

# THE WILD AND SCENIC ST. CROIX VALLEY

MINNESOTA / WISCONSIN • 2026 VISITOR GUIDE

[saintcroixriver.com](http://saintcroixriver.com)





Dancing Dragonfly Winery is a family-owned winery located in the beautiful St. Croix River watershed.

Since the day we opened in 2013, we remain passionately committed to making the best wines possible, mostly from estate-grown cold-climate grapes.

Enjoy Dancing Dragonfly and discover your favorite wine from our award-winning lineup.

Join us to start your own tradition!



2013 120th Avenue | St. Croix Falls, WI 54024 | 715.483.WINE (9463) | DDWinery.com



# ALL ROADS LEAD TO CHEESE

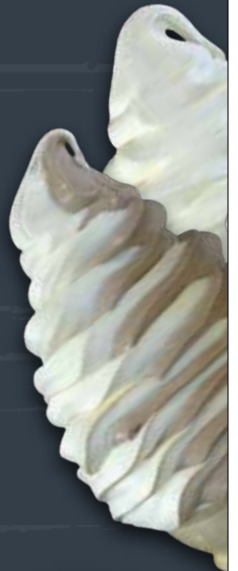
Get a true taste of Wisconsin with fresh cheese curds, craft beer, wine, and more. Explore 200+ cheeses, local meats, jams, and honey. Don't miss out on our take-n-bake pizzas and creamy real dairy ice cream.

## RETAIL LOCATIONS

232 North Wallace  
Ellsworth, WI

3001 County Rd B  
Menomonie, WI

Cheese Curd Capital®  
[ellsworthcheese.com](http://ellsworthcheese.com)





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Fri + Sat 11:00 am - 10:00 pm



# Welcome to the St. Croix Valley

Greg Schulz / Pictures over Stillwater



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Welcome to the St. Croix Valley, where 54 miles of the **Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway** is home to seven beautiful state parks, sixteen county parks, and dozens of regional and local parks all waiting to be explored. Welcome to the historic and quaint communities of Minnesota and Wisconsin, which border the St. Croix River, each with its own unique personality and offering you one-of-a-kind shops, great dining, theater, a vibrant arts and culture scene, locally sourced wineries and breweries and so much more.

As you browse the pages of this guide we invite you to discover your perfect St. Croix Valley getaway exploring the special places that make-up the Wild and Scenic St. Croix Valley.



St. Croix EDC promotes economic growth in the county through workforce development, housing, entrepreneurship, business expansion and retention, attraction and recruitment, and ecosystem building.

**Get in touch**

**(715) 690-2110 | stcroixedc.com**



Serving all of St. Croix County, Wisconsin  
Connecting For Success

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**Discover Stillwater**  
www.discoverstillwater.com



**Explore Minnesota**  
www.exploreminnesota.com



**Travel Wisconsin**  
www.travelwisconsin.com

# St. Croix Valley Visitor Centers



## National Park Service St. Croix River Visitor Center

★ 401 North Hamilton Street  
St. Croix Falls, WI • (715) 483-2274

**Hours:** Open and staffed mid-April through October, daily 10am - 5pm.  
Check for details at: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)

## Namekagon River Visitor Center

★ Hwy 63, one mile east of Hwy 53  
in Trego, WI • (715) 635-8346

**Hours:** Open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend  
Check for details at: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)

Both Visitor Centers have National Park Service Rangers available to help you plan a river trip, direct you to maps, educational materials, and answer questions about the St. Croix River and national parks.

### Services Available:

- Trip planning • Ranger presentations
- Picnic areas, river trails
- Gift shop/bookstore
- Parking for buses and RVs

## Polk County Information Center

★ 710 Hwy 35 South  
(just south of Hwy 8)  
St. Croix Falls, WI • (715) 483-1410  
[discoverpolkcountywi.com](http://discoverpolkcountywi.com)  
[info@discoverpolkcountywi.com](mailto:info@discoverpolkcountywi.com)

**Hours:** Open year round. Please check website for hours and information at [www.discoverpolkcountywi.com](http://www.discoverpolkcountywi.com)

### Services Available:

- Exhibits and historic displays
- Brochures, maps
- Clean indoor and outside restrooms
- Gift shop/bookstore
- Gandy Dancer State Trail or Stower Seven Lakes State Trail (Trail usage varies by season.) Please call or check website for more information.
- Parking for buses, RVs
- Outdoor bike repair tool station

## Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce & Information Center

★ 30525 Linden Street, PO Box 283  
Lindström MN • (651)257-1177  
[www.chisagolakes.org](http://www.chisagolakes.org)

[info@chisagolakeschamber.com](mailto:info@chisagolakeschamber.com)

**Hours:** Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 4:30pm

### Services Available:

- Community brochures and maps
- Information on lodging, attractions and events
- Information on business resources

## Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

★ 219 Second Street, Hudson, WI  
(715) 386-8411 • [hudsonwi.org](http://hudsonwi.org)

[info@hudsonwi.org](mailto:info@hudsonwi.org)

**Hours:** Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 4:30pm

### Services Available:

- Tourism brochures and maps
- Trip planning
- Information on lodging and attractions
- Business resources
- Community information

## St. Croix Welcome Center

★ Westbound rest area 3 miles from I-94  
Bridge, 14100 I-94 West Lakeland

Township, MN (651)539-5806

[david.robbs@state.mn.us](mailto:david.robbs@state.mn.us)

[www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com)

**Staffed hours:** Thurs.-Sun., 9am-5pm

**Self-service brochure racks available 24/7**

### Services Available:

- Information on area lodging and attractions
- Restrooms, vending, and picnic area
- Playground, walking trails, pet area, bike trail
- Parking for trucks, RVs, buses

## Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center at Freedom Park

★ 200 Monroe Street • PO Box 22  
Prescott, WI 54021

(715) 262-0104 • [freedomparkwi.org](http://freedomparkwi.org)

[facebook.com/freedomparkwi](http://facebook.com/freedomparkwi)

**Director:** [linda.schenk@freedomparkwi.org](mailto:linda.schenk@freedomparkwi.org)

**Winter hours:** Nov. 1 - April 30: Sat.

10am - 5pm, Sun. 12pm - 5pm

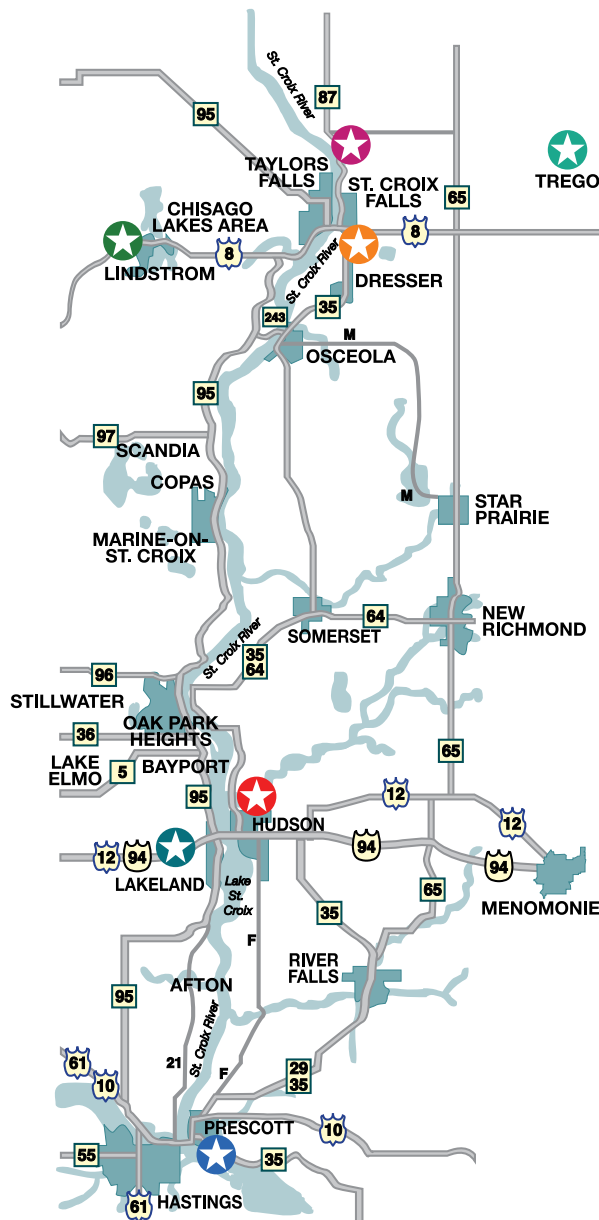
**Spring, Summer, Fall hours:** May 1 - Oct. 31: (Closed Mondays) Tues. - Sat.

10am - 5pm, Sun. 12pm - 5pm

Please check [www.freedomparkwi.org](http://www.freedomparkwi.org) for all programs, events and rentals.

### Services Available:

- Gift shop • Art exhibits • Art Bench
- Restrooms • Shaded picnic area
- Educational gardens • Native plants/gardens
- Walking trails
- Audubon birding site
- Overlooks of Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers
- Northern gateway to the Wisconsin Great River Road



# 2026 St. Croix Valley Events

Check out what's going on throughout the year in the St. Croix Valley.  
Please check websites for up-to-date event information.



## JANUARY

**1/13-15 • Stillwater, MN**  
**World Snow Celebration**  
[www.worldsnowcelebration.com](http://www.worldsnowcelebration.com)

**1/17-18 • Wisconsin**  
**State wide Free Fishing Weekend** • [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/freeFishingWeekend](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/freeFishingWeekend)

**1/23-24 • Scandia, MN**  
**Vinterfest at Gammelgarden Museum** • [gammelgardenmuseum.org/event/vinterfest2026](http://gammelgardenmuseum.org/event/vinterfest2026)



## FEBRUARY

**2/6-8 • Hudson, WI**  
**Hudson Hot Air Affair**  
[HudsonHotAirAffair.com](http://HudsonHotAirAffair.com)

**2/12-14 • Luck, WI**  
**Winter Carnival**  
[luckwisconsin.com/events](http://luckwisconsin.com/events)

**2/12-15 • Chisago Lakes, MN**  
**Celebration of the Lakes**  
[info@chisagolakes.org](mailto:info@chisagolakes.org)

**2/15-23 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Winterfest** • [facebook.com/StillwaterWinterfest](https://facebook.com/StillwaterWinterfest)



## MARCH

**Dresser, WI • Troll Cup Race**  
[trollhaugen.com/racing-and-training](http://trollhaugen.com/racing-and-training)

**3/15 • St. Croix Falls, WI**  
**Polar Wine Party** • [dancingdragonflywinery.com/ourevents](http://dancingdragonflywinery.com/ourevents)

**3/28-29 • Amery, WI**  
**Maple Fest at Glenna Farms**  
[www.glennafarms.com/events.html](http://www.glennafarms.com/events.html)



## APRIL

**4/17-19 • River Falls, WI**  
**Bluegrass, Bourbon & Brews Festival** • [riverfallsbluegrass.com](http://riverfallsbluegrass.com)

**4/24-26 • Pepin, WI**  
**Wisconsin Spring Flood Run**  
[destinationpepin.com/events](http://destinationpepin.com/events)

**4/25 • Osceola, WI**  
**Ladies Spring Fling**  
[facebook.com/ladiespringfling](https://facebook.com/ladiespringfling)



## MAY

**5/1-3 • Polk County, WI**  
**Open Doors Art Tour**  
[www.opendoorsarttour.com](http://www.opendoorsarttour.com)

**5/3 • Hudson, WI**  
**Community Expo** • [business.hudsonwi.org/events/calendar](http://business.hudsonwi.org/events/calendar)

**5/8-10 • Minnesota St. Croix Valley Pottery Tour**  
[saintcroixvalleypotterytour.com](http://saintcroixvalleypotterytour.com)

**5/17 • Hastings, MN**  
**Historic Hastings Car Show**  
[hastingsdba.com/historic-hastings-carshow](http://hastingsdba.com/historic-hastings-carshow)

**5/22-25 • Dresser, WI**  
**Total Off Road Rally**  
[memorial4x4.org/off-road-rally](http://memorial4x4.org/off-road-rally)

**5/23 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Run Stillwater Races**  
[runstillwater.com](http://runstillwater.com)

**5/25 • Bayport, MN**  
**Memorial Day Parade**  
[bayportmn.gov/city-calendar](http://bayportmn.gov/city-calendar)

**5/29-30 • New Richmond, WI**  
**Park Art Fair** • [newrichmondchamber.com/events/details/2026-park-art-fair-7920](http://newrichmondchamber.com/events/details/2026-park-art-fair-7920)



## JUNE

**June-August • Hudson, WI**  
**Free Concerts in the Park**  
[business.hudsonwi.org/list/member/concerts-in-the-park-2179](http://business.hudsonwi.org/list/member/concerts-in-the-park-2179)

**Wednesdays • Lindstrom, MN**  
**Harmony in the Park** • [cityoflindstrom.us/harmonyinthepark](http://cityoflindstrom.us/harmonyinthepark)

**6/5-7 • the St. Croix Valley**  
**ArtOPENER** • [artopener.org](http://artopener.org)

**6/6 • Osceola, WI**  
**Rhubarb Fest**  
[facebook.com/rhubarbdays](https://facebook.com/rhubarbdays)

**6/6-7 • State of Wisconsin**  
**Free State Park Entrance & Fishing Weekend** • [dnr.wisconsin.gov/adventure/freefun](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/adventure/freefun)

**6/13 • Amery, WI**  
**Amery Art and Craft Fair**  
[ameryartandcraftfair.com](http://ameryartandcraftfair.com)

**6/20 • Hudson, WI**  
**Valley Wide Pride Fest**  
[hudsonwipride.com/events](http://hudsonwipride.com/events)

**6/20 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Food Truck Extravaganza**  
[events.discoverstillwater.com](http://events.discoverstillwater.com)

**6/27 • Scandia, MN**  
**Midsummerdagen**  
[gammelgardenmuseum.org/events](http://gammelgardenmuseum.org/events)



## JULY

**July • Hastings, MN**  
**Rivertown Days**  
[rivertowndaysmn.com](http://rivertowndaysmn.com)

**July • Lindström, MN**  
**Karl Oskar Days**  
[cityoflindstrom.us/kod](http://cityoflindstrom.us/kod)

**Wednesdays • Lindstrom, MN**  
**Harmony in the Park** • [cityoflindstrom.us/harmonyinthepark](http://cityoflindstrom.us/harmonyinthepark)

**7/2-5 • Hudson, WI**  
**Booster Days** • [facebook.com/hudsonboosterdays](https://facebook.com/hudsonboosterdays)

**7/3-5 • Balsam Lake, WI**  
**Freedom Fest**  
[balsamlakecc.com](http://balsamlakecc.com)

**7/9-12 • New Richmond, WI**  
**Fun Fest** • [newrichmondchamber.com/events/details/2026-fun-fest-7921](http://newrichmondchamber.com/events/details/2026-fun-fest-7921)

**7/9-12 • River Falls, WI**  
**River Falls Days**  
[rfchamber.com/riverfallsdays](http://rfchamber.com/riverfallsdays)

**7/15-19 • Glenwood City, WI**  
**St. Croix County Fair**  
[stcroixcofair.com](http://stcroixcofair.com)



**HUDSON HOT AIR Affair**

First full weekend in February  
**Feb. 6-8, 2026 • Feb. 5-7, 2027**

Presented by  
**WESTconsin CREDIT UNION**

- Hot Air Balloons • Torchlight Parade • Moon Glow/Field of Fire
- Fireworks • Marketplace & Craft Fair • Smooshboarding
- Pancake Breakfast • Kids' Ice Fishing • and much more!

