

Local Area **Guide**

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

Free



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Scan the QR Code to go to the county page.

McLeod County



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LOCAL AREA EVENTS

JANUARY

Gopher Campfire Family Fishing Contest - Hutchinson
Annual Community Showcase (Jan-Feb) - Hutchinson
Hutchinson Hockey Day

FEBRUARY

Strike Out the Violence Bowlathon - Hutchinson
Annual Fish Fry - Plato
Crow River Arts Youth Art Exhibit (Feb-March) - Hutchinson

MARCH

Snow Pros Snowmobile Swap Meet - Hutchinson
Food Drive - Plato
Big Little Hunting & Fishing Expo - Hutchinson

APRIL

Jaycees Sandbox Fill - Hutchinson
City Wide Easter Egg Hunt - Hutchinson
Crow River Singers Spring Concert
Celebrate Earth Day - Hutchinson
Winsted Easter Egg Hunt
City Wide Rummage - Plato
Annual Hospice Share 'N Care Dinner - Hutchinson

MAY

City Wide Garage Sales - Hutchinson
Memorial Day Parade & Service - Hutchinson
Herb Walk - Hutchinson
Water Carnival Button Night - Hutchinson
White Squirrel Festival - Plato
Annual North Star Classic - Hutchinson
Youth Art Show - Hutchinson
Hutchinson Jaycees Spring Flower Sales
Jaycees Spring Flower Sales - Hutchinson
UKC Spring Fling - Hutchinson
Cinco De Mayo Party - Hutchinson
Poppy Days - Hutchinson
Back to the 50's Food, Beer & Classic Cars - Hutchinson

JUNE

Glencoe Days
Dairy Day Celebration - Glencoe
Annual Jaycees Water Carnival - Hutchinson
Little Crow Riders Horse Show - Hutchinson
Power Pull Nationals - Hutchinson
Winstock - Winsted

JULY

RiverSong Music Festival - Hutchinson
Minnesota Pottery Festival - Hutchinson
Orange Spectacular - Hutchinson
Hometown Golf Challenge - Hutchinson
Prairie Days - Lester Prairie
Toy Show - Hutchinson

AUGUST

National Night Out - Throughout McLeod County
Oakdale Invitational - Hutchinson
Relay for Life - Hutchinson
Heatwale Threshing Show - Hutchinson
Scramble Golf Tournament - Hutchinson
McLeod County Fair - Hutchinson
Powder Ridge 3D Fun Shoot - Hutchinson
Minnesota Garlic Festival - Hutchinson
Summer Festival - Winsted
McLeod County Relay for Life
Bike, Blade & Board Bonanza - Hutchinson

SEPTEMBER

St. Anastasia Fall Festival - Hutchinson
Taste of Hutchinson
Annual Arts & Crafts Festival - Hutchinson
Elk's Guns, Knives & Coin Show - Hutchinson
Fall Polka Festival - Glencoe
Annual Land Castle Summer Extravaganza - Winsted
Craft & Vendor Market - Hutchinson

OCTOBER

Trunk or Treat - Hutchinson
Spooky Sprint 5K - Hutchinson
Rod Run & Classic Car Show (Sept-Oct) - Hutchinson

NOVEMBER

Holiday Arts & Craft Sale - Hutchinson
Seasonal Sampler - Glencoe
Hutchinson Farm Toy Show
Taste of the Holidays - Hutchinson

DECEMBER

Santa Visits - Hutchinson
Winsted Winter Festival
Holiday Farmers Market - Hutchinson
Glencoe Holiday Craft & Vendor Festival

**Event dates subject to change.*



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Attorney	864-1265
Auditor/Treasurer.....	864-1260
Court Administration	864-1281
Emergency	911
Environmental Services	484-4300
Extension Service	484-4334
Fairgrounds	484-4334
Geographic Information Systems	484-4375
Highway Department	484-4321
License Center	864-1312
Parks Department	484-4334
Planning & Zoning	484-4300
Public Health	864-3185
Recorder	864-1327
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Soil & Water Conservation	864-1214
Veterans Services	864-1268

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GO GREEN
Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle
reduce waste, reuse materials & recycle properly

EVERY DAY is EARTH DAY

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.
-



As land was acquired from Sioux Indians in 1851, settlement of McLeod County began. Organized in 1856, the county was named after Martin McLeod. McLeod was a fur trader and explorer. Settlers were attracted to the prairies for agriculture and the dense woods for building supplies. Early industry included logging, milling and farming. As the railroad arrived in the 1870s, the area began to thrive and Glencoe was selected as the county seat. Today McLeod County is home to approximately 37,165 residents.

