

Free

Area Guide



Jo Daviess & Stephenson Counties, Illinois

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



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Jo Daviess County



Stephenson County



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LOCAL AREA EVENTS

JANUARY

New Year's Eve Celebration | Galena

FEBRUARY

Chocolate Lovers Stroll | Galena
Eagle Ridge Winter Carnival | Galena

MARCH

Whiskey Weekend | Galena
St. Patrick's Shamrock Shimmy & Parade | Galena
Haunted Galena Conference

APRIL

Pretzel Fest | Freeport
Stephenson County Fiber Art Fair | Cedarville, Freeport
Booster Club Auction | East Dubuque
Rummage & Bake Sale | Cedarville
Spring Fling | Elizabeth
General Grant's Home Front Reenactment | Galena

MAY

City-Wide Garage Sales | East Dubuque
Memorial Day Parade | East Dubuque
Ride the Ups and Downs | Elizabeth
Spring Chicken 5K | Freeport
Memorial Day Parade & Picnic | Freeport
Maifest | Galena
Galena Sky Trail Race
Cruisin Thursdays (May-Sept) | East Dubuque
Live at the Plaza (May-Sept, last Thursday) | Galena
Galena Farmers Market (May-Oct, Saturdays)
Hanover Farmers Market (May-Oct)
Elizabeth Farmers Market (May-Oct)

JUNE

Great Galena Balloon Race & Ale Fest | Galena
Taste of Lena | Lena
City-Wide Garage Sales | Stockton
Pride Picnic | Galena
Shenandoah Pro Rodeo & Fireworks | Galena
Juneteenth Celebration | East Dubuque
Battle of the Apple River Fort | Elizabeth
Corkless in Galena

JULY

4th of July Celebration | East Dubuque
Stephenson County Fair | Freeport
Galena Independence Day Celebration
Star-Spangled Shenandoah Pro Rodeo | Galena
German Valley Days | German Valley
Elizabeth Freedom Fest
Stockton Independence Day Celebration
Galena Brew Fest
Tutty Baker Fest | Freeport

AUGUST

East Dubuque Wingfest | East Dubuque
Threshing & Antique Show | Freeport
Sidewalk Sale Days | Galena
Antique Tractor Drive | Stockton
Willow Folk Festival | Stockton
Brats, Beer & Blues Fest | Freeport

SEPTEMBER

Mallardfest | Hanover
Lions Fall Festival & 5K Run/Walk | Lena
Historic Cemetery Walk | Galena
Riverview Duck Derby | Galena
Warren Pumpkin Festival
Galena Cellars Harvest Festival
Massbach Stomp | Elizabeth

OCTOBER

Scarecrow Festival | Elizabeth
Trick or Treat | East Dubuque
Train of Terror | Freeport
Galena Country Fair | Galena
Fall Art Show | Galena
The Haunted Old Mill | Orangeville
Galena Oktoberfest | Galena
The Other Side of the Anvil | Galena
Halloween Parade | Galena
Autumn Craft Fair | Elizabeth

NOVEMBER

Santa at the Firehouse | East Dubuque
Jewelry, Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show | Freeport
Veterans Day Ceremony | Freeport
Christmas on the Farm | Freeport
Nouveau Wine Weekend & Parade | Galena
Thanksgiving Dinner | East Dubuque
Cookie Walk | Freeport
Tree Lighting & Living Windows | Stockton
Galena Holiday Kickoff
Night of the Luminaria & Living Windows | Galena
Trunk or Treat | East Dubuque
Annual Nouveau Parade & Celebration | Galena

DECEMBER

RC Modelers Annual Swap Meet | Cedarville
Christmas at The Fort | Elizabeth
Ugly Sweater Food Tour | Galena
Tree Lighting Ceremony | East Dubuque
Santa's Workshop | East Dubuque
Christmas in Elizabeth
Galena Holidaze Festival
Holiday Fire in the Sky | Galena

**Events are subject to change.*

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Emergency Management	599-0344
Health	235-8271
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Probation	235-8282
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Jo Daviess County History



Jo Daviess County was established in 1827 and its boundaries once spanned Illinois, including Carroll, Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, LaSalle, Rock Island, Henry, Bureau, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties. It was named in honor of Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daveiss who led troops during the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, and a clerical error led to its present spelling. The area was originally home to Sac and Fox Indians and settlers were attracted to the ample lead deposits and access to the Galena River. Galena was selected as the county seat and communities were established. By 1900 the population of Jo Daviess County had reached 24,533 and the area has continued to prosper. Today Jo Daviess County is home to approximately 22,188 residents.

