



# 2024 Tour of Minnesota

## Optional Dining Venues, Services and Attractions For a Few Cities

Below is a partial list of services available in cities with camping and a few places along the route. Hyperlinks to websites are embedded in the name of each facility—ctrl-click to follow each hyperlink. On a phone, the document is best read in landscape mode.

Services include:

- Dining options: Most listed are restaurants. If you prefer a fast-food venue, they are easily found using Google Maps.
- Bike equipment shops: Limited repairs are available through the Tour—please have your bike tuned up before the Tour. Not all camping cities have bike shops.
- Emergency medical services: Tour staff may only offer basic first aid. Trip insurance is highly recommended. TH nearest emergency room is listed for each camping city.
- Attractions: Most attractions require an entry fee. Check websites for current fees.
- Laundromats.

Caveats:

- The listings are informational only, are not exhaustive and are not recommendations based on personal experience of the author. They are based on information from Google Maps or local contacts.
- Days and hours of operation may have changed since this document was finalized in late May.
- Unless otherwise noted, all distances within each city are measured by biking from camping and are approximate.

It is recommended that you carry a smart phone to map routes and check for updates, including dining specials and happy hour options.

## Contents

<b>Cannon Falls</b> .....	2
<b>Out &amp; Back-- Red Wing (Day 1)</b> .....	3
<b>New Prague</b> .....	4
<b>Waconia</b> .....	5
<b>On the Route--Minneapolis (Day 5)</b> .....	6
<b>Stillwater</b> .....	7
<b>Hastings</b> .....	8
<b>Appendix 1: Tour of Minnesota Detailed Itinerary 2024</b> .....	9
<b>Appendix 2: History—Cities With Camping</b> .....	10

## Cannon Falls

Arrive Saturday June 15, depart Monday June 17; arrive end of ride on Saturday June 22.

Distances measured by bike, rounded to the half mile

### [Discover Cannon Falls 2024](#)

### [Discover Historic Downtown Cannon Falls](#)

**Camping:** Cannon Valley Fair, 800 N 9th St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

### **Bike equipment shops:**

None in Cannon Falls. In Red Wing, [Red Wing Bicycle Company](#), 405 W 3rd St, 30 minutes by car.

### **Laundromat**

[Five Star Coin Laundry](#) 310 Main St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-322-4744 Daily 5AM-10PM

### **Dining:**

[Brewster's Bar & Grill](#) 115 4th St S, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-5020 Sat 11AM-2AM; Sun Noon-12AM

[Mill Street Tavern](#) 410 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-9429 Sat 11AM-8PM; Sun closed

[Nick's Downtown Diner](#) 331 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-0003 Sat & Sun 8AM-2PM

[CannonBelles Coffee & Ice Cream](#) 402 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-757-1155 Sat 7AM-5PM; Sun 11AM-5PM

[Dudley's Pizza & Sandwich Shop](#) 320 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-4000 Sat 11AM-12AM; Sun 11AM-10PM

[Family Fare Supermarket](#) 425 Main St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-3643 Sat & Sun 6AM-10PM

[Rancho Loco Grill & Bar](#) 31303 64th Ave Path, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 2 miles  
507-263-2307 Sat 11AM-10PM; Sun 11 AM-9PM

### **Medical:**

[Mayo Clinic Health System](#) 32021 County Road 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls, MN 55009 3 miles  
507-263-6000 Open 24 hours

### **Attractions:**

[Cannon Valley Winery](#) 421 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-7400 Sat Noon-9PM; Sun Noon – 6PM

[Tilion Brewing Company](#) 432 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-4497 Sat Noon-9PM; Sun Noon-6PM

[Cannon Falls Area Historical Society & Museum](#) 206 W Mill St Cannon Falls, MN 55009 1 mile  
507-263-4080 Sat 10AM-2PM; Sun closed

Housed in the 1888 Cannon Falls Fire Hall. The Italianate building is one of the nation's oldest surviving fire halls and is listed on the National Historic Register. The museum includes a 1920 school room and a host of photos, memorabilia, and artifacts from the area's past.