CITIES:

- BISCAY – pop. 108
- BROWNTON – pop. 784
- GLENCOE (COUNTY SEAT) – pop. 5,550
- HUTCHINSON – pop. 13,913
- LESTER PRAIRIE – pop. 1,747
- PLATO – pop. 317
- SILVER LAKE – pop. 799
- STEWART – pop. 536
- WINSTED – pop. 2,355

TOWNSHIPS:

- ACOMA – pop. 1,258
- BERGEN – pop. 948
- COLLINS – pop. 524
- GLENCOE – pop. 608
- HALE – pop. 1,016
- HASSAN VALLEY – pop. 786
- HELEN – pop. 897
- HUTCHINSON – pop. 1,181
- LYNN – pop. 634
- PENN – pop. 360
- RICH VALLEY – pop. 789
- ROUND GROVE – pop. 325
- SUMTER – pop. 622
- WINSTED – pop. 1,045

*Populations are approximate.

BISCAY

Located in Hassan Valley Township in the center of McLeod County, Biscay is the site of Minnesota’s first creamery. Today Biscay is home to approximately 108 residents.

BROWNTON

Settlers began arriving to the area of Brownton in 1856. Named after Charles Brown, Brownton was established in 1878 as the railroad arrived. Today Brownton is home to approximately 784 residents.

GLENCOE (COUNTY SEAT)

Founded in 1855 by John Harrington Stevens, Glencoe was the first settlement in McLeod County. Martin McLeod named Glencoe after a Scottish city and Glencoe was voted as the county seat and the first courthouse was built in 1896. Today Glencoe is home to approximately 5,550 residents.

HUTCHINSON

Hutchinson was first settled by John, Judson and Asa Hutchinson, in 1855. The Hutchinson brothers were famous singers who arrived from New Hampshire to explore McLeod County. In 1857, Hutchinson was incorporated and the community quickly grew. Today Hutchinson is home to approximately 13,913 residents.

LESTER PRAIRIE

Located in Bergen Township, Lester Prairie was first settled in 1856 and named after John Lester, a land owner. The community was almost destroyed by the Sioux Uprising in 1862 and floods in 1897, but residents rebuilt and Lester Prairie continued to grow. Today Lester Prairie is home to approximately 1,747 residents.

PLATO

Located in southeast McLeod County, Plato was incorporated in 1888. It is one of the most prosperous farming communities in Minnesota. Today Plato is home to approximately 317 residents.

SILVER LAKE

Once known as Fremont, Silver Lake was platted by John J. Jerabek and John S. Totusek in 1881. Today Silver Lake is home to approximately 799 residents.

STEWART

Stewart was platted in 1888 by Dr. D. A. Stewart a Winona physician, and named after him. Stewart was incorporated on May 15, 1888. Today Stewart is home to approximately 536 residents.

WINSTED

Originally known as Lake Eleanor, Winsted was settled in 1846 by James Baird, a fur trader and trapper. The community was platted in 1857 by Eli F. Lewis and Winsted grew slowly. A sawmill was established in 1866 and Winsted was incorporated in 1887. Today Winsted is home to approximately 2,355 residents.

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FIREWOOD

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Invasive pests like the Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth have devastated millions of trees in the United States. Where these pests come from, the population stays in control because, they have natural predators. The United States dose not have these natural predators so the populations have the chance to grow to extreme numbers.



Emerald Ash Borer

Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

Preventing the Spread

- Buy local firewood.
- Burn all firewood completely at each destination.
- Move only Certified firewood out of a quarantine county or across state boundaries.
- Use firewood from nearby sources to heat your home or cabin.
- Tell your friends and family about the importance of not moving firewood.
- Don't move hardwood firewood out of a quarantine county, unless it is state or USDA certified.
- Don't move opened firewood bundles.
- Don't move firewood long distances to or from your lake home or cabin.

Invasive Pests are a Problem!