APPLE RIVER – pop. 359

EAST DUBUQUE – pop. 1,921

ELIZABETH – pop. 650

GALENA (COUNTY SEAT) – pop. 3,333

HANOVER – pop. 793

MENOMINEE – pop. 205

NORA – pop. 113

SCALES MOUND – pop. 381

STOCKTON – pop. 1,797

WARREN – pop. 1,370

**Populations are approximate.*

Jo Daviess County Communities

EAST DUBUQUE

East Dubuque was first known as Dunleith as it was settled in 1832. Railroad development allowed for growth and the community was renamed in 1877 after Dubuque, Iowa. Businesses were established and the area began to grow. During Prohibition, East Dubuque was widely recognized as “Sin City” due to the high number of speakeasies and bootleggers. As Prohibition ended, the area became known for its well preserved Indian mounds in Gramercy Park. Today East Dubuque is home to approximately 1,921 residents.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth was settled in 1825 as the area attracted lead miners. The community housed the Apple River Fort which defended the residents from Indian attacks of the Black Hawk War in 1832. After the war the community was platted in 1839 by Charles Bennett. In 1868 Elizabeth was incorporated and railroad expansion in 1888 prompted growth. As lead mining began to decline, residents began farming. The Apple River Fort has since been restored and offers visitors a glimpse into the history and early struggles of the community. Today Elizabeth is home to approximately 650 residents.

GALENA (COUNTY SEAT)

Galena began as a quaint mining town whose name means lead sulfide. The community was organized in 1826 and its proximity to the Mississippi River and the Galena Trail attracted many residents. Its population exploded from 200 to 10,000 by 1828 as it produced over 80 percent of the country's lead. The community was selected as the county seat and by 1850 its population reached over 14,000. As mineral deposits began to deplete, industry was succeeded by agriculture. The community is now recognized for its well preserved historic buildings, including the home of General Ulysses S. Grant. Today Galena is home to approximately 3,333 residents.

HANOVER

Hanover was established on a former Indian village and was first recognized as Craigsville, then Wapello until it was finally incorporated as Hanover in 1877. Early industry was led by milling and lumbering and as rail lines were constructed, the area began to grow. Hanover is now widely recognized as the Mallard Capital of the World as it houses the largest duck hatchery in the country, Whistling Wings. Today Hanover is home to approximately 793 residents.

STOCKTON

Stockton was established as a railway village in 1887 and incorporated in 1890. Early industry was led by agriculture as many residents farmed hogs and cattle. By 1900 the area boasted mills, grain elevators, churches, a fire department, grocery store, school, barbershop, hotel, veterinary service, newspaper office, pharmacy and a variety of specialty shops. Today Stockton is home to approximately 1,797 residents.

WARREN

Warren was established by Alexander Burnett in 1843 and streets were platted in 1853. The community was incorporated in 1857 and railroad development prompted growth allowing the development of businesses, churches and schools. Angela Rose Canfield, who served as mayor of Warren from 1916 to 1920, was the first female mayor elected to office in Illinois. Today Warren is home to approximately 1,370 residents.

Stephenson County History



Stephenson County was established in 1837 from part of Jo Daviess and Winnebago Counties and was originally home to the Sac and the Fox Indians. It was named in honor of Colonel Benjamin Stephenson who served in the Illinois Militia and made his claim to fame in the War of 1812. Settlers were attracted to the rich soil and communities were founded near the Pecatonica River. Freeport was selected as the county seat and as the area developed Stephenson County became recognized for the location of one of the senate debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in Freeport. By 1900 the population of Stephenson County had reached 34,933 and the area continued to develop. Today Stephenson County is home to approximately 46,367 residents.