**HudsonHotAirAffair.com**

**7/17-19 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Lumberjack Days**  
lumberjackdays.com

**7/17-19 • Taylors Falls, MN/  
St. Croix Falls, WI • Wannigan  
Days** • wannigandays.com

**7/21-25 • Hudson, WI • St. Croix  
Riverfest** • stcroixriverfest.org

**7/23-26 • St. Croix Falls, WI**  
**Polk County Fair**  
polkcountyfair.com

**7/24-26 • Hastings, MN**  
**Little Log House Antique  
Power Show** • littleloghouseshow.  
com/general-information

**7/24-26 • Center City, MN**  
**Center City Days** • chisagolakes.  
org/date/center-city-days

**7/25 • Stillwater, MN • Opera  
on the River** • scvopera.org/ootr

**7/25-26 • Chisago Lakes, MN**  
**Chisago Lakes Triathlon**  
Facebook @ Chisago Lakes  
Triathlon



## AUGUST

**Wednesdays • Lindstrom, MN**  
**Harmony in the Park** • cityof  
lindstrom.us/harmonyinthepark

**8/7-9 • Almelund, MN**  
**Almelund Threshing Show**  
almelundthreshingco.org

**8/8 • Hudson, WI • Yellowstone  
Trail Heritage Day** • facebook.  
com/stcroixyellowstonetrail

**8/14-16 • North Hudson, WI**  
**Pepper Fest** • pepperfest.org

**8/15 • Scandia, MN • Fiddle  
Fest Gammelgarden Museum**  
gammelgardenmuseum.org/  
event/spelmannsstamman

**8/22 • Amery, WI • Music on  
the River** • amerywisconsin.org/  
701/Calendar

**8/21-23 • Chisago City, MN**  
**Ki-Chi-Saga Days** • chisagolakes.  
org/date/ki-chi-saga-days-in-  
chisago-city



## SEPTEMBER

**Lindstrom, MN • Fall Fika  
Fest & Art on the Block**  
cityoflindstrom.us/home/pages/  
community-events

**9/5 -10/5 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Take Me to The River**  
takemetotheriver.info

**9/5 • River Falls, WI • Art on  
the Kinni** • riverfallscab.org/art-  
on-the-kinni

**9/5-6 • Hastings, MN**  
**Civil War Weekend** • business.  
visithastingsmn.org/events

**9/5-6 • Osceola, WI • Wheels  
& Wings, & Harvest Bazaar**  
wheelsandwings.org • facebook.  
com/harvestbazaar

**9/12 • Hudson, WI • Hometown  
Music Fest** • facebook.com/  
HometownMusicFest

**9/12 • Scandia, MN • Taco Daze**  
cityofscandia.com/residents/visit/  
seasonal\_events.php

**9/17-20 • Amery, WI • Fall  
Festival** • ameryfallfestival.org

**9/18-19 • River Falls, WI**  
**Bacon Bash** • rfchamber.com/  
bacon-bash

**9/18-19 • Bayport, MN**  
**Derby Days** • facebook.com/  
derbydaysbayport

**9/18-20 • Spring Valley, WI**  
**Dam Days** • springvalleywi.com/  
village-calendar/

**9/19-20 • New Richmond,  
WI • New Richmond Heritage  
Days** • nrheritagecenter.org/  
heritage-days

**9/26 • Scandia, MN**  
**Fall Crawl** • cityofscandia.com/  
residents/visit/seasonal\_events.  
php

**9/26-27 • Hudson, WI**  
**Spirit of St. Croix Art Festival**  
business.hudsonwi.org/events/  
calendar



## OCTOBER

**10/3 • Osceola, WI • Valley  
Brew Fest** • valleybrewfest.net

**10/3-4 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Rivertown Fall Art Festival**  
greaterstillwaterchamber.com/  
rivertownfallartfestival.com

**10/10 • Osceola, WI • Fall  
Color Train Rides** • trainride.org

**10/10-11 • Hastings, MN**  
**Carpenter Nature Center Apple  
Festival** • carpenternaturecenter.  
org/plan-your-visit/annual-  
events/apple-festival-2

**10/10-11 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Harvest Fest**  
harvestfeststillwater.com

**10/17 • Osceola, WI • Pumpkin  
Express Train Ride** • trainride.org

**10/17 • Hudson, WI • Hilltop  
Pumpkin Party** • business.  
hudsonwi.org/events/calendar



## NOVEMBER

**11/2 • Hudson, WI**  
**Have a Hudson Holiday**  
business.hudsonwi.org/events

**11/20-22 • Osceola, WI**  
**Doe on the Go**  
facebook.com/doeonthego

**11/20-22 • Hudson, WI**  
**Christmas Tour of Homes**  
business.hudsonwi.org/events

**11/24 • Amery, WI**  
**Light Up the Park**  
amerywisconsin.org/701/  
Calendar

**11/26 • Hastings, MN • Gobble  
Gait Fun Run** • gobblegait.com

**11/27 • Hudson, WI • Buena  
Vista: A Stroll in the Park**  
business.hudsonwi.org/events

**11/27 • River Falls, WI**  
**River Dazzle** • rfchamber.com/  
river-dazzle

**11/27 • St. Croix Falls, WI**  
**Opening of Miracle at Big  
Rock** • miracleatbigrock.com

**11/27-29 • Taylors Falls, WI**  
**Taylors Falls Lighting Festival**  
lightingfestival.com

**11/28 • Hastings, MN**  
**Holiday Hoopla** • hastingsdba.  
com/holiday-hoopla

**11/29 • Scandia, MN**  
**VinterLights!** • gammelgarden  
museum.org/events



## DECEMBER

**12/1-31 • Hudson, WI**  
**Have a Hudson Holiday &  
Buena Vista A Stroll in the  
Park** • business.hudsonwi.org/  
events/calendar

**12/1-31 • Stillwater, MN**  
**Hometown for the Holidays**  
events.discoverstillwater.com/  
categories/community-events

**12/3 • New Richmond, WI**  
**Hometown Holiday Parade**  
newrichmondchamber.com/  
events

**12/5 • Amery, WI • Holiday  
Stroll, Light Up the Town**  
amerywi.gov/calendar

**12/5 • Osceola, WI • Light Up  
Osceola** • myosceola.com/events

**12/5-6 • St. Croix Falls, WI**  
**Rivertown Holiday** • thestcroix  
valley.com/event-calendar

**12/6 • Chisago City, MN**  
**Lighting Festival**  
ci.chisago.mn.us/events

**12/6 • Scandia, MN**  
**Luciadagen** • gammelgarden  
museum.org/events

**Hastings, MN • The  
Canadian Pacific Railway  
Lighted Holiday Train**  
exploreminnesota.com/holiday-  
train-minnesota

# Scenic River Valley

## Bayport Offers Small Town Hospitality



### Welcome

Located on the St. Croix River, between the cities of Afton and Stillwater, Bayport is known for its scenic charm and warm, small town hospitality. Whether you are a nature lover, recreation enthusiast, or a foodie in search of a great new place to eat, Bayport provides visitors with a variety of ways to enjoy the river valley!

### Natural Beauty

At the south end of the city, photographers and birders come to enjoy the **St. Croix Savanna Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)**. This area is considered to be the best hill prairie and oak savannas along the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. In addition to stunning views of the river valley that span this 148 acres of open space, the SNA offers high bird diversity, with 115 bird species sighted and several varieties of native vegetation. Hiking trails can also be found throughout the SNA.

### Waterfront Amenities

Visitors looking to explore the St. Croix River Valley by water will be pleased to know that Bayport offers multiple boat launches,

boat rental, transient boat slips, and gas dock at the area marinas. Lakeside Park, located on the shores of the St. Croix River, is also a valued community asset and the perfect destination to take a swim, have a picnic, or take a leisurely stroll along the river's shore.

### Dining and Hospitality

Bayport offers a variety of unique, independent restaurant and dining options, which definitely enhance the character and charm of this historic town. Homestyle diner breakfast, scratch made Italian pasta, acclaimed French bistro style cuisine and oyster bar, exceptional sandwiches and burgers, and old-fashioned ice cream are just a few of the selections that aim to please. Visitors will find that the restaurants are easy to access off of the St. Croix Scenic Byway (Highway 95) and offer ample, free parking.

### Visit Often

Full of interesting places and friendly faces, easy to get to and hard to forget, Bayport is a place where everyone feels welcome. Be sure to explore all that the St. Croix River Valley has to offer, including the unforgettable experiences you will discover in Bayport!



### BAYPORT COMMUNITY ACTION LEAGUE

[www.bayportcommunityactionleague.com](http://www.bayportcommunityactionleague.com)

### GREATER STILLWATER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[greaterstillwaterchamber.com](http://greaterstillwaterchamber.com)

### BAYPORT CITY HALL

(651) 275-4404 • [bayportmn.gov](http://bayportmn.gov)

#### EVENTS

May 25 • Memorial Day Parade  
June 5-6 • Citywide Garage Sale  
June-Oct • Monday Farmer's Market  
Sept 18-19 • Derby Days Festival

#### ATTRACTIONS

Outdoor ice skating rinks at Perro Park  
Swimming beach at Lakeside Park  
Hiking trails at Barker's Alps Park  
Boat launch to St. Croix River  
St. Croix Savanna Scientific & Natural Area (SNA)

# BAYPORT MARINA ASSOCIATION

*"The Marina That Thinks It's a Resort!"*



## VISIT BAYPORT MARINA IN 2026!

Boat on the beautiful St. Croix River & Dock in our protected harbor!

Fuel Dock | Service Department | Canvas Department | First Class Amenities

We are the premiere marina on the St. Croix River — offering transient dockage, slip ownership and slip rentals — all in a family friendly, resort-like atmosphere!

Located on the Beautiful & Historic St. Croix River

Mile Marker 19.1

651.439.2040

[WWW.BAYPORTMARINA.COM](http://WWW.BAYPORTMARINA.COM)

200 Fifth Avenue South, Bayport, MN 55003



**Walker** Wealth  
MANAGEMENT

**Dawn Walker, AIF®**

Wealth Advisor

Accredited Investment  
Fiduciary®



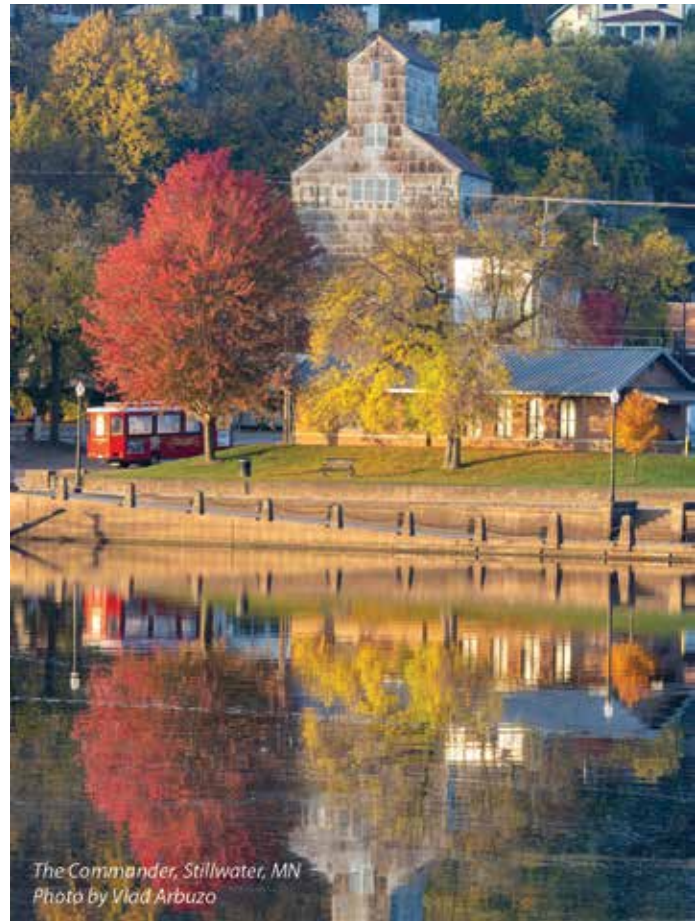
651-238-0303

[dawn.walker@cfdinvestments.com](mailto:dawn.walker@cfdinvestments.com)

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*The Commander, Stillwater, MN  
Photo by Vlad Arbuzo*

# CHISAGO LAKES

explore



If you've already had the pleasure of exploring the beautiful Chisago Lakes area, then you know how rich in beauty, heritage, and charm this community is. If you haven't yet had the pleasure, what are you waiting for?

Nestled in the St. Croix River Valley, you'll find hiking, biking, water and snowmobile trails. Quench your thirst at our award winning brewery, wineries, and coffee shops. Enjoy our many unique shops and celebrate with us throughout the year at our many annual festivals.



Chisago Lakes is just 45 minutes Northeast of the Twin Cities. An easy daytrip, but worth planning for a longer stay. Join us in Chisago Lakes – we look forward to sharing our little corner of Minnesota with you!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:



[info@chisagolakes.org](mailto:info@chisagolakes.org)



[www.chisagolakes.org](http://www.chisagolakes.org)





Discover the Karl Oskar House. A real life-link to the Swedish settler stories that shaped the Chisago Lakes area.

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## Scenic Rivertown

### Renowned for its Historic Buildings

Set along the rugged and colorful scenery of the Mississippi, St. Croix and Vermillion rivers, Hastings is a scenic river town steeped in tradition. Just 25 miles (40km) south of the Twin Cities, Hastings welcomes visitors to share in its history and traditions. The City is renowned for Victorian architecture with over 60 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A must see is the LeDuc Historic Estate—a beautiful Gothic Revival mansion, open for tours mid-May through October.

#### The Great Outdoors

If you're a fan of the great outdoors, you can enjoy more than **30 miles** of paved bike and walking trails along the Mississippi River and other scenic byways; picnic by Vermillion Falls or explore beautiful nearby **Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center**. Spend the day fishing on the Mississippi or St. Croix Rivers, play golf at one of several local courses, take in a free outdoor Sunday concert, visit the Mississippi Lock & Dam #2 or just relax by the banks of the river.

Hastings is home to two amazing vineyards/wineries; the **Alexis Bailly Vineyard and the Lone Oak Vineyard & Winery**. Both have award-winning wines to sample and purchase while you walk about the vineyards. If your palette is looking for a home brew or seltzer, **Spiral Brewery** is located in Historic Downtown Hastings. With its family-friendly taproom all ages are welcome, even well-behaved leashed pups. Stop in, sample a few and take your favorite home in a growler or two.



five local golf courses

For winter adventure, ski, snowboard, or tube the slopes at **Welch Village or Afton Alps** ski areas. Check out **Spring Lake Park** and **Afton State Park** for beautiful groomed cross country ski trails.

#### Year-Round Festivals

Spring and summer bring fun-filled events for visitors to enjoy. From May through September take in the **Historic Hastings Car Shows**. In July, thousands of people come to enjoy **Rivertown Days**, a community wide festival featuring music stages, arts and craft fair, carnival and a car show. Also in July, step back in time with the **Little Log House Antique Power Show & Pioneer Village**. October brings the **Saint Croix Valley Apple Fest** with a variety of fun events for all ages at area apple orchards.

#### Shopping and Dining

Visitors delight in the selection of retail and dining establishments, including antique stores, gift shops, boutiques and more. Take time to meander up and down Main Street and be welcomed by friendly shop owners and locals. And be sure to bring your appetite as Hastings offers a variety of cuisine and dining options to satisfy even the most discerning tastes. If you're feeling lucky or want to take in a great show, **Treasure Island Resort and Casino** is just minutes away.

#### HASTINGS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM BUREAU

200 Second St. West, Suite 100, Hastings, MN 55033-1211  
(651) 437-6775

info@visithastingsmn.org • www.visithastingsmn.org

##### ATTRACTIONS

LeDuc Historic Estate  
Treasure Island Resort & Casino

Alexis Bailly Vineyards  
Spiral Brewery

##### POINTS OF INTEREST

Mississippi Regional Trail - MRT  
Great River Road Scenic Drive  
St. Croix Scenic Byway  
Welch Village Ski Area  
Afton Alps Ski Area

##### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Afton State Park  
Spring Lake Park, Schaar's Bluff  
Cannon Valley Trail  
Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center  
St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park

# Get away to someplace close... Visit **HASTINGS, mn**

Opportunities for fun abound  
just minutes from the Twin Cities!

More than 30 miles of bike trails along the  
Mississippi, Vermillion Falls & other scenic byways

Charming & historic downtown with unique shops,  
great antiques, dining, summer concerts & events

Vineyards, wineries, brewery, orchards and  
many other unique attractions

LeDuc Historic Estate tours & special events

Great downhill & cross country skiing

Many local golf courses plus beautiful  
18 hole disk-golf course in the park



60 buildings on the Historic Register



Great bike trails connect to the MRT



Local brewery, vineyards & orchards



Boutique Lodging



Historic Hastings Car Shows



*For information on lodging and area attractions, contact:*

**(651) 437-6775 (Metro) • [www.VisitHastingsMN.org](http://www.VisitHastingsMN.org)  
200 Second St. West, Suite 100 • Hastings, MN 55033**



photo by Lorie Shaul

Surrounded by rolling hills and many beautiful lakes, Scandia is the site of the first Swedish settlement in Minnesota.

## Rich with History

Visitors to Scandia often stop and view the Swedish Monument marking the location of the first log cabin built in 1850 and tour the Hay Lake School Museum before heading up the road to **Gammelgården Museum of Scandia**.

**Gammelgården Museum of Scandia** was established in 1972 to preserve, present and promote Swedish immigrant heritage. Gammelgården, meaning "old small farm" in Swedish, is an open-air museum featuring historic buildings dating back to the 1850s. Join us on a **guided tour** to catch a glimpse into the daily lives of early immigrants to Minnesota through a Swedish lens. Signature Events through the year include **Midsommar Dag**, **Spelmansstämman** (Swedish Fiddle Festival) and **Luciadagen**.

Keep an eye out for **barn quilts** and **Dala horses** as you make your way through Scandia. To learn more about the 22 historical sites within the village center and greater Scandia, pick up a copy of the **Scandia Heritage Trail brochure**, from our museums and local shops. Scandia's unique shops located in historical buildings, invite you to browse a delightful selection of local art, pottery, edibles, and artisan gifts.

Check out Scandia's **Fall Crawl** on Saturday, September 26, 2026. Take a day or two to explore local participating businesses. Be sure to pick up a "passport" to take advantage of all the special offers and fun, and then enter your filled passport into a gift drawing! Come join us on October 15th and November 19th to enjoy **Scandia Evening Adventures** hosted by local shops, serving special libations and activities for all that come. The Sunday following Thanksgiving don't miss **VinterLights!**, the celebration of winter, and enjoy carols, cocoa, cookies and the tree lighting.