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

City of Hutchinson Dog Park

427 1st Ave. SE | Hutchinson |
320-587-2975





Preparation & Clean Up



- Clean out the gutters.
- Clear debris away from the outside drains.
- Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- Prepare your garden for flowers and vegetables.
- Service sprinklers and irrigation system.
- Take out seasonal furniture.
- Remove storm windows replace screens.
- Repair damaged sidewalks, driveways and steps.
- Reseal exterior woodwork.
- Remove any standing water to prevent mosquitoes.
- Seal windows and cracks around the house.
- Test smoke and CO monitors also inspect fire extinguishers.
- Inspect your roof for damage.



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.



BUFFALO CREEK PARK

4956 100th St. | Plato

Located on 46 acres, Buffalo Creek Park features a picnic shelter, grills, nature trail and cross-country ski trails, duck pond, fishing pier and playground equipment. Buffalo Creek Park is open seasonally from 7AM until sunset, May 1st through October 1st. The picnic shelter can be reserved for \$35 through the McLeod County Parks Office. For reservations, call (320) 484-4334.

LAKE MARION REGIONAL PARK

11655 Hwy. 15 | Brownton

Located on 86 acres, Lake Marion Park features a campground, picnic shelters, wooded hiking trail and cross-country ski trails, boat launch, swimming beach, fishing pier and playground equipment. Lake Marion Regional Park is open seasonally from 7AM until sunset, May 1st through October 1st. The picnic shelter can be reserved for \$35 through the McLeod County Parks Office. Overnight stays at the campground are \$22 with electric hook-up or \$15 without. One week's stay with electric is \$116 and \$79 without. One month's stay with electric is \$400 and \$270 without. For more than four people, an additional \$1 per person per day is required. For reservations, call (320) 484-4334.

PIEPENBURG REGIONAL PARK

21104 Belle Lake Rd. | Hutchinson

Located on 156 acres near Belle Lake, Piepenburg Regional Park features a campground, picnic shelters, hiking trail and cross-country ski trails, boat launch, swimming beach, fishing pier and playground equipment. Piepenburg Regional Park is open seasonally from 7AM until sunset, May 1st through October 1st. The picnic shelter can be reserved for \$35 through the McLeod County Parks Office. Overnight stays at the campground are \$22 with electric hook-up or \$15 without. One week's stay with electric is \$116 and \$79 without. One month's stay with electric is \$400 and \$270 without. For more than four people, an additional \$1 per person per day is required. For camping reservations, call (320) 484-4334.

STAHL'S LAKE PARK

21197 230th St. | Hutchinson

Located on 127 acres near Stahl's Lake, Stahl's Lake Park features a picnic shelter, grills, nature trail and cross-country ski trails, duck pond, boat canal and a tree nursery. Stahl's Lake Park is open seasonally from 7AM until sunset, May 1st through October 1st. The picnic shelter can be reserved for \$35 through the McLeod County Parks Office. For reservations, call (320) 484-4334.

SWAN LAKE PARK

12206 Swan Lake Rd. | Silver Lake

Located on 82.5 acres, Swan Lake Park features a picnic shelter, grills, nature trail and cross-country ski trails, duck pond and fishing pier. Swan Lake Park is open seasonally from 7AM until sunset, May 1st through October 1st. The picnic shelter can be reserved for \$35 through the McLeod County Parks Office. For reservations, call (320) 484-4334.

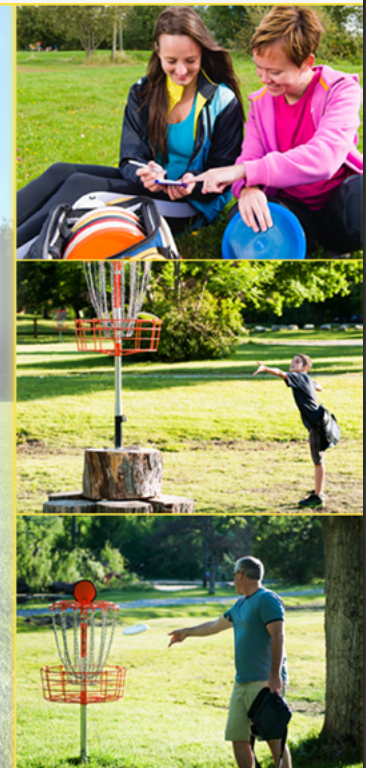
WILLIAM MAY PARK

1750 235th St. | Winsted

Located on 70 acres of forest, William May Park features a picnic shelter and grills. William May Park is open seasonally from 7AM until sunset, May 1st through October 1st. The picnic shelter can be reserved for \$35 through the McLeod County Parks Office. For reservations, call (320) 484-4334.

