

**Free**

# Area Guide



## Sherburne County, MN

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



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Sherburne County



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# LOCAL AREA EVENTS

## January

Moonlight Ski | St. Cloud  
Annual Sons of Norway Barnelopet | St. Cloud  
Minnesota Organic Conference | St. Cloud

## February

Annual Sportsmens Show | St. Cloud  
Boat Show | St. Cloud  
Farm Show | St. Cloud  
United We Shiver | Elk River  
Elk River Home Show

## March

CMBA Home Show | St. Cloud

## April

Earth Day 1/2 Marathon | St. Cloud  
Earth Day Festival | St. Cloud

## May

Spring Craft Show | Elk River  
Memorial Day Services | Sherburne County  
Annual Wild West Days | Zimmerman  
St. Cloud Farmers Market (Saturdays, May-Oct)

## June

Freedom Days | Becker  
Big Lake Spud Fest  
Rum River Festival | Princeton  
Rum River Parade | Princeton  
Granite City Days | St. Cloud  
Lemonade Concert and Art Fair | St. Cloud

## July

4th of July Celebration | County Wide  
Sherburne County Fair & Carnival | Elk River  
Elk River Fest  
Annual St. Cloud Fireworks  
Summer Bird Walk Series | County Wide  
Art Fair in the Gardens | St. Cloud

## August

Annual Running for Justice 5k Fun Run/Walk | Elk River  
Tee it Up for the Troops | St. Cloud  
Haitian Hustle 5K | Becker

## September

Wapiti Rendezvous | Elk River  
Day of the Dozers | Elk River  
St. Cloud Pride Fest  
CMBA Fall Tour of Homes | St. Cloud  
St. Mary's Cathedral Block Party | St. Cloud  
CLFD Remembrance Day Clear Lake  
St. Cloud Craft and Vendor Sale  
Run/Walk for Recovery | St. Cloud  
Annual "Third Monkey" Beer Tasting & Silent Auction | Elk River  
Annual Downtown Festi-Fall | St. Cloud

## October

Trick-or-Treat | Sherburne County  
Downtown Art Crawl | St. Cloud  
Clear Lake FD Pancake Breakfast  
Pumpkin Party | St. Cloud  
PumpkinFest Run | Big Lake  
Clear Lake FD Open House  
Trunk-or-Treat | St. Cloud

## November

Veteran's Day Celebration | Becker  
Holiday Craft & Gift Expo | St. Cloud  
Made in MN Expo | St. Cloud  
Holiday Makers Market | Elk River

## December

Winter Wonderland | St. Cloud  
Skate with Santa | Elk River  
Rock n Roll Xmas Spectacular | St. Cloud  
St. Cloud Festival of Lights

\*For more information on Sherburne County events, visit <http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/>

\*Events are subject to change



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Assessor .....	(763) 765-4900
Attorney .....	(763) 765-4725
Auditor/Treasurer .....	(763) 765-4350
Community Corrections .....	(763) 765-4550
Court Administrator .....	(763) 284-7140
Economic Development .....	(763) 765-3014
Health & Human Services .....	(763) 765-4000/(800) 433-5239
General Information .....	(763) 765-3000/(800) 433-5288
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Planning & Zoning .....	(763) 765-4450
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Recorder .....	(763) 765-4420
Sheriff .....	(763) 765-3500/(800) 433-5245
U of M Extension .....	(763) 765-3075
Veterans Services .....	(763) 765-3100

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Originally part of Benton County, Sherburne County was organized in 1856 and named after Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Moses Sherburne. Settlers were attracted to the rich farmland and ample timber. As settlement grew along the Mississippi River banks, townships were divided and organized. Elk River was selected as the county seat and Sherburne County continued to grow as the railroad lines arrived and transportation improved. With its proximity to the Twin Cities, Sherburne County has now grown from a bustling agricultural area to a commuter's haven. Today Sherburne County is home to approximately 87,832 residents.