## Gammelgården Museum of Scandia

*Step back in time at this open-air museum to experience the stories of Swedish immigrants and relate them to your own family immigration stories.*

Opening Day - May 2, 2026

Midsommardagen - June 27, 2026



Spelmansstämman - August 15, 2026

Luciadagen - December 6, 2026

20880 Olinda Trail North, Scandia, MN 55073  
director@gammelgardenumuseum.org • 651-433-5053  
gammelgardenumuseum.org

## CITY OF SCANDIA SISTER CITY OF MELLERUD, SWEDEN

Scandia Community Center  
14727 209th Street North • Scandia, MN 55073  
Phone: (651) 433-2274 • Fax: (651) 433-5112  
www.VisitScandia.com

### ATTRACTIONS

May-Oct: Gammelgården Museum of Scandia  
May-Oct: Hay Lake School Museum

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Big Marine Park Preserve  
William O'Brien State Park  
Wayne Erickson Memorial Ball Park  
Wind in the Pines Preserve  
Log House Landing

### EVENTS

Jan: Vinterfest  
June: Midsommar Dag  
June-Sept: Farmers Market  
Aug: Spelmansstämman  
Sept: Taco Daze  
Sept: Fall Crawl  
Oct & Nov (3rd Thur): Scandia Evening Adventures  
Nov: VinterLights!  
Dec: Luciadagen

## Places to Discover around Scandia

### Big Marine Park Reserve • 17495 Manning Trail North



The park opened in 2008 & includes a boat launch, swimming beach, picnic areas, a large creative playground, hiking trails and a visitor's welcome office. Future park plans include family

and group camping and several additional miles of hiking and biking trails. A Washington County vehicle permit is required to enter the park. The cost is \$7 for a daily permit and \$30 for an annual vehicle permit.

### Hay Lake School Museum & The Johannes Erickson Log House • 14020 195th Street North •



Constructed in 1896, the Hay Lake School was used by Washington County Rural School system until 1963. The school was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 1, 1970. The log house was

constructed in 1868 by Johannes Erickson and his thirteen year old son Alfred. The Washington County Historical Society now operates both buildings as museums that demonstrate the early history of settlers in Scandia and Washington County.

### Scandia Veterans Memorial Lilleskogen Park, Scandia, MN

*"In honor of the generations of men and women who have served to defend the liberties that we enjoy today".* The memorial is dedicated to all US military veterans, regardless of where they are from or



when they served. The memorial recognizes the contributions and sacrifices by generations of men and women who have served in battle or not, to defend our freedoms. The memorial is appropriately located in beautiful Lilleskogen Park. We hope you will come often to enjoy the memorial park.

### Community Center Playground and Pickleball & Tennis Courts

Bring the kids and a picnic to Scandia's new community center playground, tennis and pickleball courts.


Your go-to spot for all things fun. Honoring the communities storied past by bringing people together to enjoy fun and engaging sports at our new community center courts. Whether you are a seasoned player or just picking up a paddle or racket for the first time, join the fun on Scandia's courts where the love for the game is as enduring as the town's historic landmarks.




### Washington County Barn Quilt Trail

The Washington County Barn Quilt Trail is a 16.4 mile (or 26.39 kilometers) route that winds through the beautiful communities of Scandia, Marine on St. Croix, and the Town of May in Minnesota. The trail goes through farm areas, a state park, a downtown area, historical sites, and forested areas. Wherever a person is on the Barn Quilt Trail, it's beautiful.





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## The Birthplace of Minnesota

© Nathan Tribbett

### Discover Stillwater

#### Voted "Best Small Town Food Scenes" by USA Today

An inspiring feeling starts to grow as you drive into Stillwater which is considered the Birthplace of Minnesota. Located along the banks of the St. Croix River with its much photographed historic lift bridge, now converted to a multi-use trail. Stillwater has wonderfully preserved architecture, impressive homes and a bustling Main Street, listed on the National Historic Register.

Stillwater, just minutes from the Twin Cities, has a wonderful romantic quality and is considered a premier wedding destination. Stillwater features a variety of retail boutiques, bookstores, antique/vintage shops and art galleries. Dining choices are endless with outdoor cafes, restaurants with river view dining, historic pubs, and distilleries.

Enjoy year-round activities including bike trails, golf, historic sites, axe throwing, shopping, nightlife, breweries, wineries, DIY and walking and hiking trails. Cruise the St. Croix River on an authentic paddle wheel riverboat or private Venetian gondola for two. Don't miss taking a Trolley Tour for a narrated look at old Stillwater with its incredible architecture and hillside mansions. Bring your bikes to pedal the new trails—connecting to St. Paul or Wisconsin.

**Plan to linger overnight.** Choose from downtown hotels, Bed & Breakfasts, familiar favorite hotels nearby, and a variety of rental homes or downtown lofts. Snuggle in front of a fireplace, enjoy a rooftop salt-water hot tub or take a dip in a pool. Stillwater is a great place to relax.

For a free visitor guide/map, visit: [www.DiscoverStillwater.com](http://www.DiscoverStillwater.com).

### Oak Park Heights

Oak Park Heights is a growing community, just up the hill from Stillwater and offers visitors a number of leisure opportunities including dining, lodging and outdoor activities.

Enjoy home cooking and award-winning pies at Joseph's Family Restaurant on the frontage road along Highway 36. Phil's Club Tara Hideaway restaurant in a historic log building is famous for its prime rib, walleye, and legends as a gangster stop during Prohibition.

Nature lovers will enjoy the 70 acres of wooded hills in Valley View Park and Oak Park Crossing with paved trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, new single track mountain bike trails, and views of the St. Croix River Crossing bridge

### STILLWATER/OAK PARK HEIGHTS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

[info@DiscoverStillwater.com](mailto:info@DiscoverStillwater.com) • (651) 351-1717

[www.DiscoverStillwater.com](http://www.DiscoverStillwater.com)



Stillwater is filled with fun festivals, live music, and great events and activities all year long! Check out our online calendar at [events.discoverstillwater.com](http://events.discoverstillwater.com) for a complete list! *Event dates and details subject to change.*

#### EVENTS

Jan 13-25 • World Snow Celebration  
[worldsnowcelebration.com](http://worldsnowcelebration.com)

Feb 15-23 • Winterfest  
[one23events.com/winterfest](http://one23events.com/winterfest)

May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug 8 &  
Sept 19 • Run Stillwater Races  
[runstillwater.com](http://runstillwater.com)

June-Sept, Select Weds • Cruisin' on  
The Croix • [cruisinontheCroix.com](http://cruisinontheCroix.com)

June 20 • Food Truck Extravaganza  
[foodtruckextravaganza.com](http://foodtruckextravaganza.com)

July 4 • Fourth of July Fireworks

July 7-Aug 11 • Summer Tuesdays  
[summertuesdays.com](http://summertuesdays.com)

July 17-19 • Lumberjack Days  
[lumberjackdays.com](http://lumberjackdays.com)

July 25 • Opera on the River  
[scvopera.org](http://scvopera.org)

Oct 3-4 • Rivertown Fall Art Festival  
[rivertownfallartfestival.com](http://rivertownfallartfestival.com)

Oct 10-11 • Harvest Fest  
[harvestfeststillwater.com](http://harvestfeststillwater.com)

4 weekends packed with fun!  
Hometown for the Holidays  
[communitythreadmn.org/holiday](http://communitythreadmn.org/holiday)

#### ATTRACTIONS

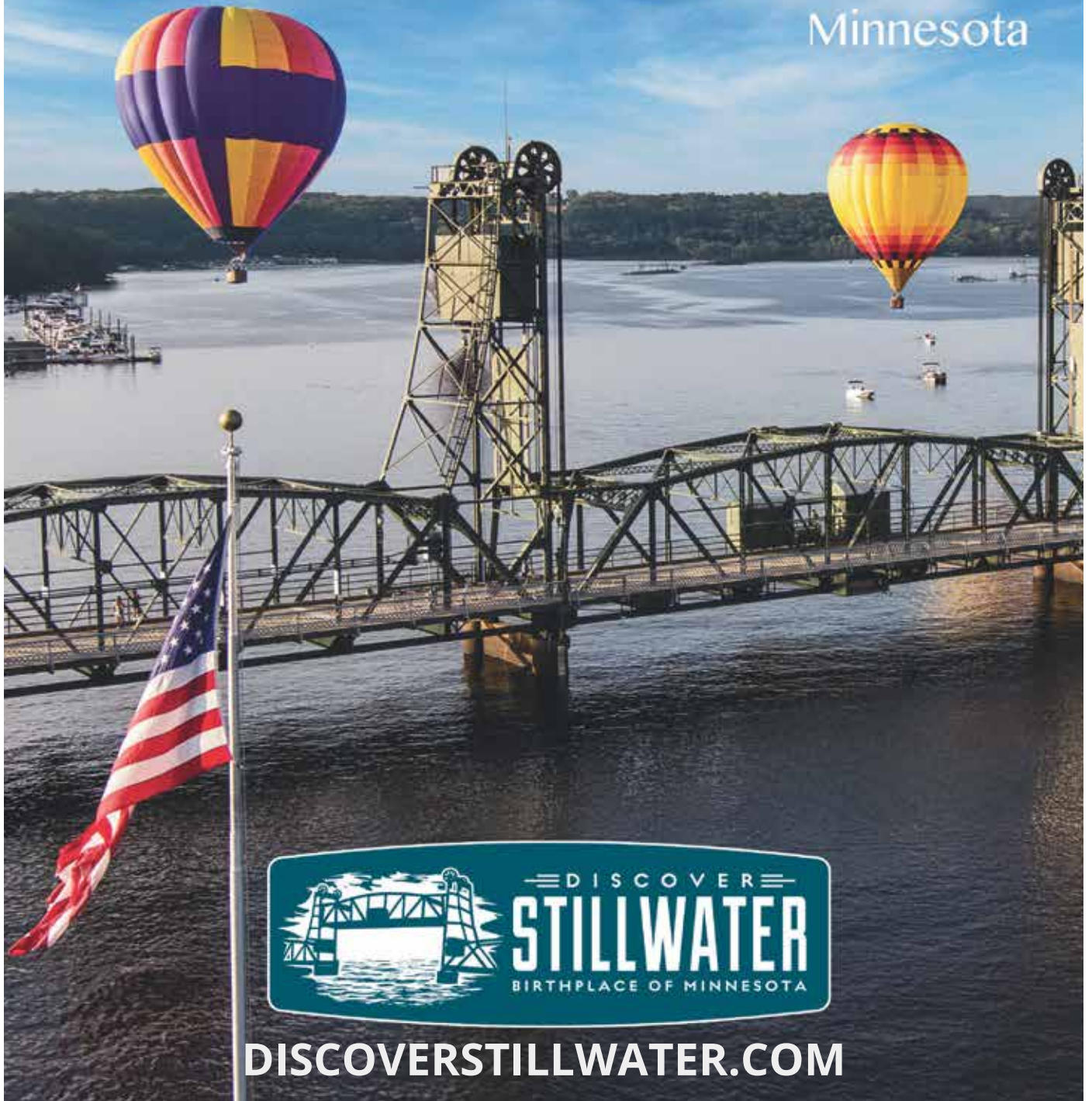
Warden's House & Museum  
Historic Washington County Courthouse  
Historic Main Street Shops & Restaurants  
Stillwater Historic Trolley Tour  
Stillwater River Boats  
Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

St. Croix River Loop Trail  
Brown's Creek Bike Trail  
Lowell Park, riverfront downtown  
Pioneer Park  
Pine Point Park/Gateway State Bike Trail  
Boating, Kayaking, SUP rentals  
Historic Lift Bridge • St. Croix Boom Site

# Stillwater

Minnesota



[DISCOVERSTILLWATER.COM](http://DISCOVERSTILLWATER.COM)



Discover Hudson, Wisconsin, where outdoor adventures, distinctive dining, and history come together along the beautiful St. Croix River. Just east of the Twin Cities, Hudson's charming downtown invites visitors to explore its boutique shops, art galleries, and award-winning restaurants. With gorgeous parks and outdoor tours available, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

where you'll enjoy scenic views on the water. For some family fun, enjoy a tour at Eagle Eye Farm and connect with a variety of friendly animals. And for those who love indulging in local flavors, the Hudson Food Walk offers a delightful three-hour culinary adventure through some of Hudson's most celebrated spots.



## Sip & Savor

Hudson is a food lover's paradise, with year-round patios perfect for any season. Savor a delicious meal at one of our noteworthy restaurants or cozy bistros. Craving something sweet? Stop by a local bakery or confectionary for gourmet ice cream, chocolates, or fresh pastries. And for those who enjoy a drink, Hudson's wineries, distilleries, and breweries offer the perfect setting to raise a glass with family and friends.



## Historic Downtown Charm

If you're a history aficionado, visit the Octagon House Museum, take a self-guided walking tour, or cruise along a stretch of the Yellowstone Trail—the first transcontinental road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound. As you browse the shops and attractions in Hudson's historic downtown, be sure to admire the original architectural details that grace some of the town's oldest buildings.

Start planning your stay today! Contact us at 715-386-8411 or visit [DiscoverHudsonWI.org](http://DiscoverHudsonWI.org) for a complete listing of area events, things to do, and places to stay.



## Unique Tours

Treat yourself to an unforgettable experience that is sure to impress. Elevate your day with one of the themed cruises offered by St. Croix River Cruises,

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219 Second Street, Hudson, WI 54016  
[info@hudsonwi.org](mailto:info@hudsonwi.org) • (715) 386-8411  
[www.DiscoverHudsonWI.org](http://www.DiscoverHudsonWI.org)

## EVENTS

February - Hudson Hot Air Affair  
May - Hudson Community Expo  
June - Valley Wide Pride Fest  
June-August - Free Concerts in the Park  
July - Hudson Booster Days  
July - St. Croix RiverFest  
August - Yellowstone Trail Heritage Days  
August - North Hudson Pepper Festival  
September - Hudson Hometown Music Fest  
September - Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival  
October - Hilltop Pumpkin Party and Rotary Halloween Parade  
November - Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes  
November - December: Have a Hudson Holiday  
November - February: Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park

## ATTRACTIONS

Belle Âme Vineyard  
Cream of the Crop Artists Gallery  
Eagle Eye Farm  
Great River Road & Yellowstone Trail  
Historic Octagon House Museum  
Historic Walking Tour  
Hudson Art Gallery  
Hudson Farmers Market on Carmichael  
Hudson Food Walk  
Lucky Guys Distillery  
The Phipps Center for the Arts  
St. Croix River Boat Cruises  
Somerset Amphitheater  
Summer Concerts in the Park  
Tattersall Distilling  
White Pine Berry Farm

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Badlands Snow Park  
Beanie's Marina  
Birkmose Park & Native American Burial Grounds  
Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center  
Hudson Rod, Gun & Archery Club  
Kilkarney Hills Golf Club  
Kinnickinnic State Park  
Lakefront Park  
Local Beaches  
Sam's Christmas Village & Light Tour  
St. Croix National Golf & Events  
St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail  
St. Croix Sailing School  
Troy Burne Golf Club  
White Eagle Golf Club



Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival



St. Croix River Cruises



Lakefront Park

## Experience the Timeless Charm of Hudson



**Hudson Food Walk** guided tours offer a fun way to experience the unique tastes and unforgettable charm of historic downtown Hudson. During the 3 hour tour, guests enjoy tastings at 6 popular destinations, learn about the town's rich history and stroll along the banks of the scenic St. Croix River. [info@hudsonfoodwalk.com](mailto:info@hudsonfoodwalk.com)



### The Phipps Center for the Arts

Celebrating the creative spirit for over 40 years by offering exciting performances and outstanding exhibitions. The acoustics and sightlines in the intimate, proscenium theater are excellent. The Black Box Theater features flexible staging for theater productions, concerts, and presentations. 5 galleries feature exhibits from regional artists. [thephipps.org](http://thephipps.org)



**Tour the Octagon House** - Built in 1855, this unique eight-sided house and museum complex (including gardens, garden house, carriage house, and History Shoppe), is furnished with artifacts and antiques from 1850 to 1950. Self-guided tours, history chats, historic walking tours, and more are featured throughout the year. [hudsonoctagonhouse.org](http://hudsonoctagonhouse.org)

**Explore Willow River State Park** - Open year round, this popular park features spectacular views of Willow Falls and the Willow River Gorge. With nearly 3,000 acres of prairie, forests, and panoramic river scenery. [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/willowriver](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/willowriver)

**Stroll Lakefront Park** - Clean, crisp and inspired are the words that come to mind for this park. Find picnic shelters, a playground area, volleyball courts, a band shell, and beautiful beach. Walk the St. Croix River for the better part of a mile and enjoy watching the ever present ducks and geese plus swans in the winter. [www.hudsonwi.gov](http://www.hudsonwi.gov)

**Birkmose Park** has a magnificent view overlooking the St. Croix River Valley. The park is home to several Native American Burial Mounds adding to the peace and serenity of the site. A great spot to read a book or snap a photo. Coulee Road & Birkmose Park Lane.