DISC GOLF

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 an inexpensive 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.



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MCLEOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NORTHWOODS PARK

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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.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

or scan the QR code



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Minnesota

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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.)

DNR LICENSE CENTERS

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, Toll-Free: (888) 665-4236 or visit one of the ELS agents available throughout McLeod County:

GLENCOE

GLENCOE FLEET SUPPLY INC.

3105 E 10th St. | Glencoe | (320) 864-4304

MCLEOD COUNTY LICENSE BUREAU

520 Chandler Ave. N | Glencoe | (320) 864-1311

NAPA AUTO PARTS OF GLENCOE

901 E 10th St. | Glencoe | (320) 864-5525

HUTCHINSON

ACE HARDWARE

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HUTCHINSON MOTOR VEHICLE

111 Hassan St. SE | Hutchinson | (320) 234-2599

HUTCHINSON OUTPOST, INC.

1201 Main St. N | Hutchinson | (320) 587-8177

HUTCHINSON CONTD.

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WALMART SUPERCENTER #1738

1300 Trunk Hwy. 15 S | Hutchinson | (320) 587-1020

LESTER PRAIRIE

BIG DON'S CARTHEDRAL

601 Central Ave. | Lester Prairie | (320) 395-2214

CASEY'S CENERAL STORE #3474

1018 Central Ave. | Lester Prairie | (320) 395-4388

WINSTED

HABISCH OUTDOORS, LLC

21948 Babcock Ave. | Winsted | (320) 485-4867

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

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.

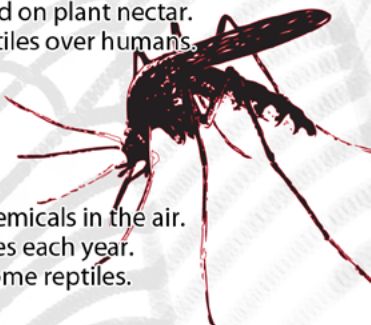
Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- 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

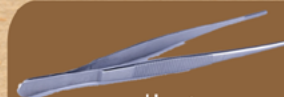
Diseases & Prevention

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!



The Best of Minnesota Outdoors

Hiking:

Superior Hiking Trail, Lake Superior
Silver Creek Trail, Jay Cooke State Park
North River Trail, Afton State Park
Glacial Pothole Trail, Interstate State Park
Sioux Hustler Trail, Superior National Forest

Fishing:

Bass: Lake Vermilion, Tower
Walleye: Leech Lake, Walker
Muskellunge: Lake Oscar, Holmes City
Northern Pike: Lake of the Woods, Warroad

Golf Courses:

Interlachen, Edina • Spring Hill, Wayzata
Hazeltine National, Chaska
Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort, Biwabik
The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, Tower

Mountain Biking:

Cuyuna Lakes, Ironton • Lebanon Hills, Eagan
Elm Creek Park, Champlin • Brewer Park, Duluth
Spirit Mountain, Duluth • Piedmont, Duluth

Skiing:

Lutsen Mountains, Lutsen • Afton Alps, Afton
Elm Creek Winter Rec. Area, Maple Grove
Powder Ridge Ski Area, Kimball
Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort, Biwabik

SINGLETRACK MOUNTAIN BIKING



HAVE FUN

& BE RESPECTFUL:

Singletrack mountain biking is an exciting and rewarding activity.

Remember to enjoy the ride, take in the scenery, and respect nature. Stay positive, be patient with yourself as you learn and improve, and have fun exploring new trails and pushing your limits. **EXPERIENCE:** Singletrack trails are often more challenging than regular trails. It's important to have some experience and proficiency on your bike. **TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATING:** Singletrack trails are often graded on their difficulty level, usually using a color-coded system. Start with trails that match your skill level.

