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# gallery \*

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# Relax, Kick Back, Enjoy.

**W**hat better way to enjoy life in the slow lane than to seek out vast purple sunsets, lazy hours of fishing, long walks among the wildflowers, or simply bird watching. And where better to find all that, and more, than in a five county area where beauty, heritage and nature combine conveniently just to please you, our most valued visitors.

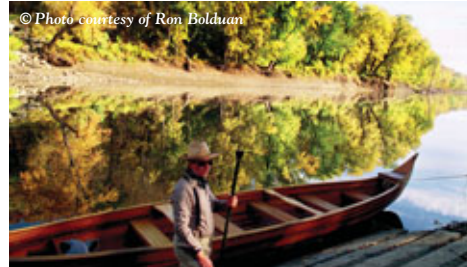
A five-county area representing Minnesota's most extraordinary prairie lands and waterways welcomes you. Branded as *Prairie Waters*, the area is a perfect vacation spot, especially for those ready to get back to nature.

Ribbons of waterways flow through channels cut more than a hundred centuries ago when the last great ice age receded the area. Today the **Minnesota River**, along with its major drainages, the **Chippewa**, **Pomme de Terre** & **Yellow Medicine**, plus other rivers are a recreational magnet to fishermen, birders and paddlers.

Tucked among great fields of corn, soybeans or sugar beets you'll find communities rich in culture and heritage and classic buildings listed on the National Register. Home to some of Minnesota's renowned authors and artists, the land is a true reflection of the creativity blossoming here. Ethnic offerings can be found in the foods, arts, festivals and traditions. We encourage visitors to relax, travel slowly, and discover the essence of the area. You'll be surprised...



© Photo courtesy of Ron Bolduan



Alan Cumming as Frandsen in the movie "SWEET LAND" (filmed in the Western Minnesota Prairie Waters)

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**Big Stone**

**Swift**

**Chippewa**

**Lac qui Parle**

**Yellow Medicine**

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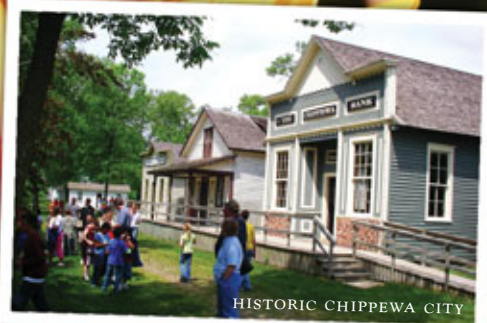
Big Stone County, Chippewa County, Lac qui Parle County, Swift County, Yellow Medicine County, Appleton, Benson, Clara City, Dawson, Granite Falls, Madison, Marietta, Milan, Montevideo

## Chippewa County

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**R**ich in both Native American and Scandinavian culture, visitors can experience the lifestyles of past and present that define Chippewa County and this area of the Prairie Waters region.

Bound along its entire western edge by the Minnesota River, Chippewa County not only displays heritage unique to the area, it boasts a variety of natural resource options. In addition to recreational parks, the county offers three wildlife management areas including the one that is most well known, the **Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area**. The **Watson Hunting Camp & Bar** is located right in the center of this area for your hunting, lodging or entertainment needs. Stretching along both sides of the southern shores of Lac qui Parle Lake, the **Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area** is a goose hunting and wildlife paradise. Anyone who likes to see abundant wildlife will enjoy hiking through the WMA. Thousands of bird watchers and wildlife lovers visit, hike and bike the area every year. Birdwatchers enjoy our many songbirds and waterfowl (not just geese) that use the WMA for nesting and as a migratory stopover. The sight of whitetail deer or ducks at dawn is common almost any time of the year, and bald eagles have

even taken up residence in the area. (For further information, please see the Lac qui Parle section).

Continue your tour by seeing a number of significant "firsts" in Chippewa County at the **Lac qui Parle Mission**. The focal point of regional history, Lac qui Parle Mission was established as a trading post by fur trader and explorer Joseph Renville in 1826.

As you visit the exhibits and interpretive trail overlooking Lac qui Parle Lake, you'll find this area was home to a number of significant "firsts". See the recreated 1850 Protestant Mission Church in Minnesota where the first church bell tolled in Minnesota. This is where the Dakota alphabet was first created, where the Bible and an accompanying hymnal were first translated into the Dakota language, and the site of the first woven cloth in the state.

Located northwest of Montevideo, **Lac Qui Parle State Park** is just west of the Mission Church site. Here you'll find lakes that were formed by receding glaciers. This created naturally occurring dams, causing the formation of these wide bodies of water along the length of the Minnesota River. Approximately 50,000 people visit this 530-acre year-round park every year. There

are many opportunities for camping, hiking, biking, swimming, horseback riding, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, along with boat and canoe access to the river. Nearby, the site of **Fort Renville** overlooks the lower end of Lac qui Parle Lake.

**MONTEVIDEO**, focal point of activity in the Prairie Waters region and the Chippewa County seat, sits at the joining of the Chippewa and Minnesota Rivers. Couple that pleasant setting with three major parks: Smith, Lagoon and Windom Park Recreation Area, and it becomes easy to see why 'Monte' (as the locals call it) is dubbed the "City of Parks".

With a variety of hotels, such as the Country Inn and Suites and the Viking Motel, along with local eating establishments including Jakes Pizza and the unique Java River Café, where many of the foods served come from local fields and pastures, you're in for a treat with their menu of music/cultural/art exhibits offered monthly. Montevideo is home to numerous antique stores, specialty shops, recreational and entertainment opportunities. The largest city in Chippewa County invites you to enjoy the area – you'll be pleasantly surprised!

In 1878, the Chicago, Milwaukee & Saint Paul Railroad brought immigrants to

this fledgling community to help settle the frontier. Plans continue to develop the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center – an exhibit of those bygone railroad days.

During Fiesta Days, held during the third week in June, the citizens of Montevideo, the city of Minnesota's western prairies, celebrate the relationship they've developed with their sister city, the South American city of Montevideo in Uruguay. A reminder of this international connection is the 11-foot-tall statue of Uruguay's hero of independence, Jose Artigas, standing prominently in downtown Montevideo's (MN) Artigas Plaza on Main Street...thousands of miles away from Uruguay.

History abounds in Montevideo and the surrounding area. Enjoy the **Olof Swensson Farm Museum**, a National Registry Site featuring a 22-room, turn-of-the-century brick farmhouse on 178 acres. One of the largest restoration projects of its kind in the U.S., the site also features a gristmill, family burial plot, and authentic buildings. Then visit an entire pioneer village recreating the challenging lifestyle prairie settlers faced more than one hundred years ago. **Historic Chippewa City**, boasts over 20 acres and 24 buildings representing the pioneer spirit in our region. Visit authentic log cabins, an 1880's church, Millinery Shop, Blacksmith Shop

and more. Don't miss the heritage foods and holiday entertainment at our annual old-fashioned **Christmas in the Village** celebrated the first Saturday in December.

In addition to these opportunities, the Montevideo calendar is filled with other attractions, events and activities like the Minnesota Valley Antique Power and Machinery Association's **Annual Steam Threshing Show** at Heritage Hill in August, an 18-hole golf course, ice fishing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling along 200 miles of groomed trails.

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worth the trip!

Nearby **Milan** is a leading center of Scandinavian culture and ethnic arts in the Prairie Waters region. The **Milan Village Art School** features classes in several folk art forms (Norwegian knife making, weaving, rosemaling, silver-smithing, and more), led by local artists. For a very special Art School experience, stay in the beautiful home of MVAS Instructor Karen Jensen, world-renowned rosemaler. Karen offers two stunning bedrooms within walking distance of the Milan Village Arts School. The Norwegian bedroom, decorated in rust and green, boasts two single cupboard beds,

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both with lovely rosemaling and carving. You'll find Norwegian artwork on the walls, kubbestols (Norwegian chairs carved from a solid log) to sit in and Hardanger embroidery on the beds. The Swedish room, painted in traditional blues, houses a cupboard where guests sleep next to a wall painted with the Steps of Life. Then visit the unique gift shop, **Billy Maple Tree's**, and the **Arv Hus Museum** (just a few doors down) where Billy Thompson will give you a lively tour of Milan, area photographs and artifacts, along with his own impressive creations. "Syttende Mai" (Norwegian Constitution Day) in May

and the Christmas Craft Sale during the holidays are two of the many popular events held in this small community each year.

On a more technical note, Milan is also home to Twin River Technology, making their mark on the map with the manufacture of surgical kits, heart catheters and stents for customers in both the USA and Canada.

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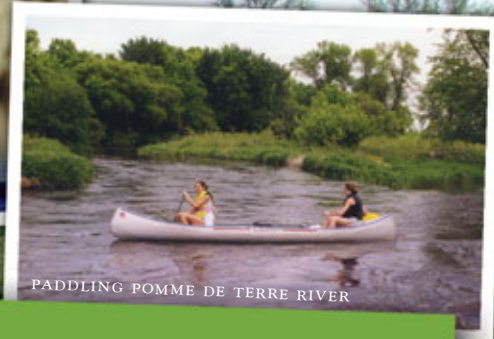
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## Swift County

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Covering the northeastern portion of the Prairie Waters region, Swift County boasts a beautiful section of the **Glacial Ridge Scenic Byway** and **Monson Lake State Park** with quaint



and rustic campsites along two great paddling lakes. Swift County also has two recreational paddling rivers, the **Pomme de Terre** and the **Chippewa**. The area is also renowned for its great hunting of pheasant, deer and geese. Lakes provide anglers with a chance to catch walleye, crappie, bass, northerns and more.

Many native prairie sites, hiking trails and parks are scattered throughout Swift County including Swift Falls, Ambush

Park and Riverside Park. Swift County also borders the **Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area** south of Appleton. It's well known in birding circles as a natural transition zone for birds and the entire ecosystem from the western plains to Minnesota's eastern woodlands. Several local areas are designated by the **Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail** and the **Prairie Passage Route**.

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enthusiasts will enjoy the state's newest Minnesota OHV park - **Appleton Area Recreation OHV Park** - located in Appleton. 22.5 miles of trails for motorcycle, off road, ATV, 4x4 Truck and Snowmobile. 325 acres of jumps, sand dunes, rock crawls and water holes.

In this region, **Lake Monson State Park**, east of Benson, represents the natural setting left behind for us to enjoy today. This area is rich in wildlife management areas, ideal spots for birding, and simply great for observing nature and wildlife. Cast your line into Monson Lake for walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, and crappie. Birdwatchers can seek out white pelicans, herons, western grebes, songbirds and waterfowl in this 187-acre park with a diverse landscape of wetlands and hardwood forests. The park includes a quiet campground and wooded picnic area. Paddle the lake and take a short portage that leads from Monson Lake to West Sunburg Lake.

Only the west-central portion of **The Glacial Ridge Trail Scenic Byway**

loops through our region, yet that small section showcases the natural richness of this area. Numerous lakes are sprinkled among the hills and ridges carved by glaciers over 10,000 years ago.