## **CITIES:**

BECKER — pop. 4,200  
BIG LAKE — pop. 9,799  
CLEAR LAKE — pop. 485  
ELK RIVER (COUNTY SEAT) — pop. 23,231  
PRINCETON — pop. 4,754  
ST. CLOUD — pop. 67,136  
ZIMMERMAN — pop. 5,316

## **TOWNSHIPS:**

BALDWIN — pop. 5,636  
BECKER — pop. 4,711  
BIG LAKE — pop. 8,137  
BLUE HILL — pop. 1,359  
CLEAR LAKE — pop. 2,123  
HAVEN — pop. 2,703  
LIVONIA — pop. 4,818  
ORROCK — pop. 3,564

PALMER — pop. 3,063  
SANTIAGO — pop. 2,240  
*\*Populations are approximate.*

## **BECKER**

Once known as Pleasant Valley, Becker grew as a community in the 1850s. Upon arrival of the railroad in 1867, the area began to grow. Pleasant Valley was renamed Becker after George Loomis Becker, who was instrumental with the construction of the railroad. Today Becker is home to approximately 4,200 residents.

## **BIG LAKE**

Located along the Mississippi River, Big Lake originated as an agricultural community in the mid 1800s. Settlers were attracted to the Mississippi River where it could be utilized for transportation and power. By 1864, a hotel, blacksmith shop, mills and general stores were established. Before refrigeration, most of the ice in Twin Cities' iceboxes was acquired from Big Lake. Today Big Lake is home to approximately 9,799 residents.

## **CLEAR LAKE**

Clear Lake was incorporated as a village in 1900 and businesses and creameries were established. 1917 marked the completion of the Clear Lake High School and the railroad arrived in 1924. Clear Lake was incorporated as a city in 1970 and has since continued to grow. Today Clear Lake is home to approximately 485 residents.

## **ELK RIVER (COUNTY SEAT)**

Named after the herds found in the area by Zebulon Pike, Elk River was settled in the mid 1800s. Pioneers utilized the nearby Elk River and Mississippi Rivers for power and transportation. In 1855, Elk River was platted as a village and the community continued to grow. By 1872 Elk River was selected as Sherburne's County Seat. The Village of Elk River and the Township of Elk River were consolidated in 1978. Today Elk River is home to approximately 23,231 residents.

## **PRINCETON**

Named after John S. Prince, a lumber manufacturer from St. Paul, Princeton was first settled in 1849 and platted in 1855. Within 10 years, sawmills, flour mills, blacksmith shops, hotels and general stores were thriving. The first newspaper, "The Princeton Appeal," was issued in 1873. Early industry included logging, manufacturing and agriculture, and by 1902 Princeton produced the most potatoes in the Northwest. Today Princeton is home to approximately 4,754 residents.



# Sherburne County Communities

## ST. CLOUD

Once a way station on the Red River Trails, St. Cloud developed from three separate settlements and unified to offset hardship. The city was incorporated in 1856 and is named after the Parisian suburb, Saint Cloud, by John Wilson. Since the 1880s, granite quarries have operated in St. Cloud, deeming the area "Granite City." Today St. Cloud is home to approximately 67,136 residents.

## ZIMMERMAN

Zimmerman began as a community called Lake Fremont after the explorer John C. Fremont. In 1910, Lake Fremont was incorporated as a village and it was not until 1967 that Lake Fremont was renamed Zimmerman in honor of Moses Zimmerman, an influential farmer who assisted with the development of the railroad. Today Zimmerman is home to approximately 5,316 residents.

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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 does 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!***

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# CREAMY *Dill* CHICKEN



Simple *meal* with a *Gourmet* Feel

## INGREDIENTS

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

Salt and pepper

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon butter

1/2 cup chicken broth

1/2 cup heavy cream

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

2 teaspoons dried dill weed

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Season the chicken breasts with salt and pepper on both sides.
- 2 Heat the olive oil and butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
- 3 Add the chicken breasts to the skillet and cook for 6-7 minutes on each side, until browned and cooked through. Remove the chicken from the skillet and set aside.
- 4 Pour the chicken broth into the skillet and use a spatula to scrape up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan.
- 5 Stir in the heavy cream, Dijon mustard, and dried dill weed. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring frequently, until the sauce has thickened.
- 6 Return the chicken breasts to the skillet and spoon the sauce over the top. Allow the chicken to cook in the sauce for an additional 1-2 minutes, until the chicken is heated through.
- 7 Sprinkle chopped fresh parsley over the top of the chicken before serving.