[Cannon Falls Murals](#) five large murals in various locations throughout the city

## Out & Back-- Red Wing (Day 1)

It is suggested that you use a map app and biking directions from your location along the trail to a specific location to help avoid busy roads. MM and directions inbound to Red Wing

### RED WING

City/Mile Marker (MM)	Type	Name/Address	Notes
MM19.6	Restaurant	<a href="#">Applebee's</a> 11AM-10PM 156 Tyler Rd N, Red Wing, MN	Exit south (right) on Tyler Rd No, then right into Mall parking lot
MM19.8	Restaurant	<a href="#">Fiesta Mexicana</a> Sun 11AM-9PM 2918 N Service Dr, Red Wing, MN	Exit south (right) on Danforth Ave, 2 blocks to N Service Rd, east (left) 2 blocks restaurant
MM20.8	Museum	<a href="#">Pottery Museum of Red Wing</a> Sun 11AM-4PM 240 Harrison St, Red Wing, MN Dedicated to Red Wing's pottery history	Instead of turning north (left) on Withers Harbor Drive, continue one block east on Old Main St, turn south (right) into Pottery Place Historic Center. The museum is at the southeast end of the parking lot.
MM21.7	Restaurant	<a href="#">Bayside Saloon &amp; Grill</a> Sun Noon-10PM 1516 Old W Main St, Red Wing, MN	Exit south (right) on Jackson St 2 blocks, west (left) on Old W Main St ~1 block
MM21.7	Restaurant	<a href="#">Kelly's Tap House Bar and Grill</a> Sun 10AM-11PM 1530 Old W Main St, Red Wing, MN	Exit south (right) on Jackson St 2 blocks, west (left) on Old W Main St ~1 block
MM 22.3	Restaurant	<a href="#">The Mac Shack &amp; Specialties</a> Sun 11AM-7PM 930 Main St, Red Wing, MN	Exit west (right) on Hwy 61 for four blocks. To return to route, take care crossing Hwy 61.
MM22.2	Museum	<a href="#">Red Wing Shoe Museum</a> Sun 11AM-5PM 315 Main St, Red Wing, MN	After trail turns south (right) onto Broad Street, in two blocks turn northeast (left) onto Levee St, go one block to Bush St, turn southeast (right) one block to Hwy 61. The store is one block northeast (left) – museum is located in the shoe store.
MM22.3	Supermarket	<a href="#">Family Fare</a> Sun 6AM-10PM 615 Main St, Red Wing, MN	Just south of intersection of Hwy 61 (Main St) and West Avenue
MM22.4	Restaurant	<a href="#">Liberty's Restaurant &amp; Lounge</a> Sun 8AM-10PM 303 W 3rd St, Red Wing, MN	Exit northeast (left) on W 3 <sup>rd</sup> St 2 blocks to restaurant (just before Hiawatha Pioneer Trail)
MM23.0	Restaurant	<a href="#">Andy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill</a> Sun 11AM-12AM 529 Plum St, Red Wing, MN 55066	Plum St is also Hiawatha Pioneer Trail Exit north (left) on Hiawatha Pioneer Trail for two blocks

## New Prague

Arrive Monday June 17, depart Tuesday June 18

Distances measured by bike, rounded to the half mile

### [Visit New Prague](#)

**Camping:** New Prague High School, 221 12th St NE, New Prague, MN 56071

### **Bike equipment shop:**

[Ron's Cycle Shop](#) 26109 Helena Blvd, New Prague, MN 56071 1.5 miles  
952-758-4673 Mon 8AM-4PM Call as it is not clear what services are offered

### **Laundromat**

[Soak Laundromat](#) 314 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071 1.5 miles  
612-205-0941 Mon 5AM-11PM

### **Dining:**

[1319 Woodfire Tavern](#) 125 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071 1.5 miles  
952-758-3333 Mon 11AM-9PM

[The Local 105](#) 105 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071 1.5 miles  
952-758-7687 Mon 11AM-9PM

