

Welcome to 2020! The Mayfield-Graves County Tourism Commission thought we would start the year with a list of 20 things to do in Mayfield and Graves County in 2020. We came up with so many ideas that we finally had to narrow them down by season. We encourage you to use this Top 20 List as a check list and, if you are so inclined, take pictures and post them to social media with the hashtag #visitmayfieldgraves. If we've missed one of your favorite things to do in Mayfield and Graves County, post it to our Facebook Page so we can add it to the next list. Happy Touring...

Spring (March, April & May)

1. Visit the Wooldridge Monuments: "The Strange Procession that Never Moves." In a plot of Maplewood Cemetery, you'll find the unusual stone figures of an eccentric aristocrat and Civil War soldier, Henry Wooldridge (buried here in 1899), whose family, friends and favorite animals are enshrined here. The Wooldridge Monuments have been featured in "Ripley's Believe it or Not" and still draw many curious eyes.
2. Tour the Beautiful and Historic Edana Locus, a 17 room mansion built in 1926 as a private home for Ed and Annie Gardner. Edana Locus was used as a public library for 32 years and now is home to the Mayfield Graves County Chamber of Commerce and Graves County Economic Development.
3. Check out the Inaugural "Food Truck Saturdays" in Downtown Mayfield. Be on the lookout for more information on this brand new event, coming soon.
4. Did you know that Graves County includes 35 cities/census-designated places/ unincorporated communities? Make plans to attend one of Graves County's many Community Days to experience an authentic, family-friendly, hometown festival atmosphere - see also, Wingo Days, Sedalia Days, Lowes Days, etc., etc., etc.

Summer (June, July & August)

5. Do NOT miss the 140th Annual Fancy Farm Picnic on the 1st Saturday in August; known as the "World's Largest Picnic", which includes political speaking, pit barbecue, bingo, games, and more. (All first time attendees are required to eat a barbecue sandwich and drink an ice-cold Sundrop.)
6. Mayfield puts on quite a show with their 4th of July "Glory Days". The day long event includes the Kiwanis Club's Bike Around Mayfield (BAM), a downtown festival with a car show, vendors of all kinds, and concludes with a live concert and fireworks.
7. Visit Kess Park and tryout the Splash Pad, Miniature Golf Course, Walking Trails, Playgrounds, Fishing Pond, and Picnic Pavilions. You can spend the whole day there and never run out of things to do.
8. Make plans to attend the Graves County Fair for rides, harness races, exhibits and other special events. If thinking about going to the County Fair doesn't make you at least a little bit nostalgic, you've done life wrong.

Fall (September, October & November)

9. The Gourd Patch Arts Festival is fall fun at its best! The day includes arts & crafts, live music, food vendors, a gourd derby car race, pumpkins & mums, and even a petting zoo!
10. Ever been to a Haunted Town Hall Fall Festival? Cartwright Grove, a replica 1880's Old West Town located at the Graves County Fairgrounds, hosts two spooky weekends of live music, Halloween decorations, and "costumed" guests.

11. A-Maize-Ing Farms is Kentucky's largest corn maze consisting of three mazes in one; children's, intermediate, and expert. The corn maze is not the only attraction at the farm though; A-Maize-Ing Farms also has hayrides, corn cannon, giant inflatables, petal carts, petting zoo on Saturdays, pumpkins, mums, and other Fall décor (admission required).

12. Do you like haunted houses? Graves County has a couple of well-known haunted venues. The Industrial Slaughterhouse, located in Fancy Farm, is an indoor attraction, featuring live actors and special effects inside an actual abandoned slaughterhouse! The Talon Falls Screampark, located in Melber, includes not only a haunted house, but also a haunted hayride. (Admission is required for both the Industrial Slaughterhouse and the Talon Falls Screampark.)

Winter (December, January & February)

13. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year and it kicks off with Winterfest! On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, you will want to be in downtown Mayfield for the Lion's Club Lighted Christmas Parade. While you're there, you can try your hand(ankle) at ice skating at the downtown outdoor rink and maybe even visit Santa on the Courthouse lawn (but only if you've been good).

14. Feel like attending an experience to remind you what the holiday is really all about? How about a visit to the Church of the Nazarene's Walk Through Bethlehem or a performance of First Baptist Church's Living Christmas Tree. (Remember, this is the Bible Belt, nearly all our churches have special Christmas Celebrations for which you would be welcome.)

15. 2019 was the first year for the Graves County Fairground Festival of Lights and they were beautiful! Community businesses, civic organizations, and local governments sponsored displays at the fairgrounds where cars could drive through and enjoy the holiday lights; you just know they will be even more spectacular in 2020!

16. Cartwright Grove brought back the wonderful tradition of hosting a Holiday Open House each year. They decorate the Grove to the nine's and then offer live music and covered wagon rides for two weekends in December.

Year Round Activities

17. Check out Trade Day at the Graves County Fairgrounds, held each Monday morning. At Trade Day, you can find most anything, including chickens, ducks, goats, dogs, tools, fishing gear, household items, antiques, collectables and much more. If you get hungry while browsing, there are food and beverage vendors available too; our advice, go early.

18. Visit the Ice House Gallery & Museum to see an exhibit, take a class, or purchase a beautiful piece of art to support a local artist. The gift shop at the Ice House includes works from 85 local artists!

19. Attend a performance at the Purchase Players Community Performing Arts Center or the Graves County High School Independence Bank Performing Arts Center. The local talent is incredible and includes opportunities for all ages.

20. Eat the famous Graves County Barbecue - A&B, Hoskins, Larry, Darryl & Darryl; trust us, it's ALL good! And don't forget to stop at one of our locally owned boutiques for a little shopping after lunch. Nothing like a great bargain after a fully belly!

Want to know more about Mayfield and Graves County? Visit our Facebook page or contact the Mayfield-Graves County Tourism Commission at info@visitmayfieldgraves.org.