*Enjoy your delicious  
creamy dill chicken!*

PREP: 7 MIN • TOTAL: 30 MIN

*Send in  
your Favorite  
Recipe*

For a chance to  
be published in our  
next guide!

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## ANGUSHIRE PARK

4101 4th St. S | St. Cloud | 320-257-5959

## BARDEN PARK

720 5th Ave. S | St. Cloud | 320-650-3055

## BRIDGEVIEW PARK RESERVE

20711 187th Ave. NW | Big Lake | 763-765-3300

Located on 29 acres along the Mississippi River, Bridgeview Park Reserve features a hiking and snowshoeing trail, offers educational programs and fishing opportunities.

## GEORGE FRIEDRICH PARK

19th Ave. SE | St. Cloud | 320-257-5959

Located on 50+ acres the park features trails for hiking, skiing, snow-shoeing.

## GRAMS REGIONAL PARK

26655 120th St. | Zimmerman | 763-765-3300

Located on 114 acres near Fremont Lake, Grams Regional Park features picnic sites and shelters, hiking trails and lakeshore access.

## GREAT NORTHERN TRAIL

12495 Elk Lake Rd. | Elk River | 763-635-1150

Located on 8.5 miles of land with scenic views, cross country skiing and paved trails.

## HEIMS MILL CANOE ACCESS

32868 River Oaks Ln. | St. Cloud

Heims Mill Canoe Access provides access to the Sauk and Mississippi Rivers, features a picnic area with a grill and offers fishing opportunities.

## ISLAND VIEW

### REGIONAL PARK

3523 River Rd SE | Clear Lake | 763-765-3000

Located on 63 acres, Island View Regional Park has 1,300 feet of shoreline along the Mississippi River. The park offers canoe put in fishing, hiking, scenic views, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing and picnic tables.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARK

715 N 54th Ave. | St. Cloud | 320-650-3055

## LIONS PARK & SHELTER

4310 Dublin Dr. | St. Cloud | 320-650-3055

## MILLER LANDING

7502 Co. Rd. 138 | St. Cloud | 320-656-3600

Miller Landing features canoe access to the Sauk River, a picnic site with a grill and offers fishing opportunities.

## OAK SAVANNA PARK

10775 27th Ave. SE | Becker | 763-765-3300

Located on 140 acres, Oak Savanna Park features hiking, biking, equestrian, snow-shoeing and dog sledding trails and offers educational programs.

## RIVERSIDE PARK

1725 Kilian Blvd. | St. Cloud | 320-650-3055

Located on the Mississippi River, the park features, cross county ski trails, disc golf, electrical outlets, fishing, grills, pavilion, picnic areas, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, sliding hill, splash pad and tennis courts.

## SAND DUNES STATE FOREST

Big Lake | 651-296-6157

Located on 11,040 acres, the Sand Dunes State Forest features the 225 acre Bob Dunn Recreation Area, the Ann Lake Campground, horse camp, recreational trails, lake shore access and offers fishing opportunities.

## SAUK RIVER REGIONAL PARK

3237 Dolores Dr. | St Cloud

The park features hiking trails and a sliding hill.

## SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

17076 293rd Ave. NW | Zimmerman |

763-389-3323

This 30,700 acre park offers hiking, bicycling, fishing, paddling, hunting, cross-country skiing & snowshoeing.

## WHITNEY PARK

1529 Northway Dr. | St. Cloud |

320-650-3053

## WILSON PARK

625 Riverside Dr. NE | St. Cloud |

320-650-3055





# AREA ATTRACTIONS



## A & G CORN MAZE

10448 345th St. | St. Joseph

## AIRMAXX TRAMPOLINE PARK

3900 Roosevelt Rd. | St. Cloud |  
(320) 281-5599

## ART & HERITAGE PLACE

104 Chapel Lane | St. Joseph |  
(320) 363-7113

## BELLA VITA SALT CAVES

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St. Cloud | (320) 281-3121

## CATHEDRA OF SAINT MARY

25 8th Ave. S | St. Cloud |  
(320) 251-1840

## CHARLES LINDBERGH HOUSE & MUSEUM

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Little Falls | (320) 616-5421