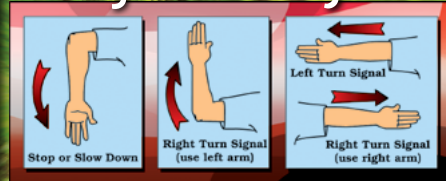
TRAIL ETIQUETTE: Respect other trail users, yield to uphill riders, and follow any posted signs or guidelines. Don't litter and stay on designated trails. **PROTECTIVE GEAR:** Wear appropriate gear, most important a helmet. Other helpful choices are gloves, knee and elbow pads, and sturdy shoes. **BIKE MAINTENANCE:** Check tire pressure, brakes, gears, and suspension. Carry essential tools, such as a multi-tool, spare tube, and a pump, to handle any minor repairs or adjustments on the trail. **HYDRATION & NUTRITION:**

Singletrack mountain biking can be physically demanding. Carry enough water and pack some energy-rich snacks. **RIDE WITH A BUDDY:** It can make the experience more enjoyable, but it also enhances safety in case of any issues. **TRAIL RESEARCH:** Look for trail maps, reviews, and any relevant information about the area before heading out. **PACE YOURSELF:** Start at a comfortable pace and gradually increase your speed and difficulty level as you gain more experience and confidence.

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

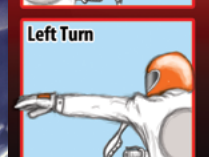
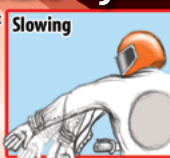
and know your vehicle thoroughly. • Check your vehicle before you ride. • Wear protective equipment and clothing. • Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders. • Supervise young or inexperienced riders. • Never carry a passenger on vehicles meant for one rider. • Do not operate under the influence of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

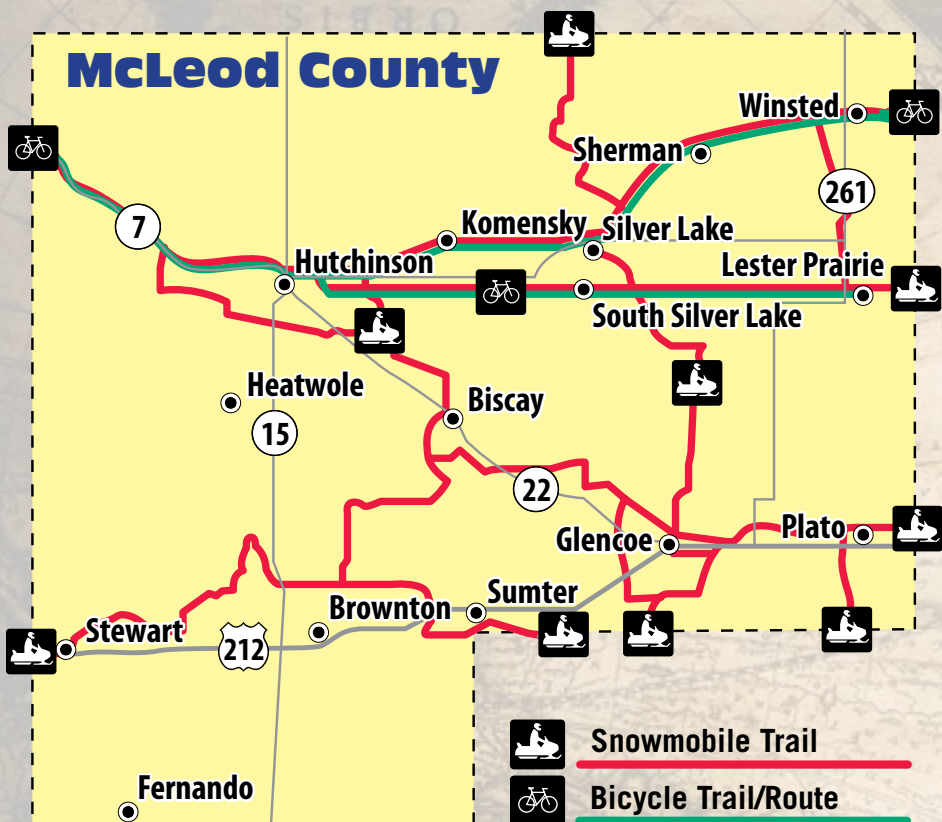
Communication is an essential part of safe riding. Hand signals are a practical way to communicate between other riders and traffic. Be sure to give easy to see and clear hand signals when snowmobiling. Hand signals should never be subtle, but always deliberate.