**Appleton** is home of the Swift County Fairgrounds, the annual Applefest Celebration and a city bike trail. Also it's the only city in the United States to honor all of its fallen war heroes. In 1946, Appleton's mayor, Robert P. Miller, proposed that streets bear the names of local heroes instead of conventional numbers and other names. On May 30, 1947, in a large Memorial Day service, all the street names were changed where each one is named after a local war hero. Today this proud community continues this noble and honorable tradition in tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in fighting for our freedom.

Appleton was settled by Addison Phelps as his family moved west in 1858, and the township was, as a result, named Phelps. Other settlers included two Civil War veterans, the Lathrop Brothers, who built a flourmill on the banks of the Pomme de Terre River that runs through town. These first settlers were of Scandinavian and German decent. Eventually the township's name of Phelps was changed to the City of Appleton in honor of the town in Wisconsin where Phelps grew up.

Appleton is a major river access point for paddling adventures down the **Pomme**



**de Terre River**. It also offers a 9-hole golf course, a newly expanded OHV and 4x4 park and Riverside Park Municipal Campground. Appleton is centrally located to all the major state parks, national wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas and regional rivers and lakes. Winter snowmobile trails link up with other counties for added fun.

**BENSON** is a community rich in recreational fun, festivals, and front-row innovation in several manufacturing



APPLETON PARK & BRIDGE - POMME DE TERRE RIVER

arenas. Families can enjoy the water park featuring its 30-foot-tall, 168-foot-long water slide. Other recreational activities include the 18-hole golf course, and camping in Ambush Park with its hiking, picnic shelters, native plant and wildlife exhibits, miniature golf and historic schoolhouse. There's even a convenient access and canoe landing on the Chippewa River.

Popular festivals include the **Kid Day Celebration** created back in the Depression by local Benson businesses. Other festivals include the Ranch Rodeo, Antique car show, Pioneerland Band Festival, Fall Craft Fair and much more. Winter activities include snowmobiling, hockey and even an indoor roller skating rink. The **Swift County Historical Museum** in Benson showcases the area's rich history and culture featuring displays depicting pioneering life in Swift County, including an authentic log cabin on display within the museum. Another feature is the geneological research of Swift County family history. Be sure to visit the **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**, designed by E. L. Marqueray, the very same architect who designed the Cathedral in Saint Paul. Built in 1917, it is on the National Register of Historic Places. Not far from Benson are the historic sites of the Christian F. Uytendale Farmstead, and the Sabin S. Murdock House (in Murdock).

Several industries in Benson are on the cutting edge of 21st Century

manufacturing. Chippewa Valley Ethanol Co (Shaker's Vodka & E85), Fibrominn, Future Products, Redball, Custom Roto Mold, Inc., and Case IH all claim Benson as their home.

You'll find great getaway packages of all types throughout Swift County. There's so much to do!



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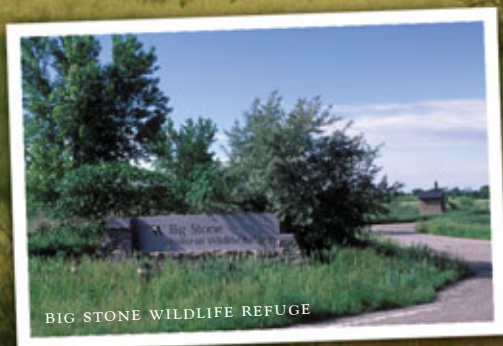
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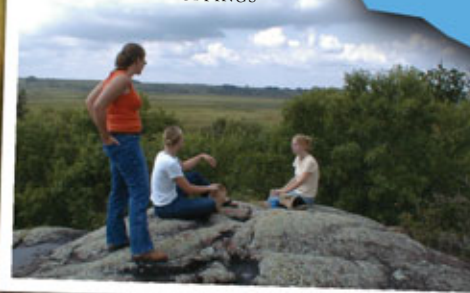
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## Big Stone County

GRANITE OUTCROPPINGS



BERGAMONT BIG STONE WILDLIFE REFUGE



## BEARDSLEY - BARRY - GRACEVILLE - JOHNSON CLINTON - ORTONVILLE - ODESSA - CORRELL

**B**ig Stone is the English translation for the Dakota Indian word for outcrops of granite and gneiss found in nearby Minnesota Valley. The county name is from the name of its single most popular natural attraction, the 26 mile-long Big Stone Lake



bordering South Dakota and Minnesota. Long ago, this area was the south end of the glacial Lake Agassiz (a lake so huge it covered a good deal of northern Minnesota and virtually all of Manitoba), and is the headwaters for the Minnesota River. Besides offering swimming, boating, bountiful fishing (walleye, northern pike and bluegills), and

paddling, the lake hosts Big Stone State Park, the Hudsonian Continental Divide and the Big Stone Wildlife



Refuge. Be sure to check out Schmidt's Landing, Econo Lodge or Lakeshore



RV Park on Big Stone Lake for all your lodging and camping needs.

So widespread are the granite deposits that the area has become one of the three leading granite mining areas in the United States. The first known granite quarry, the Baxter Quarry, was in operation as early as 1886. The quarries produce beautiful red granite, known worldwide as Mahogany granite. A functioning quarrying operation is a spectacular sight, and tours of the quarry are available upon request.

In the northern section of the 986-acre Big Stone State Park is the Bonanza Area, and includes 30 acres of rare glacial till hill prairie. This rare area has been specially designated as a Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and also offers a picnic area, boat launch and traditional group camp for guests who want to truly "rough it."

Also adjacent to Big Stone Park, the Big Stone Lake Environmental Learning Center provides educational programs to a group of local schools during the school



MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY

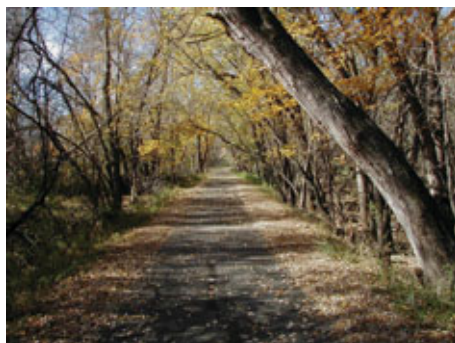
year, and to many other interested groups. Special programs are available year round. Enjoy the beautiful beach, great wildlife and incredible bird viewing.

Covering more than 10,000 acres, the **Big Stone Wildlife Refuge** just north of Ortonville is well-known for its granite



outcroppings (the fossilized remains of sharks' teeth can sometimes be found in the top 3 inches of the granite), marshlands populated with scores of shorebird species and waterfowl, river wetlands and rolling prairie are habitat for a variety of upland critters. Over 230 bird species, including common egrets, great blue heron, peepers and at least 17 species of duck reside or transit the refuge. A four-mile, self-guided *Auto Tour* provides visitors a view of the refuge's features right from their bikes, cars, trucks or RV's. Hikers can walk the tour, or further explore the many trails laced through the refuge.

With more than 31 square miles of open water Big Stone County's many lakes, rivers, marshlands and prairies attract visitors from Minnesota and the surrounding states who love outdoor



recreation. The summer and fall seasons offer hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, bicycling and golf for visitors and residents alike.

Some of the best bird watching in the region is along the county roads that flank the many wildlife management refuge wetlands in this county. **Thielke Lake** is well known for its summer population of western grebes.

Ortonville's 18-hole golf course, Graceville's 9-hole golf course, Toqua Park, MinnKota Archery Range, and a number of campgrounds, resorts and community parks all provide recreational opportunities while visiting Big Stone County. Snowmobiling is growing in popularity as the number of miles of well-groomed trails increases yearly. Hardy golf diehards keep their skills sharp through the winter during the annual **Arctic Golf Tournament** held on a frozen lake. And don't forget the popular **Corn Festival** held annually the third weekend of August.

Most of the downtown buildings in **Ortonville, the county seat**, are listed on the National Register of Historical

Places. Even still, Ortonville is up and coming with three new businesses opening just this spring! One of Ortonville's key visitor attractions brings the **Big Stone County Historical Society Museum** and the **Visitor's Center** together on a site overlooking the ancient Minnesota River valley. From 65-million-year-old fossils to 100-year-old prairie life artifacts and fossils from 65-100 million years ago, and the **Charles Hanson North American Wildlife Collection**, one of the most extensive waterfowl taxidermy collections in the country, this always draws big crowds.

Close your eyes as you become an explorer, relax in the tranquility of a sea of Big Bluestem prairie grasses, amidst blooming purple cornflowers. Watch a bald eagle soaring overhead as a whitetail deer cautiously preens on the shadowy banks of the nearby prairie river. Or experience the **Hudsonian Continental Divide**. All the water north of this divide flows to Canada's Hudson Bay while water to the south finds its way down the Minnesota River, ending up in the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. And it all starts right here!





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Minnesota

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E-mail: [chamber@bigstonelake.com](mailto:chamber@bigstonelake.com)

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ANNUAL CORNFEST – 3rd Weekend in August

# AUTHENTIC TRAVEL

**W**hen traveling through western Minnesota and the upper Minnesota River Valley, you can eat, play, sleep, shop, and learn at one-of-a-kind places. With the help of **Green Routes** you'll discover small, unique businesses rooted in our local communities. You'll find places to eat where the food is so fresh you may even bump into the farmer who grew it! There are opportunities for fun, along with ensuring our natural and cultural resources will be around for many generations.

Prairie Waters invites you to go slow. Explore the back roads and learn about our region from the people who live here. Your tour guides will be the gracious people who own the green businesses you'll be encountering. And since these places are not your typical tourist destination, you may find it necessary to plan more carefully. Pay close attention to the hours of operation and call ahead if you have special needs. Generally speaking, your host is especially eager to please.



## A few suggestions to get you started include:

- Local food and local art found on farms like **Moonstone**, where you can observe cattle grazing and purchase artisan cheese, honey, herbs or meat from their on-farm shop. Or check out **Pasture A'Plenty** where you can find high quality pork products. **Honey and Herbs** near Benson has honey and herbs, but also candles, honey products, soap and vegetables. **Farmers Markets** pop up all over the region; call for a current listing.
- Find local eggs, meat and veggies at **Bergen's Prairie Market** in Milan or at **Bill's Supermarket** in Montevideo.
- Look for the **BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL** label (pictured above) for foods from our local farmers.
- The artists of the Prairie Waters region collaborate to open their studios to the public for the **Meander Art Crawl** in the first Weekend in October. Many of these studios are also open year round or offer their wares in local shops. Our local potter has a studio near Dawson. You can find handmade yarn on main street Montevideo
- Our region's cafes strive to provide wonderful home cooked meals. Some have special items on the menu spotlighting local foods – ask for it at **Jake's Pizza** or **Java River Café** in Montevideo, and **Bootleggers** in Granite Falls or request a special local foods meal at **Aslak & Annie's B&B** in Milan or **Lillehaugen B&B** near Benson.