## CLEMENS GARDENS

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Elk River | (763) 441-4111

## ERX MOTOR PARK

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Elk River | (763) 772-4977

## GNARLY BARD THEATER

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St. Cloud

## GRANITE TRIO

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St. Cloud

## GREAT RIVER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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St. Cloud |  
(320) 200-4110

## HILLSIDE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

10801 181st Ave NW | Elk River  
| (763) 635-1150

## KIEHLE GALLERY

720 4th Ave. S | St. Cloud |  
(320) 308-4283

## LAKE GEORGE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

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257-5959

## MN AMATEUR BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

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## MUNSINGER GARDENS

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## PARAMOUNT THEATRE & VISUAL ARTS CENTER

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## PEARSON FAMILY FARM

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## PEBBLE CREEK GOLF CLUB

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Becker | (763) 200-4268

## PIONEER PLACE ON FIFTH THEATRE

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(320) 227-8222

## ROCKING HORSE FARM

25636 Co. Rd. 74 | St. Cloud |  
(320) 252-2996

## SAND DUNES STATE FOREST

Day Use Rd. | Big Lake |  
(651) 296-6157

## SAND PRAIRIE EDUCATION AREA

Hwy. 10 | St. Cloud |  
(320) 223-7869

## SHERBURNE HISTORY CENTER

10775 27th Ave. SE | Becker |  
(763) 261-4433

## SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

17076 293rd Ave. | Zimmerman  
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## SILLY BEAVER COMEDY/ BEAVER ISLAND BREWING

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## SKATIN' PLACE

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## ST. CLOUD AREA FARMERS MARKET (MAY-OCT)

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## ST. CLOUD INDOOR FLEA MARKET

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## ST. CLOUD RIVER'S EDGE CONVENTION CENTER

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## ST. CLOUD ROX BASEBALL

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## ST. CLOUD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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(320) 252-7276

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(320) 252-2841

*\*For more information on events throughout Pine and Carlton Counties, visit: [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com).*

*\*Contact local area attractions for hours of operation & closures.*





# 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

08/16/24 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





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:

## AVON

### AVON QUICK MART

304 Blattner Dr. | Avon | (320) 356-7992

## BECKER

### BECKER TRUE VALUE HARDWARE

13350 1st St. | Becker | (763) 261-4464

### HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#3598)

14740 165th Ave. | Becker | (763) 263-7550

## BIG LAKE

### 3 SON'S HARDWARE

621 Rose Dr. | Big Lake | (763) 263-2019

### HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#132)

281 Jefferson Blvd. | Big Lake | (763) 263-7979

### SAND DUNES FOOD AND FUEL

26215 184th St. | Big Lake | (763) 263-8200

## CLEAR LAKE

### BRIGGS LAKE GENERAL STORE

4258 105th Ave. SE | Clear Lake | (320) 743-2791

### RALPHIE'S CLEAR LAKE

7988 Front St. | Clear Lake | (320) 743-4638

## ELK RIVER

### HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#90)

13445 Business Center Dr. | Elk River | (763) 241-8848

### HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#313)

18823 Freeport Ave. | Elk River | (763) 241-6946

### WALMART SUPERCENTER (#3209)

18185 Zane St. NW | Elk River | (763) 441-3461

## ZIMMERMAN

### HOLIDAY STATION STORE (#239)

26125 Hwy. 169 | Zimmerman | (763) 856-4433

### HUDSON HARDWARE

12860 Fremont Ave. | Zimmerman | (763) 856-2661

### TALES & TRAILS SPORT SHOP

25355 Hwy. 169 | Zimmerman | (763) 856-3985



# 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.



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



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Car Batteries • Copper or Aluminum Radiators



[LakeStateRecycling.com](http://LakeStateRecycling.com) • Hours: M-F 8:00 AM-5:00 PM



# LAKE LIQUORS



## LOCAL. FRIENDLY. SELECTION.

Lake Shopping Center • Big Lake, MN  
763-263-3673 • [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org)



**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.**



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# 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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# Hello, Big Lake!