CEDARVILLE – pop. 683

DAKOTA – pop. 471

DAVIS – pop. 625

FREEPORT (COUNTY SEAT) – pop. 24,615

GERMAN VALLEY – pop. 450

LAKE SUMMERSET – pop. 2,061

LENA – pop. 2,786

ORANGEVILLE – pop. 759

PEARL CITY – pop. 771

RIDOTT – pop. 147

ROCK CITY – pop. 313

WINSLOW – pop. 326

**Populations are approximate.*

Stephenson County Communities

CEDARVILLE

Settled in 1837, Cedarville was platted in 1849 by George Ilgen and Marcus Montelius. George Reitzell served as the area's first postmaster and by 1858 its population reached 500. Early businesses included mills, carriage shops, factories and an assortment of specialty shops. Cedarville is now widely recognized as the birthplace of Jane Addams, social activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner and co-founder of the Hull House in Chicago. Today Cedarville is home to approximately 683 residents.

FREEPORT (COUNTY SEAT)

First recognized as Winneshiek, Freeport was settled in 1827 by German immigrants. William "Tutty" Baker is credited as being its founder and his free ferry service led to the name "Freeport." Its location along the stagecoach line to Chicago attracted many residents and the community grew dramatically. Freeport was selected as the county seat and by 1853 businesses were thriving and the community boasted a population over 2,000. Today Freeport is home to approximately 24,615 residents.

LENA

Lena was surveyed and established as a railway village in 1853. As the railway expanded, the community grew dramatically and by 1867 businesses included general stores, a grocery store, lumberyard, blacksmith, post office, newspaper office, churches and a variety of specialty shops. By 1870 its population had reached 1,295 and the area continued to thrive. Today Lena is home to approximately 2,786 residents.

ORANGEVILLE

Orangeville was founded in 1845 by John Bowers and the area was first recognized as Bowersville. Streets were platted in 1850 and early businesses included mills, hotels, banks, churches, a creamery, general store and a variety of specialty shops. In 1867 Orangeville was incorporated and the community grew slowly until the expansion of the railroad in 1887. Today Orangeville is home to approximately 759 residents.

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INGREDIENTS

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1/2 cup honey
1/4 cup soy sauce
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
2 garlic cloves, minced
Salt and pepper to taste

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

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**Some locations have seasonal hours, be sure to call ahead.*



HUNTING SEASONS

**Dates are subject to change please contact your local DNR office for specific hunting and trapping zone regulations. For general information on firearm safety training call: 1 (888) 936-7463.*

DEER

First Firearm Deer Season: November 22, 23 & 24, 2024

Second Firearm Deer Season: December 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2024

Youth Firearm: 12-14 Oct 2024

Muzzleloader-Only Deer Season: December 13, 14 & 15, 2024 - Hunters may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloading rifle during Second Firearm Season December 5 - 8, 2024



Archery

(Counties with a firearm season and west of Route 47 in Kane County)
1 Oct-21 Nov and 25 Nov-4 Dec 2024 and
9 Dec 2024-19 Jan 2025

Archery

(Cook, DuPage, Lake and Kane
[east of route 47] Counties)
1 Oct 2024-19 Jan 2025

DUCK

North Zone - 2025: Oct 18 -Dec 16

Central Zone - 2025: Oct 25 -Dec 23

South Central Zone - 2025: Nov 15-13

South Zone - 2025: Nov 29 -Jan 27

Teal Season - 2025: Sept 6 -Sept 21

TURKEY

2025 Youth Spring Turkey Season
March 29 & 30 and April 5 & 6, 2025

2025 Spring Turkey Hunting
South Zone Hunting Seasons

1st Season	April 7 - April 11
2nd Season	April 12 - April 17
3rd Season	April 18 - April 23
4th Season	April 24 - April 30
5th Season	May 1 - May 8

North Zone Hunting Seasons

1st Season	April 14 - April 18
2nd Season	April 19 - April 24
3rd Season	April 25 - April 30
4th Season	May 1 - May 7
5th Season	May 8 - May 15

Fall
(shotgun)
19-27 Oct 2024

Fall
(archery)
1 Oct 2024-19 Jan 2025

PHEASANTS

(roosters only)
North Zone
2 Nov 2024 - 8 Jan 2025
South Zone
2 Nov 2024 - 15 Jan 2025

For more Information go to:
www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Pages/default.aspx
or scan the QR code.



