

# Free Local Area GUIDE

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& Aitkin  
Counties,  
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Mille Lacs County



Aitkin County



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# Local Area EVENTS



## JANUARY

Hill City Lions Club Ice Fishing Tournament | Aitkin

## FEBRUARY

Justin Morneau Ice Fishing Classic | Mille Lacs  
Puzzles, Pizza & Pub Night | Princeton

## MARCH

Garrison Winterfest

## APRIL

Hill City Fire Department Fish Fry | Hill City  
Taste of McGregor  
Easter Fun Day | Onamia  
Minnesota Tournament & Trial | Mille Lacs

## MAY

Run for the Lake | McGregor



## JUNE

Foley Fun Days & 5K  
Rum River Festival | Princeton  
Worlds Largest Rubber Duck Display | Princeton  
Running of the Woodticks | Cuyuna  
Clean Up Day | Wahkon & Isle  
Onamia Days & Car Show  
Onamia Lions Pancake Breakfast  
Beautification Day | Hill City  
Paddle Your Glass Off | Aitkin  
Onamia Carnival  
Mille Lacs History Festival & Rendezvous | Isle  
City Wide Clean Up Day | Pease

## JULY

Isle Days  
Aitkin County Fair | Aitkin  
Crosby - Ironton 4th of July Celebration  
4th of July Fireworks | Pease  
Fireworks | Princeton  
Garrison Play Days | Garrison  
4th of July Celebration | Hill City  
Wahkon Fireworks  
Music in the Park | Milaca  
Rec-Fest | Milaca  
Mille Lacs Fun Run | Isle  
PACC Golf Tournament | Princeton

## AUGUST

Summer Fest | Deerwood  
Deerwood Days  
Mille Lacs County Fair | Princeton  
VFW Cornhole Tournament | Princeton  
Riverboat Heritage Days | Aitkin  
Wahkon Days | Wahkon  
Bit & Bridle Saddle Club WSCA Show | Aitkin  
Dump Run Quarter Marathon | Aitkin



Wild Rice Days | McGregor  
Golf Scramble | Aitkin  
Mille Lacs Band Annual Pow Wow | Onamia

## SEPTEMBER

Olde Tyme Fall Festival | Isle  
Runnin in the Ruff | Milaca  
Milaca Bluegrass Festival  
Clay Shoot | Aitkin  
Fall Fun Fest | Onamia  
Pease Pickle Fest

## OCTOBER

Oktoberfest | Aitkin, Deerwood  
Taste of Aitkin  
Trick or Treat | Onamia  
Funtober | Onamia  
Day Time Trick or Treating | Princeton  
Fall Classic Fun Shoot | Garrison

## NOVEMBER

World Famous Fish House Parade | Aitkin  
CommunityTree Lighting | Milaca  
Legion Auxiliary Fall Craft Fair | Onamia  
Light Up Princeton (Nov-Dec)  
Small Business Saturday | Princeton  
Santa Coming to McGregor (Nov-Dec)

## DECEMBER

Luminary Walk for Mental Health Awareness | Princeton  
Onamia Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Light Up Onamia  
Santa Visits Onamia  
Onamia Winter Craft Fair

*\*Events are subject to change*

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# RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

## MILLE LACS COUNTY

Administrative Services .....	(320) 983-8218
Assessor .....	983-8311
Attorney .....	983-8305
Auditor/Treasurer .....	983-8310
Court Administration .....	362-3200
Emergency .....	911
Extension .....	983-8317
Family Services .....	983-8208
Information Services .....	983-8276
Land Services .....	983-8308
Maintenance/Public Works .....	983-8201
Probation .....	362-7011
Public Health Nursing .....	983-8318
Recorder .....	983-8205
Sheriff .....	983-8250
Veteran Services .....	983-8208
Zoning .....	983-8308

## AITKIN COUNTY

Assessor .....	927-7327
Attorney .....	927-7347
Auditor .....	927-7354
Corrections .....	927-7281
County Surveyor .....	927-7326
Emergency .....	911
Environmental Services/Planning & Zoning .....	927-7342
Extension/4H .....	927-2538
GIS .....	927-7391
Health & Human Services .....	927-7200
Highway .....	927-3741
Land & Parks .....	927-7364
License Center .....	927-7057
Maintenance/Facilities .....	927-7363
Recorder .....	927-7336
Sheriff .....	927-7435
Treasurer .....	927-7325
Veteran Services .....	927-7320

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<b>Milaca</b> 140 2nd Street SE Milaca, MN 56353 (320) 983-2455	<b>Ogilvie</b> 206 N. Hill Avenue Ogilvie, MN 56358 (320)-272-4450
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**Dr. Matt Borowicz & Dr. Taylor Spier**

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# Mille Lacs County History



In 1855 the Mille Lacs Lake Indian Reservation was established by a treaty that set aside 61,000 acres for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Within two years, Mille Lacs County was established from parts of Benton and Isanti Counties and townships were organized in 1858. The name Mille Lacs is French for “thousand lakes,” and the community of Milaca was selected as the county seat. As the railroad was constructed the area began to develop and settlers began to arrive to stake land claims. In 1900 the population of Mille Lacs County had reached 8,066 and the area continued to grow with the development of highways and businesses. Mille Lacs Lake, spanning over 200 square miles, has since become a popular destination for recreational enthusiasts as it is the second largest lake in Minnesota. Today Mille Lacs County is home to approximately 26,383 residents.

**BOCK** – pop. 110

**FORESTON** – pop. 539

**ISLE** – pop. 909

**MILACA (COUNTY SEAT)** – pop. 3,003

**ONAMIA** – pop. 907

**PEASE** – pop. 198

**PRINCETON** – pop. 4,763

**WAHKON** – pop. 209

*\*Populations are approximate.*

## BOCK

Located in Borgholm Township, Bock was first known as Tosca. The community was established by the Great Northern Railway Company in the late 1800s and Tosca was re-named Bock in honor of the Bock brothers from New Ulm who had constructed a mill. A post office was founded in 1892 with Coleman Bridgeman serving as the area’s first postmaster. In 1923 Bock was incorporated as a village and the area has continued to thrive. Today Bock is home to approximately 110 residents.