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\*Membership eligibility required. Apply online by visiting [www.minnco.com](http://www.minnco.com).





## 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

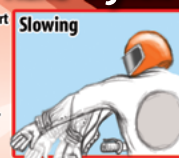
and know your vehicle thoroughly. • Check your vehicle before you ride. • Wear protective equipment and clothing. • Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders. • Supervise young or inexperienced riders. • Never carry a passenger on vehicles meant for one rider. • Do not operate under the influence of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



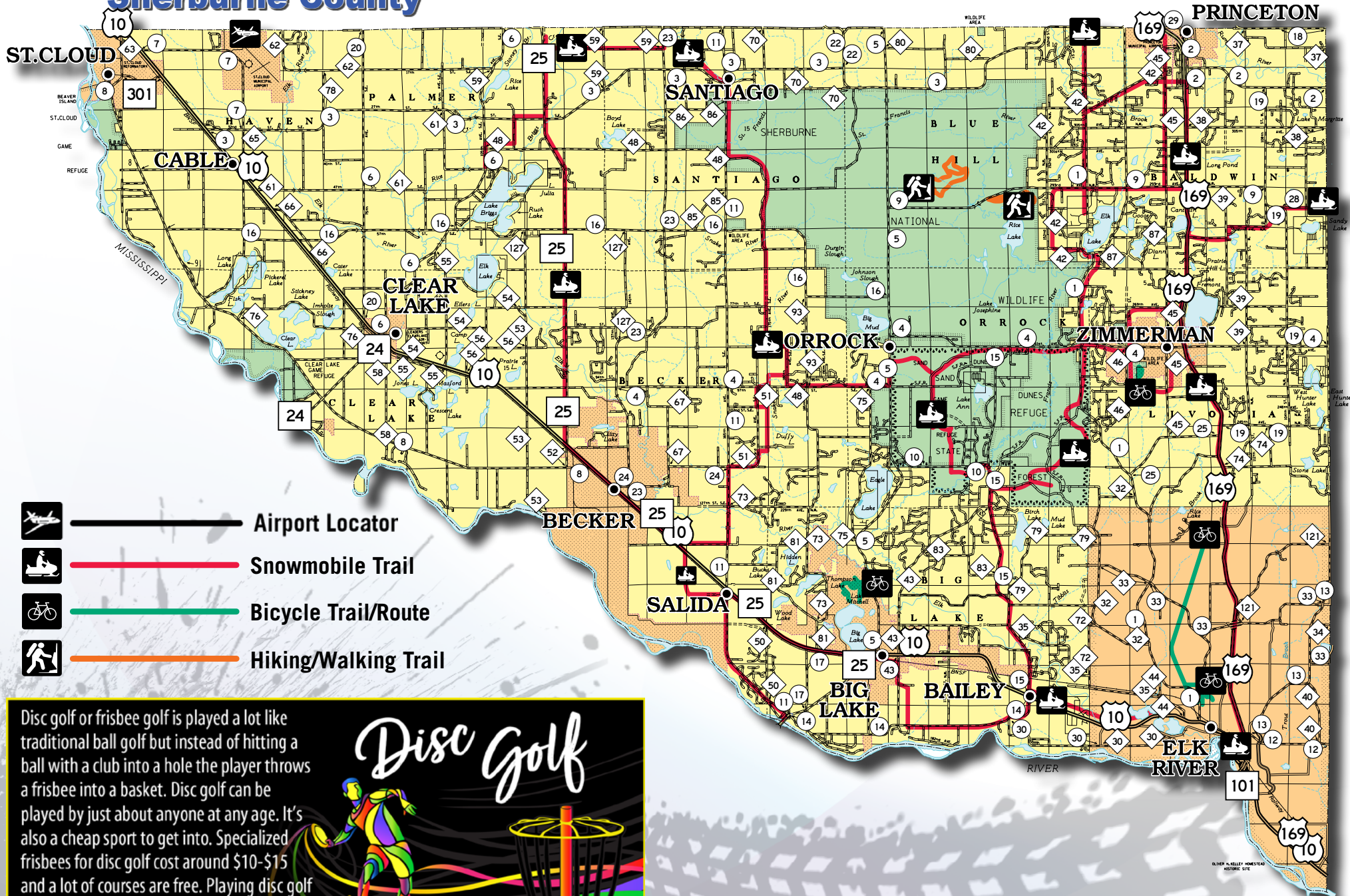
**PRIVATE PROPERTY**  
**NO TRESPASSING**

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/ATV's on county roads or state highways.