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.

AREA TRAILS



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MINNESOTA

Bike Service Stations





Eat Breakfast

A healthy balanced breakfast every morning is very important. It allows your body to run smoothly throughout the day and can help with weight control while lowering your cholesterol levels. It will improve things like concentration, performance and strength. Also studies have shown that women who skip breakfast have a higher chance of developing diabetes and men who skip breakfast have a higher chance for heart disease.

Eat Your Greens

Leafy greens and vegetables contain phytochemicals which help to fight diseases. This will help against things like metabolic syndrome, diabetes, cancer and strokes. Vegetables are also rich in fiber which helps with hunger. The recommended amount of vegetables for the average person is around 2 ½ cups a day.

Drink Enough Water

Many people don't get enough water throughout the day. It is recommended that the average person drinks roughly a half gallon a day which is equal to about eight 8 ounce glasses. Water helps rid the body of toxins and with unwanted weight gain by flushing out by-products of fat in your system. Water also helps your immune system, energy levels, focus and mood.

Take a Walk During Lunch Break

Your body and mind benefit greatly when getting out for a quick walk. A walk can help with weight management, blood pressure, bone strength, balance and coordination. Plus it helps you focus by getting extra blood flow and oxygen to your brain. Also a lot of people don't get enough vitamin D in their diet and getting outside is one of the easiest ways to ensure you are getting your vitamin D.

Get Up and Move

It is important to try and get around 10,000 steps in per day. It is very hard on our bodies when we are slumped over a desk or kicked back in a recliner all day. Studies have shown that just from walking more you can lower your risk of high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes. It may be hard to get the 10,000 steps in every day but doing small things like getting up from your desk every so often and doing a lap around the office or parking farther away from your destination will help.

Floss and Brush

This might not seem like the most significant health issue but it is very important. If you don't floss and brush daily you build up plaque on your teeth and at the gum lines. This can lead to things like gum disease and if not treated can enter the bloodstream and trigger inflammation in the arteries causing things like heart disease, diabetes, erectile dysfunction in males and delayed conception for women.





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be published in our
next guide!

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HONEY *Glazed* CHICKEN



Simple meal with a *Gourmet* Feel

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C).
- 2 In a small bowl, whisk together the honey, soy sauce, olive oil, apple cider vinegar, garlic, salt, and pepper.
- 3 Place the chicken breasts in a baking dish and pour the honey glaze over the chicken, making sure it's evenly coated.
- 4 Bake in the preheated oven for 25-30 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through and no longer pink in the center.
- 5 After 15 minutes of baking, remove the chicken from the oven and brush the remaining honey glaze over the chicken. Return the chicken to the oven and continue baking.
- 6 Once done, remove from the oven and let rest for a few minutes before serving.
- 7 You can garnish with sesame seeds and chopped green onions if you like.

Enjoy your delicious
honey glazed chicken!

PREP: 10 MIN • TOTAL: 40 MIN

COMPOSTING in Your Backyard

Yard trimmings and food scraps make up nearly 15% to 30% of waste produced by the average household in USA. Composting leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps, creates a nice black dirt to use around your yard. It also can reduce what goes to landfills and your use of fertilizer and water around your yard.

How to get started composting

1. Make a compost bin or you can buy one
2. Place yard waste in and mix in kitchen scraps
3. Water as needed, to keep moist
4. Mix it with a shovel or pitchfork once in a while

What to compost

Food scraps such as banana peels and coffee grounds are good to compost. The best results come from mixing the right materials like, nitrogen-rich (greens), carbon-rich (browns), water, and air. Get the mixture correct and you will have good quality compost.

What not to compost

Although a lot of stuff is compostable, you should stay away from composting things that will attract scavengers or create bad odors.

Some things you should not add to your compost are pet feces, diseased plants, weeds gone to seed, ashes, dairy, oils and food with meat or bones.

How long will it take?

Most likely you will produce compost in six months to a year depending on your management methods. To make compost faster keep the correct moisture levels and turn the pile every once in awhile.