**St. Croix River Cruises** - Choose a Sunday Brunch Cruise, Friday Night Italian Dinner Cruise, Fajita and Margarita Cruises on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Or select Comedy Dinner cruises, Vineyards of the Croix Wine Tasting & Dinner Cruise, Fireworks Cruise, and more. [www.StCroixRiverCruises.com](http://www.StCroixRiverCruises.com)





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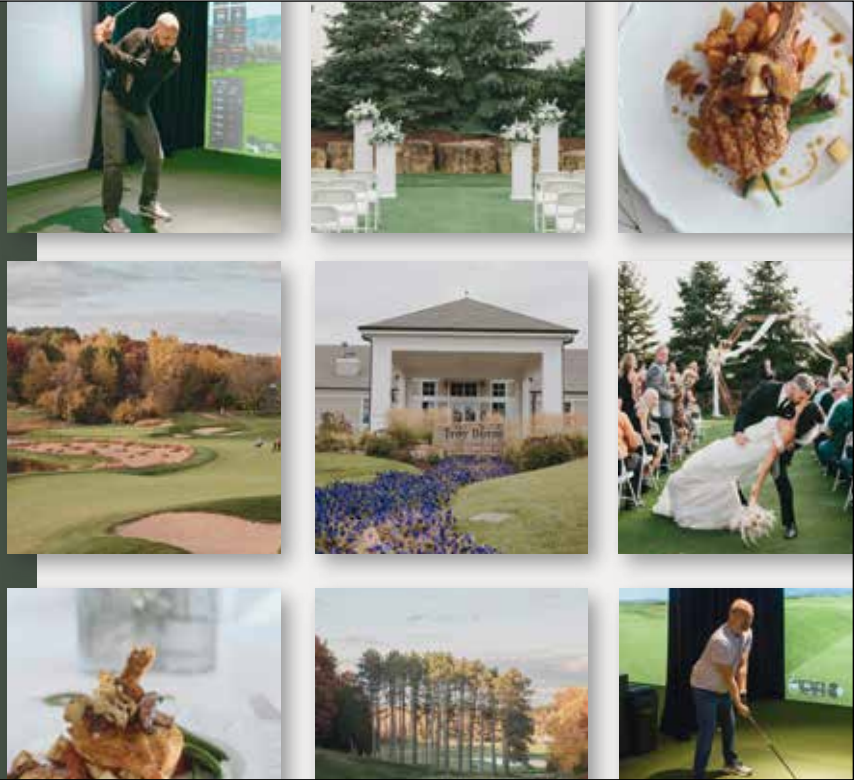
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# The St. Croix Valley

## Where Art & Nature Meet

The natural beauty of the St. Croix Valley has attracted painters, sculptors, performers, storytellers, and musicians for decades. There is hardly a country road that doesn't lead to an artist's gallery, not a community on a summer day without live music, an art fair or theatrical production. We invite you to create a memorable day, an incredible weekend or a perfect vacation—where art and nature meet.

### Galleries

- artZ Gallery** • 208 Keller Ave N • Amery, WI • (715) 268-8600  
www.artzgallery.org
- Art's House Gallery** • Riverwalk Square, 127 N Main Street  
River Falls, WI • www.riverfallscab.org
- ArtReach St. Croix** • 224 N 4th Street • Stillwater, MN  
(651) 439-1465 • artreachstcroix.org
- Glädje Gallery** • 13025 Lake Blvd • Lindstrom, MN  
(651) 257-2575 • www.gladjegallery.com
- Hastings Art Center** • 216 4th Street East • Hastings, MN  
(651) 437-4320 • www.hastingsartcenter.org
- Seasons Gallery** • 401 2nd Street • Hudson, WI • (715) 381-2906  
www.seasons-gallery.com
- The Phipps Center for the Arts** • 109 Locust St • Hudson, WI  
(715) 386-2305 • thephipps.org

### Theatres

- Black Dirt Theatre** • 213 Sibley Street Ste 101 • Hastings, MN  
(651) 300-9567 • www.blackdirttheater.com
- St. Croix Art Barn** • 1040 Oak Ridge Dr • Osceola, WI  
thecroixartbarn.org
- St. Croix Festival Theatre** • 125 N Washington Street  
St. Croix Falls, WI • (715) 483-3387 • www.festivaltheatre.org
- The Historic Auditorium** • 210 N Washington Street  
St. Croix Falls, WI • (715) 483-3387 • thehistoricauditorium.com
- The Phipps Center for the Arts** • 109 Locust Street  
Hudson, WI • (715) 386-2305 • thephipps.org



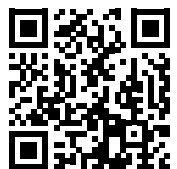
Galleries

Theatres

Nature Spaces with an Eye to the Arts

Musical Groups

Full maps of each venue listing are available  
online at [stcroixsplash.org](http://stcroixsplash.org)



**seasons**  
GALLERY

An award-winning gallery with a  
curated collection of exceptional  
local, regional and national fine  
art and contemporary craft.

401 Second Street in Hudson  
(715) 381-2906  
[seasons-gallery.com](http://seasons-gallery.com)








kate gomez

## Nature Spaces with an Eye to the Arts

-  **Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center** • (651) 437-4359  
carpenternaturecenter.org  
**Wisconsin Campus** • 279 South Cove Rd • Hudson, WI  
**Minnesota Campus** • 12805 St. Croix Trail S • Hastings, MN
-  **Belwin Conservancy** • 1553 Stagecoach Trail S • Afton, MN  
651-439-5189 • belwin.org
-  **Franconia Sculpture Park** • 29836 St. Croix Trail  
Shafer, MN • (651) 257-6668 • www.franconia.org
-  **Gammelgården Museum** • 20880 Olinda Trail • Scandia, MN  
651-433-5053 • gammelgardenmuseum.org
-  **Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center** • 200 Monroe St  
Prescott, WI • (715) 262-0104 • www.freedomparkwi.org

## Musical Groups

-  **Music Saint Croix** • (651) 430-9198 • musicsaintcroix.com
-  **St. Croix Falls Music on the Overlook** • St Croix Falls, WI  
www.musicontheoverlook.com
-  **St. Croix Valley Opera** • (612) 404-9265 • www.scvopera.org
-  **St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra** • uwrf.edu/continuing-  
education/musical-ensembles
-  **Valley Chamber Chorale** • www.valleychamberchorale.org

## Events & Tours

-  **Open Doors Art Tour (May 1-3)** • opendoorsarttour.com
-  **St. Croix Valley Pottery Tour (May 8-10)**  
www.saintcroixvalleypotterytour.com
-  **Octagon House Museum & History Shoppe (May-Oct & Dec)**  
www.hudsonoctagonhouse.org
-  **ArtOPENER (June 5-7)** • www.artopener.org
-  **Art on the Kinni (Sept 5)** • www.riverfallscab.org
-  **Take Me to the River (Sept)** • takemetotheriver.info
-  **Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival (Sept 26 & 27)**  
thehipps.org/galleries
-  **Rivertown Fall Art Festival (Oct 3-4)**  
greaterstillwaterchamber.com/rivertownfallartfestival.com



**30th ANNUAL**  
**Saturday, September 5 • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**ART on the KINNI**

River Falls Community Arts Base presents the region's finest Juried Art Fair on the scenic Kinnikinnick River venue in downtown River Falls!

*River Falls*  
www.riverfallscab.org  
**COMMUNITY Arts! BASE**

# 2026 SEASON

St. Croix Festival Theatre

"A gem in its hometown... should be on the radar for anyone who loves theatre"  
-OneFanShow

**festivaltheatre.org**



# THE PHIPPS

CENTER FOR THE ARTS



GALLERIES



MUSIC



DANCE



THEATER

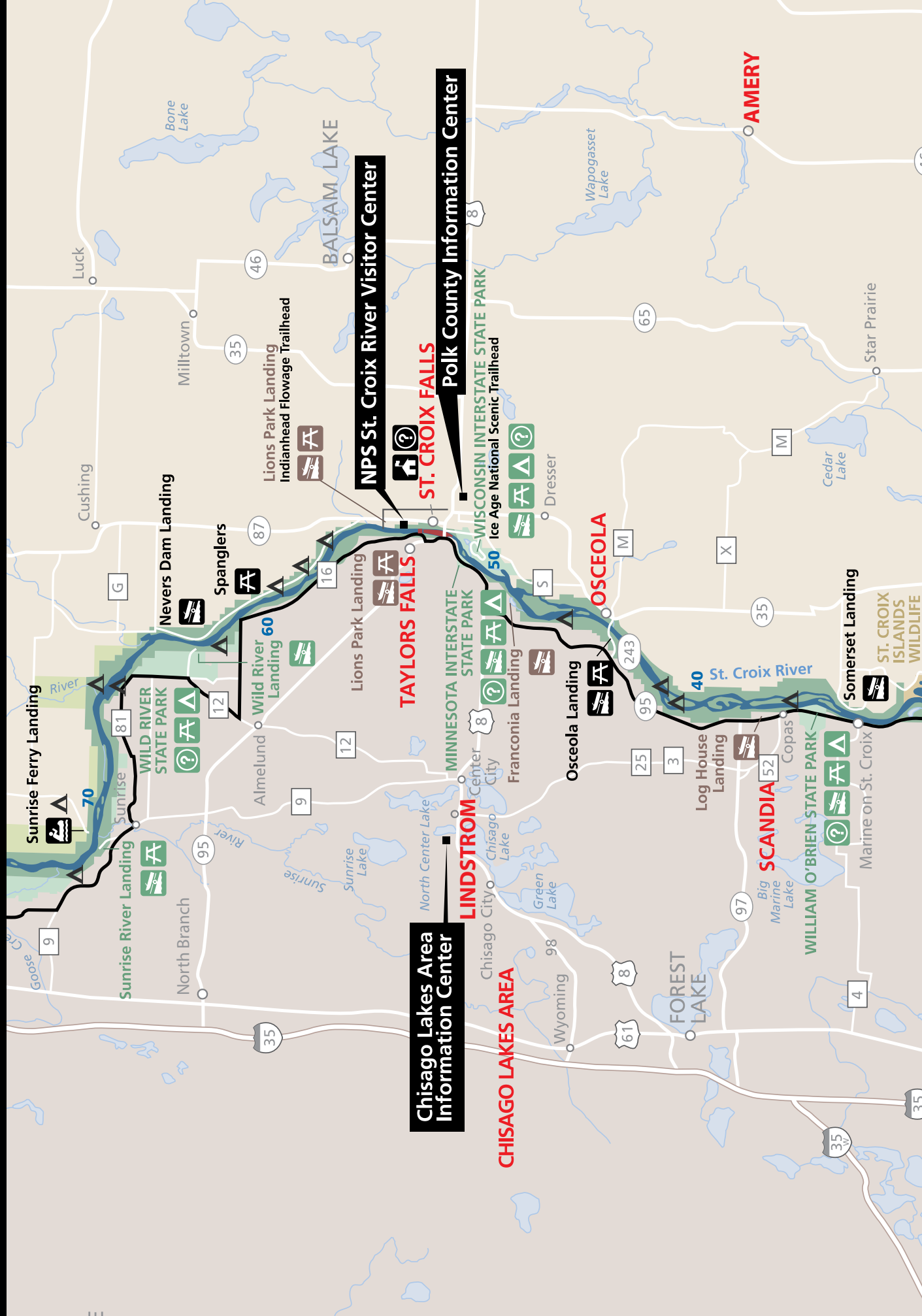


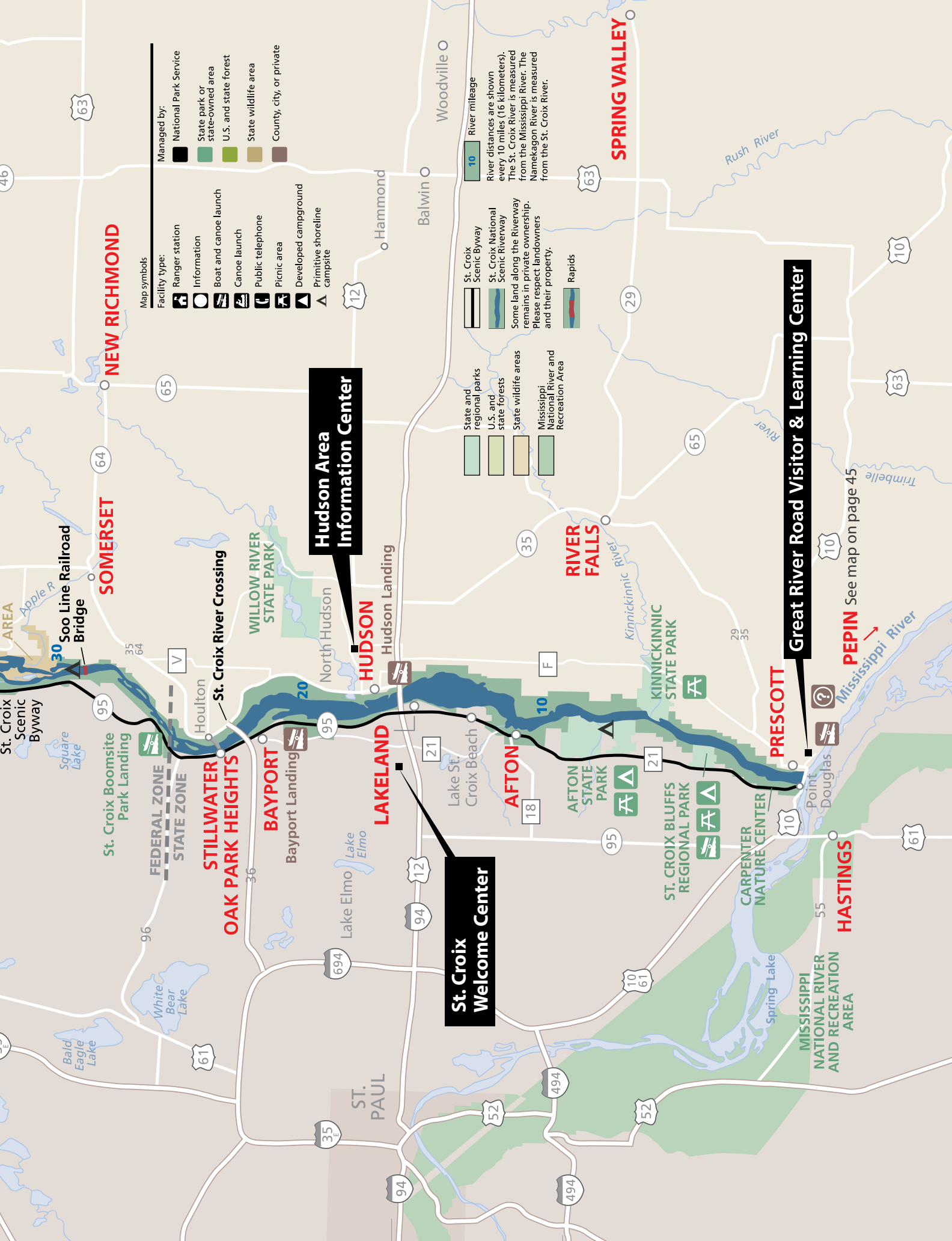
CHILDREN'S  
THEATER

ThePhipps.org | 715.386.2305 | Hudson, WI

# St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Department of the Interior  
National Park Service





## Western Wisconsin's Hometown

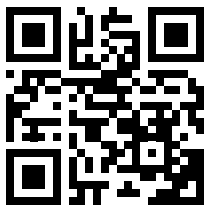
River Falls is the ideal destination if you are looking for a beautiful, tree-lined historic Main Street with a bustling scene of restaurants, quaint shops, craft beverages, and live music. All of this is set against a backdrop of stunning natural beauty, and a welcoming community. Plan your visit today. Whether this is your first visit or you are a seasoned guest, River Falls will leave you with lasting memories.

### Shopping

You're going to love exploring our locally owned shops! You will find books, vintage items, cupcakes & candy, trout fishing flies, thrift stores, bikes, musical instruments, and much more. And when you need a break from shopping, take a break at one of our nearby restaurants and bars. [experiencriverfalls.com/local-shopping](http://experiencriverfalls.com/local-shopping)

### Dining

Our dining establishments bring flavor to our town and are great places to gather. River Falls restaurants serve up local specialties and All-American favorites everyone in your family will love. [experiencriverfalls.com/locally-loved](http://experiencriverfalls.com/locally-loved)



### RIVER FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM BUREAU

215 West Maple Street • River Falls, WI 54022  
(715) 425-2533 • [rfchamber.com](http://rfchamber.com)

#### EVENTS

April - River Falls Bluegrass Festival  
May - August - Music in the Park  
June - Celebrate River Falls  
July - River Falls Days  
July - Smoke N' Thunder by the Kinni  
July - St. Croix County Fair  
Aug - Pierce County Fair  
Sept - Bacon Bash  
Sept - Art on the Kinni  
Sept - Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo  
Nov - River Dazzle

#### ATTRACTIONS

Clifton Highlands Golf Club  
Clifton Hollow Golf Club  
Drewiske Family Nature Preserve  
Glen Park & Historic Swinging Bridge  
Headwaters Nature Preserve  
Kelly Creek Nature Preserve  
Kilkarney Hills Golf Club - Golfing  
Kinni Creek Outfitters  
Kinnickinnic State Park  
River Falls Community Forest  
River Falls Golf Club  
River Falls Sportsmen's Club  
Whitetail Ridge Mountain Bike Trail

### More than Live Music—It's an Experience

The music scene in River Falls is dynamic and alive. River Falls is a strong supporter of the music scene. No matter what your taste in music, you're sure to find something to your liking. So come on down and enjoy! From soulful acoustic performances to high-energy rock n' roll, River Falls offers a variety of music styles across several venue types. [experiencriverfalls.com/live-music](http://experiencriverfalls.com/live-music)



### Events

Discover unforgettable events and festivals where community spirit meets unforgettable fun. From art and food fairs, music festivals at one of our iconic outdoor music venues, and cultural celebrations, there's something happening year-round, in River Falls. Whether you're planning a family getaway, a couple's weekend, or a solo adventure, River Falls' vibrant events will leave you with lasting memories. Explore what's happening this season and find can't-miss experiences. [experiencriverfalls.com/annual-events](http://experiencriverfalls.com/annual-events)

### Biking

Recognized as a bronze-level biking community by The League of American Bicyclists, River Falls has miles of scenic bike trails for all skill levels.