# LOCAL AREA TRAILS

## Sherburne County



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





# 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.

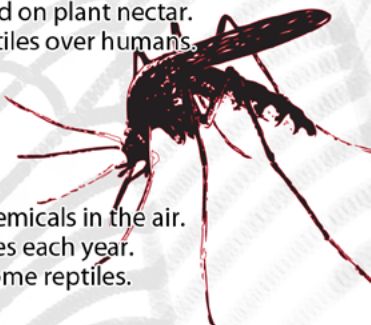
Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- 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

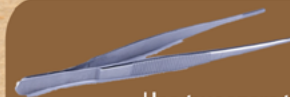
## Diseases & Prevention

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!





# 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.

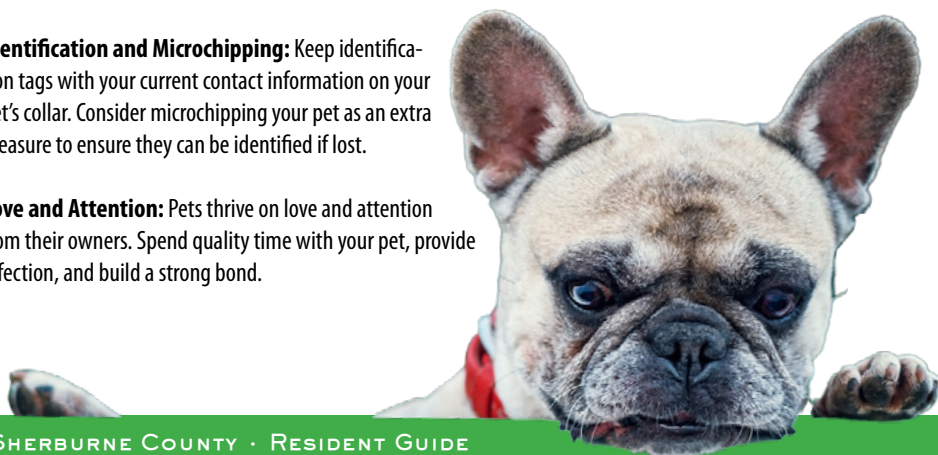
**Training and Socialization:** Properly train your pet to follow basic commands and have good manners. Socialize them with other animals and people from a young age to prevent behavioral issues later on.

**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 Orono Park

18599 Gary St. | Elk River | (763) 635-1150

### Jaycees Dog Park

3700 12th St. N | St. Cloud  
(320) 257-5959

### Otsego Dog Park

8789 Nashua Ave. NE  
Elk River | (763) 441-4414

### Whitney Dog Park

1566 Forest Dr. | St. Cloud  
(320) 255-7277

### Wilson Park Off Leash Pet Exercise Area

625 Riverside Dr. NE  
St. Cloud | (320) 650-3055





# Fall Lawn Care



In the fall grass grows fast. This is because the sun's rays are less intense during the day and the cooler temperatures at night. This makes it a great time to get your lawn good and healthy for next summer.

Here are a few things you can do to prep your lawn for next year.

- Remove the leaves from your lawn to prevent matting and fungi growth. Or mulch them up into fine pieces, which also acts as a natural fertilizer.
- Don't stop mowing. If the grass is too long come winter time it will lay over on itself and be more vulnerable to fungi.
- Aerate the soil every other year to loosen it up so water, oxygen and nutrients can get to the roots easier.
- Reseed bald or thin areas of grass around the yard.
- Fertilizing in the fall is the best time. It gives the grass important nutrients to help it stay strong and healthy through the winter.



Shop.  
Dine.  
Play.  
Stay.

LOCALLY

...and support the community you live in!