

Free

Area Guide



Brown & Watonwan Counties, Minnesota

- Hunting Seasons
- Fishing Seasons
- Recreation Trails
- DNR License Centers
- Residential Services
- Local Attractions
- Parks & Rec. Info
- Area History
- Local Events



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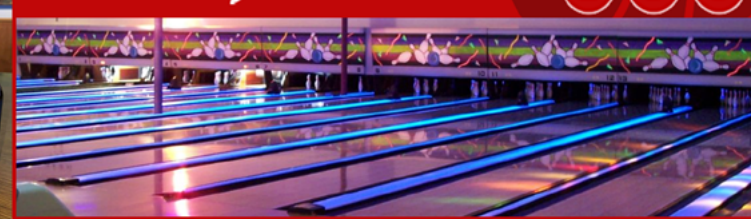
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Scan the QR
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county page.

Brown County



Watonwan County



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LOCAL AREA EVENTS

JANUARY

Snofest | New Ulm
Baggin' in the Street | New Ulm

FEBRUARY

Ice Fishing Derby | Sleepy Eye

MARCH

St. Patrick's Day Parade | New Ulm
Trade Fair and Living History Event | New Ulm
Farm Show | New Ulm
Home & Health Show | New Ulm
Miss Sleepy Eye Coronation | Sleepy Eye
Fasching/Schell's Bock Fest | New Ulm
State St. Theater Co. Winter Gala | New Ulm

APRIL

Easter Egg Hunt | Sleepy Eye
Annual Spring Gift & Craft Show | Odin

MAY

Bacchaus Fest | New Ulm
Mai Fest | New Ulm
Hot Dog Day | St. James

JUNE

Auto Fest | New Ulm
Riverside Days | Springfield
Taste of St. James | St. James
Railroad Days & Parade | St. James
Quiltistry (Held every other year) | New Ulm
Summer Sizzler | Butterfield
St. James Community Golf Invitational
Music in the Park (June-July) | St. James

JULY

Bavarian Blast | New Ulm
Blues Festival | Madelia
Park Days | Madelia
Watonwan County Fair | St. James
Party in the Park | Sleepy Eye
St. James Fireworks
Watona Blues Festival | Madelia

AUGUST

Brown County Free Fair | New Ulm
Fire Dept Hog Roast | Ormsby
Buttered Corn Days Celebration | Sleepy Eye
Hillclimb | New Ulm
Watonwan County Relay for Life
Threshermen's Steam and Gas Engine Show | Butterfield
Spikin' in the Street | New Ulm
New Ulm Car & Bike Roll-In
Sleepy Eye Summerfest

SEPTEMBER

HermannFest | New Ulm
Younger Brothers Capture Reenactment | Madelia
Labor Day Celebration | Godahl
Godahl Day | St. James
Multicultural Fiesta | St. James
St. James Homecoming
Oktoberfest | Madelia

OCTOBER

Pumpkinfest | New Ulm
Oktoberfest | New Ulm
Odin Craft Mill Fall Boutique

NOVEMBER

Shopping Opener | New Ulm
Parade of Lights | New Ulm
Holiday Craft & Gift Show | New Ulm
Razzle Dazzle Celebration | Madelia

DECEMBER

Christmas Luminaries | New Ulm
Winter Carnival | St. James

**For more information on events throughout Brown and Watonwan County, visit: www.exploreminnesota.com*

**Events are subject to change.*

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Brown County

Administration	(507) 233-6600
Assessor	233-6606
Auditor/Treasurer	233-6613
Brown County Heartland Express Bus Service	359-2717
Economic Development Partners.....	794-7992
Economic Support	354-8246
Highway	233-5700
Human Resources	233-6605
License Bureau.....	359-6570
Planning / Zoning.....	233-6640
Records	233-6653
Sheriff	233-6700
Veterans Services	233-6636

Watonwan County

Administration	(507) 375-3294
Assessor	375-1205
Auditor/Treasurer	375-1210
Court Services.....	621-6005
Information Technology	375-2525
Attorney.....	375-3373
Extension.....	375-1275
License Bureau.....	375-1219
Land Management & Zoning.....	375-1225
Records	375-1216
Sheriff	375-3121
Public Works	375-3393
Transportation.....	375-7385
Veterans Services	375-1254



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Brown County History

*B*rown County, named in the honor of Joseph Renshaw Brown, a trader, businessman, Indian agent, politician, speculator, and inventor. Brown County was established on February 18, 1856 and named New Ulm the county seat. The size of Brown County covered forty-two thousand square miles until it was reduced to its current size when Minnesota became a State in 1858 and more counties were founded. Early settlement came mostly from Germans and Norwegians who were attracted to the rivers and lush prairies. The county's population expanded rapidly after a railroad was extended from New Ulm to Springfield. By 1900 the population of Brown County reached 19,787. Today Brown County is home to approximately 25,862 residents.