By taking your time and poking around a bit, *you'll be surprised* at the interesting shops and wares you can find, or just how much fun you can have in the process.

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### Arens B & B

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### Ashling Bed & Breakfast

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### Aslak & Annie B & B

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### Aunt Betsy's B & B

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1967 600th Street | Echo | 507-925-3222

### Lillehaugen Inn B & B

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### Moonstone Farm & Broodoo

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### Shorewood Castle Suites (Inn with suite)

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### Trestuen Gallery & Studio

Karen Jensen, Owner  
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## PRAIRIE WATERS SCENIC BYWAYS

### The Minnesota Valley National Scenic Byway



Truly a destination in itself, the **Minnesota River** is the premier natural feature of this byway stretching far beyond our western border near **Ortonville**, across the entire southern portion of Minnesota to the bluff country of the **Mississippi River**.

See 3.8 million year old granite outcroppings, lush prairie grasses, national refuges and state parks. Museums and historic sites about the US Dakota Conflict of 1862 dot the roadway as well.

### The Glacial Ridge Trail



Only the west-central portion of this byway loops through our region, yet that small section showcases the natural richness of this area. Numerous lakes are sprinkled among the hills and ridges carved by glaciers over 10,000 years ago. **Lake Monson State Park**, east of **Benson**, represents the natural setting left behind for us to enjoy today.

### The King of Trails



Tracing its origins back to the days when Native Americans cut travel routes out of the virgin prairie. With the automobile invention, roadways sprung up from many of these routes. One, stretching from **Winnipeg, Canada** south to the **Gulf of Mexico** became known as the **King of Trails**. In 1918, communities along this route formed an association and US Highway 75; the **King of Trails** became the "best marketed road in the United States". In 2001, the Minnesota legislature designated this highway as the "**Historic King of Trails**."

You can trail this historic roadway down through the entire western edge of **Prairie Waters**, from **Brown's Valley** past the city of **Canby** in the south.

### Prairie Passages



Over 100 years ago, the western portion of Minnesota was covered by more than 18 million acres of tall grass prairie. Today, sadly less than one percent remains.

The **Prairie Passages** route travels through areas of **Prairie Waters** where sparse pieces of the original prairie still remain. Designated sites include remnant native prairies, museums and historic sites all helping to interpret the prairie story.

Look for the **Prairie Plover** site near **Bellingham**, the **Chippewa Prairie** near **Milan** and the **Upper Sioux Agency State Park** south of **Granite Falls**.

## PRAIRIE WATERS BIRDING

The area from **Montevideo** to **Ortonville**, north into **Big Stone County** and south into **Lac qui Parle County** is one of Minnesota's premier birding regions.

**A** Thielke to Artichoke Lakes and county marshes in between Western Grebe, Whiteface Ibis and Lazuli Bunting. Check out Big Stone State Park, too.

**B** Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge's nationally known management program showcases scores of shorebirds.

**C** Marsh Lake – Minnesota's largest white pelican breeding colony.

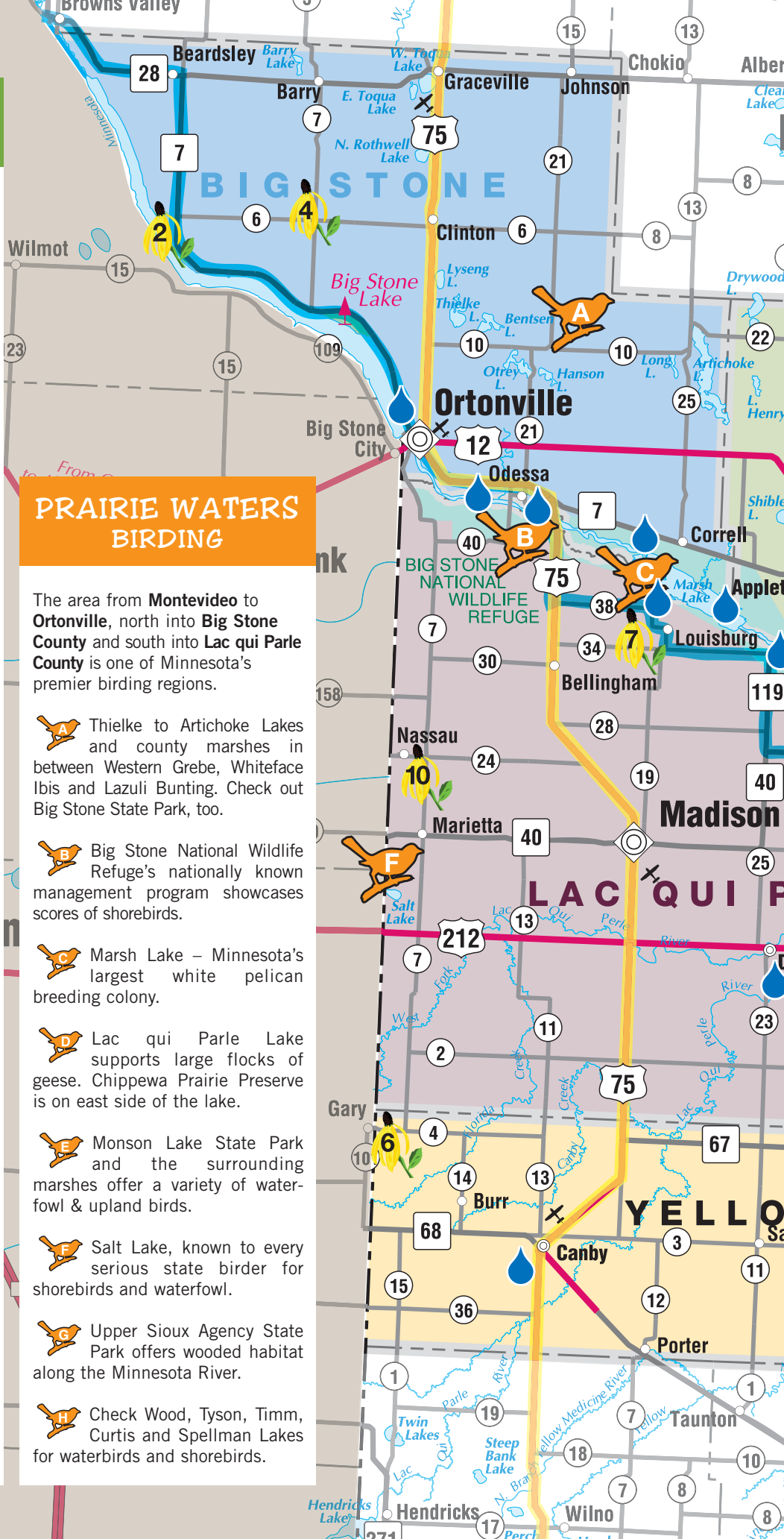
**D** Lac qui Parle Lake supports large flocks of geese. Chippewa Prairie Preserve is on east side of the lake.

**E** Monson Lake State Park and the surrounding marshes offer a variety of waterfowl & upland birds.

**F** Salt Lake, known to every serious state birder for shorebirds and waterfowl.

**G** Upper Sioux Agency State Park offers wooded habitat along the Minnesota River.

**H** Check Wood, Tyson, Timm, Curtis and Spellman Lakes for waterbirds and shorebirds.





# Western Minnesota Prairie Waters REGIONAL MAP

## PRAIRIE WATERS LEGEND

- STATE PARKS
- REST AREA LIMITED
- REST AREA COMPLETE
- BIRDING
- PUBLIC OHV PARK
- STATE HISTORIC SITE
- STATE HISTORICAL MARKER
- WATER ACCESS
- PRAIRIE PASSAGE

## Population of Cities

- UNDER 1,000
- 1,000 TO 4,999
- 5,000 TO 24,999
- 25,000 TO 49,999
- 50,000 AND OVER

## Scenic Byways

- GLACIAL RIDGE TRAIL
- KING OF TRAILS
- MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY

- PRAIRIE PASSAGE REMNANT PRAIRIES:
- 1-Blue Devil Valley SNA
  - 2-Bonanza Prairie SNA (within Big Stone State Park)
  - 3-Chippewa Prairie
  - 4-Clinton Prairie SNA
  - 5-Gneiss Outcrops SNA
  - 6-Mound Spring Prairie SNA
  - 7-Prairie Plover
  - 8-Swedes Forest SNA
  - 9-Upper Sioux Agency State Park
  - 10-Yellow Bank Hills SNA

# PRAIRIE WATERS TIDBITS

## “Check it out!”

Visit the prairies right after the spring thaw to see the beautiful white or blue-violet blossoms of the **pasqueflower**. Bring your guidebook to identify the native prairie plants.

**Goldfinches** tend to build their nests alongside roadways towards the end of June.

**Black-eyed Susans** dot the prairies and roadsides during June.



The independent film “**Sweet Land**” was shot in and around Montevideo. The story of a young German girl who travels to Minnesota in the 1920s as the mail order bride of a Norwegian farmer, the film features the **Chippewa Village** and **Swensson Farm**, as well as many locals as extras.

**Shark Teeth in Minnesota?** Yes! Stone Lake State Park consists of granite and gneiss quarries. The top three inches of stone are exposed and contain the fossil remains of shark teeth.

Benson is the home of Norwegian-born author **Martha Ostenso**, whose best-known story “Wild Geese,” written in only six weeks and published in 1925, was made into a TV film called “After The Harvest” in 2001. While living in the U.S., she continued to publish novels and wrote a number of screenplays.

**Jerry Koosman**, pitcher for the World Champion New York Mets in 1969 and for the Minnesota Twins from 1979 through early 1981, is an Appleton native.

**Brad Rheingans** is an Appleton native known for his Olympic honors in Greco-Roman wrestling, and was a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team.

“**Hey Culligan Man!**” – Prairie Waters original Culligan Man, Emmet J. Culligan, was born in Wergeland Township in Yellow Medicine County.

The bell used to ring in the national radio program, “**Lutheran Vespers**” comes from the Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church in Hanley Falls.

The Volstead House in Granite Falls is home to **U.S. Congressman Andrew J. Volstead**, who sponsored the Volstead Act – historic prohibition legislation. He also passed legislation legalizing farmer cooperatives.

**Lac qui Parle Mission** was the first protestant mission in Minnesota. The Bible was translated into the Dakota language.

Chippewa County boasts one of the **largest Cottonwoods** in Minnesota – and one of the oldest at 139 years old. The towering tree features a 90-foot-wide crown and a 10-foot diameter trunk.

**Paddling on the Prairie** – the Pomme de Terre, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Minnesota River and Hawk Creek offer canoeists and kayakers an opportunity to paddle down hundreds of miles of incredible rolling rivers carved throughout the prairie. Access points abound throughout the counties.

**Camp out in a tipi!** No need to bring a tent if you rent a campsite with a tipi at the culturally enlightening Upper Sioux Agency State Park.