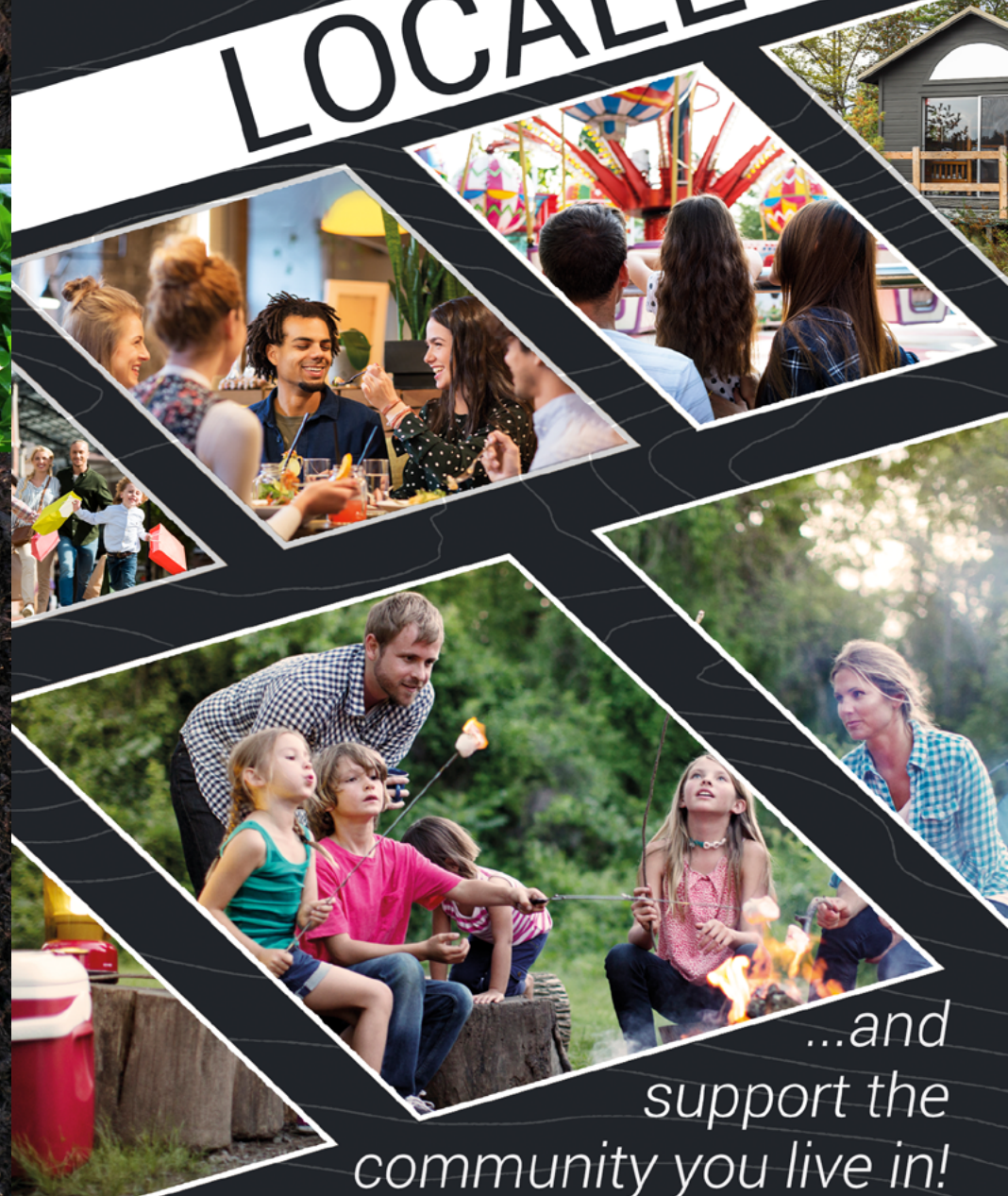
Using the finished compost

Compost is not a fertilizer but it can contain nutrients which improves plant growth. By using compost, you can improve the soil around your plants, flowers and throughout your yard, it also reduces your use of fertilizer and water. Another good use for your compost is to use it for your potted plants.



Shop • Dine
Play • Stay

LOCALLY



...and
support the
community you live in!