Brown County Communities

CITIES:

- COBDEN** – pop. 36
- COMFREY** – pop. 382
- EVAN** – pop. 86
- HANSKA** – pop. 402
- NEW ULM** – pop. 13,522 (County Seat)
- SLEEPY EYE** – pop. 3,599
- SPRINGFIELD** – pop. 2,152

TOWNSHIPS:

- ALBIN** – pop. 329
- BASHAW** – pop. 255
- BURNSTOWN** – pop. 260
- COTTONWOOD** – pop. 938
- EDEN** – pop. 321

HOME – pop. 800

- LAKE HANSKA** – pop. 322
- LEAVENWORTH** – pop. 336
- LINDEN** – pop. 343
- MILFORD** – pop. 793
- MULLIGAN** – pop. 245
- NORTH STAR** – pop. 325
- PRAIRIEVILLE** – pop. 346
- SIGEL** – pop. 432
- STARK** – pop. 384
- STATELY** – pop. 206

**Populations are approximate.*

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NEW ULM (COUNTY SEAT)

In 1856, New Ulm was founded and selected as Brown County seat and incorporated by German settlers from Chicago, IL in 1857. New Ulm is named after the city of Ulm in the province of Wurttemberg, Germany because it was the home of many of the German settlers. The city acted as an important gateway and trading area as new settlers moved in. New Ulm was nearly destroyed by Indians in 1862 after the Dakota Conflict and residents quickly rebuilt. Today New Ulm is home to a rich German heritage and is home to a population of 13,522 residents.

SLEEPY EYE

Sleepy Eye is named after Sleepy Eye Lake which is located on the North and West side of the town. Sleepy Eye Lake was named after a chief of a band of Sioux Indians named "ISH-TAK-HA-BA" or Chief Sleepy Eye. Sleepy Eye was settled in the early 1860's and was established in 1872. Early industry from the flour mill in Sleepy Eye drew in larger populations. Today Sleepy Eye is home to approximately 3,599 residents.

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield was settled in 1869 by predominantly Scandinavian, Irish and German immigrants. The original name of the settlement was Burns after railroads expanded and brought in new settlers. It was incorporated in 1881 and changed its name to Springfield because of a natural flowing spring that is located within the city. Today Springfield is home to approximately 2,152 residents.



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Watowwan County was named after the Watowwan River derived from the Dakota word Watowwan meaning "where fish bait bounds." The river flows east through the northern section of the county. It was established in 1860 and in 1870 the directors of the St. Paul and Sioux City railroads decided to make the county seat, St. James, the midpoint between the two cities. Today Watowwan County has a population of approximately 10,896 people. The county has twelve townships and eight cities.

Watonwan County Communities

CITIES:

BUTTERFIELD – pop. 586

DARFUR – pop. 108

LA SALLE – pop. 87

LEWISVILLE – pop. 250

MADELIA – pop. 2,308

ODIN – pop. 106

ORMSBY – pop. 131

ST. JAMES – pop. 4,605 (County Seat)

TOWNSHIPS:

ADRIAN – pop. 173

ANTRIM – pop. 115

BUTTERFIELD – pop. 297

FIELDON – pop. 246

LONG LAKE – pop. 346

MADELIA – pop. 393

NELSON – pop. 309

ODIN – pop. 206

RIVERDALE – pop. 338

ROSENDALE – pop. 357

ST. JAMES – pop. 294

SOUTH BRANCH – pop. 303

**Populations are approximate.*

BUTTERFIELD

Butterfield started by 10 men and 7 women, making the total population 17. That was in 1870, two years later the first store was built in the city. It was torn down soon after due to lack of business but over the next 20 years the populations (and number of stores) would grow significantly. By 1895 the population was over 400, the city had several stores, a school and a handful of churches. The population didn't grow much over the next 100 years, the maximum population reaching 634 in 1980. The current population is approximately 586.

MADELIA

Madelia was originally named Wapaca when it was established on September 10, 1857. Its name was changed in memory of the daughter of one of the founding fathers, Philander Hartshorn. Madelia is home to the place of capture of the Younger Brothers, who were both members of the Jesse James gang. Both men were captured after the famous Northfield bank robbery. Madelia currently is home to approximately 2,308 residents.