## FORESTON

Foreston was founded as a lumber town and the community was first named Bridgeman in 1882. A post office was established with Coleman Bridgeman serving as the first postmaster. The town was then renamed Foreston after the dense hardwoods found throughout the area and the community was incorporated as a village in 1889. Today Foreston is home to approximately 539 residents.

## ISLE

Isle was settled in 1891 as a port on Mille Lacs Lake and the community was named due to its close proximity to Malone Island. In 1894 Charley Malone established a general store and hotel, attracting new residents to the area. In 1896 Malone served as Isle’s first postmaster and in 1913 as the community’s first mayor. Churches and schools were constructed and the area continued to develop. Today Isle is home to approximately 909 residents.

## MILACA (COUNTY SEAT)

Milaca was first settled in the 1880s as a logging community and the area was originally recognized as Oak City. The first post office was established in 1883 and the streets were platted in 1892. Its name is derived from Mille Lacs Lake and Milaca was incorporated in 1897. The community was selected as the county seat in 1920 and has continued to grow. Today Milaca is home to approximately 3,003 residents.

## ONAMIA

Onamia was established by the Great Northern Railway Company in the late 1880s and its name was derived from nearby Lake Onamia. A post office was founded in 1898 and streets were platted by Oscar E. Garrison in 1901. In 1908 Onamia was incorporated as a village and the community has continued to thrive. Today Onamia is home to approximately 907 residents.

## PEASE

Located in Milo Township, Pease was settled in 1894. A hotel and sawmills were then constructed and the area continued to develop upon the arrival of the railroad in 1886. The community was incorporated as a village in 1923 and has continued to grow. Today Pease is home to approximately 198 residents.

# Mille Lacs County Communities

## PRINCETON

Princeton was first settled in 1854 and named after John S. Prince, a St. Paul resident who assisted with platting the community's streets in 1855. A post office was established in 1867 and Princeton was incorporated as a village in 1877. As the railroad was constructed businesses were established including a potato factory and brickmaking plant. Princeton was selected as the original county seat where it remained until 1920 when it was moved to Milaca. Today Princeton is home to approximately 4,763 residents.

## WAHKON

Tucked along Mille Lacs Lake's South Shore, Wahkon was the earliest settlement in the Mille Lacs Lake area, beginning its history in 1885. It was platted on the southeast shore of Mille Lacs Lake by the Soo Railroad Company near the site of the old town of Lawrence, once an American Indian trading post. Robert and Ben Briggs built a log cabin near the old site of the Soo Line Depot, acting as land surveyors as families began moving into the area. In 1907, with the coming of the railroad, the Wahkon town site was set up and in 1912 it was incorporated as a village. Wahkon was a typical "boom town" of the early days with American Indians, lumberjacks, ox and horse teams filling the town's streets. The town became a rail terminal and the docking point for large logging company steamers that transported logs from all points around the lake. Today Wahkon is home to approximately 209 residents.

# Lake Mille Lacs Facts



- Lake Mille Lacs is the 2nd largest inland lake only after Red Lake (Beltrami County, MN) at 132,500 acres.
- "Mille Lacs" has a French translation of "thousand lakes". While the Native Ojibwe called the lake "Misi-zaaga'igan" and Dakota Natives referred to it as "Bde Wakhan".
- For its size, it's relatively shallow. Normal depths range between 20 to 38 feet, with its deepest point being 42 feet.
- Lake Mille Lacs lies within 3 Minnesota Counties. Mille Lacs, Aitkin and Crow Wing.
- Lake Mille Lacs has many smaller ( less than an acre) islands throughout. Most are privately owned.
- 2 of Lake Mille Lacs islands are America's smallest designated National Wildlife refuge. The .57 acres encompass both Spirit & Hennepin Island.
- The island's surfaces are very rocky, making them perfect nesting spots for native threatened birds like the common tern, ring-billed gulls, double crested cormorants and herring gulls.
- There are several species of fish within Lake Mille Lacs, with walleye being the most popular. Other species include, but are not limited to, northern pike, muskie, jumbo perch, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black crappie, burbot and tullibee.
- Lake Mille Lacs is Minnesota's favorite fishing lake due to the fish's natural ability to reproduce. Billions of walleye eggs and fry are produced each year.
- This lake is absent of thermocline, which means the lake temperature does not fluctuate much at its deepest depths, making fish egg reproduction much more prevalent.

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# Aitkin County History

# Aitkin County Communities



Aitkin County was established in 1857 and organized in 1871. It was named in honor of William Alexander Aitkin, a local fur trader who traded with the Ojibwe Indians and worked for the American Fur Company. As railway lines were constructed from Duluth to Brainerd, the area began to grow dramatically. Settlers who were attracted to the ample natural resources arrived to stake land claims. Communities were formed near railway junctions and the city of Aitkin was selected as the county seat in 1872. In 1900 the population of Aitkin County was 6,743 and almost doubled by 1910. The multitude of lakes and scenic beauty now make this area a popular recreational destination. Today Aitkin County is home to approximately 15,646 residents.

**AITKIN (COUNTY SEAT)** – pop. 1,948  
**HILL CITY** – pop. 610

**MCGRATH** – pop. 63  
**MCGREGOR** – pop. 378  
**PALISADE** – pop. 108

**TAMARACK** – pop. 54  
*\*Populations are approximate.*

## AITKIN (COUNTY SEAT)

Aitkin was settled in 1870 as a railway station on the Great Northern Railway. The first settler was Nathaniel Tibbetts who arrived to the area in 1871 to stake land claims. Aitkin was then organized and named in honor of local fur trader William Alexander Aitkin. The community was selected as the county seat and a post office was established in 1872 with Tibbetts serving as the first postmaster. Aitkin was incorporated as a village in 1889 and has continued to develop. It is now recognized for its annual World Famous Fish House Parade showcasing fish houses from around the area. Today Aitkin is home to approximately 1,948 residents.

## HILL CITY

Originally home to loggers, Hill City was settled in 1900 and platted by the Hill City Realty Company. Early industry included manufacturing, lumbering and agriculture and a variety of businesses and hotels were established to meet the growing needs of the community. A post office was founded in 1901 and Hill City was incorporated as a village in 1911. Hill City's proximity to Hill Lake has made this area a popular destination for recreational enthusiasts and the community has continued to grow. Today Hill City is home to approximately 610 residents.

