

Dhamma Pakāsa

Illinois Vipassana Meditation Center

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Dhamma Hall of Dhamma Pakāsa

Dhamma Pakāsa, (meaning 'Lustre of Dhamma'), was established in June 2003 and is located in north central Illinois, in the small farming township of Pecatonica. Situated in the basin of the Pecatonica and Rock Rivers, this area is rich in fertile farmland, lush greenery and varied wildlife. Although quite rural, it lies only 15 miles west of Rockford, IL, a big city. The area is also near three other urban centres, being just 55 miles south of Madison, WI, 90 miles southwest of Milwaukee, WI, and 95 miles northwest of Chicago, IL.

The 20-acre property, which borders the Four Lakes Forest Preserve, is home to three artesian spring-fed ponds, a family of mature deciduous trees, and an expansive, fertile field rising from the property's midpoint to its back boundary. Several barn structures line the site's western edge, and are being used today as storage and workspaces. The original residence, located near the property's entrance, contains four bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a large open living room space that is currently functioning as a meditation hall.

In July of 2003, Dhamma Pakasā held its first extended meditation course, a three-day old students self-course. Six months later, in January of 2004, the Centre hosted its first 10-day course, a female-only course serving 12 students. Seven more single gender, 10-day courses were conducted through October of that year at which time contractors completed construction of a new dormitory along with renovations for a dining hall/kitchen facility. The dorm contains mostly single bedrooms to facilitate the privacy and introspection necessary for serious meditation. It includes both male and female wings, and accommodates approximately 54 residents in total. Given the expanded capacity, the Dhamma Pakasā is currently hosting about two courses monthly for 50 students each.

Dhamma Pakasā represents the fulfillment of a vision to establish a Vipassana meditation Centre in the Midwest region of the U.S. Currently, a growing body of meditators hailing from many different points in the Midwest and beyond has assumed the task of sustaining this vision. Although faced with the many challenges associated with managing a new centre, the servers' continual faith and diligent efforts are contributing to the successful completion of course after course.