ST. JAMES (COUNTY SEAT)

St. James the county seat of Watonwan County, was named by the president of the railroad E.F. Drake and future Governor of Minnesota Henry Hastings Sibley in 1867. It was built up after the railroad was extended 22 miles from Lake Crystal to its current location. Today St. James boasts a population of approximately 4,605 residents.

JEFFERS PETROGLYPHS

The Jeffers Petroglyphs are more than just an archaeological wonder; they are a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the Indigenous peoples who inhabited this region long before modern settlers arrived. The petroglyphs, which date back thousands of years, provide a glimpse into the spiritual and everyday lives of these early inhabitants, who carved their stories, beliefs, and connections to the natural world into the stone.

Among the Indigenous groups associated with the site, the Dakota Sioux hold a particularly significant connection. For them, the petroglyphs are not merely ancient artwork but sacred symbols that embody their history, traditions, and relationship with the land. Each carving tells a story - from hunting scenes and animal tracks to celestial patterns and spiritual symbols, each line etched into the rock serves as a reminder of the profound connection between the Indigenous peoples and their environment.

Visiting the Jeffers Petroglyphs offers an opportunity to reflect on this legacy. Guided tours often include narratives from Indigenous interpreters, who share insights into the meaning behind the carvings, the cultural practices of their ancestors, and the ongoing significance of these symbols in contemporary Indigenous life. Understanding the cultural heritage of the Indigenous peoples enhances the experience of the site, transforming a simple visit into a deeper journey through time, identity, and resilience.

As you stand before these ancient rocks, you can't help but feel the weight of history pressing against you. The petroglyphs invite contemplation and respect, urging visitors to recognize the enduring legacy of those who came before and to appreciate the continuing story of Indigenous peoples today. Engaging with this cultural heritage fosters a greater understanding of the complexities of history and the importance of preserving these narratives for future generations.



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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

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Brown County Veterans Memorial