**Minnesota’s rarest lizard**, the five-lined skink, makes its home along a narrow, 20-mile stretch of the Minnesota River Valley near Granite Falls.

**Big Stone Granite**, known for its beautiful redstone or “mahogany” granite, was one of the three leading granite-mining areas in the U.S. Many exposed areas can be seen today.

The Prairie Waters region boasts the **oldest exposed rock in the world** - Gneiss (pronounced “nice”) – a granite-like rock formed from layers of quartz, mica and similar materials over 3.8 billion years ago!

The **City of Appleton** pays tribute to military heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice. All streets are named after those who died in battle – the only community in the U.S. to honor our soldiers in this manner.

The **German Hutterite Colony** in Graceville holds their property in common and pay the same taxes. They maintain their own school and retain their German language. The colony is located two miles west, three miles south of Graceville. Visitors welcome by appointment.

**Red River Trail – 150 year-old ox cart ruts** are still visible in the prairie soil near the Lac qui Parle village site. Retracing ancient Native America trails, these pioneer roadways are the earliest ox cart trails in Minnesota.

There are folks who **play golf in February**. This winter tradition, the **Arctic Open** is played every February on frozen Lake Eli, Clinton MN. It is the longest running golf tournament on ice. Another February activity is jumping into Del Clarke Lake in **Canby’s Polar Plunge**, a Minnesota way of having a good time!

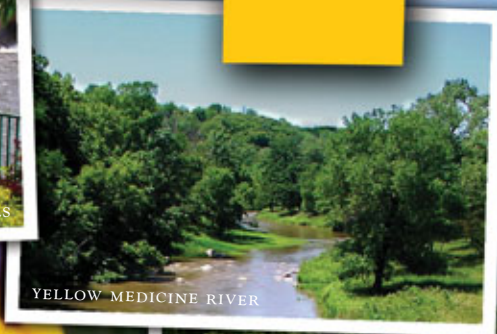
**Cactus in Minnesota?** On the ancient rock outcroppings here in the Minnesota River Valley, three species of cactus have thrived for hundreds of years; the Plains Prickly Pear, the Brittle Prickly Pear and the Ball Cactus. The cactus’s brief blooming time is in mid to late June.

## For the kid in all of us...



- Hiking in the **native prairie**. Find some of the world’s **oldest exposed rocks!**
- Camp in one of the **four state parks**. **Camp in a tipi**. Become a Jr. Park Naturalist.
- Looks for **eagles** and eagle nests along the Minnesota River.
- You will find great **playgrounds** in our cities!
- **Indoor swimming pool** in Granite Falls & Benson.
- **Outdoor swimming pools** in Dawson, Montevideo, Appleton, Benson & Madison.
- **Roller skating** in Montevideo & Benson.
- **Bowling** in Montevideo, Benson, Dawson, Ortonville & Canby.
- **Ice skating** in Appleton, Benson, Ortonville, Madison, Dawson, Montevideo & Granite Falls.
- **Festivals! County Fairs!** Our region has something special almost every weekend!
- Dance at the Wicipi or **Pow Wow** at the Upper Sioux Agency State Park in August.
- **Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge** – an auto tour, short trails and lots of rocks!
- Try our **bike trails or hiking trails** and explore on your own feet!
- Explore local food for each season – **Farms, Farmers Markets, Apple orchards, Vineyards, Strawberry patches**.
- Take a unique **art class** at the Milan Village Arts School.
- **Museums!** (see listings on page 29)

## Yellow Medicine County



### CANBY - ST. LEO - PORTER - CLARKFIELD - GRANITE FALLS HAZEL RUN - HANLEY FALLS - WOOD LAKE

**Y**ellow Medicine, or Pejuhutazizi in the Dakota Language, is the name of the bitter root of the Moon-seed plant used by the Native Americans for medicinal purposes and the source of this 758-square mile county's name. In addition to the area's Indian heritage, early settlers included mostly English, Scandinavian, German, Irish, Scotch, and Bohemian immigrants.

The **Minnesota River** cuts through what is now the eastern boundary of Yellow Medicine County. Enjoy the granite waterfalls, rolling hills and meandering streams that accompany this major river. Members of the Dakota Nation found the prairie and the Minnesota River bottoms a bountiful place to live, making this entire area rich in the history of the Dakota Indian culture. From the river's bank today's visitors can fish for Walleye, Northern, Catfish, Bullhead and Carp. Watch for White Pelicans and Great Blue Herons along edges of shallow pools. Spotted Sandpipers, Killdeer and other shore

birds frequently hunt for insects on the gravel bars and mud flats along the river. Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures and White Pelicans catch the air currents above the valley. Bald Eagles winter in the Minnesota River Valley.

Even if you are just passing through, take a drive along Minnesota's newest state scenic byway, the **King of Trails – U.S. Highway 75**. It runs through three of western Minnesota Prairie Waters' counties; Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle and Big Stone.

Today the popular **Upper Sioux Agency State Park** near Granite Falls



offers some of the best natural and Native American cultural educational opportunities in the region. For thousands of years, glaciers advanced, covered and retreated over central Minnesota. These glaciers left several hundred feet of rock, sand and gravel, known as "glacial drift," which covered the granite and gneiss bedrock. The **Upper Sioux Agency State Park** sits on a plateau of this glacial drift and contains the site of the **Upper Sioux** or "**Yellow Medicine Agency**", established in 1963 to preserve and interpret the remains of the old Agency site. It covers 1,280 acres with a diverse range of geography: open prairie knolls, bluffs, and cool, wooded slopes. The Upper Sioux Agency was originally established by the federal government in 1854 as a center for instructing the Dakota people in farming methods of white settlers. But the agency never realized its mission, for by 1862 the program was plagued by frequent food shortages and delays in promised annuity payments. Resulting dissension between

farmers and non-farmer Native Americans set the scene for tragic conflict. During this struggle most of the Agency buildings were destroyed. One remaining structure – a brick duplex – has been restored to its pre-1862 appearance, and the foundations of others are marked.

Today, in addition to the Native American interpretive opportunities (you can even rent a tipi there to heighten your experience), there is a full state park to enjoy. From the vistas, visitors enjoy the trails, which are ideal for horseback riding, hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling. The park also offers a huge sliding hill for winter fun.

The **Wood Lake Monument**, at Co. Rd 18, West of Hwy. 67, between Granite Falls and Echo commemorates the battle of Wood Lake fought here on September 23, 1862, between the forces of General Sibley and Little Crow.

One of Minnesota's newest gaming destinations, **Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort**, is just minutes away from downtown Granite Falls. Try your luck in this dazzling casino! You'll find fun and the newest and hottest slots, poker and

bingo, superb nationally known headline entertainment, great accommodations (with a fitness center and swimming pool), the Pejuhutazizi Gift Shop with its authentic Native American merchandise, and a brand new RV Park! There's even a non-smoking facility for your gaming pleasure!

Best of all, its communities are the real treasures of Yellow Medicine County.

**GRANITE FALLS**, the county seat for Yellow Medicine County, is nestled along the banks of the Minnesota River. With three community parks – Memorial, Lende Plaza and Sorlien – visitors and residents alike experience the peaceful lifestyle of this quaint prairie river community.

Today's Granite Falls lifestyle includes many cultural opportunities including the Prairie Arts Chorale, theatre, poetry, dance and orchestra. The PRCA Rodeo and other summer activities represent western culture annually, and the Yellow Medicine County Museum at the intersection of Hwys 23 & 67 features many exhibits from Granite Falls' past, including displays of history, geology, archaeology and Native American artifacts.

Recreation abounds in opportunities to fish, seek out back roads and historic places. Enjoy the Granite Falls golf course, baseball at Richter Field, and lots of fun activities at the Kilowatt Community Center.

On the industrial side, and as a contributing employer, the Engineering News-Record consistently lists Granite Falls' own Fagen Engineering LLC among top engineers, contractors and design-builders.

**HANLEY FALLS**, home of

**Minnesota's Machinery Museum**, features pioneer farm machinery (much in mint condition) and vintage automobiles, most of which are still fully operational. You'll find large displays of



equipment and tools, décor from early farm homes and other reminders of early Minnesota. A summertime regional threshing show in August and six acres of historic buildings and authentic equipment makes this museum one of Minnesota's premier agricultural museums.

In **CANBY**, the **Lund-Hoel House Museum** proudly showcases American-



Victorian architecture plus the lifestyle of early residents and adds one more jewel to the crown of historic sites around. This ornate museum, originally a 15-room American-Victorian style house, was built by John G. Lund in 1891 and then sold to Rev. Olaf Hoel in 1903. Be sure to check out and identify all the authentic tools on display in the carriage house. The museum is open during the summer months.

**Del Clark Lake**, just southwest of Canby, is a perfect place to picnic, enjoy the basketball or volleyball courts, bird watch or camp above the lakeshore.

Even smaller communities such as **ECHO** and **PORTER** are simply relaxing places to visit to enjoy life far from the bustle of big city life.

*You'll be Surprised...*

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- General Store
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## Lac qui Parle County



MINNESOTA RIVER/LAC QUI PARLE PARK



LAC QUI PARLE PARK



LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

### LOUISBURG - BELLINGHAM - MADISON MARIETTA - NASSAU - DAWSON - BOYD

**L**ac qui Parle is the French translation of the name given to the lake with the same name by the Dakota Indians who called it the “lake that speaks.” If you visit **Lac qui Parle State Park** in the spring or fall you’ll understand why. The lake is a stopover for thousands of migratory Canada geese and other waterfowl, and the air is filled with a delightful chorus of honking, quacking, and all other sorts of birdcalls. Today, that lake and river define the northeast boundary of Lac qui Parle County. The bordering lakes (including Marsh Lake upstream from Lac qui Parle Lake) offer some of the area’s best wildlife viewing and birding opportunities — especially for waterfowl. Paddle the lake, or cast a line and catch walleye, northerns, perch, or crappies or explore the trails by foot or horseback. Convenient access points lure anglers and hunters from throughout Minnesota and the upper Midwest, while canoers and kayakers paddle many challenging stretches of Lac qui Parle River.

In the fall of 1958, only 150 Canada Geese were counted at Lac qui Parle. Since then, natural resource management practices formed the **Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area** and bring in as many as 150,000 geese at one time during the spring and in the fall. Truly a magnificent sight to behold. They arrive in early March from their primary wintering post at Swan Lake, Missouri. Spring migrations continue through April. Then, in late September, geese arrive continually until the last ones leave in early December. Flights of whistling swans pass over Lac qui Parle in April and November. Pelicans also nest in the area on a one-acre island in the lake.

While in the area, don’t miss the 27,000-acre **Lac qui Parle Wildlife Refuge**. On the northern border of the county, in addition to all the refuge’s amenities, there are several excellent birding routes in Lac qui Parle County. One of the best being the **Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area**. Witness a

unique birding mecca just southwest of Marietta in Lac qui Parle County. The 379-acre lake is laden with migrating



waterfowl and shorebirds. Each spring, in late April, the Minnesota Ornithological Union conducts a special birding field trip to this site, located southwest of Marietta.

