

A Unique Point on Earth

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SUMMARY

Most people are aware of the Greenwich Meridian. Set as 0 degrees longitude, it separates east from west in the same way that the Equator separates north from south. It also sits at the center of our system of time zones.

However, few people are aware of the four locations on earth where 45 degrees latitude and 90 degrees longitude intersect.

In rural western Marathon County, Wisconsin (USA), near Poniatowski, a small county park has stood since 1969 marking the intersection of the 45th Parallel of Latitude and the 90th Meridian of Longitude. Why is this important? This point in Marathon County is the most accessible as two points are located in oceans (Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean) and one point is located in a remote location in a mountainous region of China.

Recently the Marathon County Parks Department in collaboration with Christopher Fieri, Marathon County Surveyor, installed a new marker and information kiosk at 45°N and 90°W to better publicize the uniqueness of this special location.