14 S State St. | New Ulm | (507) 233-6636

Brown County Vietnam Memorial

200 N. German St. | New Ulm

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

605 N State St. | New Ulm | (507) 233-7729

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Defender's Monument

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Glockenspiel

327 N Minnesota St. | New Ulm

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Harkin Store

66250 Co. Rd. 21 | New Ulm | (507) 628-5591

Heritage Tree

101 S Minnesota St. | New Ulm

Hermann Monument

10 Monument St. | New Ulm

Jeffers Petroglyphs

27160 Co. Rd. 2 | Comfrey | (507) 628-5591

John Lind House

622 Center St. | New Ulm | (507) 354-8802

Kiesling House

220 N Minnesota St. | New Ulm |
(507) 233-2616

Lake Crystal Area Recreation Center

621 W Nathan St. | Lake Crystal |
(507) 726-6730

Madelia Lanes

416 1st St. SE | Madelia | (507) 642-3322

Madelia Swimming Pool & Water Slide

519 Dill Ave. SW | Madelia | (507) 642-8952

Madelia Theater

104 West Main St. | Madelia | (507) 642-5555

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame

27 N Broadway St. | New Ulm |
(507) 354-7305

Morgan Creek Vineyards

23707 478th Ave. | New Ulm |
(507) 947-3547

New Ulm Civic Center

1212 North Franklin St. | New Ulm |
(507) 233-8400

New Ulm's Glockenspiel

327 N Minnesota St. | New Ulm |
(507) 233-4300

Odin Craft Mill

109 1st St. | Odin | (507) 621-0599

Princess Theater

505 1st Ave. S | St. James | (507) 375-4370

Riverside Environmental Learning Center

101 S Front St. | New Ulm | (507) 766-5770

Roundhouse Inc./City of St. James

307 Tiell Dr. | St. James | (507) 375-4147

Skate Park

315 1st N St. | New Ulm | (507) 359-8344

Skate Park

38 7th Ave. S | St. James | (507) 375-3241

Sleepy Eye Depot Museum

200 Oak St. Northwest | Sleepy Eye |
(507) 766-1961

Springfield Community Center

33 South Cass Ave. | Springfield |
(507) 723-3517

St. James Golf Course

77818 MN-60 | St. James | (507) 942-7484

St. James Historical Society & Museum

602 Third Ave. S | Saint James | (507) 380-7024

St. James Walking Art Tour

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(507) 375-3333

The Grand Center for Arts & Culture

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(507) 359-9222

The Hermann Monument Society

10 Monument St. | New Ulm

The Lyric 3 Cinemas

1 North German St. | New Ulm |
(507) 354-9050

Truman Historical Association Museum

109 West Ciro St. | Truman | (507) 776-7889

Turner Hall

102 S State St. | New Ulm | (507) 354-4916

Veigel's Kaiserhoff

221 North Minnesota St. | New Ulm |
(507) 359-2071

Wanda Gag House

226 N Washington St. | New Ulm |
(507) 359-2632

Watonwan County Courthouse

710 2nd Ave. S | St. James | (507) 621-6005

Watonwan County Historical Museum

423 Dill Ave. SW | Madelia | (507) 642-3247

Way of the Cross

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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, Toll Free: 1 (888) 665-4236.

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

HUNTING

Bear

08/16/24 Baiting start date - Permit areas & no-quota area

09/1/24 - 10/13/24 Permit areas & no-quota area

Deer

09/14/24 - 12/31/24 Archery - Statewide

10/17/24 - 10/20/24 Early Antlerless

10/17/24 - 10/20/24 Youth - Statewide

11/9/24 - 11/24/24 Firearm (Season A) 100

Series permit areas

11/9/24 - 11/17/24 Firearm (Season A) 200 &

300 Series permit areas

11/23/24 - 12/1/24 Firearm (Season B) 300

Series permit areas

11/30/24 - 12/15/24 Muzzleloader - Statewide

Badger

10/19/24 - 03/16/25 North furbearer zone

10/26/24 - 03/16/25 South furbearer zone

Bobcat

12/14/24 - 01/19/25

North of I-94 & U.S. Highway 10

Fox, Gray & Red

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 North furbearer zone

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 South furbearer zone

Opossum

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 North furbearer zone

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 South furbearer zone

Rabbit

09/14/24 - 02/28/25 Jack - Statewide

09/14/24 - 02/28/25 Cottontail & Snowshoe

Hare - Statewide

Raccoon

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 North furbearer zone

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 South furbearer zone

Squirrel, Gray & Fox

09/14/24 - 02/28/25 Gray & Fox - Statewide

Grouse

09/14/24 - 01/1/25 Ruffed & Spruce - Statewide

09/21/24 - 12/4/24 Sharp-Tailed -

Northwest zone

Pheasant

10/12/24 - 01/1/25 Ring-Necked - Statewide

Wild Turkey

04/17/24 - 05/31/24 Spring - Youth - Statewide

04/17/24 - 05/31/24 Spring - Archery - Statewide

04/17/24 - 04/23/24 Spring - A season - Statewide

04/24/24 - 04/30/24 Spring - B season - Statewide

05/1/24 - 05/7/24 Spring - C season - Statewide

05/8/24 - 05/14/24 Spring - D season - Statewide

05/15/24 - 05/21/24 Spring - E season - Statewide

05/22/24 - 05/31/24 Spring - F season - Statewide

09/28/24 - 10/27/24 Fall - Statewide

TRAPPING

Badger

10/19/24 - 03/16/25 North furbearer zone

10/26/24 - 03/16/25 South furbearer zone

Bobcat

12/14/24 - 01/19/25 North of I-94 & U.S.

Highway 10

Fox

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 Gray & Red - North furbearer zone

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 Gray & Red - South furbearer zone

Opossum

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 North furbearer zone

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 South furbearer zone

Rabbit

09/14/24 - 02/28/25 Jack - Statewide

09/14/24 - 02/28/25 Cottontail & Snowshoe

Hare - Statewide

Raccoon

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 North furbearer zone

10/19/24 - 03/15/25 South furbearer zone

Squirrel

09/14/24 - 02/28/25 Gray & Fox - Statewide

*Check the MN DNR website for updates.

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Or visit one of the ELS agents available throughout the area:*

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FREEDOM VALU #25
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NEW ULM, MN 56073
(507) 359-1569

HYVEE FOOD STORE INC
#1441
2015 S BROADWAY
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(507) 354-8255

NEW ULM (CONTD.)
NAPA AUTO PARTS
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NEW ULM, MN 56073
(507) 354-8886

R&R BAIT AND TACKLE
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(507) 354-5318