The county’s early history includes the Lac qui Parle Village site where **Chief Wakamane** of the Wahpeton Dakota Native American people developed the area as a village and planting site. There is also evidence of the old **Red River Oxcart Trail**, a military and commercial route through Lac qui Parle *that is still*

visible in some areas of the county.

As another reminder of Minnesota's early state history, the **Camp Release State Monument** stands on the edge of Montevideo. The Minnesota River Valley and Montevideo played an integral part in the United States - Dakota Conflict of 1862. In the fall of 1862, the Dakota tribes surrendered to Colonel Henry Sibley on a bluff overlooking the valley and the present day site of Montevideo. The Camp Release Monument was erected in 1894 by the State of Minnesota to commemorate the 1862 United States/Dakota conflict. Camp Release was Minnesota's first designated state park.

On July 19, 2008, Lac qui Parle County will celebrate Minnesota's 150th Anniversary with Sesquicentennial festivities at the county park in this Township. The celebration, called "Lac qui Parle Heritage Celebration: Turning Immigrants into Minnesotans" will take place from 10am - 4pm and will include heritage demonstrations and displays, music from Agape Singers, Chord Ayres, together with local artisans.

**MADISON** is the county seat of Lac qui Parle County. An ambitious, fun-loving community (who else would celebrate "Stinker Days") right in the heart of the county, it is close to two of the region's most renowned birding areas: Salt Lake to the southwest, and Marsh Lake and Lac qui Parle Lake to the north and east respectively.

The city of Madison is the largest population center in the area and boasts a rich heritage. It's the birthplace of renowned poet and best-selling artist, Robert Bly. The **Lac qui Parle County Historical Center** features many items from Bly's youth as well as native artifacts, pioneer memorabilia, wildlife displays, Native American artifacts, the popular **Ethel Mehlum Doll Collection** and more. Madison is also the home of the county fair and features NASCAR racing each weekend during the summer.

Madison's own **Lac qui Parle Players** provide community theatre entertainment featuring local and national talent. This local community theatre troupe schedules performances in the **Prairie Arts Center** each season that showcases comedy, tragedy, music, dance and often features guest artists who work

with local talent.

Don't forget that Madison is the **Lutefisk Capitol of the USA** and home of "Lou T. Fisk" - you'll be greeted by the huge cod statue when you arrive in town. If you've ever wanted to try the real thing Madison is the perfect place to order up this unique Norwegian fish entrée. We wouldn't lye.

Just a short jaunt off the main road, but so worth the detour, is Madison Meats, newly expanded and now carrying groceries plus offering fresh meats, cooked meats, and party trays. It is also the official Big Game Registration Station.

Minnesota's newest scenic byway, U.S. Highway 75, **The Historic King of Trails**, runs right through Madison tying this town to a corridor that runs from Winnipeg to the Gulf of Mexico.

Both Madison and nearby Boyd have several structures on the National Register of Historic Buildings. And the longest running community festival in the entire United States, the annual **Boyd Good Time Days Festival**, is held every June.

**DAWSON** is a community with a rich Scandinavian heritage in the heart of Prairie Waters farmland. Officially known as "**Gnometown USA**", Dawson features gnome statues located throughout the town. The library houses many gnomes that have been hand-carved by a local artist to look like certain members of the community. The City Park also is home to quite a few concrete gnomes, constant reminders of the Scandinavian settlers who moved into this region in the 19th century.

Recreational facilities include a 9-hole golf course, a newly renovated outdoor swimming pool, new riverside

walking/biking trail along the LQP River, beautiful parks, volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts, softball complex, shelter and playground equipment. The City of Dawson also has a campground with ten camp areas that have electrical hook-ups and water service.

The house lights dim and the curtain opens once a month from September to June in Dawson's Memorial Auditorium when the **Dawson-Boyd Arts Association** brings quality acts to this small western prairie community. A wide variety of entertainment including country, classical, comedy, popular and folk artists is presented each season - from variety show fundraisers, quartets and other musical ensembles, to exotic and ethnic performers from around the world.

In the first five seasons, audiences have enjoyed performances such as jazz great Maynard Ferguson, the Lake Wobegon Brass Band, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Always Patsy Cline tribute show, Tonic Sol-Fa and Riders in the Sky.

The remodeled **Dawson Armory** is listed on the National Historic Register, and houses the library, Community Rooms, History Center with local area artifacts, and periodic art exhibits.

Also located a short drive from Dawson is Churchill Dam, Lac qui Parle Refuge and Lake Lac qui Parle Hunting Camp, Marsh Lake Wildlife Management Area, Pioneer Village and The Historic Ox Cart Trail.





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## Madison Annual Events:

**April** Lac qui Parle Outdoor Expo

**July** Summerfest & Stinker Days

**November** Norsefest - Lutefisk eating contest, fair & more!

**December** Visit Santaland USA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: 320.598.7301**

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## EXPERIENCE

## Madison MINNESOTA

- Lac qui Parle Historical Museum
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- Original Log Cabin
- See the Robert Bly Study where Minnesota's First Poet Laureate did his original writing
- Lac qui Parle County Fair September
- "Little Minnesota State Fair"
- Lac qui Parle Outdoor Expo last weekend in April every year



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July - "Summerfest & Stinker Days"  
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December - Visit Santaland USA

Visit our Website  
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# AWESOME OUTDOOR ADVENTURES...

Outdoor activities abound in the Prairie Waters area. Already known for its excellent hunting and fishing opportunities, the region is a natural playground for many other outdoor pursuits.

## HUNTING

There are more than 150,000 acres of state Wildlife Management Areas open to public hunting and wildlife viewing. The Prairie Waters region sits right on one of the major North American flyways attracting over 150,000 geese each season. The **Lac qui Parle Goose Zone** features rental goose blinds for hunting and offers several opportunities nearby for convenient camping and RV parking.

In addition, thousands of mallards, wood ducks, canvasbacks and other species can be found in rivers, ponds and marshes scattered throughout the area. Ring-necked pheasants are hunted throughout the last few months of each year.

Whitetail deer hunting remains popular in the five-county region, especially in the lowlands near our rivers and streams. Crop fields immediately adjacent to marshes and rivers are especially high potential areas for deer and other wildlife.

A wealth of pertinent hunting information is available throughout the region at Refuge headquarters and local DNR offices. Contact us at Prairie Waters, too.

## WILDLIFE VIEWING

Key wildlife viewing spots throughout the counties of Prairie Waters include the state parks, all the wildlife management areas and even our countless network of country lanes. Wildlife viewing and birding along our roadsides provide visitors with numerous encounters in the course of a day's venture. Expect to see cottontail rabbits, ground squirrels, raccoons and striped and spotted skunks. The region is also experiencing a growing population of

coyotes. You might chance a sighting in broad daylight as one of these long, lean-legged, wolf-like canines lopes across an open field.

## RAPTORS ON THE WING

One of the most inspiring sights in nature is the Bald Eagle, whether in flight—soaring, diving, gracefully riding a thermal or perched on its nest high in the trees. Minnesota and Wisconsin are home to the largest population of nesting Bald Eagles outside of Alaska. Look for their large nests (commonly six to eight feet across and added onto each year) high in large white or red pine trees, or aspen or cottonwood, near lakes and rivers in remote areas. Adults are readily identified by their white heads and tails. The rest of the feathers are dark brown. Males and females are identical in color, but males weigh eight to nine pounds while females typically are 10-14 pounds. Eagles measure three feet or more from beak-to-tail and have a wingspan ranging from six to seven-and-a-half feet.



Photo courtesy of Paul Kuntz

## CAMPGROUNDS

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<b>APPLETON</b>							
<b>Mill Pond Park</b> 320-289-1363	●	●	●	●	●	12	●
<b>BENSON</b>							
<b>Ambush Park</b> 320-843-4775	●	●	●	●	●	18	● G,S,B,H
<b>Swift Falls Park</b> 320-843-5341	●	●	●	●	●	15	● S,B,H
<b>BOYD</b>							
<b>Boyd City Park</b> 320-855-2242	●		●			12	
<b>CANBY</b>							
<b>Lake Sylvan</b> 507-223-7595	●		●	●	●	5	
<b>Stonehill Regional Park</b> 507-223-7295	●		●	●	●	30	●
<b>Triangle Park</b> 507-223-7295	●		●		●	10	●
<b>DAWSON</b>							
<b>City Park</b> 320-769-2154	●		●	●		10	● S,BB,H
<b>GRANITE FALLS</b>							
<b>Memorial Park</b> 320-564-3011	●	●	●	●	●	22	● S
<b>Prairie View RV Park &amp; Campground</b> 320-564-6043	●	●	●	●	●	55	● CA,W,F,B
<b>Upper Sioux Agency State Park</b> 320-564-4777	●	●	●	●	●	61	● S,TI
<b>MADISON</b>							
<b>JF Jacobson Park</b> 320-598-7373			●	●	●	8	
<b>MAYNARD</b>							
<b>Lions Club Park</b> 320-367-2140	●		●	●	●	5	
<b>MILAN</b>							
<b>Lions Club Park</b> 320-734-4411	●		●			5	
<b>Milan Beach (Randall's Resort)</b> 320-734-4400	●		●	●	●	21	● WA,B&R
<b>MONTEVIDEO</b>							
<b>Lac qui Parle State Park</b> 320-734-4450	●	●	●	●	●	85	● ESW
<b>Lagoon Park</b> 320-269-6575/5026	●	●	●	●	●	10	● S,B,H
<b>Watson Hunting Camp &amp; RV Park</b> 320-269-9136	●	●	●	●	●	10	● ESW,S
<b>ORTONVILLE</b>							
<b>Big Stone Lake State Park</b> 320-839-366	●	●	●	●	●	42	●
<b>Lakeshore RV Park &amp; Campground</b> 320-839-3663	●		●	●	●	94	● ESW
<b>Riverside Park</b> 800-568-5722	●		●		●	10	●
<b>Rustling Elms Resort</b> 800-839-3845	●	●	●	●	●	42	● WA

\* B=Basketball; BB=Baseball field; B&R=Bait Shop & Restaurant; CA=Casino; ESW=Electric, Sewer, Water; G=Golf; H=Horseshoes; S=Showers; TI=Tipi Camping; WA=Water Access; WF=WiFi

## REFUGES & PARKS

### Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

Alice Hanley, Refuge Manager  
4843 County Road 19 - Odessa, MN 56276  
Phone 320-273-2191 Fax 320-273-2231  
E-mail BigStone@fws.gov or MidwestNews@fws.gov

### Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area

Route 1, Box 23 - Watson, MN 56295  
Phone 320-734-4451

### Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area

Phone 320-752-4394

### Bonanza Environmental Learning Center

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### Big Stone State Park

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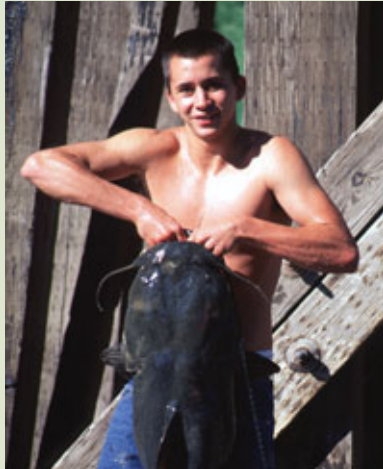
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# LET'S GO FISHING... By Chris Domeier, MN DNR Fisheries

Whether you enjoy speed-trolling plugs, casting worms into rippling river pools, or jigging through a hole in the ice, west-central Minnesota's bountiful prairie lakes and rivers abound with sports fish.