[Fishtail Grill](#) 200 Co Rd 37, New Prague, MN 56071 2 miles  
952-758-8000 Mon 11AM-8:30PM

[Hy-Vee Groceries](#) 200 Tenth Ave SE, New Prague, MN 56071 2 miles  
952-758-2790 Mon 6AM-10PM

### **Medical:**

[Mayo Clinic Health System](#) 301 2nd St NE, New Prague, MN 56071 1.0 mile  
952-356-1591 Open 24 hours

## Waconia

Arrive Tuesday June 18, depart Thursday June 20

Distances measured by bike, rounded to the half mile

### Destination Waconia

**Camping:** Waconia Middle School, 1400 Community Dr, Waconia, MN 55387

### Bike equipment shops

No repair shops in Waconia or nearby. Target (875 Main St, 3 miles) may have some accessories.

### Laundromat

**Waconia Dry Cleaning and Laundry** 712B Vista Blvd, Waconia, MN 55387 3 miles  
952-442-3250 Tues&Wed 8AM-7PM Wash/fold/dry apparently not self service

**Mark's Laundromat** 4101 Main Street, St. Bonifacius (inferred street address) 8 miles  
952-446-9378 Tues&Wed 7:30AM-10:30PM

### Dining:

Many fast-food options are about one mile or so east of the middle school on Highway 5.

**Mocha Monkey** 641 Marketplace Dr, Waconia, MN 55387 1 mile  
952-442-0452 Tues&Wed 5:30AM-6PM

**Unhinged! Pizza** 801 Marketplace Dr, Waconia, MN 55387 1 mile  
952-442-2030 Tues&Wed 3-8PM—call for hours as website is unclear

**Mackenthun's Fine Foods** 851 Marketplace Dr, Waconia, MN 55387 1 mile  
952-442-2512 Tues&Wed 6AM-10PM

**Bode Gray's** 125 W 1st St, Waconia, MN 55387 2 miles  
952-444-0795 Tues&Wed 4PM-9PM

**D'Vinci's Restaurant** 540 S Elm St, Waconia, MN 55387 2 miles  
952-442-2171 Tues&Wed 11AM-9:30PM

**Hoppers Bar & Grill** 119 S Olive St, Waconia, MN 55387 2 miles  
952-442-1149 Tues&Wed 10AM-10PM

**Pangea Cafe** 37 W 1st St, Waconia, MN 55387 2 miles  
952-300-8604 Tues&Wed 8AM-2PM

**Egg-Cetera** 241 E Frontage Rd, Waconia, MN 55387 2 miles  
952-442-5441 Tues closed; Wed 8AM-1PM

**Lola's Lake House** 318 E Lake St, Waconia, MN 55387 2.5 miles  
952-442-4954 Tues&Wed 11AM-9PM

### Medical:

**Ridgeview Medical Center** 500 S Maple St, Waconia, MN 55387 1.5 miles  
952-442-2191 Open 24 hours

### Attractions:

**Carver County Historical Society** 555 West 1st Street Waconia MN 55387 2 miles  
952-442-4234 Tues&Wed 9AM-4:30PM

**Waconia Brewing Company** 255 W Main St, Waconia, MN 55387 2 miles  
612-888-2739 Tues&Wed 2-9PM

**Schram Vineyards Winery & Brewery** 8785 Airport Rd, Waconia, MN 55387 4 miles  
952-442-5105 Tues&Wed 2-8PM

## On the Route--Minneapolis (Day 5)

Be on the lookout for attractions in Minneapolis.

The route goes through (MM33.5) the (free) sculpture garden at the Walker Art Center—lock your bike if you stop and watch out for the many visitors on the shared path.

See [Minneapolis Riverfront History](#) for several ideas and some interesting history. The folks at the Visitor Center located on Nicollet Mall listed in the guide (MM35.1) are very helpful but again remember to lock your bike.

Both the Mill City Museum and Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam are close to the route and should be open. Note that you cannot currently cross the Stone Arch Bridge due to construction.

There are public bathrooms in the Minneapolis Public Library (MM35.2).

Bathrooms in the Loring Park Community Center (south of MM34.1) can be accessed using internal park trails.