RUNNINGS #08
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(507) 401-5110

WAL-MART SUPERCENTER
#3760
1720 WESTRIDGE RD
NEW ULM, MN 56073
(507) 354-0900

SLEEPY EYE
EXPRESSWAY SLEEPY EYE
509 W MAIN ST
SLEEPY EYE, MN 56082
(507) 794-3330

FREEDON VALU CENTER
400 W MAIN ST
SLEEPY EYE, MN 56085
(507) 794-5724

SLEEPY EYE HARDWARE
LLC
1200 MAIN ST E
SLEEPY EYE, MN 56085
(507) 794-3611

SPRINGFIELD
RUNNINGS #06
1115 W CENTRAL
SPRINGFIELD, MN 56087
(507) 723-6263

ST JAMES
JALO HARDWARE INC
423 1ST AVE S
ST JAMES, MN 56081
(507) 375-4151

LAKE SIDE SERVICE
220 TIELL DR
ST JAMES, MN 56081
(507) 375-3842

FLANDREAU STATE PARK
(507) 233-9800 | New Ulm |
1300 Summit Ave.
Located in New Ulm, Flandreau State Park, features a swimming beach, fishing opportunities, picnic areas, a sand volleyball pit and hiking trails.

LAKE HANSKA COUNTY PARK
(507) 439-6411 | Hanska | Countryview Rd.
Located in Hanska, Lake Hanska County Park features a campground, picnic areas, a swimming beach, fishing pier and is open year round.

LOST DOG & FOX HUNTERS PARK
(507) 439-6411 | New Ulm
This day use park offers 360 feet of lake frontage with a dock, two picnic shelters, sand volleyball, playground equipment and open areas.

MARTI LANDING
(507) 439-6411 | New Ulm
Located near New Ulm, Marti Landing offers DNR public access to the Cottonwood River as well as fishing opportunities.

MEMORIAL PARK /ST. JAMES LAKE
(507) 375-3241 | St. James | 808 1st St. S
Located on St. James Lake in St. James, Memorial Park offers fishing docks, skateboard park, horseshoes, sand volleyball, picnic tables, two park shelters, and the St. James Area Bike Trail.

MOUND CREEK COUNTY PARK
(507) 233-6640 | Sanborn
Located on 316 acres in Springfield, Mound Creek Park features a 9 hole disc golf course, scenic river trail, boat launch, fishing opportunities, and a picnic area.

TREML COUNTY PARK
(507) 439-6411 | Leavenworth
Located on 18.2 acres, Tremel County Park features picnic areas, open play areas and nature trails.

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

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 2024-25 license year is effective until Feb. 29, 2025.)



Schwartz Farms

32296 190th St. Sleepy Eye, MN

Main Office:

507.794.5779

Fax Number:

507.794.5572

schwartzfarms.com



C&J WASTE HANDLING

Custom Harvesting • Waste Handling

LAFAYETTE, MN

Est. 1999

507.276.0812

Boating safety is critical for anyone who operates a boat or spends time on the water. Here are some general boating safety tips to keep in mind:

- **Wear a life jacket:** Always wear a life jacket while boating. Make sure the life jacket is appropriate for your weight and is U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- **Know the weather:** Check the weather forecast before you go boating and keep an eye on changing conditions. If you notice darkening clouds, rough winds or sudden drops in temperature, get off the water.
- **Use navigation aids:** Use navigation aids like buoys and beacons to help you navigate safely.
- **Maintain your boat:** Keep your boat well-maintained and in good working condition. Make sure all safety equipment is in good condition and functioning properly.
- **Avoid alcohol:** Do not drink alcohol while operating a boat. It is illegal and increases the likelihood of accidents.
- **Watch your speed:** Observe speed limits and maintain a safe speed based on conditions. Remember, slower speeds may be necessary in crowded areas or in inclement weather.
- **Be aware of other boats:** Watch for other boats and be aware of their movements. Always assume other boaters may not see you.
- **Know the rules:** Learn and follow boating safety laws and regulations. This includes rules for navigation, safety equipment, and right-of-way.
- **File a float plan:** Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. File a float plan with a trusted person or a marina.
- **Take a boating safety course:** Consider taking a boating safety course to improve your skills and knowledge.



By following these general boating safety tips, you can reduce the likelihood of accidents and enjoy a safe and enjoyable time on the water.

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.

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.

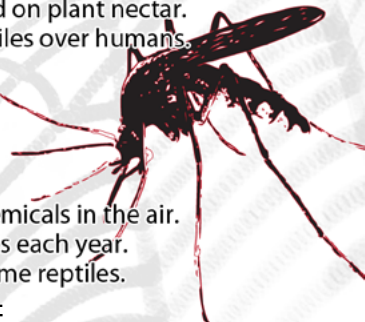
Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- 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

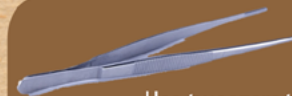
Diseases & Prevention

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!