River Falls is home to White Tail Ridge Mountain Bike Trail System, one of the most popular trail systems. The trails are some of the best trails in western Wisconsin and traverse the hilly area on the north side of River Falls. For more information including a trail map go to: [kinnioffroadcyclists.org](http://kinnioffroadcyclists.org)





## Parks

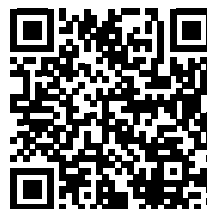
River Falls is a city with a rich history and stunning natural beauty. The city is home to over 20 parks, each with its own unique charm. Whether you're looking for a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors or a place to get active, you'll find the perfect park in River Falls.

A few of the city's most popular parks include:

**Glen Park**



**Hoffman Park**



**Heritage Park**



## Explore the Outdoors

With over 20 miles of hiking trails, 20 miles of biking trails, and the Kinnickinnic River running through it, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Whether you're looking to hike, bike, kayak, fish, golf, or relax at a park, you'll find something to your liking in River Falls.

## Hiking

The Kinnickinnic River Trail offers scenic paved paths for walking, biking and running along the river. There are connections to Kinnickinnic State Park for more extensive hiking featuring beautiful river views, forests, prairies and wildlife. The trail is an accessible natural escape with varied terrain for all ages and skill levels. For more information on hiking trails around River Falls visit:

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/kinnickinnic](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/kinnickinnic)



## Kinnickinnic River... Bridging St. Croix & Pierce Counties



In the heart of River Falls experience the Kinnickinnic River, an unparalleled natural treasure. Recognized by Travel Wisconsin as one of the state's top five trout streams, this pristine, 22-mile, spring-fed river is a Class I trout stream and one of the Midwest's few naturally sustaining fisheries, boasting an astonishing 8,000+ trout per mile in some sections.

Casting for its abundant brook and brown trout is just the beginning. The Kinni's 174-square-mile watershed is home to



more than 50% of the bird species and 40% of the plant species found in Wisconsin. It contains more than 40 species of endangered, threatened, or special concern plants, animals, and insects.

Whether you book a kayak rental to paddle its scenic waters or secure a fishing charter for a world-class angling adventure, the Kinni offers an unforgettable outdoor experience deep in the heart of nature.

# Explore St. Croix Valley Parks & Nature Centers

Favorite spots for Birding, Wildlife Watching,  
Hiking & Camping



## MINNESOTA

**Afton State Park - Afton, MN** ~ Grand oaks and delicate prairie flowers grace the rugged, rolling landscape of this park. Wind your way down deep ravines and rise up to the grassy ridgetops and bluffs overlooking the scenic St. Croix River. The trails are perfect for hikers, horseback riders and cross-country skiers, in the winter.

### **William O'Brien State Park - Marine on St. Croix, MN**

A great "get away" park only one hour from the Twin Cities. Hiking trails offer quiet exploration of the Park's rolling, wooded hills. For anglers, the channels of the St. Croix have northerns, walleye, bass and trout. Ideal for canoeing, the river is also a migratory pathway that offers visitors an exciting diversity of sights and sounds.

**Wild River State Park - Center City, MN** ~ Located along 18 miles of the beautiful St. Croix River. The park attracts people who enjoy camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, interpretive programs, self-guided trails, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

### **Interstate State Parks - Taylors Falls, MN & St. Croix Falls, WI**

Visitors can climb the cliffs of the St. Croix River Dalles, canoe the flat-water, or kayakers' can rush through the rapids. Spring brings a great diversity of wildflowers; in fall the St. Croix River Valley forest is ablaze in autumn colors of red, gold, and orange.

## WISCONSIN

**Willow River State Park - Hudson, WI** ~ Multiple Habitats, Multiple Seasons. At 2,891 acres, Willow River State Park has a variety of habitats to explore including prairie, forests and panoramic river scenery. Avid birders will glimpse Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and Sedge Wrens in the prairies. The most popular hiking trail destinations are the Willow Falls and the scenic overlooks of the river valley.

**Kinnickinnic State Park - River Falls, WI** ~ Wildlife watchers in Kinnickinnic State Park can observe a wide variety of birds and animals in their natural environments. The gorge and delta are designated as a state natural area. The valley of the Kinnickinnic River, a cold water trout stream, is a rare sanctuary with majestic white pines and sheer limestone cliffs.

## NATURE PRESERVES

**Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center - MN & WI** Located along the bluffs of the Wild & Scenic St. Croix River, 425 acres of tall grass prairie, oak savannah, flood plain, pine plantation, wetland and woodland. Hike or stroll 4 miles of paved trails and 11 miles of mulched trails. Birders will find perfect viewing of fall raptor migration.

### **Freedom Park Visitor & Learning Center - Prescott, WI**

Located at the northern gateway to Wisconsin's Great River Road, a National Scenic Byway, the Center overlooks the scenic upper Mississippi River Valley where the St. Croix River enters the mighty Mississippi. Enjoy the educational native plant gardens, and look for raptors, migrating birds and other wildlife at this Audubon Birding site and Watchable Wildlife site.

## ST. CROIX COUNTY PARKS

**Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake - Hudson, WI** ~ Scuba Divers Paradise. Homestead Parklands is on the northern 2/3 of Perch Lake, which is the central feature of the park. The land area includes steep slopes covered by oak woodlands and pine stands, a beautiful flowering prairie, 6,800 feet of shoreline along pristine Perch Lake, and the best beach in St. Croix County. Please see the parks grid for a full list of park amenities.

**Orf Family Overlook on Bass Lake - Hudson, WI** ~ Orf Family Overlook on Bass Lake is adjacent to the Bass Lake Boat Launch. The 15-acre park includes hiking trails, a picnic shelter, a scenic overlook, boardwalk, and a viewing platform perfect for bird watching.

**Glen Hills Park on Glen Lake - Glenwood City, WI** ~ Camping in all seasons. Glen Hills Park is a water-based recreation facility located in the hill country of West Central Wisconsin. This park consists of 700 wooded acres surrounding beautiful 78-acre Glen Lake. There are 92 electric, non-electric, RV, and tent campsites, and two all season camper cabins available in the park. Please see the parks grid for a full list of park amenities.

**Troy Beach on the St. Croix - Hudson, WI** ~ Relaxation central! Troy Beach is a five-acre day use park on the beautiful St. Croix River, a national scenic riverway. The 400-foot beach is a popular destination for those looking to beat the summer heat under the shade of large cottonwood trees or to relax in our new hammock village and watch the sail boats on the St. Croix.

**Eckert Blufflands on the St. Croix - Hudson, WI** ~ The new Eckert Blufflands County Park, along the St. Croix River just north of Hudson, consists of 170 acres of wooded upland, deep ravines, restored prairie, over 100-foot-high river bluffs, and more than half a mile of river shoreline. (Currently under development.)

**St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail - Houlton, WI** ~ The Loop Trail is in Western St. Croix County, approximately seven miles north of Hudson and eight miles southwest of Somerset. The Loop Trail is part of an interstate trail between Houlton, Wisconsin and Stillwater, Minnesota. The 4.7-mile trail is open to pedestrians and bicycles and crosses both the St Croix Crossing Bridge and the historic Stillwater Lift Bridge.

Learn about St. Croix County Parks at [www.sccwi.gov/parks](http://www.sccwi.gov/parks).

## POLK COUNTY PARKS

**Apple River County Park & Campground - Amery, WI** ~ A 20-acre park located along the Apple River north of Amery. The upper park includes 15 rustic camping sites with 5 electric sites, a picnic area with grills, playground, shelter with electric, vault toilets, and water fountain pump.

**D. D. Kennedy Park - Amery, WI** ~ A 99-acre environmental area preserve located between Amery and Balsam Lake along the Balsam Branch which flows through central Polk County. Located 17 minutes from St. Croix Falls. The park includes a prairie restoration area with hiking trails (interpretive) with native grasses, wildflowers, and birds, fishing (bridge and handicap accessible pier), dam and millpond, education building, picnic area with grills, picnic shelter with electric, playground, and restroom.

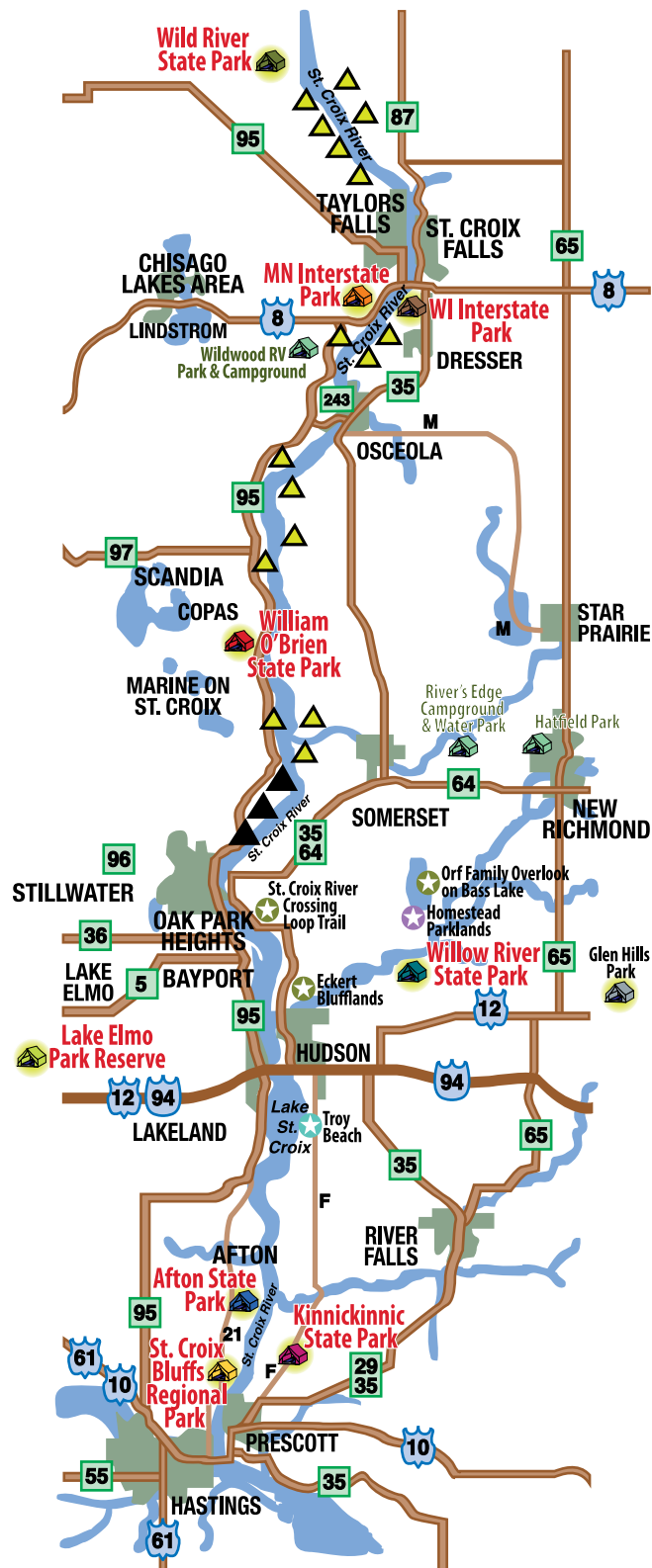
# The Great Outdoors

Come to life hiking in one of the beautiful St. Croix Valley Parks, paddling on the St. Croix River, casting a line for that big catch, grabbing your binoculars to enjoy world-class birding, or roaming the wide open spaces dotted with land art and contemporary sculpture.

## St. Croix Valley Parks



	Wild River State Park <a href="http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/wild_river">www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/wild_river</a>	Minnesota Interstate Park <a href="http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/interstate">www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/interstate</a>	Wisconsin Interstate Park <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/interstate">dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/interstate</a>	William O'Brien State Park <a href="http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/william_obrien">www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/william_obrien</a>	Willow River State Park <a href="http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/willowriver">www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/willowriver</a>	Afton State Park <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/afton">dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/afton</a>	Kinnickinnic State Park <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kinnickinnic">dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kinnickinnic</a>	Lake Elmo Park Reserve <a href="http://www.co.washington.mn.us/facilities">www.co.washington.mn.us/facilities</a>	St. Croix River Bluffs Park <a href="http://www.co.washington.mn.us/facilities">www.co.washington.mn.us/facilities</a>	Homestead Parklands <a href="http://www.sccwi.gov/345">www.sccwi.gov/345</a>	Glen Hills Park <a href="https://www.sccwi.gov/344">https://www.sccwi.gov/344</a>	Troy Beach County Park <a href="http://www.sccwi.gov/348">www.sccwi.gov/348</a>
Acres	18 miles along St. Croix	298	1330	1803	3000+	1700	1242	2165	579	125	700	5
Total Campsites	171	63	84	113	750	31		80	73		92	
Campsites electrical hook ups	34	22	23	81	55			80	62		82	
Drive in /RV Campsites	94	37		81				80	36		82	
Pull-Through Site	2								26			
Family Campsites			82									
Hike-in Camping Sites	7		2			28		5				
Group Camping Sites	9	4	2	4	12	2		4	2			
Equestrian Camping	20							20				
Wheelchair Accessible Campsites	1		1	3	3						3	
Canoe Sites	4					1						
Camper Cabins	6			4		4					2	
Yurts						2						
Historic Information Site	X	X	X	X	X			X				
Special Programs and Events	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Ranger Station/Visitor Center	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	
Handicap Access	X	X		X	X			X		X	X	
Park Shelters	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	
Picnic Shelters	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Play Structures	X		X		X			X		X	X	
Picnic Tables	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Drinking Fountains	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fire Rings/Grills	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Firewood	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Hiking/Walking Trails (miles)	35	4	9	12	13	20	6.5	20	4	3.5	13	
Wheelchair Accessible Trails (miles)	2.6	.5		1.5		.6						
Paved Bicycle Trails (miles)	2.6			1.5	.9	4		5	1			
Equestrian Trails (miles)	18					5		8				
Cross Country Ski Trails Groomed	30		2.8	12	X		X	10.8			X	
Cross Country Ski Trails (miles)	30		12.5	12	X	18	16.4	5.5		1.5	4	
Winter Walking Trails	6		12.5	2.1	X	6	X	7.5	.6	3.5	13	
Snowshoeing Trails (miles)	6	X	12.5	X	X	4	2.8	4.5		3.5	13	
Rock Climbing		X										
Boat/Canoe Launch			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Swimming Beach			X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Fishing	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Geocaching	X			X		X				X	X	X
Vehicle Permits Required	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Showers	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	
Restrooms	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vault Toilets	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Dump Station	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	



Tent and Vehicle Camping

Primitive Camping shown below is accessible from the river only

Primitive Shoreline Camping

Primitive Island Camping

# St. Croix Valley

## The Great Outdoors

The St. Croix Valley is more than charming communities, incredible dining and shopping, and that's only the beginning. The natural beauty of the St. Croix Valley stirs a thirst to get outdoors and enjoy every moment of exploring nature.

### Hit the Trail

Lace up your hiking boots or walking shoes. With 7 state parks and more than 24 county and regional parks the St. Croix Valley has hundreds of trails that are perfect for all skill levels of hiking. **Some favorites include:**

#### Willow River State Park, WI

The park has 13 miles of hiking trails that vary in difficulty. The most popular hiking trail destination is Willow Falls and the scenic overlooks of the river valley.

1034 County Road A • Hudson, WI



#### Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Centers, MN & WI

With property on both the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of the scenic St. Croix River, combined the nature center preserves 725 acres of wildlife habitat. Hiking trails at both locations wind through restored prairies, forests and river bluffs.

12805 St Croix Trail S • Hastings, MN

279 South Cove Road • Hudson, WI



#### Interstate State Park, WI

More than 9 miles of hiking trails provide opportunities for viewing the spectacular scenery and natural attributes of the park.

851 State Road 35 • St. Croix Falls, WI



#### Interstate State Park, MN

Approximately 5 miles of trails. Trails take you into the woods, along the river, and to the glacial potholes area.

307 Milltown Road • Taylors Falls, MN



#### Afton State Park, MN

20 miles of trails pass through remnant and restored prairies, wind down deep ravines, and rise up to the grassy ridge tops and bluffs overlooking the St. Croix River.

