



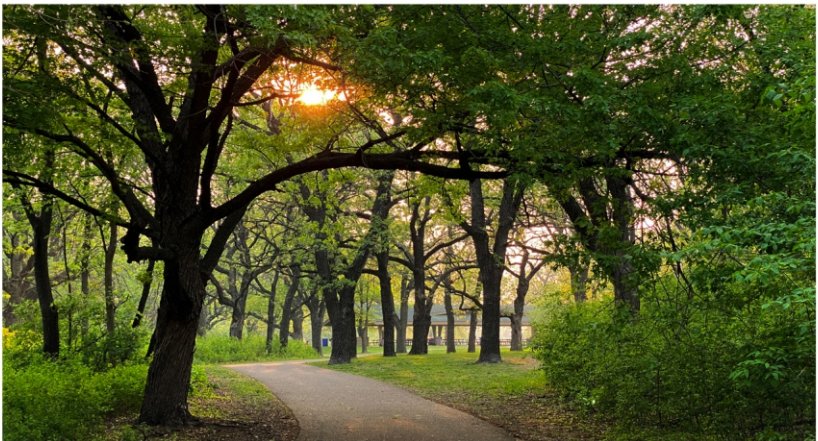
## June - Week 3

## Long Summer Days

**This week we celebrate the summer solstice**, the longest day of the year. On the summer solstice, the sun is directly overhead the Tropic of Cancer which is found at 23.5 degrees North. Mexico and the Bahamas are examples of countries in North America that lie along the Tropic of Cancer. The state of Minnesota's southern border is around 43.5 degrees North while the northern border is around 49 degrees North.

We know each day on our planet is 24 hours long, but the balance of hours of daylight versus hours of nighttime changes with the seasons. Use the Minnesota Weatherguide Calendar and Almanac to find the amount of daylight we have on the summer solstice and record this in your journal. Then record the amount of daylight we have at the Winter Solstice, which occurs in the third week in December. How much more daylight do we have on the Summer Solstice?

June is a busy month. Nature is bursting with life; we see new generations of animals, plants growing and flowering, we hear birds singing from dawn to dusk. In your journal, in words or with diagrams, document the impact this change in daylight has on Minnesota climate, plants, and animals. Create a list of the signs of summer life that you notice on one of these long summer days this week.



Long days with the sun still up late into the evenings. Summer at last!