If you have walleye on the brain, recommended waters include **Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Artichoke** and **Olive Lakes**, and the **Minnesota River**. Good catches often result during spring and winter with jigs and minnows. Plugs work well during early summer, especially for bigger fish.

Maybe a peaceful afternoon spent sitting on the bank of a river is what you have in mind. Take some stink bait and give catfish a try. Summer is the best time to go, and good choices include the **Minnesota, Pomme de Terre**, and the **Yellow Medicine Rivers**. More adventurous anglers enjoy exploring fishing holes off the beaten path by using a canoe or small boat.

Are bluegills your passion? Try **Del Clark Lake** near Canby, or **Olive Lake** north of Appleton. The weed lines and flooded timber areas are good places to look. Del Clark also boasts some pole-bending largemouth bass.

Ready to try something different? Sheepshead are plentiful in the area. They bite well all summer long, especially in the **Minnesota River**. (*Hint: Keep fish 10"-12", they are good to eat, especially when you use our freshwater fish recipe*).

Fall fishing hot spots in the area often include **Big Stone Lake** for yellow perch and rivers for walleye, especially below rapids areas and dams. Fall is a great time to plan that combination fishing and hunting trip because substantial public hunting land

exists in the area.

Ice fishing is a popular winter activity, with anglers seeking primarily walleye, crappie, northern pike and yellow perch. **Lower Lac qui Parle Lake** often produces some very nice catches of giant crappies. Walleye fishing is usually good on area lakes, especially during December. Check with area bait shops for latest news on when and where the fish are biting.

Have fun exploring the area's waters! Most importantly, be safe and **remember to wear your life jacket**.



## Freshwater Fish Recipe

*Most freshwater fish are very good eating if you follow a few simple preparation steps:*

- 1- Catch a meal's worth of 10"-12" long freshwater fish.
- 2- Fillet the fish & strip the reddish meat from the fillets.
- 3- Wash well in concentrated salt water, rinse.
- 4- Soak overnight in 1 quart of water containing two tablespoons salt and 1 teaspoon lemon juice.
- 5- Rinse and prepare as desired.

*Delicious!*

good

best

## PRAIRIE WATERS FISH SUMMARY

Lake (County)	Walleye	Yellow Perch	Crappie	Bullhead	Channel Catfish	Flathead Catfish	White Bass	Sheepshead	Lrgmouth Bass	Bluegill	Northern Pike
MN River (●●●●●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Artichoke (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Big Stone (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Botkers (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
East Toqua (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Long Tom (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Marsh (●●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lac qui Parle (●●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Oliver (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Del Clark (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
John (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Porter (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tyson Lake (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wood Lake (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Camp Lake (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Monson Lake (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Swift Falls Reservoir (●)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● Chippewa County ● Swift County ● Big Stone County ● Yellow Medicine County ● Lac qui Parle County



## OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE

The **Appleton Area Recreation Park** features one of Minnesota's newest, public off-road vehicle parks. The 325-acre site currently includes more than seven miles of trails including five miles specifically designed for all terrain vehicles. In addition, there is one mile of motorcycle and one mile of enduro trails. The site also features jumps, play area, sand dunes and other OHV activities. Other features in the park include shelter/picnic areas, hiking and a pavilion.

## SNOWMOBILING

Besides the groomed trails in the OHV Park, snowmobilers can enjoy miles and miles of groomed and un-groomed trails. Routes traverse the entire region, from treeless prairie to quieting woods.

## RIVER & LAKE TOURING

Whether you choose a canoe or a recreational kayak as your human-powered watercraft, the rivers throughout the Prairie Waters region offer some of the best scenery and wildlife viewing in the state. Dropping down beneath the expansive prairie is a network of deeply cut ravines and canyon-like corridors lined with towering cottonwoods and oaks. Don't be surprised if a gigantic gray owl glides silently across your bow as you round a river bend.

The rivers of Prairie Waters – **Pomme de Terre, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine** and **Hawk Creek** are the major recognized canoeing routes in the region. Several maps are available that show the many river access points. Expect a few riffles and rapids depending upon the season and amount of rainfall. Also expect many miles of winding river between put-ins and take-outs as these rivers make a myriad of turns and twists.

While many of the lakes are shallow, most enable paddlers an opportunity

to trace their shorelines in search of waterfowl and other shore birds. There are many put-in points along the road system entering or crossing the national wildlife refuge or other special areas.



## CITY PARKS

**Appleton Parks | 320-289-1527**  
Riverview Park, Veterans Park

**Canby Central Park | 507-223-7775**

**Clara City Parks | 320-847-2142**  
Community Park, Wilms Park

**Clarkfield Parks | 320-669-4435**  
Campground Park, Valhalla Park

**Clinton Parks | 320-325-5580**  
Depot Park, Roadside Park

**Dawson Parks | 320-769-4615**  
Riverside Park, Veterans Park

**Granite Falls Parks | 320-564-4039**  
East Side Park, Highland Park, Royal Park,  
Winter Park, West End Park

**Hanley Falls Parks | 507-768-3570**  
Centennial Park, City Park/Campground

**Holloway City Park | 320-394-2272**

**Kerkhoven Parks | 320-264-2581**  
Pillsbury Park, Softball Park

**Madison Parks | 320-598-7301**  
Centennial Park, Kiwanis Kiddie Park,  
Madison Square Park, Memorial Athletic Park,  
Recreation Field, Slen Park

**Marietta City Park | 320-668-2375**

**Milan Parks | 320-734-4411**  
Burns Park, Library (Gazebo) Park

**Montevideo Parks | 800-269-5527**  
Central Park, Hillcrest Park, Larson Park,  
Sheridan Park, Smith Park, Wildwood Park,  
Windom Park

**Ortonville Parks | 800-568-5722**  
Lakeside Park, Nielson Park, Northside Park,  
Penn Park, Pool Park, Triangular Park

**Wood Lake Parks | 507-485-3476**  
Heritage Park, Freedom Park

## GOLF COURSES

	HOLES	PAR	YARDAGE <sup>white</sup>	CLUB RENTAL	CART RENTAL	DRIVING RANGE	FOOD/BEVERAGE
<b>Appleton Golf Course</b> 311 Wyman Avenue East • 320-289-2511	9	36	2,985	●	●	●	●
<b>Benson Golf Course</b> 2222 Atlantic Avenue • 320-223-5607	18	72	6,059	●	●	●	●
<b>Canby Golf Course</b> 1933 240th Avenue • 507-223-5607	9	36	3,275	●	●	●	●
<b>Dawson Golf Course</b> 15th Ave & Locust Street • 320-769-2212	9	35	2,837	●	●	●	●
<b>Graceville Golf Course</b> Toqua Lake Road, Box 248 • 320-748-7557	9	36	3,029	●	●		
<b>Granite Run Golf Course</b> Highway 67 South • 320-564-4755	9	36	2,860	●	●		●
<b>Kerkoven Golf Course</b> 603 Golf Course Drive • 320-264-1514	9	36	3,050				
<b>Madison Country Club</b> Highway 40 West, POB 154 • 320-598-7587	9	35	2,802	●	●		●
<b>The Crossings-Montevideo</b> Highway 212 West, PBO 231 • 329-269-6828	18	72	5,735	●	●		●
<b>Ortonville Golf Course</b> Golf Course Road • 320-839-3606	18	72	6,001	●	●		●

# A Vibrant Region in ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT...



**A**s robust as it is in activities centered around agriculture and our diverse natural resources, the Prairie Waters region is equally vibrant in its arts, cultural and entertainment amenities.

The area is rich with many gifted and talented writers, singers and storytellers who are eager to share their impressions and interpretations of our region. Small, coffeehouse settings such as the Java River Café in Montevideo showcase entertainers, from poets to prairie troubadours throughout the year.

## Dawson-Boyd Arts Association

The house lights dim and the curtain opens once a month from September to June in Dawson's Memorial Auditorium when the Dawson-Boyd Arts Association brings quality acts to this small western prairie community. A wide variety of entertainment including country, classical, comedy, popular and folk artists is presented each season – from variety show fundraisers, quartets and other musical ensembles, to exotic and ethnic performers from around the world.

In the first five seasons, audiences have enjoyed performances such as jazz great Maynard Ferguson, Lake Wobegon Brass Band, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Always Patsy Cline tribute show, Tonic Sol-Fa and Riders in the Sky.

## Meander Art Crawl

The Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl Meander has gained a well-earned reputation as the premier art event of the region and beyond. More than 40 artists whose media of expression ranges from painting to pottery, weaving to intricate and delicate Norwegian rosemaling to blacksmithing, woodcarving and stained glass work all unite in this region-wide art exhibit and sale. Many of the studios are open all year round as well as during the Meander weekend held annually during the first

weekend in October.

The lifestyle of the region inspires these artists to produce their highly acclaimed and sought after creations.

## Milan Village Arts School

Milan is a small community in the very heart of the Prairie Waters region. It proudly boasts a rich Norwegian heritage, a vibrant population of ethnic crafts-people, and an overflowing of small town charm. Local sights include Lac qui Parle Lake, the Peterson Stabbur and the Arv Hus Museum – reminders of Milan's rich historic and cultural past and present.

The Milan Village Arts School offers many classes throughout the year including weaving, wood carving, Norwegian knife making, painting, rosemaling, silver smithing and several other techniques.

## Lac qui Parle Players

This local community theatre troupe from Madison, MN schedules performances in the Prairie Arts Center each season that showcases comedy, tragedy, music, dance and often features guest artists who work with local talents.

The **Appleton 52 Wing** also hosts monthly cultural programs in the auditorium which features national, regional and local talent.

**Look for the Upper  
Minnesota Valley  
Celebrating the  
Sesquicentennial  
Visual Art Display  
Summer 2008!**



## MUSEUMS

### Milwaukee Road Heritage Center

Montevideo

Railroad depot with kid-sized trains, turntable, and a foundation of a railroad roundhouse.

### Minnesota Machinery Museum

Hanley Falls | 507-768-3522

Recapture a century of stories about farm life.

### Lund-Hoel House Museum

Canby | 507-223-5613

Step back in history with a visit to the Lund-Hoel House.

### Big Stone County Historical Museum

Ortonville | 320-839-3359

Collection of over 500 waterfowl from across the Americas and the world.