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.



GO GREEN

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

reduce waste, reuse materials & recycle properly



Cut back on single-use plastics, conserve water, drive less



Community/Home Gardens: Really good at absorbing carbon dioxide. Cuts down on pesticides/fertilizers. Also benefits mental health and provides fresh food.

Composting: Decreases the amount of trash in landfills and reduces carbon emissions.

Plant Trees: Planting trees is a classic Earth Day activity.

Local Food: Buy local sustainable food.

Clean-Up Events: Organize or participate in local clean-up efforts.

Upcycle Crafts: Get creative by turning old items into new useful objects.



RECREATION TRAILS

- In-Line Skating
- Bicycle Trail/Route
- Disc Golf Course
- Hiking/Walking Trail
- Snowmobile Trail

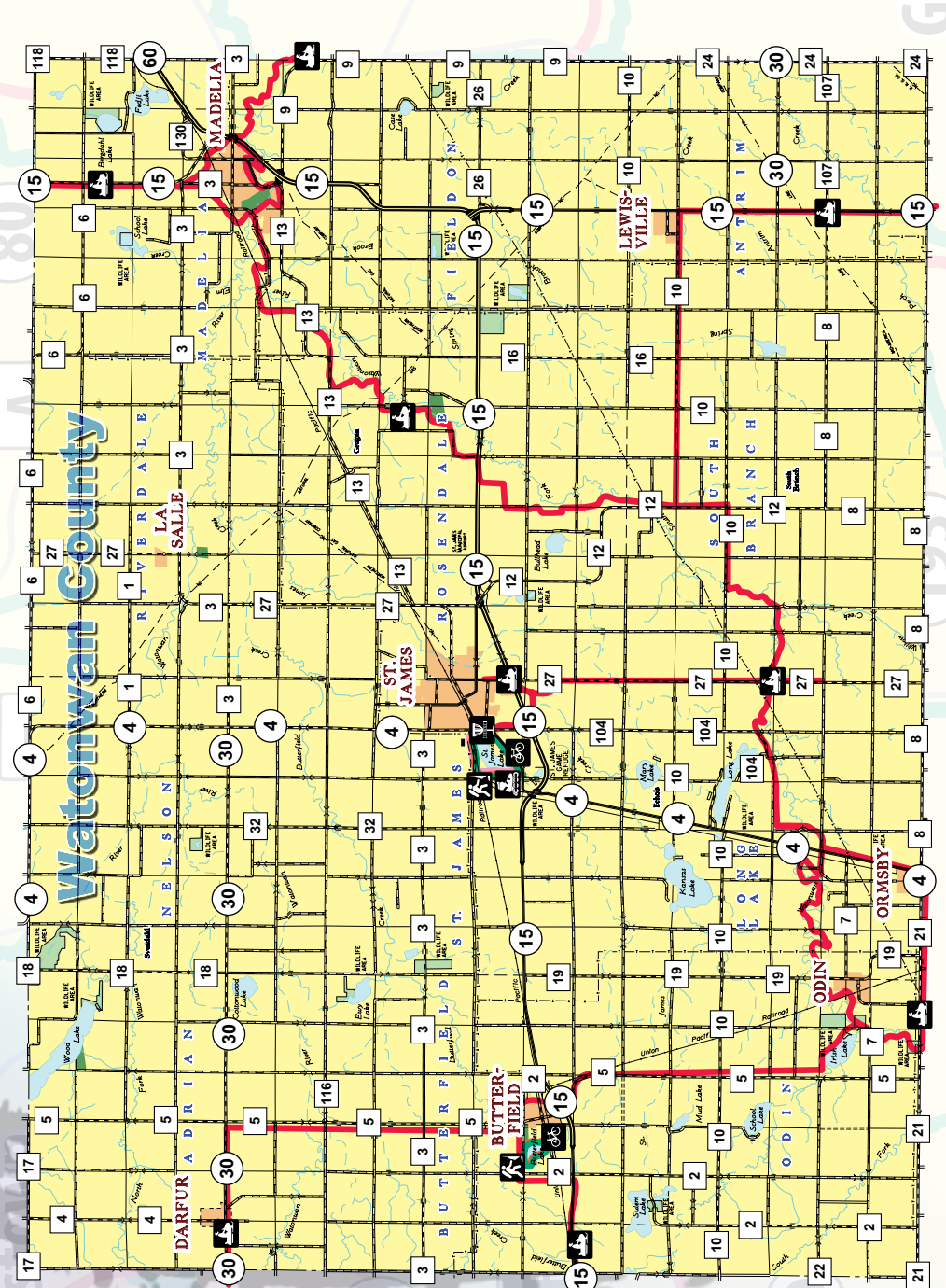
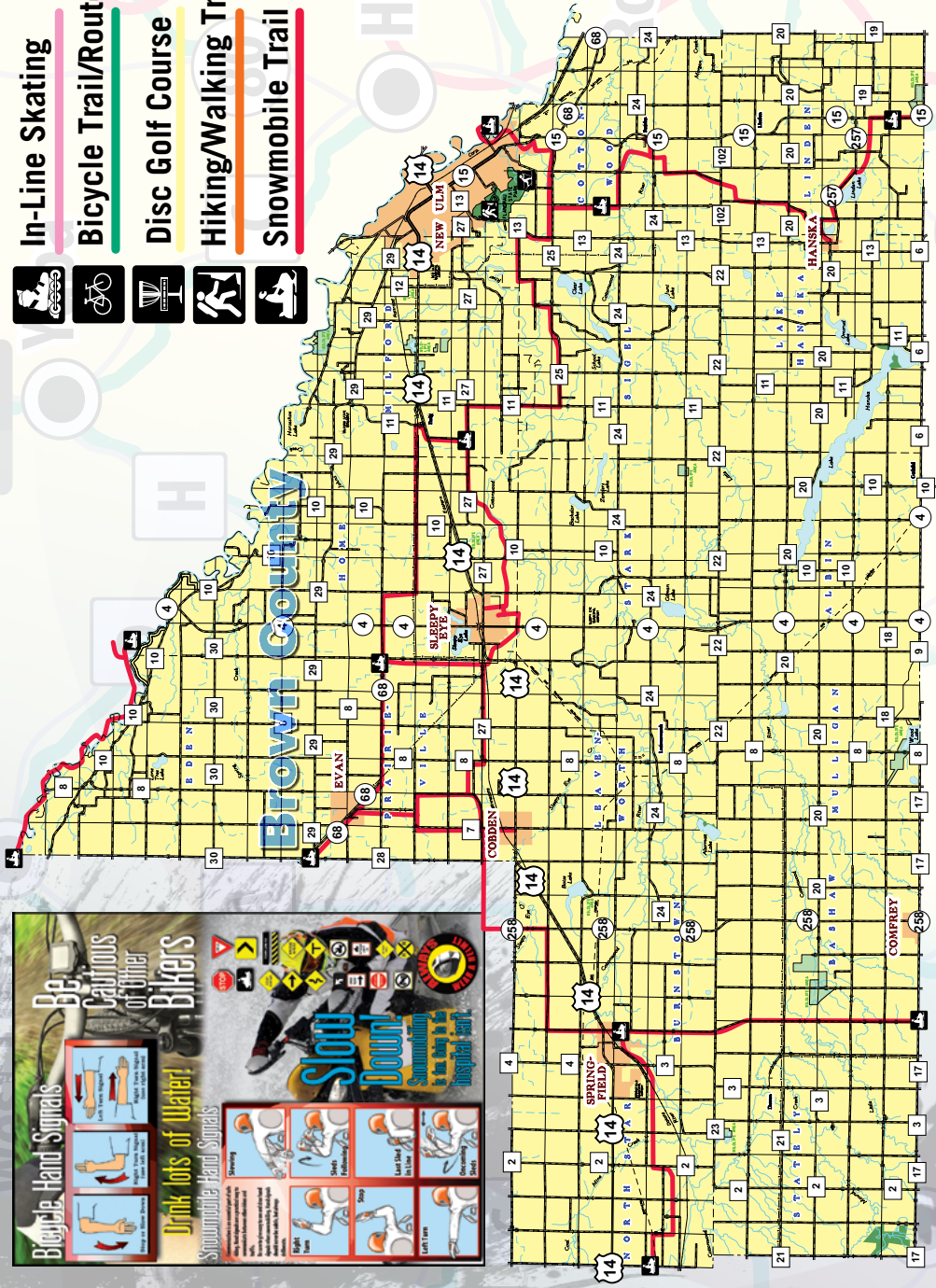
Bicycle Hand Signals

Be Cautious of Other Bikers

Drink lots of Water!