## MCGRATH

Located in Williams Township, McGrath was settled in 1895 by loggers and first recognized as Elmwood. In 1907 James McGrath, a local lumberman, donated 40 acres for a village site and the community was renamed in his honor. In 1908 a post office was established and businesses soon followed. Today McGrath is home to approximately 63 residents.

## MCGREGOR

McGregor was settled in the late 1880s as a railway village along the Soo Line Trail. In 1890 a post office was established and the community began to grow. Businesses were established and McGregor was incorporated as a village in 1903. Today McGregor is home to approximately 378 residents.

## PALISADE

Located in Logan Township, Palisade was named by the Soo Line Railroad due to the tall ridge of the Mississippi River. A post office was established in 1910 and the area began to grow with the development of businesses. Today Palisade is home to approximately 108 residents.

## TAMARACK

Settled in 1874, Tamarack began as a railway village and its first post office was established in 1898. Its name is derived from the tamarack trees cleared for tracks by the Great Northern Railway Company throughout the area. Tamarack was incorporated as a village in 1921 and has continued to thrive. Today Tamarack is home to approximately 54 residents.



## AITKIN COUNTY CAMPGROUND

814 NW 4th Ave. | Aitkin  
 Located near the Mississippi River, the Aitkin County Campground features sites with electric hookups, boat launch and picnic areas. Call (218) 927-7364 for more information.

## BERGLUND PARK CAMPGROUND

510 Marconi St. | Palisade  
 Located near the Mississippi River, the Berglund Park Campground features sites with electric hookups, boat launch, handicap accessible fishing pier, picnic shelter and recreational trails. Call (218) 927-7364 for more information.

## DOG PARK AT RIEBE PARK

203 4th St. Cir. N | Princeton  
 The dog park features a large fenced-in area, picnic tables and a water fountain. Call (763) 389-2040 for more information.



## FATHER HENNEPIN STATE PARK

41296 Fr. Hennepin Park Rd. | Isle  
 Located on 320 acres near Mille Lacs Lake, Father Hennepin State Park features primitive campsites, handicap accessible fishing pier, swimming beach, picnic areas, recreational trails and is home to several Albino deer. Call (320) 676-8763 for more information.

## JACOBSON CAMPGROUND

69136 Great River Rd. | Jacobson  
 Located near the Mississippi River, the Jacobson Campground features primitive sites, boat launch, picnic areas and recreational trails. Call (218) 927-7364 for more information.

## LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER

28952 438th Ln. | Palisade  
 Located south of Palisade, off of Nature Ave, Long Lake CC is an Aitkin County park and Environmental Learning Center offering miles of hiking trails, cross country ski trails, education programs, facility rental, and more. Call (218) 768-4653 for more information.



## MILLE LACS KATHIO STATE PARK

15066 Kathio State Park Rd. | Onamia

Located on 10,585 acres near Mille Lacs Lake, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park features primitive campsites, historical sites, an interpretive center, swimming beach, playground equipment, picnic areas and recreational trails. Call (320) 532-3523 for more information.



## MILLE LACS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

29172 100th Ave. | Onamia  
 Located on 38,729 acres, the Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area features primitive campsites and picnic areas. Visitors are allowed to cut fuelwood, trap minnows and furbearing animals, commercially harvest timber and hunt on public lands during designated times for a small fee. Call (320) 532-3537 for more information.



## SNAKE RIVER CAMPGROUND

10890 Hwy. 65 | McGrath  
 Located near the Snake River, the Snake River Campground features primitive sites, canoe launch, picnic areas and recreational trails. Call (218) 927-7364 for more information.

Disc golf or frisbee golf is played a lot like traditional ball golf but instead of hitting a ball with a club into a hole the player throws a frisbee into a basket. Disc golf can be played by just about anyone at any age. It's also a cheap sport to get into. Specialized frisbees for disc golf cost around \$10-\$15 and a lot of courses are free. Playing disc golf is a great way to get out for some exercise, enjoy nature and have some fun.

## Disc Golf



# Health Benefits of the Outdoors



**Spending time in nature offers numerous benefits for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.**

**Stress Reduction:** Nature has a calming effect on the mind and body, helping to reduce stress levels. The peaceful surroundings, fresh air, and natural beauty can lower cortisol levels, decrease heart rate, and promote relaxation.

**Improved Mental Health:** Being in nature is associated with improved mood and mental health. Studies have shown that spending time outdoors can reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders. Nature provides a sense of tranquility and perspective, which can help alleviate negative thoughts and emotions.

**Increased Physical Activity:** Nature encourages physical activity, whether it's hiking, biking, walking, or simply exploring outdoor spaces. Engaging in outdoor activities promotes exercise, which is essential for maintaining physical health and fitness. Additionally, being in nature often involves exposure to sunlight, which helps the body produce vitamin D and supports overall well-being.

**Enhanced Creativity & Cognitive Function:** Nature stimulates creativity and cognitive function. Research suggests that spending time in natural environments can improve problem-solving skills, boost creativity, and enhance concentration and focus. Nature provides a rich sensory experience that activates different parts of the brain, fostering cognitive development and innovation.

**Connection with the Environment:** Spending time in nature fosters a deeper connection with the environment and promotes environmental stewardship. When people experience the beauty and wonder of nature firsthand, they are more likely to develop a sense of appreciation and respect for the natural world. This connection can lead to greater awareness of environmental issues and a desire to protect and preserve natural habitats for future generations.