### Swift County Historical Museum

Benson | 320-843-4467

Features pioneer life. Contains an early school room and log cabin as well as American Indian, pioneer and other early artifacts.

### Lac qui Parle Historical Museum

Madison | 320-598-7678

Pioneer memorabilia, wildlife displays, Native American artifacts, 294 doll display and Robert Bly Museum.

### Yellow Medicine County

Granite Falls | 320-564-4479

Bison bone display and the "World's Oldest Rock".

### Arv Hus Museum

Milan | 320-734-4408

Antiques, photographs and great stories!

### Historic Chippewa City

Montevideo | 320-269-7636

A turn of century village. Twenty-three buildings to tour – authentic log cabins, general store, school house, and more.

### Swensson Farm Museum

Montevideo | 320-269-7636

A 22-room home, timber-frame barn and family cemetery.

### Lac qui Parle Mission Church

Montevideo | 320-269-7639

Learn about missionaries, the Dakota people, and Joseph Renville.

Visitors can ring the church bell.

# Western Minnesota Prairie Waters DIRECTORY

www.prairiewaters.com | 1-866-866-5432

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Lac qui Parle County

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### ● Country Inn & Suites ..... 320-843-4395

300 14th Street South - Benson  
www.countryinns.com/bensonmn  
Spacious and comfortable 44 rooms; indoor pool and whirlpool; free high-speed internet; complementary full hot breakfast; free daily newspaper; conference center adjacent to hotel.

### ● Country Inn & Suites ..... 320-269-8000

1805 East Highway 7 - Montevideo  
cx\_monv@countryinns.com  
www.countryinns.com/montevideomn  
46 Newly Renovated Rooms. Suites available. Indoor pool and whirlpool. Free high-speed wireless internet. Complementary full, hot breakfast. Lobby computer with internet access.

### ● Country Side East Motel ..... 320-843-3484

620 Atlantic Avenue - Benson  
Clean, comfortable rooms. Plus whirlpool suite. Wireless internet, coffee pot, hair dryer, cable TV, truck parking and outdoor electrical plug ins. Continental Breakfast.

### ● Econo Lodge ..... 320-839-2414

650 North US Hwy 75 - Ortonville  
gm.411@choicehotels.com  
Clean, comfortable rooms. Plus whirlpool suite. Wireless internet, coffee pot, hair dryer, cable TV, truck parking and outdoor electrical plug ins. Continental Breakfast.

### ● Granite Falls Super Motel ..... 320-564-4075

845 W Hwy 212 - Granite Falls / gfsupermotel@yahoo.com  
63 rooms, 24-hour staff, indoor pool, whirlpool & sauna. Attached family restaurant. Free high-speed wireless internet. Complementary breakfast. Only motel located in city limits.

### ● Green Meadow Inn ..... 800-685-4266

300 Hwy 7 - Clara City  
Quiet, comfortable rooms at affordable rates. Weekly & monthly rates also. Dogs welcome with their hunters. Only motel between Montevideo and Hutchinson. Come be our guest!

### ● Lillehaugen B&B ..... 320-843-4135

440 70th St NE - Benson / www.thelillehaugeninnb-b.com  
Travel on a tank to the peace and beauty of the prairie. Come join us at the Lillehaugen Inn and experience a turn of the century homestead where hospitality remains supported.

### ● Lou's Lodge Madison ..... 320-598-7518

### ● The Picket Fence Motel ..... 320-769-4787

118 1st Street - Dawson  
Located on Highway 212 across the Municipal Park and brand new swimming pool for adults and kids.

### ● Prairie Waters Inn Appleton ..... 320-289-2500

### ● Quiet Country Living Benson ..... 320-760-2820

### ● Schmidt's Landing Resort ..... 605-432-6911

48140 Schmidt's Road - Big Stone City  
schmidts@rthics.com / www.schmidtslanding.com  
On Big Stone Lake - lakeside cabins, camping seasonal and nightly, RV sites, boat & motor rental. Fully supplied convenience store. 1-800-610-4928.

### ● Viking Motel ..... 320-269-6545

1428 E Hwy 7 - Montevideo / www.vikingmontevideo.com  
21 rooms, clean & comfortable, refrigerators, microwave, coffee maker, high speed internet, cable & HBO. Also 4 Bedroom home available for rent, nightly & weekly.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ● Dawson-Boyd Arts Assn. .... 320-769-2955

601 9th Street - Dawson / www.dawsonboydarts.org  
Presenting a wide variety of quality concerts, theater and entertainment at Memorial Auditorium from September to June. Check website or box office for current events.

### ● Milan Village Arts School ..... 320-734-4807

PO Box 230 - Milan / mvass@fedtelnet.net  
www.milanvasartschool.org  
Milan Village Arts School offers classes in the folk arts. Information at www.milanvasartschool.org.

## CASINO

### ● Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort. 866-293-2121

5616 Prairie's Edge Lane - Granite Falls  
www.prairiesedgecasino.com  
First class casino and hotel featuring national entertainment, full-service dining, huge jackpots, valuable packages/room specials. New 55 site RV Park!

## CHAMBERS/CVB'S

### ● Appleton Area

#### Chamber of Commerce ..... 320-289-1527

PO Box 98 - Appleton / www.appletonmn.com  
Newly expanded ATV & 4x4 truck park, great local hunting, fishing, birding, canoeing, friendly shops, Applefest 3rd weekend in September.

### ● Benson Chamber of Commerce

Benson ..... 320-843-3618

### ● Big Stone Lake Area Chamber 320-839-3284

987 US Hwy 12 - Ortonville / www.bigstonelake.com  
A haven for sportsmen, hunters, birders, outdoor enthusiasts and tourists.

### ● City of Dawson ..... 320-769-2154

PO Box 552 - Dawson  
info@dawsonmn.com / www.dawsonmn.com  
Dawson is proud to open their new Family Aquatic Center summer 2008. Along the river enjoy the new walk/bike trail.

### ● City of Milan ..... 320-734-4411

244 N 2nd St, PO Box 162 - Milan / www.milamn.com  
Norwegian Capital USA! A small ethnic village that is proud of its heritage. Come visit our friendly community. You'll be glad you stopped!!

### ● Clara City Clara City ..... 320-847-2142

### ● Dawson Chamber ..... 320-769-2981

PO Box 382 - Dawson / www.dawsonchamber.com  
Visit our friendly community on the Lac qui Parle River: beautiful parks, swimming pool and riverside walking trail, specialty shops and restaurants on Main Street.

### ● Granite Falls Chamber ..... 320-564-4039

646 Prentice Street - Granite Falls  
gfcchamber@mtvwireless.com / www.granitefalls.com  
Proudly serving the community of Granite Falls and the surrounding area for 50 years.

### ● Madison

#### Chamber of Commerce ..... 320-598-7301

623 West 3rd Street - Madison / www.madisonmn.info  
Visit Madison, Minnesota, "Lutefisk Capital of the USA". Take your picture by "Big Lou T. Fisk" along South Highway 75.

### ● Marietta Commercial Club

Marietta ..... 320-668-2175

### ● Milan Commercial Club Milan. 320-734-4411

### ● Montevideo Chamber of Commerce

Montevideo ..... 320-269-5527

## DINING

### ● Bootleggers Supper Club ..... 320-564-4003

1940 11th Avenue - Granite Falls  
www.bootleggerssupperclub.com  
"...Our server was very good and the food was absolutely fantastic! I've been telling everyone. It was just like eating mom's cooking." Deb Larson, Montevideo.

### ● CJ Mikes Family Restaurant .. 320-769-2272

720 6th Street - Dawson  
Great home cooked meals! Daily noon specials, Saturdays Potato Klub, Sunday Buffets every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month. Catering available. See ad for hours.

### ● DeToy's Family Restaurant. .... 320-564-2280

845 W Hwy 212 - Granite Falls  
Broasted Chicken is our signature menu item, breakfast anytime. We are your family restaurant. Take out orders.

### ● The Falls Bar and Grill ..... 320-842-8000

203 Danelz Avenue - Benson  
The Falls Bar and Grill has friendly people, good times and food worth the trip. Call for entertainment schedule. 12 miles NE Benson - 18 miles SE Glenwood.

### ● Jake's Pizza ..... 320-269-2115

207 South 1st St - Montevideo  
Jake's Pizza! Free Delivery, Great Lunch Specials. Open 11am-2pm Tues-Sat. for lunch and open 4 pm daily for dinner. Downtown Montevideo.

### ● Java River ..... 320-269-7106

210 S 1st St - Montevideo / www.javarivercafe.com  
Antibiotic-free food. Shade grown, fresh roasted Free Trade coffees, homemade delights. Cozy fireside and beautiful outdoor courtyard. Can't wait to meet you!

### ● Jeppe's Sandtrap Bar & Grill . 320-769-2280

1380 Walnut Street - Dawson  
Open year round. Serving fresh cut steaks, salads & more. Next to golf course. Banquet Room. Catering weddings with food & liquor throughout MN. Also visit us in downtown Boyle.

### ● Jimmys Pizza ..... 320-564-3737

776 Prentice Street - Granite Falls

### ● Milan American Legion

#### Club 359 ..... 320-734-4600

101 Lincoln Avenue - Milan  
Full service bar and dining, friendly atmosphere, Saturday night specials during fall hunting season. Rent space for your favorite party, open Mon-Sat 4pm-1am.

### ● The MORE Café ..... 320-734-4656

241 Main Street - Milan

### ● Pizza Ranch ..... 320-269-6738

1504 East Hwy 7 - Montevideo  
Broasted chicken and all the fixins, plus pizza, full salad bar, lunch buffet 11-1:30pm, dinner buffet 5-8pm, Mon-Sat.

### ● Preston's Bobbers Down. .... 320-769-2844

539 Chestnut St - Dawson  
bobberson@frontiernet.net  
Full menu restaurant & sports bar. Big screen TV's. Open 7 days a week. Sunday beer & wine. Fun, friendly staff.

### ● Shooters Bar & Grill. .... 320-289-1100

530 2nd Avenue North - Appleton  
Banquet facilities for over 200. Serving a full menu 7 days a week. Hours: 11am to 1am, Texas Holdum' Every Wed. & Friday night. W Hwy 7.

### ● Subway of Appleton ..... 320-289-2070

25 SW Minnesota - Appleton  
Subway, the freshest subs around. We can cater your box lunches, party subs or party platters. Check out our daily specials. Thanks for stepping in!

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### ● Clean Up the River

#### Environment ..... 877-269-2873

114 1/2 1st St West - Montevideo / www.curemnriver.org  
CUREcommunications@info-link.net  
CURE focuses public awareness on the Upper Minnesota River watershed and takes action to restore, protect water quality, Bio integrity and natural beauty for all.