6959 Peller Ave S • Hastings, MN



#### William O'Brien State Park, MN

12 miles of trails rated from easy to difficult. Explore wooded areas, wetlands, and restored oak savanna. • 16821 O'Brien Trail N Marine on St. Croix, MN



#### Gandy Dancer Trail, WI

The Gandy's southern segment is 47 miles and open to people powered activities Spring thru late Fall. The level grade and hard packed limestone surface is accessible for people of all abilities and is wheelchair accessible.



#### Ice Age National Scenic Trail, WI

One of only 11 National Scenic Trails located entirely within Wisconsin. Polk County is home to 62 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a footpath that winds for more than a thousand miles across Wisconsin following the edge of glaciation that shaped the states terrain.



**CRYSTAL CAVE**  
*Adventures above and below!*

For Hours and Cave Tour Reservations:  
[www.acoolcave.org](http://www.acoolcave.org)

## Amazing Places to Camp

If you are looking to escape city life, or just everyday life look no further than the St. Croix Valley's campgrounds and parks. From tent and car campsite areas in state and county parks and primitive and backwater campsites on national park land to private campgrounds and RV parks, here is just a glimpse of what some camping adventures can hold in the St. Croix Valley.

### Interstate State Park, MN • Taylors Falls, MN

Located on the wild and scenic St. Croix River, Interstate Park has 63 total campsites. A large picnic area with covered shelter is adjacent to a 37 site campground. There are 4 group campsites, 37 drive in/RV campsites, 22 campsites with electricity available. The geology that formed this park intrigues visitors, at least 10 different lava flows are exposed in the park, along with two distinct glacial deposits, and traces of old streams, valleys and faults. During the summer, hike the trails and explore the glacial potholes that make this park unique. Canoe rental is located in the park and shuttle service is available.

### William O'Brien State Park • Marine on St Croix, MN

The Park sits on the beautiful St. Croix River and is the perfect getaway to enjoy the outdoors. The park provides a number of opportunities to stay overnight, with 113 campsites, 4 group camps, and 4 camper cabins, 81 campsites with electrical hookups. The 12 miles of hiking trails offer quiet exploration of the park's rolling, wooded hills. In the winter, the trails are groomed for skiing and snowshoers can explore the Riverside Trail. Ideal for canoeing, the channels of the St. Croix are a favorite for anglers offering northern, walleye, bass and trout.

### Afton State Park • Hastings, MN

The 27 hike-in camping sites are located on the bluffs overlooking the St. Croix River, a strenuous 3/4 mile hike from the parking lot. The park also has 4 camper cabins, 3 yurts, and 2 group campsites, walk-in 1 site. Afton State Park's rugged, rolling landscape provides excellent hiking, horseback riding and skiing opportunities, plus a swimming beach and spectacular scenic overlooks of the St. Croix River. The park also has 5 miles of horseback trails.

### Kinnickinnic State Park • River Falls, WI

Located south of Hudson, WI, the park offers an overlook of the sandy delta where the "kinni" river, a world-class trout stream, meets the St. Croix. Boat camping on the river is very popular as is the stretch of sandy beach.



### St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park • Hastings, MN

The Park is a 579 acre regional park located on the wild and scenic St. Croix River. Facilities include a modern campground with 26 pull through RV sites (with water and 50 amp electric hook-ups), 36 drive in RV campsites, and tent camping sites (20-30 amp electric hook-ups). The campground also has a new accessible shower building. Pets are not permitted in the campground. A total of 10 miles of hiking trails offering loops and varied terrain.

### Wild River State Park • Center City, MN

Located along 18 miles of the beautiful St. Croix River. The park provides opportunities for semi-modern camping, group camping, equestrian camping, backpack camping, and canoe camping. Visitors who want modern amenities can reserve the guest house which provides a living room, dining room, kitchen, and fireplace. The park also has six camping cabins which include bunk beds, a table, and benches.

### Interstate State Park • St. Croix Falls, WI

Interstate Park is a popular place for camping, with two campgrounds and a primitive group camp. The north and south campgrounds have a total of 82 family campsites and two primitive, group campsites. The two group sites can accommodate a total of 60 people. Shower facilities are available in the north campground for registered campers.

### Willow River State Park • Hudson, WI

A class 2 trout stream, sandy beach, prairie remnants and a nature center are featured on 2,891 acres of rolling countryside. 55 campsites with electrical hook ups, 12 group camping sites, 3 wheelchair accessible campsites. The park has spectacular views of the historic Willow Falls and the Willow River Gorge. Pets are welcome in Wisconsin State Parks but must be on a leash and under control at all times.



## Cast Your Line

Clean water and a wide variety of underwater habitats are what makes the **Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway** support one of the best fisheries in the Upper Midwest. The St. Croix is abundant with fish, ranging from walleye, sauger, bass, crappie, Northern pike, muskie, carp, paddlefish, lake sturgeon and flathead catfish that'll give you a run for your life. There have been more than 60 species of fish documented from the St. Croix River.

The St Croix Valley's pan fish season never closes and walleye, northern pike and other seasons extend deep into winter. As a result, fishing continues to be one of the St. Croix Valley's most popular outdoor activities even long after the rivers and lakes have turned to ice.



The **Kinnickinnic River**, in River Falls, WI, is one of the most famous designated trout streams in the St. Croix Valley. The Kinni is also one of



the few naturally sustaining trout fisheries in the Midwest. The 22 mile spring fed river produces both brook and brown trout.

**Enjoy the uniquely northern sport of ice fishing.** Use your fishing rod all year with the ice fishing opportunities in Minnesota and Wisconsin state parks! Many parks also offer ice fishing events and hands-on programs to teach you how to ice fish.

**Fishing Licenses:** Fishing licenses are required in both Minnesota and Wisconsin for those ages 16+. They can be purchased at **Minnesota** ([www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/agents.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/agents.html)) and **Wisconsin** ([dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/outreach/FishingLicenses](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/outreach/FishingLicenses)).



## A Paddlers Paradise

The St. Croix River offers 169 miles of pristine paddling to its confluence with the Mississippi River near Prescott, WI. The upper St. Croix River flows past heavily wooded banks and islands while the lower St. Croix River showcases steep sandstone and limestone bluffs with winding side channels. Both sections of the river are perfect for canoeing and kayaking.

A popular paddling trip is the **St. Croix River State Water Trail**. Launch from Interstate Park Landing near Taylors Falls, MN and paddle 14.8 miles to William O' Brien State Park Landing. The trail is on the lower St. Croix, and is beautiful with its quiet tree-shaded backwaters. The route flows through a heavily wooded, steep-sided valley with occasional sandstone and limestone bluffs. Winding side channels and shaded backwaters offer opportunities for quiet exploration

and fishing. There are more than 11 free watercraft campsites along this route. These campsites are available for overnight camping on a first-come, first-served basis. Most are reachable only by water.

### Chisago Lakes Water Trail

The Chisago Lakes Water Trail is the perfect way to explore the area's recreational lakes by canoe or kayak. The Chisago Lakes Water Trail provides recreational routes on waterways that are managed for canoeing, kayaking, paddle boards and camping. Explore 13 miles of trails, traverse through 10 individual lakes, with over 5,000 acres of water, connected by small channels or short portages.



Water Trail  
Brochure



Water Trail  
Map

## Get in Gear for a Great Ride

One of the best ways to explore the St Croix River Valley is by bike. Pedal your way through the countless roads and trails throughout the Valley from the south at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers to the north where you will find beautiful trails through serene woods.

In **Minnesota**, the **Gateway State Trail** is a paved 18 mile path from St. Paul to Pine Point Regional Park that branches into Stillwater via the **Brown's Creek State Trail**. From there you can ride the **St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail**, a 4.7 mile trail that crosses the river on the historic Stillwater Lift Bridge, winds through Houlton and returns via the Stillwater Crossing interstate bridge. Minnesota is home to the **Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail** (22 miles), which runs from Taylors Falls, MN west to the town of Wyoming, MN.

For mountain biking head into **Wisconsin** to the **Woolly Bike Trails** in St. Croix Falls or the trails at **Willow River State Park**. Wisconsin offers rail trails like the **Stower Seven Lakes State Trail** (14 miles) and the **Cattail State Trail** (18 miles). Beginning at St. Croix Falls, WI the **Gandy Dancer Trail** stretches 47 miles through Wisconsin, 31 miles through Minnesota and another 15 miles back through Wisconsin before ending in Superior, WI.



Gateway State



Brown's Creek



SCRC Loop



Swedish Trail



Woolly



Willow River



Stower 7 Lakes



Cattail



Gandy Dancer

## Bring Your Binoculars!

The same pristine landscape that draws visitors to the St. Croix Valley also attracts 100's of species of birds throughout the year. Conservation efforts among the communities of the St. Croix Valley have garnered the Bird City designation by Bird City Minnesota and Wisconsin for the Wisconsin communities of Hudson, River Falls, Osceola, and Amery and Stillwater and Hastings in Minnesota.

Early morning and early evening hours are the quieter time along the river and in the wooded areas of the Valley and are an ideal time for a drive, hike, or paddle along one of the many area birding trails identified as Important Bird Areas (IBA) at [www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/important-bird-areas](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/important-bird-areas).

Favorite birding sites include:

### Wisconsin:

- Interstate Park, St. Croix Falls WI
- Freedom Park Visitor & Learning Center, Prescott, WI
- Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center, Hudson, WI
- Willow River State Park, Hudson, WI



### Minnesota:

- Wild River State Park, Center City, MN
- William O'Brien State Park, Marine on St. Croix, MN
- Afton State Park, Afton MN

For more information about the best places to spot your feathered friends, please contact the St. Croix Valley Bird Club, at [www.facebook.com/scvbc](http://www.facebook.com/scvbc).

# Where the St. Croix Meets Old Man River

Prescott is a quaint, picturesque river town, located where the blue waters of the scenic St. Croix River meet the mighty Mississippi River. Most downtown businesses occupy buildings from the 19th century, giving the community its historic flavor.

On the bluff above Prescott is The Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center at Freedom Park offering visitors the opportunity to learn about the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, to watch bald eagles soaring and experience the views of the river valley.

## At the Heart of Prescott

Shoppers, boaters, bikers and cyclists are drawn to Prescott's historic Broad Street. Unique, award winning restaurants and bars have made Prescott a "Foodie Town", with beautiful outdoor patios and scenic river views for those with a discriminating palate, and an appreciation for nature. Antiques, home decor, gift shops, art galleries, and historic, beautiful murals add to the charm of one of Wisconsin's oldest river towns.



Visitors with a passion for architecture or history can stop in at the local Prescott Area Historical Society building and Information Center. It is housed in the 1885 Miller Bank building, listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. A prominent river town for decades, at the peak of the Steamboat era, Prescott averaged 20 steamboat landings per week. At the mouth of the St. Croix River over 9 billion board feet of logs and lumber passed through in a 75 year period.



A self-guided tour brochure of Prescott is available that will take you to 41 locations, including the original town square with several historic churches in the surrounding area. The tour also includes several 1850's and 1860's Greek revival homes, along with others built from 1890 to 1925 in the bluff top residential area.

## Riverfront Recreation & Leisure

A walking tour of the riverfront is a popular choice, starting at the History Center and meandering along the river banks and including Mercord Mill Park, overlooking the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers. Enjoy the rivers while watching barges, boats, canoes, fishermen, and kayaks, and maybe an eagle or two. Rent a boat or pontoon and enjoy the two great rivers yourself. Enjoy fishing or a relaxing pleasure cruise. The local boat launch is readily accessible nearby for those who bring their own water craft.

### PRESCOTT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

800 Borner Street • Prescott, WI 54021  
(715) 619-0047 • [www.chamberofprescott.com](http://www.chamberofprescott.com)

#### ATTRACTIONS

Welcome & Heritage Center  
Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center at Freedom Park  
Mercord Mill Park  
Daniel Smith House  
Copper Water Tower  
Gearhouse Museum

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Afton State Park  
Kinnickinnic State Park  
Point Douglas Beach  
Bell Park  
Freedom Park  
River Walkway  
Sunset Park  
Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center



**FREEDOM PARK**  
GREAT RIVER ROAD VISITOR CENTER

Discover Prescott's Great River Road — unique exhibits, scenic bluff trails, free travel guides, and unforgettable river views await!

200 Monroe St. | Prescott, WI 54021  
[www.freedomparkwi.org](http://www.freedomparkwi.org)



INSPIRE | PARTNER | CONNECT





You might even catch the distinctive iron railroad bridge built in 1983, named the Mickey Mouse bridge by local kids, rising to accommodate sailboats and other large vessels. 30 to 60 trains per day rumble through town for railroad buffs. The first railroad bridge to connect Minnesota and Wisconsin at Prescott was built in 1886, while the first car bridge opened in 1923.

### A Well-Rounded Community No Matter the Season

Summer weekends you can find live music, art festivals, gallery exhibits, and amateur baseball from the Prescott Pirates or plan a relaxing day at the beach. In the winter, Prescott is an entrance point for 200 miles of well-maintained Pierce County snowmobile trails. Cross-country and downhill skiing are available at nearby area ski resorts and parks. The winter “village” of ice houses is a popular fishing tradition on the St. Croix River at Prescott.



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[CBDHudsonWI@gmail.com](mailto:CBDHudsonWI@gmail.com)





## Wander the back roads & discover the hidden gems of Pierce County

**Ellsworth •** The county seat, Ellsworth's historic courthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the focal point of the downtown. However, it's the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery that put Ellsworth on the map as the official Cheese Curd Capital of WI. The community hosts an annual Cheese Curd Festival, which attracts a cult-following of 30,000 fans. [ellsworthchamber.com/places-of-interest](http://ellsworthchamber.com/places-of-interest)



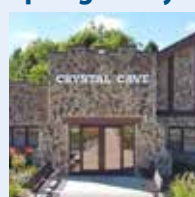
**Bay City •** Located on the Great River Road at the headwaters of Lake Pepin, Bay City takes its name from the lake's large bay. Home to Pierce County's History Center and the historic Conlin Log Cabin. Hidden away downtown is a culinary gem, the Chef Shack, a four-star restaurant featuring an eclectic upscale menu using fresh, local, organic ingredients. [baycitywi.gov](http://baycitywi.gov)



**River Falls •** River Falls is known as the City on the Kinni—the Kinnickinnic River, a class-one trout stream, flows through the heart of the downtown. Home to the University of Wisconsin River Falls campus, visitors will find the university's cultural influences along with historic small-town charm and many shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and recreation options. [rfchamber.com](http://rfchamber.com)



**Spring Valley •** This quaint farming community is home to Crystal Cave, a popular tourist destination 485 million years in the making! Also known as home of the Midwest's largest earthen dam, the Eau Galle Recreational Area offers camping, fishing, and miles of hiking and equestrian trails for year-round enjoyment. [springvalleywichamber.com](http://springvalleywichamber.com)



**Maiden Rock •** On the shores of Lake Pepin and surrounded by stunning views, you'll find historic Maiden Rock. The community is experiencing a renaissance—once vacant storefronts and residences have become art galleries and shops. Artists' studios and you-pick farms dot the countryside. Local flavor abounds! [maidenrock.org](http://maidenrock.org)



**Plum City •** The picturesque farming community of Plum City is known for its downtown trout pond. According to local lore, the spring-fed pond was built and stocked by early French traders. No fishing, but feeding the fish is absolutely encouraged! Visitors will also find 752 acres of semi-wilderness, camping and year-round recreation known as Nugget Lake County Park. [facebook.com/p/Village-of-Plum-City-100069083122493](https://facebook.com/p/Village-of-Plum-City-100069083122493)



## "The City Beautiful"

Where Visitors Reap the Benefits of an Active Arts & Events-oriented Community!

New Richmond offers the best of both worlds—that small town feel while being conveniently located near the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

### Unique Heritage

New Richmond has a noteworthy 150 year history. The city's unique story is chronicled at the **New Richmond Heritage Center**, which showcases an 1884 farmhouse as well as other historic buildings. Open all year for tours, the Center sponsors summer flea markets and farmer's markets. Visit the last weekend in September for its **Heritage Days Celebration**.

### Events and Entertainment Await

If art, music, food trucks, and fun runs are your cup of tea, don't miss the popular **Park Art Fair** at scenic **Mary Park**, every **June**. The event brings artists from all over the Midwest. **Fun Fest** brings thousands of visitors to New Richmond in **July**. Running for 4 days, take in events and activities including: a huge carnival, the region's top music acts, food stands, the area's largest beer tent and a parade!

The **first Thursday evening** after Thanksgiving don't miss the always popular **Hometown Holiday Celebration**: featuring an illuminated parade, sleigh rides, live music and fireworks over historic downtown Mill Pond. Last year over 6000 attended one of Wisconsin's best Holiday celebrations!

### Experience Unique Shops and Restaurants

Stroll New Richmond's Main Street and browse through one-of-a-kind shops. Stop for lunch or dinner at one of the quaint cafes or enjoy visiting a brewery, distillery or one of the many pubs.