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You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses, cross-country ski passes and snowmobile trail stickers through the Electronic License System. Online: www.dnr.illinois.gov, by phone: (217) 782-2965 or visit one of the available ELS agents:

FREEPORT, IL

FREEPORT FARM & FLEET

1755 Southwest Ave. | Freeport, IL | (815) 235-5140

WALMART #1740

2545 IL Route 26 S | Freeport, IL | (815) 232-8120

GALENA, IL

WALMART (#5044)

10000 Bartell Dr. | Galena, IL | (815) 777-0507

LENA, IL

SULLIVANS FOODS

201 Dodds Dr. | Lena, IL | (815) 369-2311

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PEARL CITY, IL

PEARL CITY BOCO

100 N Main St. | Pearl City, IL

SCALES MOUND, IL

REMM OUTDOORS

910 Jackson St. | Scales Mound, IL | (608) 778-1699

STOCKTON, IL

STOCKTON HARDWARE

116 N Main St. | Stockton, IL | (815) 947-3711

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STAGECOACH FS

160 E Main St. | Warren, IL | (815) 745-3400

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FIREWOOD

Burn it where you get it!



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!



ICE SAFETY GUIDELINES:



Did you know?

- Ice always forms unevenly. It can be 2 feet thick in one spot, and just a few inches thick a couple feet away.
- The most dangerous ice is formed over flowing water. It's especially dangerous near streams, culverts and bridges. Also, the faster the water is running, usually means the weaker the ice will be.
- Snow insulates the ice and slows the freezing process. The added weight of the snow reduces the strength of the ice. Also, ice that is closer to shore is usually weaker than ice farther out.
- Cracking and rumbling ice isn't always bad. The ice expands and contracts as the temperature rises and falls.
- Fish and birds/wildlife can also effect the ice. Schools of fish can bring warm water from the bottom of lakes, and open holes in seemingly thick ice.
- **ALWAYS BE CAUTIOUS WHEN YOU ARE ON ICE!**



SPORT FISHING LICENSE FEES

CURRENT FEES (Fees subject to change)

(INCLUDES AGENT'S FEES):

Resident sport fishing; annual.....	\$15.00*
Resident sport fishing;	
65 years old and over.....	\$7.75
75 years old and over.....	\$1.50
Resident and non-resident sport fishing; under 16 years of age.....	NONE NEEDED
Resident sport fishing; disabled, blind...NONE NEEDED	
Resident sport fishing 24-hour license.....	\$5.50
(does not include salmon or trout fishing privileges)	
Non-resident sport fishing 24-hour license.....	\$10.50
(does not include salmon or trout fishing privileges)	
Non-resident sport fishing (3 days).....	\$15.50
Non-resident sport fishing (annual).....	\$31.50
Resident Sportsmen's License	
(combined hunting and fishing licenses).....	\$26.25*

Resident Senior Sportsmen's License	
(combined hunting and fishing licenses; 65 years old and over).....	\$13.50
Lake Michigan Salmon Stamp	
(Licensed sport fishermen only).....	\$6.50
Resident; 75 years and over.....	\$0.50
Inland Trout Stamp (all waters except Lake Michigan)	
(Licensed sport fishermen only).....	\$6.50
Resident; 75 years and over.....	\$0.50
Resident lifetime sport fishing.....	\$435.00
Resident lifetime combined	
(hunting and fishing).....	\$765.00

*Check the IL DNR website for updates.
<https://ifishillinois.org/>
 or scan the QR code



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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.

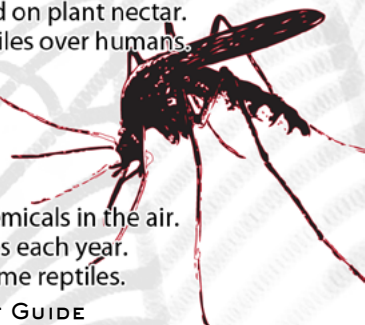
Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- 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

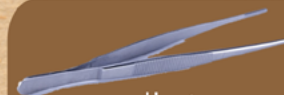
Diseases & Prevention

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!