## FESTIVAL/EVENT

- **Wild Goose Chase**  
**30k Run/30k Relay** ..... 320-221-0029  
Box 3112 - Dawson  
dave@talkinglake.com / www.talkinglake.com

## FINANCIAL

- **Dawson Co-op Credit Union** .. 800-276-0025
- **Farmers & Merchants**  
**State Bank** ..... 320-289-1454  
329 N Miles Street - Appleton, MN 56208  
Welcome to our locally, home-owned full-service bank.  
Serving the community for over 90 years. Complete  
Insurance Agency. Member FDIC.
- **Granite Falls Bank** ..... 320-564-2111  
702 Prentice Street, PO Box 8 - Granite Falls  
information@granitefallsbank.com  
www.granitefallsbank.com  
ATM's located at Ampride on Hwy 212 and at Granite  
Falls Bank in downtown Granite Falls.
- **Granite Falls Economic Development**  
**Authority** Granite Falls ..... 320-564-2255
- **Klein Bank** ..... 888-269-6454  
101 S 1st Street, PO Box 468 - Montevideo  
www.kleinbank.com  
KleinBank offers a full range of convenient products  
and the commitment to inspire you to make your finan-  
cial dreams come true. We look forward to serving you!
- **Prairie Sun Bank** ..... 320-289-2545  
250 N Miles - Appleton  
prairiebanka@maximinn.com / www.bankwithpsb.com  
Internet banking, 24-hour bank by phone. ATM  
locations: Cenex C-Store, Bank entrances in Milan &  
Appleton (Entrances open 24 hours). Member: FDIC.
- **Prairie Sun Bank** ..... 320-734-4444  
240 North Second - Milan  
prairiebanka@maximinn.com / www.bankwithpsb.com  
Internet banking, 24-hour bank by phone. ATM  
locations: Cenex C-Store, Bank entrances in Milan &  
Appleton (Entrances open 24 hours). Member: FDIC.
- **Rekow Management, LLC** .... 320-269-7889  
101 S 1st Street, Suite 50 - Montevideo  
mwrekow@rekowmanagement.com  
www.rekowmanagement.com

## GAS/CONVENIENCE STORE

- **Cenex C-Store** ..... 320-289-2032  
140 N Munsterman - Appleton  
24/pay at pump fuel, Unleaded and E-85. Open from  
6:30am to 10:30pm for groceries, snacks, and all your  
last minute, late night needs.

## GROCERIES

- **Appleton Meat Center** ..... 320-289-1012  
250 West Snelling - Appleton
- **Jubilee Foods** ..... 320-598-7448  
208 7th Avenue - Madison  
See us for all your grocery needs. We have fresh produce,  
meats and bakery treats. Also daily selections in our deli  
made with home cooked flavor.
- **Madison Meats** ..... 320-598-7799  
620 8th St - Madison / www.madisonmeatsonline.com  
Located 1 block north of the courthouse, offering a full  
line of top quality retail meats, graduation and party trays.  
Deer processing and official big game registration station.

## HUNTING

- **MN Heartland Preserve** ..... 320-564-2022  
13015 Suite #2 Hwy 23 SE - Granite Falls  
www.minnesotahartlandpreserve.com  
1800 acres of hunting land, lodging available onsite,  
open to the public, family owned and operated, no  
membership, no license needed on preserve.
- **Watson Hunting Camp** ..... 320-269-9136  
10370 10th St NW - Watson / www.watsonhunting.com  
Specializing in high quality hunting experiences. Also  
wedding dance/receptions, full bar, family reunions, all  
types of meetings, Boy Scouts adventures, walking/  
hiking trails and Minnesota's largest tree!

## INDUSTRIES

- **CVEC** ..... 320-843-1229  
270 20th St NW - Benson / www.cvec.com
- **Fagen Inc.** ..... 320-564-3324  
501 W Hwy 212 - Granite Falls / www.fageninc.com  
Largest design-builder of heavy industrial projects in MN.
- **Twin River Technology** ..... 320-734-4490  
242 N 2nd Street - Milan / www.vitaldyne.com  
Manufacture of medical devices and electrical motors.

## MEDIA

- **Lac qui Parle Co. Broadcasting Co.**  
**KLQP - 92.1 FM** ..... 320-598-7301  
623 W Third Street, PO Box 70  
Madison, MN 56256 / klqpfm@farmerstel.net  
For information on area happenings, tune your radio to  
KLQP - 92.1 FM, Madison-Dawson serving western  
Minnesota and eastern South Dakota. 24 hours daily.  
Enjoy your visit!

## MUSEUMS/HISTORIC SITES

- **Big Stone County Museum**  
Ortonville ..... 320-839-3359
- **Chippewa City**  
**Historical Society Museum** ... 320-264-7636  
PO Box 303 - Montevideo / cchs@maximinn.net  
The Chippewa County Historical Society is home to  
Historic Chippewa City, Swenson Farm Museum and  
the Lac qui Parle Mission -Three premiere sites in  
southwestern Minnesota.
- **Lac qui Parle**  
**Historical Society** ..... 320-598-7678  
250 8th Ave S - Madison / lqphistorycenter@lqpc.com  
A 10,000 sq. ft. Educational Museum; an 1870's Log  
Cabin furnished for that period; a Rural Schoolhouse  
built in ca. 1887, equipped for that period through the  
early 1900's and more!
- **Lund-Hoel House** ..... 507-223-7201  
4th St & St Olaf Ave - Canby / www.CanbyMuseums.org  
Lund-Hoel@CanbyMuseum.org  
An 1981 Queen Anne Victorian 15 room Museum  
complete with Carriage House Interpretive Center,  
extensive architectural charm, many original  
furnishings, all surrounded by charming gardens.
- **MN's Machinery Museum** .... 507-768-3522  
5262 220TH Avenue - Hanley Falls, MN 56245  
agmusem@FrontierNet.net  
Enjoy Minnesota's largest collection of agricultural  
equipment, vintage autos, mint-condition tractors,  
turn-of-the-century collections & exhibits. Special  
tours, gift shop.

## PARKS

- **Benson Aquatic Park** ..... 320-843-2075  
2345 Atlantic Ave - Benson  
www.bensonareachamber.com  
Deluxe water park with 4 pool areas and a playground!  
Plus a diving area, lap pool, water slide & full concession.
- **OHV Park** Appleton

## REAL ESTATE

- **Big Stone Lake Area Realty** ... 605-862-7890  
459 Main Street - Big Stone City, SD  
mcmahon@maximinn.com  
www.bigstonelakearearealty.com  
Homes, farms, commercial & lakeshore. Open evenings  
& weekends for all your real estate needs. Give us a call.
- **Edina Realty** Appleton ..... 320-289-1376
- **Kuhlmann Real Estate Inc**  
Montevideo ..... 888-339-8938

## RV PARKS/CAMPGROUNDS

- **Lakeshore RV Park, Inc.** ..... 800-9-For-Fun  
39445 Lakeshore RV Park Road - Ortonville  
www.lakeshorervpark.com  
FAMILY FUN DESTINATION. Large, seasonal sites,  
camping, mini golf, outdoor pool, watercraft rental,  
Bumper boats, meeting rooms for groups - Located on  
Big Stone Lake.

## SHOPPING/ANTIQUING

- **Amish Creations** ..... 320-367-5020  
120 Spicer Avenue, PO Box 186 - Maynard  
www.amishcreationsinc.com  
Amish made furniture-quilts-gifts. We are your direct  
link to the Amish. Open Wed-Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5.
- **Bergen's Prairie Market** ..... 320-734-4429  
234 2nd Street - Milan  
Your source for Scandinavian Imports, fresh meat &  
produce, locally produced foods as well as imported  
coffee & tea. Join us for a cup!
- **Billy Maple Tree's** ..... 320-734-4868  
228 Main Street - Milan  
We sell local art, fair trade products & antiques.
- **Fiesta City Liquor**  
Montevideo ..... 320-269-7287
- **Heather's Floral & Greenhouse** 320-269-8801  
301 Canton Ave - Montevideo  
www.heatherfloralandgreenhouse.com  
Gourmet fruit and gift baskets, fresh and silk arrange-  
ments. Eco friendly landscaping designs! 33 years expe-  
rience serving an extended area. Three locations;  
Montevideo, Dawson and Madison. We Deliver!
- **House of Spirits**  
Appleton ..... 320-289-2290
- **Jon Hanson**  
**Small Engine Repair** ..... 320-226-0682  
101 Milwaukee Avenue - Milan  
JHSmallEngine@live.com  
Service and repair - small engines for lawn mowers,  
lawn tractors, snow blowers, etc. Available evenings  
and weekends. Reasonable rates & Reliable service.
- **Ladner's True Value** ..... 320-564-3130  
150 9th Avenue - Granite Falls  
More than a hardware store. Open Monday-Friday 8 am  
to 5:30 pm; Saturday 8 am to 5 pm.
- **Marc's On Main** ..... 320-769-2444  
767 6th Street, PO Box 717 - Dawson  
marconmain@frontiernet.net  
A unique floral and gift shop featuring handmade gifts  
from local artists, plus Scandinavian jewelry. Offers an  
extensive coffee bar. Stop in and experience small town  
charm at its finest.
- **Milan School Project** ..... 320-734-4128  
408 North 4th Street - Milan  
Thrifty, Gift, Used Book Store and Fitness Center. Call  
for hours. Space available for rent for events of every  
kind, business and art studios.
- **Moe's Hardware Hank**  
Appleton ..... 320-289-1391
- **Steve's Equipment** ..... 320-269-7171  
7025 Co Rd 15 SW - Montevideo  
www.montepolaris.com  
Your locally owned full service dealer for Polaris ATV's,  
Rangers and snowmobiles, Simplicity, Snapper, Woods,  
Grasshopper, eXmark, Kohler, Briggs & Stratton,  
Tecumseh and Aluma Trailers.
- **The Valley Troll** ..... 320-564-4041  
1222 Granite Street - Granite Falls  
A Scandinavian gift shop featuring unique and quality  
gifts from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland  
and USA. Also books, greeting cards, Minnesota items  
and fudge!

## SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Renewing the Countryside** ... 866-378-0587  
21051 1st Avenue South - Minneapolis  
www.greenroutes.org  
Green Routes directs people to places they can get  
locally grown food and locally made products and enjoy  
the regions natural attractions and amenities.

The advertisers & participants in this directory are only a sampling of the many destinations and attractions in the Western Minnesota Prairie Waters.

### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS OF TOURISM IN PRAIRIE WATERS:

*Big Stone County, Chippewa County, Lac qui Parle  
County, Swift County, Yellow Medicine County,  
Appleton, Benson, Clara City, Dawson, Granite Falls,  
Madison, Marietta, Milan, Montevideo*

# Welcome to Minnesota's *Newest* Casino and RV Park



Offering guests everything they  
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Slots ♦ Blackjack ♦ Poker ♦ Electronic Bingo ♦ Non-Smoking Slot Areas  
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15,000sq. ft. Banquet & Convention Center ♦ National Entertainment  
55 Unit PrairieView RV Park & Campground

  
*Prairie's Edge*  
**CASINO RESORT**  
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