**Overall, being in nature offers a multitude of benefits for both physical and mental well-being, making it essential for maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle.**



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# AREA ATTRACTIONS



**AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & TRAIN DEPOT**

20 Pacific St. | Aitkin | (218) 927-3348

**AITKIN LANES**

104 NE 4th St. | Aitkin | (218) 927-6701

**DECORSA VINEYARD & FARM WINERY**

40306 Torchlight Rd. | Isle | (320) 676-8823

**FIDDLESTIX GOLF COURSE**

1081 395th St. #2691 | Isle | (320) 676-3636

**GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS**

777 Grand Ave. | Onamia | (800) 626-5825

**GRAND MAKWA CINEMA**

16550 Ataage Dr. | Onamia | (320) 532-3923

**HEARTLAND HOCKEY CAMP**

24921 Arena Dr. | Deerwood | (218) 527-4604

**IREC & FITNESS CENTER**

610 Mille Lacs Ave. | Isle | (320) 676-3032

**ISLE BOWL AND PIZZA**

365 3rd Ave. South | Isle | (320) 676-8880



**ISLE OUTFITTERS**

245 W Main St. | Isle | (602) 677-5262

**JAQUES ART CENTER**

121 NW 2nd St. | Aitkin | (218) 927-2363

**MAC'S TWIN BAY RESORT**

43469 Vista Rd. | Isle | (320) 676-8709

**MCGREGOR LANES**

9 N Maddy St. | McGregor | (218) 768-2345

**MILLE LACS LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

285 2nd Ave. S | Isle | (320) 676-3929

**MILLE LACS LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

405 Main Street | Isle | (320) 676-3945

**MILLE LACS HUNTING LODGE**

8659 340th St. | Onamia | (320) 532-3384

**MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM & TRADING POST**

43411 Oodena Dr. | Onamia | (320) 532-3632

**MILACA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MILACA MUSEUM**

145 South Central Ave. | Milaca | (320) 982-1212

**MINNESOTA NATIONAL GOLF COURSE**

23247 480th St. | McGregor | (218) 426-4444

**NORTHWOOD HILLS GOLF COURSE**

18217 Captive Lake Rd. | Garrison | (320) 692-4325

**PAUL BUNYAN LAND/THIS OLD FARM**

17553 State Hwy. 18 | Brainerd | (218) 764-2524

**PORTSIDE MICRO PUTT GOLF**

42099 Hwy. 47 | Isle | (320) 676-3811



**PRINCETON SPEEDWAY**

1400 S 3rd St. | Princeton | (763) 267-4572

**RIALTO THEATRE**

220 N Minnesota Ave. | Aitkin | (218) 927-2824

**RIPPLE RIVER GALLERY**

27591 Partridge Ave. | Aitkin | (218) 678-2575

**ROLLING HILLS**

**ARABIANS & FARM TOURS**

18339 407th St. | Onamia | (320) 630-8438



**TERRY'S BOAT HARBOR**

6546 US-169 | Garrison | (320) 692-4430

**TRADITIONS AT CUYUNA FALLS MINI GOLF**

24228 Hwy. 210 | Deerwood | (218) 534-9250

**WEALTHWOOD ROD & GUN CLUB**

23573 420th Place | Aitkin | (218) 478-1428

*\*\*Some locations may have seasonal hours, please phone ahead\*\**



# HUNTING SEASONS

For general information on firearm safety training call: 1 (888) 646-6367 or (651) 296-6157.

Contact the MN DNR for specific zone areas/dates:

Online: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), Toll Free: 1 (888) 665-4236.

You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses by phone: 1 (888) 665-4236.

## HUNTING

### Bear

08/15/25 Baiting start date - Permit areas & no-quota area  
09/1/25 - 10/19/25 Permit areas & no-quota area

### Deer

09/13/25 - 12/31/25 Archery - Statewide  
10/16/25 - 10/19/25 Early Antlerless  
10/16/25 - 10/19/25 Youth - Statewide  
11/8/25 - 11/23/25 Firearm (Season A) 100 Series permit areas  
11/8/25 - 11/16/25 Firearm (Season A) 200 & 300 Series permit areas  
11/22/25 - 11/30/25 Firearm (Season B) 300 Series permit areas  
11/29/25 - 12/14/25 Muzzleloader - Statewide

### Badger

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Bobcat

01/4/25 - 01/19/25 South Furbearer Zone  
12/20/25 - 01/17/26 North Furbearer Zone



### Fox, Gray & Red

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Opossum

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Rabbit

09/13/25 - 02/28/26 Jack - Statewide  
09/13/25 - 02/28/26 Cottontail & Snowshoe Hare - Statewide

### Raccoon

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Squirrel, Gray & Fox

09/20/25 - 02/28/26 Gray & Fox - Statewide

### Grouse

09/13/25 - 11/30/25 Sharp-Tailed - Northwest zone  
09/13/25 - 01/4/26 Ruffed & Spruce - Statewide

### Pheasant

10/11/25 - 01/4/26 Ring-Necked - Statewide

### Wild Turkey

04/16/25 - 05/31/25 Spring - Youth - Statewide  
04/16/25 - 05/31/25 Spring - Archery - Statewide  
04/16/25 - 04/22/25 Spring - A season - Statewide  
04/23/25 - 04/29/25 Spring - B season - Statewide  
04/30/25 - 05/6/25 Spring - C season - Statewide  
05/7/25 - 05/13/25 Spring - D season - Statewide  
05/14/25 - 05/20/25 Spring - E season - Statewide  
05/21/25 - 05/31/25 Spring - F season - Statewide  
10/4/25 - 11/2/25 Fall - Statewide

## TRAPPING

### Badger

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Bobcat

01/4/25 - 01/19/25 South Furbearer Zone  
12/20/25 - 01/17/26 North Furbearer Zone

### Fox

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 Gray & Red - North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 Gray & Red - South furbearer zone

### Opossum

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Rabbit

09/13/25 - 02/28/26 Jack - Statewide  
09/13/25 - 02/28/26 Cottontail & Snowshoe Hare - Statewide

### Raccoon

10/18/25 - 03/15/26 North furbearer zone  
10/25/25 - 03/15/26 South furbearer zone

### Squirrel

09/20/25 - 02/28/26 Gray & Fox - Statewide



\*Check the MN DNR website for updates.  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us>  
or scan the QR code



You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses, cross-country ski passes and snowmobile trail stickers through the Electronic License System. Online [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), Toll Free: 1 (888) 646-6367  
Or visit one of the ELS agents available throughout the area:

## **AITKIN**

### **AITKIN COUNTY LICENSE CENTER**

307 NW 2nd St. UNIT 108 | Aitkin | (218) 927-7057

### **BEARTOOTH HARDWARE INC**

150 Southgate Dr. | Aitkin | (218) 429-0222

### **BILL'S SPORTSMAN SERVICE INC**

649 NE 2nd St. | Aitkin | (218) 927-2552

### **DENNY'S LAKEVIEW INN**

33592 300th Pl. | Aitkin | (218) 549-3580

### **FARM ISLAND STORE**

29037 Hwy. 169 | Aitkin | (218) 927-3791

### **HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#452)**

1 S Minnesota Ave. | Aitkin | (218) 927-6403

### **MALMO MARKET**

32060 220th St. | Aitkin  
| (218) 684-2295

### **PETRY'S BY THE LAKE**

22167 State Hwy. 47 | Aitkin | (320) 537-1059

### **THE GLEN STORE & GRILL**

31993 280th St. | Aitkin | (320) 684-2229

## **HILL CITY**

### **ROADSIDE MARKET**

144 Service Dr. | Hill City | (218) 697-2373

## **ISLE**

### **BOONES FINE GUNS**

535 E Superior St. | Isle | (320) 676-3030

### **FEDERATED COOPS**

925 S Hwy. 42 | Isle | (320) 676-3865

### **JOHNSON'S PORTSIDE**

42099 Hwy. 47 | Isle | (320) 676-3811

### **TRAILSIDE**

750 Hwy. 47 S | Isle | (320) 676-3746

## **JACOBSON**

### **MISSISSIPPI LANDING INC**

68298 MN Hwy. 65 | Jacobson | (612) 490-0409

## **MCGRATH**

### **1865 ROADSIDE CONVENIENCE**

14072 State Hwy. 65 | McGrath | (320) 674-4460

## **MCGREGOR**

### **EASTLAKE CONVENIENCE**

36040 Hwy. 65 | McGregor | (218) 768-3344

### **HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#453)**

200 Hwy. 210 W | McGregor | (218) 768-4444

### **MCGREGOR OIL**

257 W Hwy. 210 | McGregor | (218) 768-2055

## **MINI MART #6**

46026 State Hwy. 65 | McGregor | (218) 426-3382

## **SATHER'S STORE**

47952 Hwy. 65 | McGregor | (218) 426-3255

## **MILACA**

### **HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#171)**

405 S Central Ave. | Milaca | (320) 983-2544

### **PRINCE BAIT & MARINE, INC.**

19196 Hwy. 169 | Milaca | (320) 983-6344

### **PRINCE GUN SHOP**

19184 Hwy. 169 | Milaca | (320) 983-3006

## **ONAMIA**

### **CASEY'S GENERAL STORE (#3781)**

500 Roosevelt Rd. | Onamia | (320) 532-1000

### **GATEWAY ONE STOP**

34952 Hwy. 169 | Onamia | (320) 532-3787

### **MILLE LACS SUPERSTOP**

38668 US Hwy. 169 | Onamia | (320) 738-1402

## **REEDS MILLE LACS OUTPOST**

38556 Hwy. 169 | Onamia | (320) 532-7333

## **PALISADE**

### **PALISADE ONE STOP**

307 Main St. | Palisade | (218) 845-2156

## **PRINCETON**

### **HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#17)**

308 S Rum River Dr. | Princeton | (763) 389-5717

### **MARV'S TRUE VALUE**

31620 125th St. | Princeton | (763) 389-3201

### **PRINCETON ONE STOP**

509 N 19th Ave. N | Princeton | (763) 389-9984

### **WALMART SUPERCENTER (#3102)**

300 21st Ave. N | Princeton | (763) 389-7821



# OUTDOOR

## Fun Facts

- 85% of plant life is found in the ocean
- Fire usually moves faster uphill than downhill
- Wildfires can reach speeds of 14 miles per hour
- For every human there are around 200 million insects
- The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia
- You can only see a rainbow if you have your back to the sun
- Oak trees produce acorns when they are around 50 years old
- Parks run by the National Park Service have around 3 million campers per year
- The record high in the U.S. was in Death Valley, CA at 134F and the record low was in Prospect Creek, AK at -79F

# FISHING SEASONS

## INLAND WATERS

### Lake Trout

12/30/23 - 03/31/24

Lakes entirely within the BWCA

### Lake Trout

01/13/24 - 03/31/24

Lakes partially or completely outside the BWCA

### Bullhead

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Burbot (eelpout)

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Channel Catfish

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Cisco (tullibee), whitefish

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Crappie

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Gar

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Other

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Perch

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Rock Bass

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Smelt

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Sunfish

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### White Bass

03/01/24 - 02/28/25

### Flathead Catfish

04/01/24 - 11/30/24

### Largemouth Bass

05/11/24 - 02/23/25

Northeastern Minnesota

### Northern Pike

05/11/24 - 02/23/25

### Sauger

05/11/24 - 02/23/25

### Smallmouth Bass

05/11/24 - 02/23/25

Northeastern Minnesota

### Walleye

05/11/24 - 02/23/25

### Largemouth Bass

05/25/24 - 02/28/25,

Statewide except the northeast

### Smallmouth Bass

05/25/24 - 09/08/24,

Statewide except the northeast

### Sturgeon

catch-and-release

06/16/24 - 04/14/25

### Smallmouth Bass

catch-and-release

09/09/24 - 02/23/25,

Statewide except the northeast

*\*Contact the MN DNR for specific zone information/dates:*

1 (888) 646-6367

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

*scan the QR code*



(Fishing licenses are effective from March 1 to the last day of February of the following year. A fishing license for the current 2025-26 license year is effective until Feb. 28, 2026.)



# YOUR Help is NEEDED!

Do  
**NOT**

Transport  
Invasive:

- Fish
- Invertebrates
- Aquatic Plants



# CLEAN. DRAIN. DISPOSE.

## KNOW THE LAW! YOU MAY NOT...

- TRANSPORT WATERCRAFT WITHOUT REMOVING THE DRAIN PLUG.
- ARRIVE AT LAKE ACCESS WITH DRAIN PLUG IN PLACE.
- TRANSPORT AQUATIC PLANTS, ZEBRA MUSSELS, OR OTHER PROHIBITED SPECIES ON ANY ROADWAY.
- LAUNCH A WATERCRAFT WITH PROHIBITED SPECIES ATTACHED.
- TRANSPORT WATER FROM LAKES OR RIVERS.
- RELEASE BAIT INTO THE WATER.

