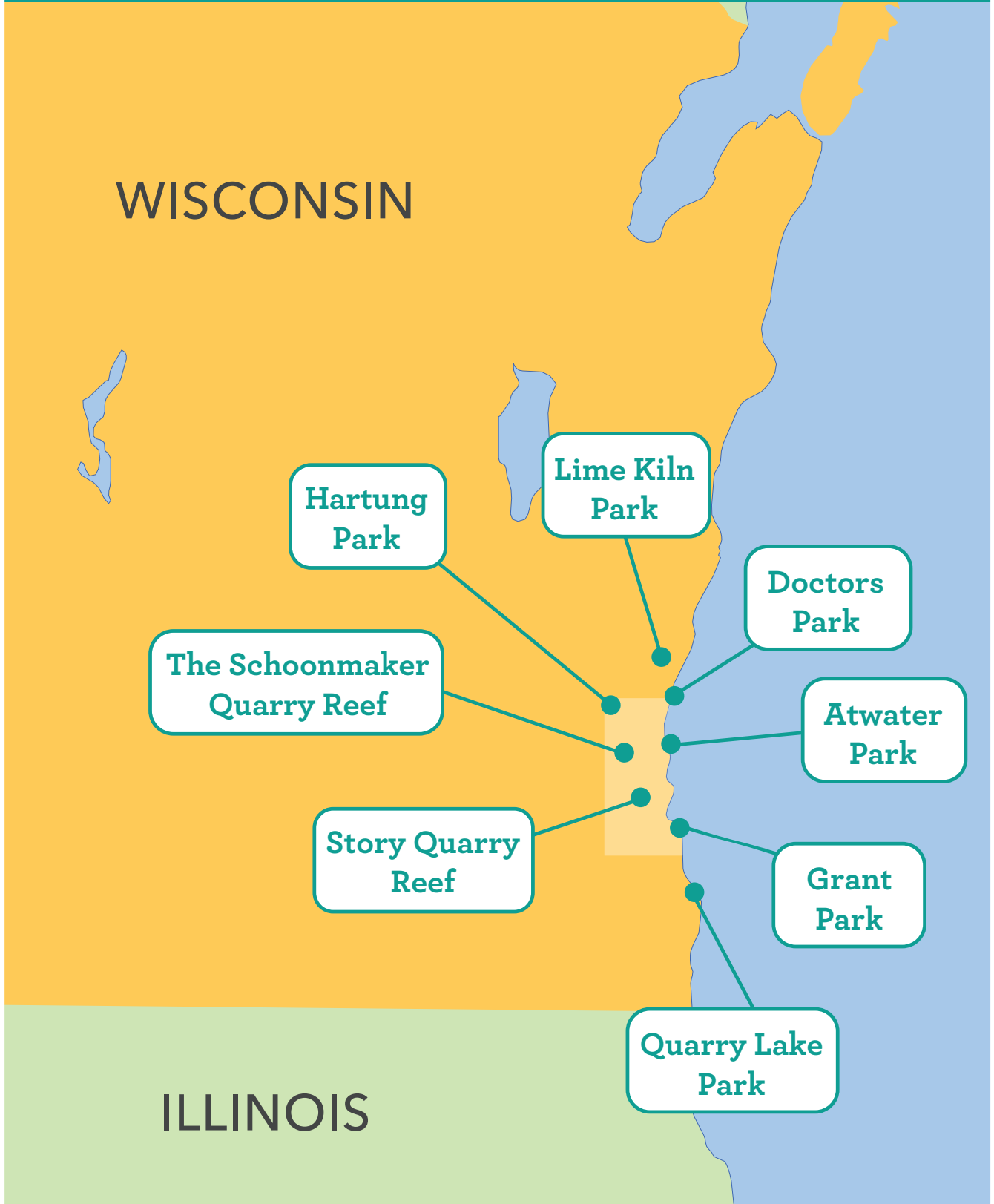
1870 E. Fox Ln, Fox Point

Grant Park

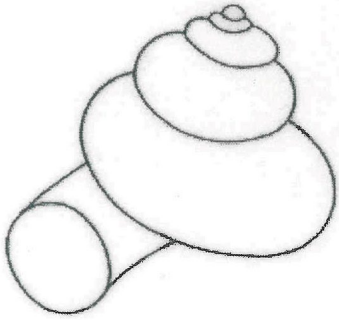
100 E. Hawthorne Avenue South Milwaukee

Regional Silurian Reef Outcroppings

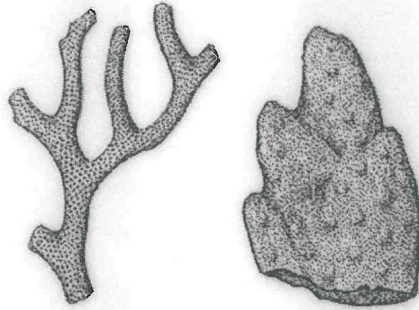
IN THE MILWAUKEE METRO AREA



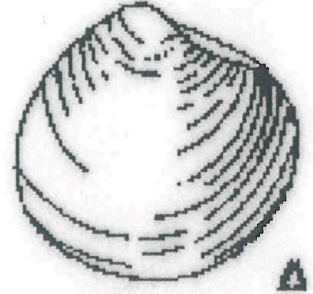
SILURIAN REEF FOSSIL KEY



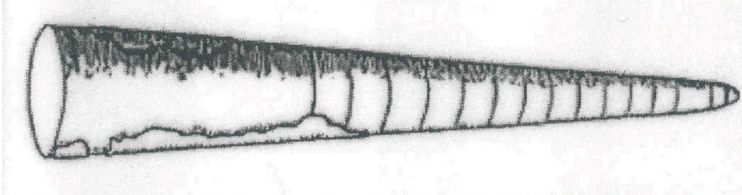
GASTROPOD
Snail Shell



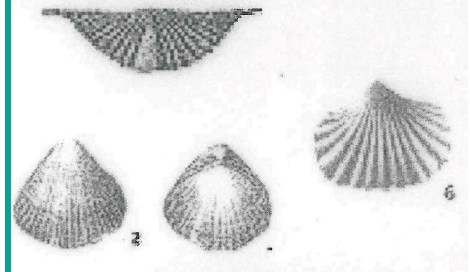
BRYOZOANS



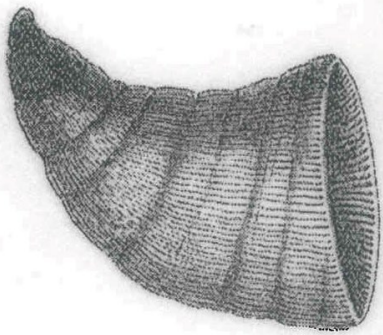
BIVALVE
Clam Shell



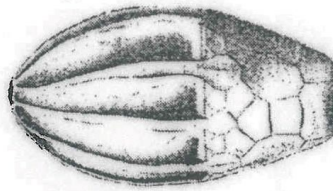
CEPHALOPOD



BRACHIOPOD



RUGOSE CORAL
Horned Coral



Calyx



Stem

CRINOID