Snowmobile Hand Signals

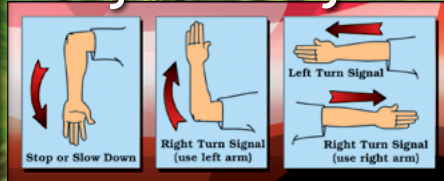
Slow Down!



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.

Bicycle Hand Signals



Drink lots of Water!



Know Your ATV

Read the owner's manual

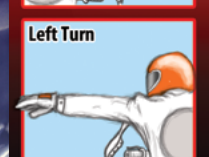
and know your vehicle thoroughly. • Check your vehicle before you ride. • Wear protective equipment and clothing. • Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders. • Supervise young or inexperienced riders. • Never carry a passenger on vehicles meant for one rider. • Do not operate under the influence of 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.

Tilapia Baked in Garlic Butter



Simple meal with a Gourmet Feel

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C).
- 2 Pat the tilapia fillets dry with paper towels and place them in a baking dish.
- 3 In a small bowl, mix together the minced garlic and melted butter.
- 4 Pour the garlic butter mixture over the tilapia fillets, making sure they are well coated.
- 5 Season the fillets with salt and pepper to taste.
- 6 Bake the tilapia in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes or until the fish is cooked through and flakes easily with a fork.
- 7 Sprinkle chopped parsley over the top of the cooked tilapia, if desired.
- 8 Serve the tilapia fillets hot, with your favorite side dishes.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tilapia fillets
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Fresh parsley, chopped (optional)

Enjoy your delicious
and healthy tilapia
baked in garlic butter!

PREP: 35 MIN • TOTAL: 50 MIN



BARBECUE DO'S:

- use proper barbecue equipment and tools, such as a grill, tongs, and spatulas.
- preheat your grill before placing any food on it.
- marinate your meat before cooking to enhance the flavor.
- keep a close eye on your food while grilling to prevent overcooking or burning.
- use a meat thermometer to ensure that your meat is cooked to the correct internal temperature.
- let your meat rest for a few minutes before slicing or serving to allow the juices to redistribute.
- keep your grill and utensils clean to prevent any foodborne illness.

BARBECUE DON'TS:

- use lighter fluid to start your grill. Instead, use a chimney starter or electric starter.
- overcrowd your grill. Leave enough space between the pieces of meat to ensure even cooking.
- use a fork to flip your meat. Piercing the meat can cause it to lose its juices and become dry.
- baste your meat with sugary sauces too early in the cooking process, as it can burn and create a bitter taste.
- leave cooked meat out in the sun for too long, as it can spoil quickly.
- assume that meat is fully cooked by its color. Always use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature.
- leave your grill unattended while it's still hot. Always make sure to properly cool it down before leaving it.



Be smart...



Take good care of your skin

The skin is an organ and helps protect against heat, sunlight, injury, and infections. This is why it is important to always protect it. Overexposure to the sun can be linked to some skin cancers. Ultraviolet rays from the sun or sunlamps can also cause eye problems, weakened immune system, age spots, wrinkles, and leathery skin.

• Protect your skin

Wear proper clothing like long-sleeved shirts and pants. Also protect your head and eyes with a hat and UV-resistant sunglasses.

Remember that you can also fall victim to the sun on a cloudy day as well as in the winter.

Sunburns increase the risk of developing skin cancer. It is especially important that children don't get a sunburns.

Peak burning hours, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Reflective surfaces, like water, snow, and sand can reflect sun rays and make them more intense.

You experience more UV exposure at higher altitudes, because there is less atmosphere to absorb UV radiation.

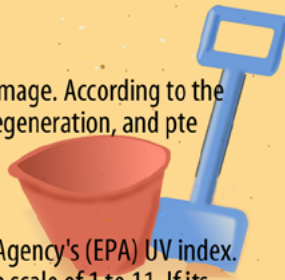
Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen to cover all exposed skin. The FDA recommends using sunscreens that are broad spectrum and have a sun protection factor (SPF) value of at least 15. Re-apply sunscreen throughout the day.

• Protect your eyes

UV rays can penetrate the structures of your eyes and cause cell damage. According to the CDC, some sun-related vision problems cause cataracts, macular degeneration, and pterygium.

• UV index

Before going outside you can check the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) UV index. To see the intensity of UV rays for the day. The index measures on a scale of 1 to 11. If it's low on the UV index you will require less protection and a high UV index will require a lot more protection.



Shop.
Dine.
Play.
Stay.

LOCALLY

...and support the community you live in!