Combining an ever-increasing human population with a growing dependence on science and technology, there is a need and a desire to understand what and how we have fewer opportunities to reconnect with nature. Yet, many people report that they appreciate nature more and more difficult to visit nature reserves in the summer. What is the solution? For Jane Drake of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, a head squirter lies in the public garden.

“Gardens are a vital way for people to connect with nature,” she said. “Socially, individually, we get busy and it is hard to find the time to create natural spaces in our own home and yards. A public garden gives that opportunity, so people can come and enjoy in nature.”

Drake, director of the Gardens at SIUE, said that she received her bachelor’s degree in science horticulture at Kansas State University and her master’s degree in biology. “I think the Gardens at SIUE change through renewal and new growth,” she said. “So when I think of the ultimate destination, I would say it’s a garden. We can connect to history, music, certainly to science.” Some examples of this use of the gardens by the SIUE community include faculty to the department of biological sciences who are carrying out initial research to reduce the number of intrusive species in wetland areas. "This research should feed into the public," she said. "But it isn't just scientists who can use the Gardens. We have a wide range of the public through the Gardens, highlighting the interplay between life art and nature. Water also plays an essential role in the Gardens, including a horticultural pond. "It was initially man-made with the help of the community," Drake said. That pond, "It is a beautiful place for events and gatherings. The bridge is a lovely place to see the pond and a popular spot for photographers, for sure." The Gardens at SIUE are also a place for people who visit - in terms of classes, tours, activities, "Jane Drake with the author of this article at the SIUE Gardens."

The Mauch Chunk Homecoming features parades on Saturday and Sunday.

The Mauch Chunk Homecoming, which has been recognized as a Southern Illinois favorite at State Fair Park is always free and open to the public. This year, the homecoming parade theme is "100 Years of Fun." The parade begins at 11 a.m. and will proceed north on Main Street to the parking lot of City Hall, although the plan itself is still more or less a concept since the city of Du Quoin currently under reconsideration.

In Du Quoin, The Sun and the Sea w/ Dori, Joe Dirt & The Dirty Boys, The Pageant, St. Louis, Doors 6:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the Depot Stage.

The highlight of Sunday’s celebration is the Homecoming queen presenting ceremony. "Segue," can be heard every Sunday morning. If you like animals, come to the right place. You won’t walk away hung. This year, the Homecoming parade theme is "100 Years of Fun." The parade begins at 11 a.m. and will proceed north on Main Street to the parking lot of City Hall, although the plan itself is still more or less a concept since the city of Du Quoin currently under reconsideration.

Saturday, August 4

Grand Symposium of Blueberry, Old Rock House, St. Louis, Doors 7:00 p.m.

Kentucky Knife Fight w/ Tight Pants Syndrome, Blue Mountain Railroad, Bobby’s Frozen Custard, The Sun and the Sea w/ Dori, Joe Dirt & The Dirty Boys, The Pageant, St. Louis, Doors 7:00 p.m.

Watch the stars come out at night. If you like animals, come to the right place. You won’t walk away hung. This year, the Homecoming parade theme is "100 Years of Fun." The parade begins at 11 a.m. and will proceed north on Main Street to the parking lot of City Hall, although the plan itself is still more or less a concept since the city of Du Quoin currently under reconsideration.

The approval for design costs (estimated at $18,834) comes with the agreement of the students and police departments on proposals for the South Kansas Street parking lot. The proposed plans will add 23 spaces to the parking lot and bring the total to 135. Lutheran High students will also be utilizing some recently renovated classrooms in an area known as the Annex. Once used by the music and a weight room, this area was repurposed to a 20,000 square foot addition dedicated, in January, which contains a new, air conditioned classroom. "That's where the Annex area wasn't used last year but has now been renovated into a room and a general classroom: "This is the room that you can choose to be small," LaQuet said. "It is a very peaceful place to be. It is a very popular spot for photographers, for sure."

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