



BEST OF BUFFALO

WHEN IT'S SWARMOUT

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

Reading the results for our summer category almost always elicits the same set of reactions from AV staff: First there's cabin fever, then stunned silence and finally heavy drinking. While the folks who answer earnestly come back with many of the same answers year after year—**Sunset Bay** and **Evangola** in beaches, **Allegany** and **Letchworth** in camping, **Zoar Valley** in hiking, the **UB/Amherst bike path** for bicycling, **Delaware Park** and **Chestnut Ridge** in parks—occasionally a notable upstart makes the list, like **Jones Pond**, a gay campground in Angelica. They remind us of why everyone loves summers in Buffalo: long, sunny days and plenty of recreational opportunities. But there are others, the ones who cause stunned silence and drinking, who remind of us of why democracy is bound to crumble. In the beaches category, many people decided on far-off locations, like Laguna Beach, South Beach and Topsail Island, North Carolina. We can only assume that these are not the same people who directed their vitriol toward golfing. One told us to ask the rich white people, and a second simply declared, "Go golf in hell, yuppie scum." Another morbid person likes the "beach" at Mirror Lake in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Two responses that raised eyebrows under the camping category favored Girl Scout camp. We can only hope that there are Girl Scouts filling out our survey. Needless to say, none of these answers made the top five lists.



LETCWORTH STATE PARK

PHOTO BY PETER KOCH

Best Beach

Sunset Bay
Sherkston Shores
Evangola State Park
Crystal Beach
Beaver Island State Park

Best Bicycling

Riverwalk
Niawanda Park
Niagara Parkway, Ontario
Buffalo's Waterfront
Amherst/UB bike path

Best Camping

Zoar Valley
Letchworth State Park
Jones Pond
Darien Lakes State Park
Allegany State Park

Best Fishing

Tift Nature Preserve
Sturgeon Point

Small Boat Harbor
Niagara River
Eighteen Mile Creek

Best Golfing

River Oaks Country Club
Glen Oak Country Club
Delaware Park
Deerwood Country Club
Brookfield Country Club

Best Hiking

Zoar Valley
Niagara Gorge
Hunter's Creek
Chestnut Ridge Park
Allegany State Park

Best Park

Niawanda Park
Letchworth State Park
Glen Falls Park
Delaware Park
Chestnut Ridge Park

WHEN IT'S SCOLDOUT

Our winter category revealed a few indelible truths about Buffalonians. Namely that we like winter sports, we are all sex fiends, we really don't need any excuse to miss work, we spend way too much time in Florida and several of us don't quite get it...any of it.

As is usually the case, **sex** ranks high in the **Best Winter Activity, Nonsport** category. But what about these variations that didn't make the top five—"making love," "bury the weenie," "making whoopee" and "copulating"? These four answers came from a scientist, a romantic, a frat boy and an 80-year-old—you guess which came from whom. One person's favorite thing to do in winter is to plan for summer. Either he has a very busy summer or no job in the winter.

Under **Best Sledding**, Buffalo seems hopelessly outmatched by the hilly southtowns, but **Delaware Park's Shakespeare Hill** snuck its way in, as did **Ellicott Creek Park**. This, however, isn't half as depressing as one answer, the **I-90 split**. Don't sled too far, kids!

Buffalonians favor skating outdoors, as evidenced by three of the top five in **Best Skating**—**Fountain Plaza**, **Cazenovia Park** and **Hoyt Lake**. Other outdoor faves included the **Black Rock Canal** and backyard ponds. When we said "**Snowbird Destination**" some people must have read "snowbunny," because **Ellicottville** was nominated.

One fellow who likes to have "snowball fights with the neighborhood kids as a nonsport activity" also used "took ice-ball to face in snowball fight with neighborhood kids" as an excuse for missing work. Serves you right.

Best Skating

Pepsi Center
Hoyt Lake
Fountain Plaza
Cazenovia Park rink
Buffalo State College rink

Best Skiing

Kissing Bridge
Holimont
Holiday Valley

Best Sledding

Kissing Bridge
Holiday Valley
Ellicott Creek Park
Delaware Park
Chestnut Ridge Park

Best Snowbird Destination

The Caribbean
Mexico
Florida

Ellicottville for skiing
Arizona

Best Winter Activity, Nonsport

Sex
Drinking, bar-hopping
Sitting by the fire
Going to the movies
Going to the theater

Best Winter Excuse for Missing Work

Snowed in, road closed, car won't start
Skiing
Sick
Sex
Hangover

Best Winter Sport

Snowboarding
Sledding, tubing, tobogganing
Hockey
Downhill skiing
Cross-country skiing

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