### NEW RICHMOND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

245 South Knowles Avenue • New Richmond, WI 54017  
(715) 246-2900 • [www.newrichmondchamber.com](http://www.newrichmondchamber.com)

#### ATTRACTIONS

45th Parallel  
Bass Lake Cheese Factory  
Bristol Ridge Golf Course  
Cedar Lake Speedway  
Champs Rooftop Bar  
Gibby's Lanes  
Lift Bridge Brewing Tap Room  
New Richmond Area Centre  
New Richmond Golf Course  
New Richmond Heritage Center  
Pheasant Hills Golf Course  
Ready Randy's Sports Bar  
Wild Badger Saloon  
Willow River Saloon (Burkhardt)

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

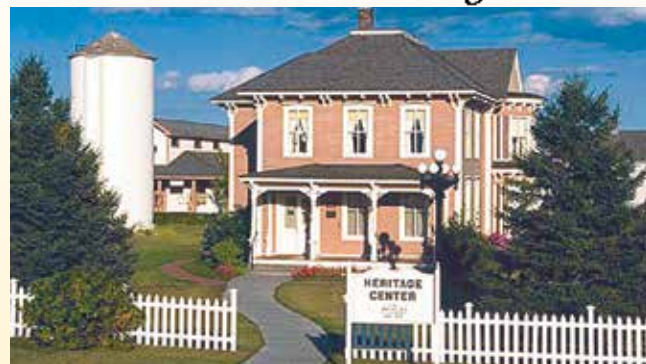
Cyclone Memorial Park  
Cylon Marsh Wildlife Area  
John Doar History Trail  
Mary Park  
Mill Pond Park  
New Richmond Nature Center  
New Richmond Skate Park  
New Richmond Disc Golf Course  
Paperjack Creek  
Riverwood Nature Center  
Trollhaugen Ski Area & Outdoor Recreation Center  
Whispering Hills Disc Golf  
Willow River Kayaks, LLC

### If you Love the Outdoors...

A paradise for golfers, New Richmond has several premier courses, including **Pheasant Hills**, **Bristol Ridge** and the **New Richmond Golf Course**. Sports anglers rave about the Willow River. Get on the water of the Willow in a canoe or kayak or hike along its banks on one of the beautiful trails. And just a few miles north of town check out **Riverwood Nature Center**. It consists of 35 acres of land, with 3,000 feet of frontage along the Apple River. Available activities will include walking trails, cross country skiing, fishing, permitted hunting, wildlife observation, and environmental and outdoor educational programing.

For more information about New Richmond and the many things it has to offer, please contact the New Richmond Chamber of Commerce at 715-246-2900. We hope to see you soon.

### New Richmond Heritage Center



EXHIBITS ♦ TOURS ♦ EVENTS ♦ RENTALS

**12 Historic Buildings and Nature Walk**

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#### Barn Flea Market

Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday, May - October

#### Farmers Market

Saturday mornings, May - October

### New Richmond Heritage Center

1100 Heritage Drive • New Richmond, WI 54017

Phone: 715.246.3276 • Email: [info@NRHeritageCenter.org](mailto:info@NRHeritageCenter.org)

Website: [www.NRHeritageCenter.org](http://www.NRHeritageCenter.org)



## Charming Community. Cherished Memories.

Somerset is a charming, year-round destination only 30 minutes from the Twin Cities. With the Apple River meandering in the background, Somerset is a perfect place to visit for a day-trip or weekend get-away.

### Bites & Beverages

Somerset's main street offers whimsical shops, award winning breweries, local cheese shops and family eateries. If you love to start your day with a great cup of coffee, then a stop at **Wheelhouse Coffee** is a must. Make sure to visit the **Bass Lake Cheese Factory** and indulge yourself in their award winning, handcrafted cheeses, cheese curds and other delectable treats. If pizza is your comfort food of choice, then **Pizza Planet** is the place to go. Stop by **Oliphant Brewing**, **Rendezvous Bar**, **American Legion Post 111** or **Edgy Easts** for some food or your beverage of choice.

### Discover Somerset's Hidden Gems

Shopping in Somerset is always a delightful experience. It is the perfect spot to find unique souvenirs or gifts for someone special. **My Happy Place** and **Caffeine Chaos & Crafts** offer a wide variety of clothing, home décor, furniture, and more; whatever your preference, these two must stops are sure to have something that will catch your eye. Create a great summertime memory by taking in a concert at the **Somerset Amphitheater**, the largest outdoor concert venue in the Midwest featuring big name artists in a relaxing outdoor setting.

### Sports & Adventure

If you are craving outdoor adventures, Somerset has plenty to offer. For some family friendly fun, try tubing or tanking down the Apple River. **River's Edge Resort**, in the New Richmond/Somerset area, has a range of activities, including mini golf, water slides, camping, and even cabin stays. Check out **Riverbend Venue** while visiting, this is the perfect spot to book your next event/wedding. If you are looking to relax and appreciate nature, **Somerset Landing** is great for swimming or a day of fishing. If you enjoy golfing, **St. Croix National** or **Bristol Ridge Golf Course** can tee-up your weekend getaway.

### Winter Wonderland

When the holidays roll around, you won't want to miss **Sam's Christmas Village** with the largest Santa in North America and 16 million lights. You can drive or walk through and then warm up inside with hot cocoa or grab a bite to eat. **The European Market** is a perfect place to discover unique holiday gifts.

So what are you waiting for? Come and experience the charm of Somerset, WI. It's a destination that will capture your heart and leave you with cherished memories.

### SOMERSET AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 205, Somerset, WI 54025  
somersetchamber.org • 715-247-3366



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**General Information**  
**715-247-3600**





#### EVENTS

June – Pea Soup Days  
December – Light the Night

#### ATTRACTIONS

Bass Lake Cheese Factory & Antique Museum  
Cedar Lake Speedway  
Somerset Amphitheater  
Somerset Hockey Arena

#### GREAT OUTDOORS

Anderson Scout Camp  
Apple River  
Arcola High Bridge  
Croix Islands LaGrandeur Natural Park & Disc Golf Course  
Parnell Prairie Preserve  
Somerset Landing

# Discover the City of Lakes & Trails

Located along the meandering Apple River, the community of Amery is small in size but big in spirit. Known as the City of Lakes and Trails, Amery is home to 2 State trailheads, 13 public parks and miles of shoreline.



## Recreational Trails

**Stower Seven Lakes Trail**, a 14-mile crushed stone path is popular for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The 18-mile **Cattail State Trail**, traverses through some of Wisconsin's most picturesque forests, streams and farmlands and is open year round for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, ATVing, and snowmobiling.

## A Birder's Paradise

A St. Croix Valley hot spot for birding, Amery has been awarded both the **Wisconsin Bird City** and **Tree City**

designation. Bring your binoculars; there is plenty to keep your eyes and ears aflutter in this perfect habitat for migrating and nesting birds.

## Drop A Line

If you love fishing, drop a line in for northern pike muskie, bass or pan fish from the banks of the Apple River or the shores of 3 in town lakes.



## Historic Main Street

A stroll along Amery's main street would not be complete without an ice cream cone from Ellie's as you wander in and out of the unique antique shops, boutiques, and galleries. The **Amery Art Scene** has been highlighted in the travel book "**The 100 Best Small Arts Towns in America**". Amery's galleries and studios will make your visit even more special.

## AMERY, WISCONSIN CITY OF LAKES & TRAILS

104 Maple Street W • Amery, WI 54001  
(715) 268-7486

### EVENTS

April 4: Easter Egg Hunt  
June 13: Art Fair  
June 19, July 17 & Aug 21  
Music on the River  
Aug 4: National Night Out  
Sept 17-20: Fall Festival  
Dec 5: Holiday Stroll, Light Up the Town, Fire Department Chili Feed

### Z-Orchard

Ellie's Ice Cream  
Vintage and Boutique Shops  
Agricultural Experiences

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Stower Seven Lakes State Trailhead  
Cattail State Trailhead  
North Twin Lake  
South Twin Lake  
Pike Lake  
Apple River  
D.D. Kennedy Environmental Area  
York Park  
Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap

### ATTRACTIONS

Historic Downtown  
Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp  
YMCA Camp Icaghowan  
Amery Ale Works

**CHET JOHNSON DRUG**  
Amery, Wisconsin

Your Locally Owned and Operated Full-Service Pharmacy and Full-Line Drug Store

**ELLIE'S**  
ICE CREAM COFFEE CONVERSATION

Specializing in Old Fashioned Ice Cream Treats, Gourmet Coffee & Fresh Ground Espresso Drinks

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## Escape to Nature

Photo by Nue Vang Ford

Settled in the rolling hills of the St. Croix Valley is the picturesque, peaceful community of Spring Valley, WI.

### Recreation & the Outdoors

The **Eau Galle Dam and Recreation Area** is the site of the Midwest's largest earthen dam. The Eau Galle reservoir is surrounded by nature areas, a public beach, boat launches, a 46 site campground with several miles of hiking and equestrian trails. Lake George is a modern man-made reservoir which boasts year round fishing. The Eau Galle River is also one of the best Class II trout streams in WI. Spring Valley is home to **Crystal Cave**, Wisconsin's longest cave. Guided one hour tours will explore passages that are more than 7 stories below ground, one of the largest rock gift shops in the upper Midwest and offers other family activities such as gem-panning or playing 18-holes Tee-Rex Mini Golf. If traditional golf is your game, the Spring Valley Golf Course boasts 18 holes of championship layout golf. The Wildwood Trail is a former railroad track that offers 7 miles of off-road hiking, biking, snowmobile trails that stretch from Woodville south to Spring Valley. Spring Valley is also the hub

of many beautiful ATV/UTV routes.

### Spring Valley Performing Arts

For over 40 years, the **Spring Valley Stagehands Community Theatre** has been providing a treasure trove of live performances from local talent. The mix of performances includes: musicals, dramatic and comedic plays plus community choir concerts. For more information, please visit [www.svstagehands.org](http://www.svstagehands.org).

### SPRING VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 351 • Spring Valley, WI 54767  
[springvalleywichamber@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleywichamber@gmail.com)  
[www.springvalleywichamber.com](http://www.springvalleywichamber.com)

#### EVENTS

March 20-22, 27-29 – Stagehands Theatre - Passion of the Christ  
 July 4: Independence Day Celebration  
 Mid-June: The Secret Garden musical  
 September 18-20: Dam Days  
 October 10: Oktoberfest in the Valley  
 December 19: Winter Wonderland  
 December: Holiday concert and play

#### ATTRACTIONS

Crystal Cave • Half Fast Brewery  
 Spring Valley Golf Course

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Eau Galle Recreation Area and Beach  
 Lake George • Spring Valley Dam  
 Wildwood Trail  
 Hiking & Equestrian Trails

Explore

### BURNETT DAIRY CADY CHEESE STORE

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From squeaky-fresh curds to slice-to-order cheese, deli trays, and hard scoop ice cream, there's something for everyone at our cheese store. Open daily, or stop by one of our other locations in Grantsburg, WI, or Duluth, MN.





## A Short Drive to PEACEFUL

Look no further than the quaint village of **Pepin, Wisconsin**, an easy 90-minute drive south of the Twin Cities. Pepin is tucked between **Lake Pepin** and the rolling hills of **Wisconsin's Great River Road**, on the **Mississippi River**. Come to Pepin to experience the ultimate in beautiful scenery year-round. Pepin is the place to get away from the city, unwind, and breathe in peace.



### Bring Your Binoculars

Grab your birding guide and binoculars to look for hundreds of avian species throughout the year in this globally important birding area of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. The bluff lands and river habitat of Lake Pepin provide a year-round home to song birds and raptors and the majestic American bald eagle. Migratory birds such as white pelicans, green herons, tundra swans and osprey make semi-annual stops in the Lake Pepin Area.

### Get Hooked on Fishing

Lake Pepin is a popular fishery that is home to 85 species of fish including – Walleye, Northern Pike, Sauger, Smallmouth Bass, Crappie, Perch and Sunfish. Launch your boat from Pepin's public ramp and head for deep water, rocky shorelines, or weed cover to bag your catch. The launch area features a fully equipped fish cleaning station and public restrooms.



### Bringing History to Life

Explore history by visiting the birthplace of beloved children's author, **Laura Ingalls Wilder**. Wilder was born in a small log cabin just 7 miles north of the Village. Visit a reconstruction of the original Cabin where her early childhood adventures became the basis of her book, "Little House in the Big Woods". Make sure to stop by the **Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum**, dedicated to preserving Laura's legacy.

### Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum

306 Third Street, Pepin, WI

**2026 Season: May 1 through October 30**

**Museum & Gift Shop Hours:**  
10 am - 5 pm

Open 7 Days per Week, including  
Memorial Day, July 4th & Labor Day

Visit Laura's Birthsite: N3238 Co. Road CC, Pepin, WI

[www.LauraIngallsPepin.com](http://www.LauraIngallsPepin.com)



### Shop, Dine & Stay Overnight

An Historic Waterfront Village, Pepin is home to a variety of shops, galleries, restaurants and accommodations. Check out the quaint retail shops and you will find a variety of offerings – jewelry, fashion, giftware, souvenirs, antiques, repurposed goods plus artisan and specialty home furnishings.

When it's time to dine and imbibe, choose from a popular restaurant, quaint café, bistro, winery or bar & grill. There's a variety of cuisine and settings that each offer something special.

An easy day trip or weekend get-away, you'll find the perfect home away from home. Pepin and the surrounding communities offer wonderful lodging options from quaint motels to beautifully appointed short-term rentals.



## OUT & ABOUT around PEPIN

### One Day | 4 Stops



#### • Stop 1 - Homemade Cafe

Homemade Cafe is all charm and delicious food! Between the country decor, inviting staff, and incredible menu options, the Homemade Cafe is the perfect way

to fuel up for the day. Offering classic American breakfast selections, sandwiches, and of course – pie. You can't go wrong with the variety on the menu.



#### • Stop 2 - Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area

Hiking the Five Mile Bluff Prairie Loop near Pepin, WI. you will find the trail lush and green with stunning views high above the Chippewa River and its backwaters.

A favorite area is at the top of the hiking trail where there is a vista and bench to take in the beauty below. The trail is easy to navigate with many opportunities for bird watching. Warblers, woodpeckers, and blue jays can be spotted on the trail. The biodiversity along this hike is a sight to see. It is a moderate hike and well worth exploring! A visit in the Fall is spectacular with all of the Fall color!



#### • Stop 3 - Nelson Creamery

Nelson Creamery is a perfect stop for the whole family. Offering a variety of food to order, grab-and-go food and beverages, and of course, a curated selection of

Wisconsin meats and cheeses. Their huge retail space contains meats, cheeses, pantry staples, beverages, wine, a deli counter, and great ice cream choices.



#### • Stop 4 - Pepin Marina Retreat

There is no better place to call home for the weekend than the Pepin Marina Retreat's Cottage Apartment & Deck. A spacious vacation rental with a huge deck across the street from the Pepin

Marina. Not only is the retreat welcoming and comfortable, but the deck alone is well worth a visit, with the patio furniture and hammock to take in sunrises and sunsets as well as views and sounds of the passing trains and neighborhood birds. Peaceful, convenient, and an absolute dream home for the weekend.

#### PEPIN TOURISM COMMISSION

To Plan Your Stay Visit: [www.destinationpepin.com](http://www.destinationpepin.com)

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# Find Your Magic in Osceola, Wisconsin



*Cascade Falls*

Cradled by the St. Croix River, Osceola, Wisconsin is a place where nature, history, and heart come together — and where a little magic still lingers in the air. This charming river town invites you to slow down, explore, and rediscover a sense of wonder. Feel the mist rise from **Cascade Falls**, wander quiet trails, or float along the St. Croix as sunlight dances on the water. From scenic overlooks to cozy downtown streets, every corner of Osceola holds its own kind of magic — waiting for you to find it.



*Wheels & Wings*

## Always in Season

Every season brings its own kind of wonder to Osceola. In September, **Wheels & Wings** fills the sky with planes and the fields with cars, while the **Osceola Community Fair** celebrates small-town tradition and family fun.

Spring blooms with fresh beginnings and community favorites like **Rhubarb Fest**. Summer hums with river adventures, outdoor dining, and Friday markets. Fall paints the bluffs in color and **the weekend before Thanksgiving shines with the award-winning Doe on the Go**, filling downtown with great deals, laughter and wonderful memories.



## An Outdoor Enthusiast's Paradise

Adventure is never far away. For thrill-seekers, the **Osceola Skate Park** offers 7,200 square feet of energy and motion — perfect for skaters, bikers, and spectators alike.

Osceola's **Rivertown Trail System** winds through forests, streams, and historic sites, connecting downtown to breathtaking views of the valley. Within a short drive, explore **Wisconsin's first state park — Interstate Park** — or paddle the calm, scenic waters of the **St. Croix River**. Whether you're hiking, kayaking, or simply taking in the view, you'll find endless ways to connect with nature — and with yourself.



## Magical Downtown Osceola

Step into Osceola's historic Downtown and feel time slow down. The 1880s brick storefronts, colorful window displays, and welcoming smiles create a downtown filled with stories and surprises around every corner. Discover boutiques brimming with one-of-a-kind finds, flavorful drinks and bites, handmade chocolates, and shops filled with everything from home décor to vintage treasures. Whether you're searching for a thoughtful gift, your next favorite outfit, or simply a reason to linger a little longer, downtown Osceola invites you to shop small — and find the magic in every storefront.



## Savor & Stay

Taste the flavors of the valley at Osceola's restaurants, taverns, and outdoor patios that connect you to views of our natural surroundings. Enjoy juicy burgers, Wisconsin classics, or gourmet meals made with local ingredients — every meal here comes with a side of small-town charm.