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**Mike Miller**



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[danscateringcompany@frontier.com](mailto:danscateringcompany@frontier.com)**



**700 Main St, Onamia**



# Mosquitoes

## Prevention & Health Risks



### A MOSQUITO FREE YARD

Create an environment in your yard that invites animals that like to eat mosquitoes. Some things that enjoy eating mosquitoes are:

- Bats • Frogs • Fish • Turtles • Birds • Dragonflies

To help repel mosquitoes, plant some of the different vegetation listed:

- Citronella • Geranium • Eucalyptus • Rosemary • Basil • Anise • Mint • Marigolds • Catnip • Wormwood • Tansy • Lavender • Cedar • Cloves

Don't have stagnant water sitting around in things like buckets or tires.

### BE SAFE WHILE OUTDOORS

When a mosquito bites you it can leave saliva in your body. If the mosquito is infected it can transfer diseases to you. A few of the more common diseases transmitted to people are:

- Dengue • Encephalitis • Malaria • Yellow Fever.

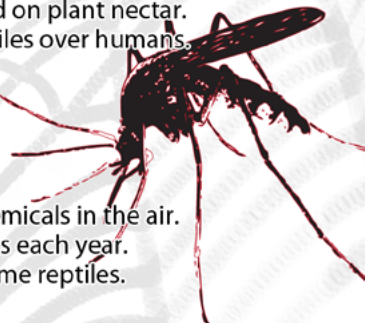
Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- Heartworm (mostly to dogs & cats) • Encephalitis.

To reduce your chance of getting a disease from mosquitoes you can, apply mosquito repellent to your skin and clothing.

### RANDOM MOSQUITO FACTS

- More than 3,000 different mosquito species can be found around the world.
- There are around 50 different mosquito species in the Upper Midwest.
- Female mosquitoes feed on blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar.
- Some mosquito species prefer to feed on animals or reptiles over humans.
- All mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle.
- One female mosquito can lay over 200 eggs at one time.
- Mosquito larvae only need a week in water to hatch.
- Mosquito eggs can survive for more than five years.
- Mosquitoes can fly around 1 to 2 mph.
- Mosquitoes find food by sight, infrared radiation and chemicals in the air.
- Around 1,000 Americans get ill or die from mosquito bites each year.
- Mosquitoes are a huge food source for birds, bats and some reptiles.



# TICKS

## Diseases & Prevention



You can get a tickborne disease if you are bitten by a tick that is infected • Tickborne diseases are increasing throughout the United States. • Personal protection methods can help reduce the odds of a tick bite while enjoying the outdoors

### Some symptoms of a tickborne disease

• Many tickborne diseases have similar symptoms  
• Symptoms usually show up within 2-4 weeks of being bitten  
Watch for symptoms like:

- Rash
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle or joint aches



### Tick Removal

Prompt tick removal is important. Use tweezers to grasp the tick close to its mouth. Gently and slowly pull the tick straight outward. Do not squeeze the ticks' body. Wash the area and apply an antiseptic to the bite. Watch for early signs and symptoms of a tickborne disease. Don't use folk remedies like Petroleum Jelly or a burnt match.



Blacklegged Tick Coverage

American Dog Tick Coverage

Lone Star Tick Coverage

Blacklegged (Deer) Tick  
Lyme disease  
Anaplasmosis  
Babesiosis  
Ehrlichiosis  
Powassan virus disease

American Dog (Wood) Tick  
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever  
Tularemia

Lone Star Tick  
Ehrlichiosis  
Tularemia  
Heartland virus disease  
Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI)

### Protect Yourself from Tickborne Diseases

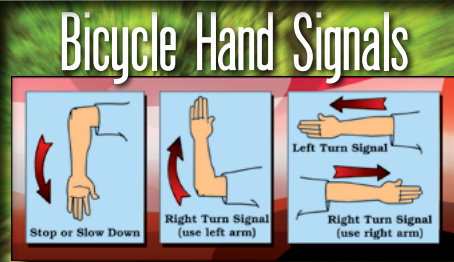
- 1-Know when and where you're at risk
  - Primarily Mid-May through Mid-July
  - Wooded and brushy areas – Blacklegged Tick
  - Grassy or wooded areas – American Dog Tick
- 2-Wear EPA-registered tick repellent
  - DEET 20-30% on skin or clothing
  - Permethrin 0.5% on clothing
- 3-Check yourself for ticks
  - Shower after being outdoors
  - Check at least once a day
  - Remove ticks ASAP!





# Be Aware of your Surroundings

- Always wear a properly fitting bike helmet as most serious injuries are to the head.
- Be sure your handlebars, seat and wheels fit snugly.
- Keep your bike in good shape by checking and oiling your chain, making sure your brakes work properly and maintaining your tire pressure.
- Always ride with both hands on the handlebars except when doing turn signals.
- When leaving a driveway, curb or alleyway always stop and check for traffic in both directions.
- Cross only at intersections.
- Use the crosswalk to walk your bike across busy intersections and follow the traffic signals.
- Never ride against traffic. Travel in the same direction as the cars.
- Whenever you can, use bike routes and avoid busy streets.
- Don't ride near parked cars as doors can open and cause accidents.
- Obey all traffic signs and traffic lights.
- When biking with friends, ride in a single file.
- Always pass other bikers or pedestrians on the left and say "On your left!" to make your presence known.
- Always use bicycle hand signals to alert traffic of your changing direction.



## Drink lots of Water!



# Know Your ATV

## Read the owner's manual

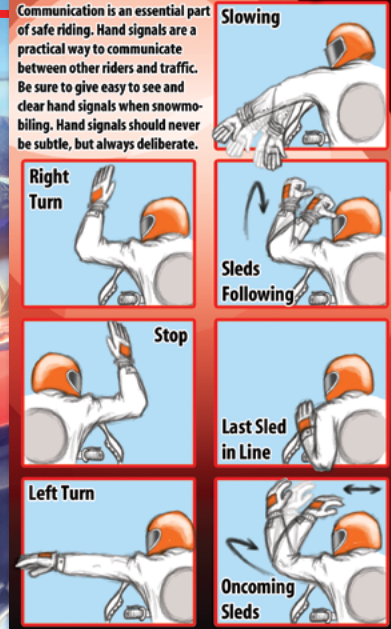
and know your vehicle thoroughly. • Check your vehicle before you ride. • Wear protective equipment and clothing. • Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders. • Supervise young or inexperienced riders. • Never carry a passenger on vehicles meant for one rider. • Do not operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. • Drive at speeds that are appropriate to trail conditions. • Stay to the right on trails. • Stay away from thin ice, open water and wetlands • Know the weather forecast. • Make sure headlights and taillights work properly. • Maintain safe distances between other riders. • Reduce your speed when riding at night. • Yield to other motor vehicles and trail users. • Young or beginning riders are encouraged to take a safety training course.

# SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

- Do not consume alcohol or take drugs prior to or during your snowmobile trip. Doing so increases your chances of injury or death.
- Slow down and don't cut to the inside of the trail corners. It's dangerous and illegal.
- If you snowmobile at night, don't override your lights.
- Always use the buddy system. Never ride off alone.
- Drowning is one of the causes of many snowmobile fatalities. Whenever possible, avoid the ice.
- Wear sensible, protective clothing designed for operating a snowmobile.
- Use a full size helmet, goggles, or visor to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips and other debris.
- Avoid wearing long scarves. They may get caught in moving parts of the snowmobile.
- Know the terrain you are going to ride. If unfamiliar to you, ask someone who has traveled over it before.
- Know the weather forecast, especially the ice and snow conditions.
- Be sure your snowmobile is in top-notch mechanical condition throughout the months of use.
- Familiarize yourself with the snowmobile you are driving. Thoroughly read the manual that accompanies the snowmobile.
- Do not pursue domestic or wild animals. That is not the conduct of a sportsman. Report such violations to the nearest law enforcement officer.

## Snowmobile Hand Signals

Communication is an essential part of safe riding. Hand signals are a practical way to communicate between other riders and traffic. Be sure to give easy to see and clear hand signals when snowmobiling. Hand signals should never be subtle, but always deliberate.

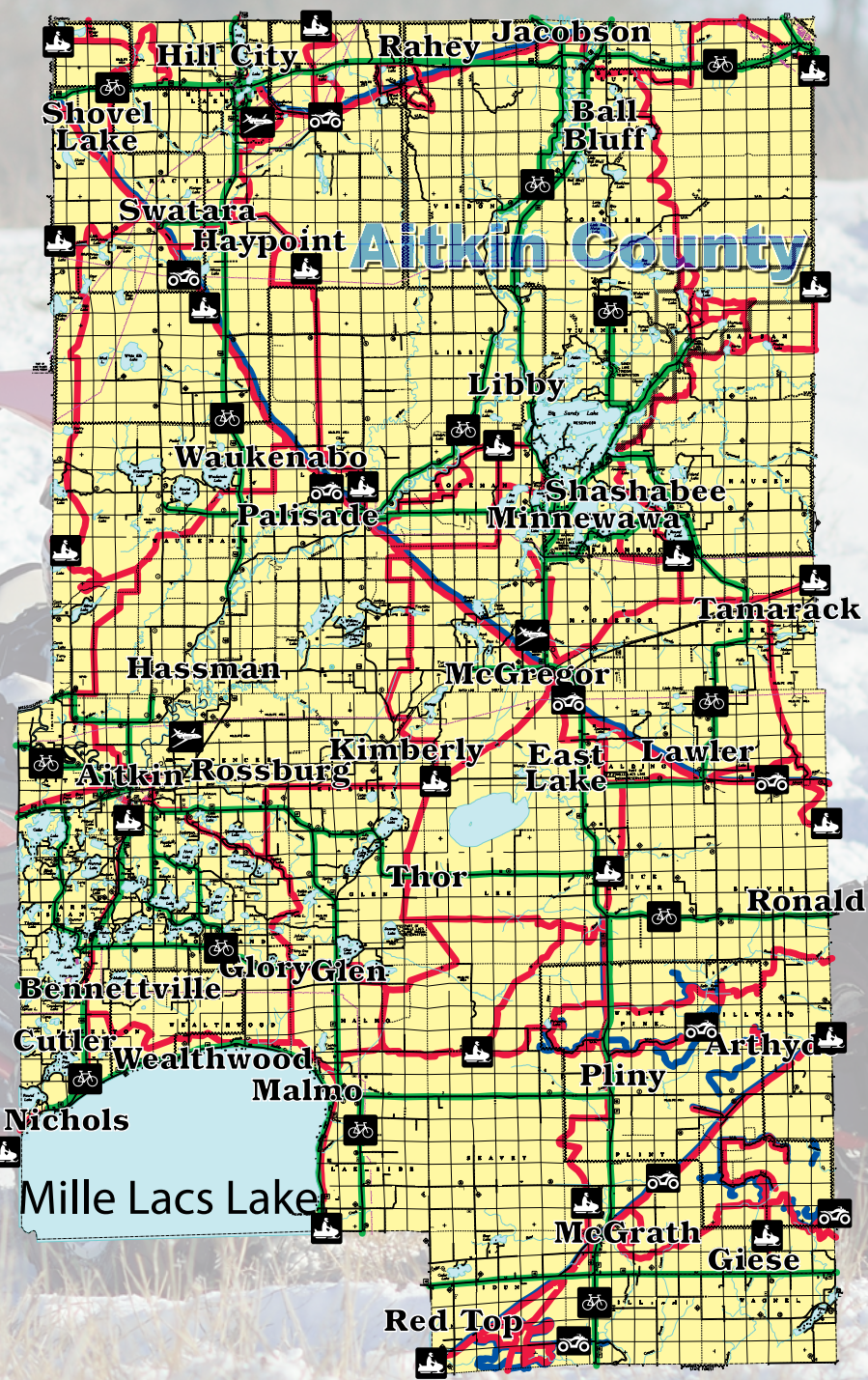


**PRIVATE PROPERTY**  
NO TRESPASSING

Please respect private property and no trespassing signs. Stay on trails. Exercise extreme caution on all lakes and streams. Obey all state and local laws and ordinances. Do not operate snowmobiles/ATVs on county roads or state highways.

# Aitkin County Trails

# Mille Lacs County Trails



**Get Active!!!**





Go Outside and Do SOMETHING!

- Yard Work
- Gardening
- Walk the Dog
- Bike Ride
- Swimming
- ANYTHING!!!