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

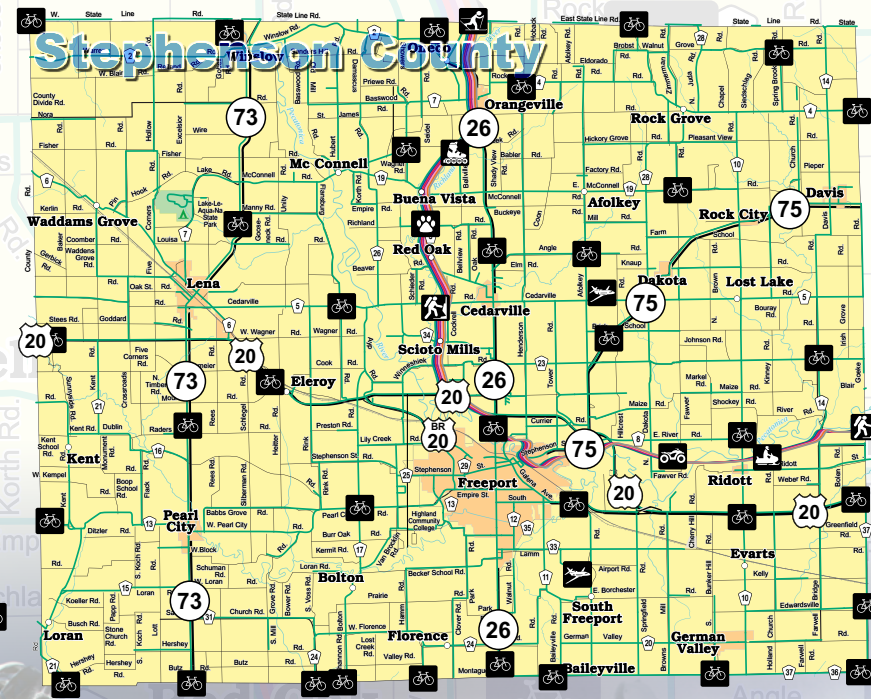
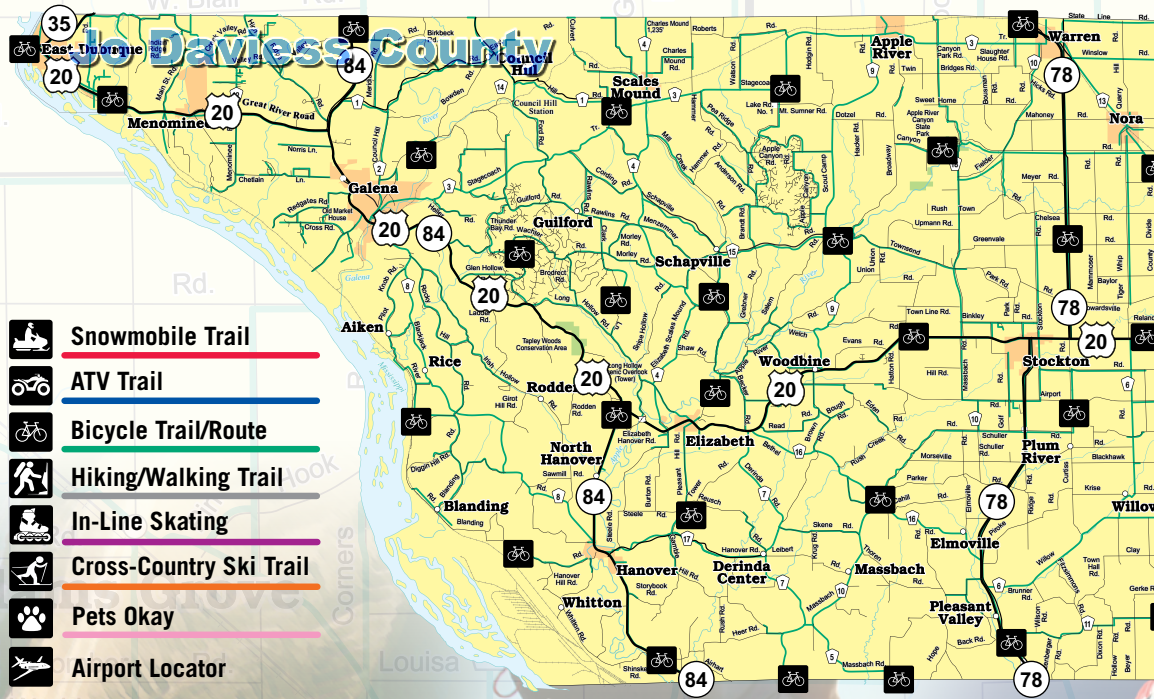
Communication is an essential part of safe riding. Hand signals are a practical way to communicate between other riders and traffic. Be sure to give easy to see and clear hand signals when snowmobiling. Hand signals should never be subtle, but always deliberate.