*Perched above the rocky bluffs of the St. Croix River, The Watershed Café was built on the vision of a sustainably sourced restaurant that honors the surrounding natural resources and the vibrant community of the St. Croix River Valley. Inspired by fresh and seasonal ingredients produced by local farmers and suppliers committed to land stewardship, The Watershed Café features intentionally-prepared dishes with flavor unique to this rustic restaurant. Come in and enjoy the simple pleasures of delicious, mindfully-crafted meals!*



Pair your visit with a stop at a nearby winery or relax under the stars at a campground. Extend your getaway with an overnight stay at a cozy Bed & Breakfast or the historic St. Croix Valley Inn, where you'll wake to views as beautiful as the memories you've made.



Photos courtesy of Dancing Dragonfly Winery

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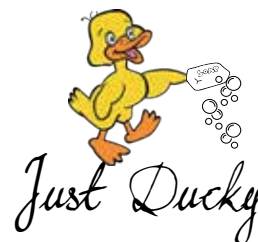


HOURS:  
1-5 PM  
MON-FRI

10-5 PM  
SUNDAY

CLOSED  
SATURDAY

GROWN HERE, AND PROUDLY MADE HERE, IN OSCEOLA, WI



## Ride the Vintage Rails

Let the sound of a train whistle carry you back in time aboard the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway. Ride through the heart of the St. Croix River Valley and take in the views that inspired generations. Special rides like the Pizza Train and popular **Pumpkin Express** make unforgettable family adventures. Trains operate mid-May – October.



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## OSCEOLA AREA CHAMBER AND MAIN STREET

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### EVENTS

Seasonal: Farmer's Market  
February: Cocoa Crawl, Big Lake Ice Fishing Contest, Firefighters Ball  
April: Spring Fling  
May: Open Doors Art Tour  
June: Rhubarb Days  
September: Wheels & Wings, Community Fair, Harvest Bazaar  
October: Pumpkin Express & Fall Color Train Rides, Valley Brew Fest  
November: Doe on the Go, Shop Small Saturday the Saturday after Thanksgiving  
December: Light Up Osceola - first Saturday in December

### ATTRACTIONS

Historic Downtown  
Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway  
Cascade Falls  
St. Croix Art Barn  
Glider Rides - L.O. Simenstad Airport  
Wisconsin Interstate Park  
Trollhaugen Ski & Outdoor Recreation Area  
Dancing Dragonfly Winery  
Krooked Creek Golf Course  
Osceola Braves Amateur Baseball

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Eagle Bluff Trail  
Ridge View Trails  
Cascade Falls Trail  
Riverwood Canoe Rental  
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway  
Osceola Landing

## The City of Trails

In today's crazy, complex, gigabyte-per-second world, thank goodness we have our trails. Nothing virtual about this. Immerse your senses in the natural beauty as you run, walk, ski or ride your favorite trail in the St. Croix Falls network of trails. The **Ice Age Trail** highlights the effects of melting glaciers on the landscape. The 98 mile **Gandy Dancer Trail**, popular with hikers, cyclists, and cross-country skiers and snowmobilers, runs from St. Croix Falls north to Superior, WI.

Summer and fall, in the area, are perfect kayaking, canoeing, fishing, birding, and hiking. In the winter months enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or fat tire biking.

**Gateway to the Upper St. Croix** Interstate Park is Wisconsin's oldest State Park and offers hiking, a swimming beach, boat launch, interpretive building, picnic area and camp sites. The park entrance is located just south of Highway 8, off of Highway 35, in St. Croix Falls. Located on the Wild & Scenic Riverway, the Park offers spectacular views of walled bluffs, deep valleys, forests, meadows, and wetlands. Abundant trails allow hikers of all abilities to explore glacial potholes. Bring your binoculars and catch sight of the incredible bird population that calls Interstate Park home. Make sure to explore the quaint downtown for unique shopping, dining, a fish hatchery, **Severson Memorial Overlook Park**, and the **Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway Visitor Center**.

### PLAN YOUR VISIT

[www.thestcroixvalley.com](http://www.thestcroixvalley.com)

### POLK COUNTY VISITOR & INFORMATION CENTER

710 Hwy 35 South • St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
[www.discoverpolkcountywis.com](http://www.discoverpolkcountywis.com)

#### ATTRACTIONS


Big Rock Creek  
Chateau St. Croix Winery  
City of Trails Biking & Hiking  
Dalles of the St. Croix River  
Dancing Dragonfly Winery  
Fawn-Doe-Rosa Wildlife Park  
Gandy Dancer State Bike Trail  
Historic Auditorium/St. Croix Festival Theatre  
Historic Downtown St. Croix Falls  
Lions Club Park & Boat Landing  
River Spirit Sculpture-Michael Severson Memorial Overlook Park  
St. Croix National Riverway

Trap Rock Brewing Company  
Western Terminus Ice Age Trail  
Wisconsin Interstate Park


#### EVENTS

AutumnFest & Craft Fair  
Bike & Foot Race Events  
Miracle at Big Rock  
Music on the Overlook  
Polk County Fair  
Taste of the St. Croix Valley  
St. Croix Falls Rivertown Holiday  
Wannigan Days River Spirit Celebration

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## Village on the St. Croix River



Charming businesses, amazing outdoor recreation and exceptional places to eat make Taylors Falls a don't miss part of your St. Croix Valley experience.

### Outdoor Activities

The Taylors Falls area is a hiker's dream, surrounded by bluffs and high cliffs. There's evidence of ancient lava flows and traces of old riverbeds. Perfect for exploring rocks, especially at **Interstate Park** along the scenic St. Croix River, founded in 1895 by Minnesota and Wisconsin.



Paul Vincent

A favorite hike is the 1.25-mile **Walter F. Mondale River Trail**, which traverses along the cliffs, and leads to several scenic overlooks along the St. Croix River. Don't miss the **Glacial Pothole Area** where fast moving whirlpools of swirling sand and water wore deep holes into the rock. You can see more than

400 examples of them in Taylors Falls – more than any other location in the world.

For fun on the water, rent a canoe or kayak and paddle the St. Croix. **Taylors Falls Canoe and Kayak Rental** is located

in Interstate State Park. No paddling experience is required. It's an easy stretch of the river, and there are plenty of sandy beaches where you can pull over and enjoy a picnic snack.

There are also scenic boat tours from Interstate Park that offer great views of the rocky cliffs along the river. The narrated tour points out rock formations all along the riverbanks, like the "Old Man of the Dalles". You might also spot rock climbers scaling the cliffs.



### Shopping

To find a few local treasures from the area, hit the charming little shops right in downtown Taylors Falls.

If you're a fan of antiques, stroll through **River Alley Shoppes** to find vintage and repurposed goods. Makers will love finding new crafts at **Taylors Falls Bead Store** and shop local artists and artisan goods at **With August**.

Book lovers will adore **Sharp Reads** which holds shelves of new, used, and vintage finds on their shelves.



### Food & Drink

The area's most iconic place to eat is **The Drive-in**, which serves burgers, sandwiches, fried foods, ice cream, and frosty mugs of house-made root beer. Order from your car and enjoy your meal in your vehicle or at a picnic table. Or, find artisan sandwiches and coffee drinks at **Juneberry Café**. Sip Minnesota-made wines at **Wild Mountain Winery**. This dog-friendly spot frequently has live music, wood-fired pizzas, cheese boards and a gift shop. For a special night out, make a reservation at **Tangled Up in Blue**, offering seafood, fresh-fish, hand-cut beef and decadent desserts.

### Accommodations

Many campers flock to the area to stay in Interstate State Park or **Wildwood RV Park and Campground**. Hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts or vacation rentals are available in nearby **Chisago Lakes Area**.

### PLAN YOUR VISIT

[www.thestcroixvalley.com](http://www.thestcroixvalley.com)

### EXPLORE CHISAGO LAKES

[www.chisagolakes.org](http://www.chisagolakes.org) • [info@chisagolakes.org](mailto:info@chisagolakes.org)

### FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[FallsChamber.org](http://FallsChamber.org) • [director@fallschamber.org](mailto:director@fallschamber.org)

#### ATTRACTIONS

Minnesota Interstate State Park  
Wild River State Park  
William O'Brien State Park  
Taylors Falls Scenic Boat Tours  
Taylors Falls Walking Tour  
Historic Folsom House Museum  
Angel Hill Historic District  
Franconia Sculpture Park  
Wild Mountain Recreation Area

Taylors Falls Canoe & Kayak Rental  
Wildwood RV Park & Campground  
Lions Park and Boat Landing  
Adventure Falls Mini Golf  
Pleasant Valley Orchard  
Swedish Immigrant Trail

#### EVENTS

Wannigan Days  
Taylors Falls Lighting Festival

# POLK COUNTY



## experience it all

Just an hour's drive from Minneapolis and St. Paul, the beauty of Northwest Wisconsin is on full display in Polk County, Wisconsin, with its expansive waterways, scenic countryside and charming communities. The area is truly a gift of the glaciers – home to over 400 lakes, the **Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway**, two state parks and the western trailhead of the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail**.



### Places of Splendor

**Ice Age National Scenic Trail** is one of only 11 National Scenic Trails located entirely within Wisconsin. Polk County is home to 62 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a footpath that winds for more than a thousand miles across Wisconsin, following the edge of glaciation that shaped the state's terrain.

**Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway** - Extends 250 miles along both sides of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers. Primitive camping

only, excellent fishing, canoeing and wildlife watching.



**Wisconsin Interstate State Park** The oldest state park in Wisconsin with unique geology found nowhere else. One of the few parks with year-round camping on the St. Croix River, some handicap accessible campsites, picnic shelters, scenic overlooks, a swimming beach, boat access, and shore fishing. Enjoy winter hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country ski trails. Open year-round.



**Stower Seven Lakes Trail**, a non-motorized 14-mile trail. The Stower Seven Lakes State Trail begins at Soo Line Park in **Amery** and ends at Lotus Lake County Park about 1 mile from **Dresser**. The 98-mile **Gandy Dancer Trail** follows the old Minneapolis-St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad grade, from St. Croix Falls to Superior, WI. In Polk County, the trail passes through Centuria, Milltown, Luck, Frederic and Lewis, WI. The short distances between these quaint towns makes the Gandy Dancer one of the most user friendly trails in the Midwest with easy access to local restaurants, lodging, parking and other local scenic trails and parks.

Spend time exploring **Straight Lake Wilderness State Park** Wisconsin's newest state park and **Straight River Wildlife Area**, just 12 miles northeast of St. Croix Falls. The park is an easy day trip and the scenery and wildlife are worth the time. The **Village of Luck** is just 3 miles away.





Welcome to our Polk County communities. Take some time to explore the towns and villages of Polk County and discover what makes each one unique and Polk County the beautiful destination it is, today. Read on to get a flavor for a few of our communities and be inspired to visit your favorites.



### Balsam Lake – Where it's Naturally Fun

The community of Balsam Lake sits on the beautiful shores of its namesake Balsam Lake. The 2,000 acre lake is dotted with islands and bays and renowned for its superb bass fishing. Established in 1905, Balsam Lake has a rich history and is a very popular tourism location. Whether you are looking for a quiet place to relax or take part in a variety of activities both on and off shore, Balsam Lake is the place to visit. Just minutes away are golf courses, casinos, antique and boutique shopping, a water park and downhill skiing. Some of northwest Wisconsin's favorite trails pass through Balsam Lake, offering opportunities for cross-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, ATVing and snowmobiling.

### Clear Lake – Small Town Charm, Big City Spirit

The Village of Clear Lake is named after the lake just outside of downtown. The lake's water is supplied from living springs, making it both a great fishing and swimming lake with a clean and inviting sand beach. The lake is near two other lakes in a 260-acre park with a playground, picnic shelters, softball field, and modern campsites, which accommodate tents, campers and RV's. Clear Lake is the trailhead of a multi-use trail for recreational vehicles, snowmobiles, bicycling, hiking and cross-country-skiing.

The **Clear Lake Museum** features hometown heroes Senator Gaylord Nelson, the former governor and founder of Earth Day, and Burleigh Grimes, National Baseball League Hall of Famer, in addition to hundreds of other priceless artifacts.

Visitors will enjoy several celebrations hosted in Clear Lake throughout the year, including **Kick off to summer**, **Heritage Days** and a **New Year's Eve fireworks show**. Enjoy four seasons of fun in Clear Lake – from fishing, to power sports, camping, and outdoor recreation or just relaxing on the beach.

### Turtle Lake – Rural Beauty plus Native Traditions

Refresh and energize your inner spirit with a visit to Turtle Lake, home to the St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians and Turtle Lake Casino. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound with many scenic waterways perfect for anglers, boating or a relaxing paddle. Sit on the beach and watch kids splash in the clean, refreshing lake water and in the evening sit around the campfire with friends and family planning your next adventure.

During the summer months, check out the Turtle Lake Museum (great for a family rainy day activity). Throughout the year take advantage of Turtle Lake festivals and celebrations. Make sure not to miss the annual **St. Croix Chippewa Tribe weekend Pow-Wow** held in late June.

**St. Croix Falls** prospered during the lumbering era that relied on the St. Croix River to move logs downstream. Historic **Amery** sits on an isthmus between the Apple River and Pike, North Twin, and South Twin Lakes. **Osceola** is overflowing with rich history and a beautiful historical downtown main street, complete with a waterfall! The **Villages of Polk County** including **Centuria, Frederic, Luck, Cushing, Milltown, Clayton** and **Dresser** may be small but are big on hometown friendliness and each has a special festival, trail or other surprise you will not want to miss.



### Polk County Arts & Culture

Art unlocks our imagination, makes life richer and brings us to life. So live life to its fullest with a visit to Polk County's art galleries and theaters. **St. Croix Art Barn** is a bi-state community arts organization. Guilds include theater, visual arts, music, writing and dance. Annual events include – a concert series, bluegrass festival, garden tour and art classes. Your Polk County art adventure won't be complete without a visit to **artZ Gallery** in Amery, **Café Wren** in Luck, and **One 10 Gallery** in Frederic.

### Performing Arts

**St. Croix Festival Theatre** - A patron once described the professional theatre in St. Croix Falls as "World Class Theater in a small town package." That is what audiences have come to expect from the St. Croix Festival Theatre as they bring professional actors, directors, and designers from all across the country to the St. Croix Valley each year. Festival Theatre's 2026 season promises to be bold, thought-provoking, and heartwarming, with stories that spark imagination, ignite laughter, and celebrate the power of connection!



**POLK COUNTY INFORMATION CENTER**  
710 Hwy 35 South • St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
Discoverpolkcountywi.com

## Four Seasons of Fun in Polk County

Polk County is beautiful any time of year. Come stay and play year-round, each season brings its own unique variety of experiences and events.



### Spring

Spring in Polk County is a time of renewal. Local residents come out of hibernation, gardens and wildflowers come to life. Beauty stirs a thirst to get out and enjoy every moment. The county comes alive

in April and May as the transition to warm weather begins. Wildflowers begin to carpet the forest floor and songs of returning birds bring the woods to life. Spring is a favorite time for many locals and visitors to Polk County as the calendar transitions to warm weather sports such as 5K and 10K races, golfing, biking, and hiking.



### Summer

Polk County's 438 lakes and many streams and rivers attract anglers and boaters. There are 36 officially designated trout streams in the county, to enjoy. Parks

and beaches swell with campers and swimmers. Summer is a perfect time to feel the refreshing mist of a waterfall, take a hot air balloon ride, or rent a canoe or kayak and enjoy a relaxing paddle on the river. Your visit must include exploring Wisconsin Interstate Park and its fabulous gorge flanked by rocky cliffs. Make sure to take in one of the numerous summer festivals across the county.



### Fall

At the peak of Fall color the reds, oranges and yellows of the leaves create picture-perfect scenery to be enjoyed from around mid-September to mid-October. Be sure to check with the Polk County Information

Center or local chambers of commerce for the latest color reports. While you are leaf peeping, make sure to visit local farmer's markets and apple orchards for fresh produce and the award-winning wineries for a tour and a tasting.



### Make the Most of Winter

Bundle up and enjoy the snow. Established in 1950, Trollhaugen is one of the longest running and most beloved "mom & pop" ski areas in the Midwest. From skiing to snowboarding to snow tubing, Troll

is the ultimate winter destination for snow lovers. Make sure to catch free live music in the iconic lounge on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the season. Snowmobiling, ice fishing, fat-tire biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, are other favorite Polk County winter activities. Polk County has 365 miles of state funded snowmobile trails that network with other county's trails for days of riding adventures. Ice fishing has a long tradition in Polk County and you will spot small villages of ice shanties over popular fishing spots.



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## *A short drive to fun!*

Polk County, Wisconsin is a world full of things to do, places to visit, and people to meet - and it's only an hour from the Twin Cities Metro! Our wide open spaces give you plenty of room to enjoy the fresh air to hike, bike, fish, or just spend time on the lakes or rivers. Be sure to stay a little longer to discover the unexpected treasures in our arts, shopping, dining and more.



Plan your trip: [discoverpolkcountywi.com](http://discoverpolkcountywi.com)





Lakefront Park  
Hudson, WI



Along the banks of the wild and scenic St. Croix River sits a historic town waiting to deliver your next Wisconsin weekend. No matter your scene, discover it in Hudson.

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