Anything to get your heart rate up, and your blood flowing

**you'll feel better**

and it's good for your health!

-  Airport Locator
-  Bicycle Trail/Route
-  Snowmobile Trail
-  ATV Trail

# So, You have decided to get a pet... NOW WHAT??



**Commitment and Time:** Owning a pet is a long-term commitment. Before bringing a pet home, consider your lifestyle and ensure you have enough time to spend with your pet. Dogs, cats, and many other animals require attention, exercise, and mental stimulation.

**Choose the Right Pet for Your Lifestyle:** Different pets have varying needs, temperaments, and activity levels. Research and select a pet that fits well with your lifestyle, living situation, and family dynamics. Whether you choose a dog, cat, bird, fish, or any other animal, make sure you can provide for its specific needs.

**Proper Nutrition:** Feed your pet a balanced and nutritious diet suitable for their species and age. Consult with a veterinarian to determine the best food options for your pet's health and well-being.

**Regular Exercise:** Most pets need regular physical activity to stay healthy and happy. Engage in playtime and exercise with your pet daily, as it helps prevent obesity and provides mental stimulation.

**Routine Veterinary Care:** Schedule regular check-ups with a veterinarian to monitor your pet's health, get necessary vaccinations, and address any concerns. Early detection of health issues can often lead to better outcomes.

**Spaying/Neutering:** Consider spaying or neutering your pet if you don't plan on breeding. This helps control the pet population and can have health benefits for your pet.

**Training and Socialization:** Properly train your pet to follow basic commands and have good manners. Socialize them with other animals and people from a young age to prevent behavioral issues later on.

**Provide a Safe Environment:** Ensure that your home and yard are safe for your pet. Remove hazards, keep toxic substances out of reach, and provide appropriate shelter from extreme weather conditions.

**Grooming:** Regular grooming is essential for most pets. Brush their fur, trim nails, and clean their ears as needed to keep them comfortable and healthy.

**Identification and Microchipping:** Keep identification tags with your current contact information on your pet's collar. Consider microchipping your pet as an extra measure to ensure they can be identified if lost.

**Love and Attention:** Pets thrive on love and attention from their owners. Spend quality time with your pet, provide affection, and build a strong bond.

**Respect and Understanding:** Learn to understand your pet's body language and behavior. Respect their boundaries and feelings, and avoid forcing them into uncomfortable situations.

**Patience and Forgiveness:** Pets, especially young ones, can be mischievous or have accidents. Be patient with them during the training process and forgive any mistakes they make along the way.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Have a plan in place for emergencies, including natural disasters. Know how to evacuate with your pet safely if needed.

**If you have just rescued / adopted a new fur baby, please it is important to remember the 3-3-3 RULE:**

### 3 Days:

In the first 3 days being in its new home, they will be feeling overwhelmed, scared & unsure of what is going on. They may also be uncomfortable being "themselves", and may not want to eat or drink. They may want to "shut down" or hide under a bed or in a crate, and they will test boundaries.

### 3 Weeks:

At this point, they may be a lot more comfortable & settling in. Learning a new routine can be overwhelming, so please be patient. By now they may have figured out the new environment & accepted that this may be their FURever home. Their personality traits will start to show, as well as any behavior issue that may be present.

### 3 Months:

For most fur babies, 3 months is enough time to finally be comfortable and begin to build trust and a true bond. A sense of security may be present & a set routine will help this process.

Please know that this is not the rule with every rescued or adopted pet, as some may need 6 months to a year to adjust & adapt, depending on MANY factors. Age of animal, what type of an environment did they come from?

## DOG PARKS

### Dog Park at Riebe Park

203 4th St. Cir. N | Princeton |  
(763) 389-2040

### Aitkin's Tibbets Trails Dog Park

423 Pacific St  
SW | Aitkin |  
(218) 927-2527



# BUTTERED-UP Steak



Simple meal with a Gourmet Feel

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Take the steaks out of the refrigerator and let them come to room temperature for about 30 minutes. This helps the steak cook more evenly.
- 2 Preheat your oven to 400°F.
- 3 Season the steaks generously with salt and pepper on both sides.
- 4 Heat a large skillet over high heat until very hot. Add the steaks and cook for about 2-3 minutes per side, until nicely browned.
- 5 Remove the steaks from the skillet and place them on a baking sheet.
- 6 In the same skillet, add the butter and garlic. Cook for about 30 seconds, stirring constantly, until the garlic is fragrant.
- 7 Pour the garlic butter over the steaks on the baking sheet.
- 8 Place the baking sheet in the oven and cook for about 5-7 minutes for medium-rare doneness, or longer if you prefer your steak more well-done.
- 9 Remove the steaks from the oven and let them rest for a few minutes before slicing.
- 10 Serve the steak with any remaining butter from the baking sheet and fresh herbs if desired.

## INGREDIENTS

2 steaks (ribeye or sirloin are good choices)

Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 cloves garlic, minced

Fresh herbs (optional)

*Enjoy your delicious buttered-up steak!*

PREP: 35 MIN • TOTAL: 50 MIN

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# Bird Feeder Care Tips



With the return of summer means the return of a variety of bird species. If you plan on providing food, there are a few things to keep in mind.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, birds may become sick from moldy bird food and uncleaned bird feeders. This tends to happen in spring more often because of the rain and humidity. If there is mold growth, it can cause an avian disease called aspergillosis, which can disrupt a birds respiratory system. Birds can also get Salmonella from unclean feeders. Either of the diseases may kill the bird.

You should wash your bird feeders a few times every year to ensure their is no mold growth. You can do this with some bleach and water (one part bleach to nine parts water), just make sure to rinse and dry well. If you can, let it dry in the sun to help kill off any left over bacteria. This also applies to hummingbird feeders but, they should be cleaned weekly.

You also need to clean up the fallen seeds and hulls from the ground under the bird feeders to prevent moldy conditions. The seeds on the ground have a tendency of attracting some animals you may not want around like mice, voles, raccoons and bears.

When buying a bird feeder you should look for one with as much air flow as possible. Look for hopper-type feeders or fly-through feeders that provide good air flow. Another way to help keep the bird seed dry is by filling the bird feeder less and more often.



*• Shop • Dine  
• Play  
• Stay*

**LOCALLY**



*...and support the community you live in!*