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.

LOCAL AREA TRAILS



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



Hiking Safety Tips

Before heading out on a hike, make sure you are prepared. Determine the length of the hike you're going on and the type of terrain you are going to traverse. Make sure to wear suitable footwear depending on the weather and terrain. Pack an appropriate size backpack and proper gear for your hike. Let a friend or family member know when and where you are going and how long you plan on being gone.



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

FRIENDS FOREVER HUMANE SOCIETY DOG PARK

966 W Rudy Rd, Freeport
(815)-232-6164

GALENA DOG PARK

503 Louieville Court, Galena
(815) 777-1050



GO GREEN



Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle

reduce waste, reuse materials & recycle properly



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



EVERY
DAY
is
EARTH
DAY

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.



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.

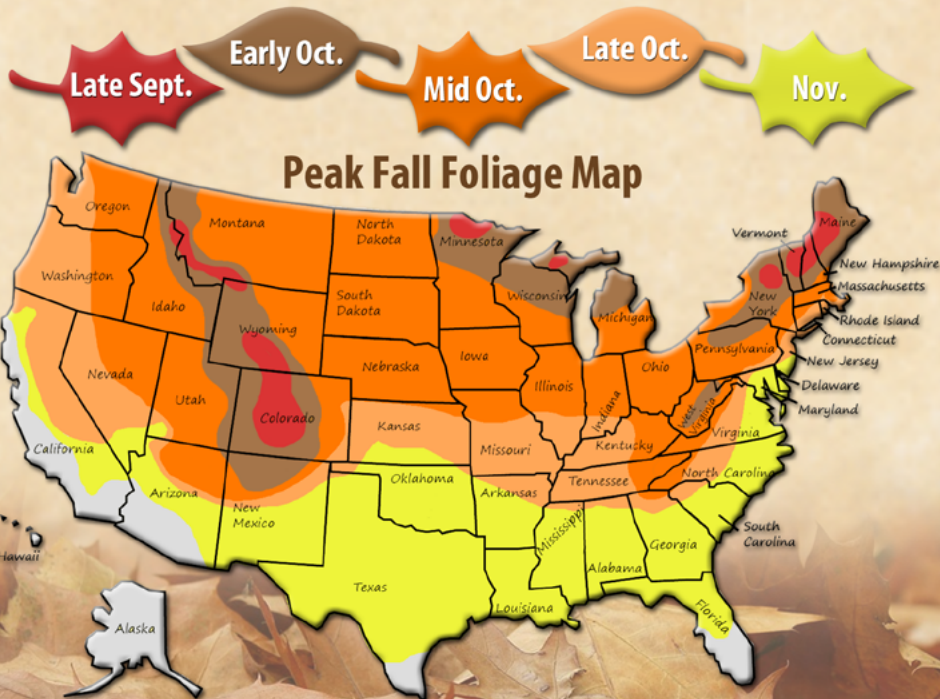
Overall, being in nature offers a multitude of benefits for both physical and mental well-being, making it essential for maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

Autumn Foliage



In the spring and summer tree leaves are green, producing nutrients for the tree. The green color comes from cells in the leaves containing chlorophyll. Chlorophyll absorbs sunlight for energy to transform carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates.

In the fall, shortening days and cooling temperatures makes the leaves stop producing nutrients. The chlorophyll starts to break down and the green color disappears. The different colors of each tree and tree type are due to the mixing of varying amounts of the chlorophyll residue and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.



Shop.
Dine.
Play.
Stay.

LOCALLY

...and support the community you live in!