And Westminster Presbyterian Church is a lovely facility that welcomes visitors, corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Nicollet at the turn. By the time of our ride, the Peavey Plaza public restroom (green building on 12<sup>th</sup> just past the Nicollet turn) should be open.

Restroom facilities are often available at one of the many parks along the way as well as trailheads with parking.

## Stillwater

Arrive Thursday June 20, depart Friday June 21

Distances measured by bike, rounded to the half mile

### [Official Stillwater Visitor Guide](#)

**Camping:** Stillwater Middle School, 523 Marsh St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

### **Bike equipment shops**

[Chilkoot Cyclery](#) 826 4th St S, Stillwater, MN 55082 0.5 miles  
651-342-1048 Thur 10AM-6PM

### **Laundromat**

**SCC Laundromat** 5845 Neal Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082 3 miles  
651-237-4956 Thur 6AM-11PM Part of St. Croix Cleaners?

**Dining:** There are dozens of restaurants downtown and south of downtown, closest to camping listed

[Meister's Bar & Grill](#) 901 4th St S, Stillwater, MN 55082 0.5 miles  
651-439-9860 Thur 11AM-11PM

[Joseph's Family Restaurant](#) 14608 60th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082 1 mile  
651-439-3336 Thur 8AM-9PM

[Devil's Advocate Stillwater](#) 14200 60th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082 1.5 miles  
651-342-1462 Thur 11AM-10PM

### **Medical:**

[Lakeview Hospital](#) 927 Churchill St W, Stillwater, MN 55082 1 mile  
651-439-5330 Open 24 hours

### **Attractions:**

[Washington County Heritage Center](#) 1862 Greeley St S, Stillwater, MN 55082 1 mile  
651-439-2298 Thur 10AM-4PM

[Lift Bridge Brewing](#) 1900 Tower Dr W, Stillwater, MN 55082 2 miles  
888-430-2337 Thur 2 PM – 9 PM Food via food trucks

## Hastings

Arrive Friday June 21, depart Saturday June 22

Distances measured by bike, rounded to the half mile

### [Hastings Official Visitor Guide](#)

**Camping:** Hastings Middle School, 1000 11th St W, Hastings, MN 55033

### **Bike equipment shops**

Nothing with posted hours

### **Laundromat**

[Spin City Coin Laundry](#) 1610 Vermillion St, Hastings, MN 55033 1 mile  
651-437-4947 Fri: 4AM-12AM

### **Dining:**

[Pub 55](#) 880 Bahls Dr, Hastings, MN 55033 .5 mile  
651-437-1123 Fri 11:30AM-1AM

[Hastings Bierstube](#) 109 11th St W, Hastings, MN 55033 1 mile  
651-437-8259 Fri 11AM-2AM

[Perkins](#) 1206 Vermillion St, Hastings, MN 55033  
651-318-0211 Fri 6AM-12AM

### **Located in/near the Historic Downtown**

[The Busted Nut Bar & Grill](#) 118 2nd Street East, Hastings MN 1.5 miles  
651-438-6887 Fri 11 AM-1 AM

[Lock & Dam Eatery](#) 101 2nd St E, Hastings MN 1.5 miles  
651-319-0906 Fri 11AM-9PM

[Missi's Sip & Savor](#) 200 2nd Street West, Hastings, MN 55033 (in the Confluence Hotel) 1.5 miles  
651-432-0202 Fri 7AM-2PM, 5PM-9PM

### **Medical:**

[United Hospital – Hastings Regina Campus](#) Emergency, 1175 Nininger Rd, Hastings, MN 1.5 miles  
651-404-1000 Fri Open 24 hours

### **Attractions:**

[Hastings Water Park](#) 901 Maple St, Hastings, MN 55033 0.5 mile  
651-480-2385 Fri Noon-7PM

[Spiral Brewery](#) 111 2nd St E, Hastings MN 1.5 miles  
651-212-7160 Fri Noon-11PM

[Vermillion River Walking Tour](#) 1.5 miles

Self-Guided, just blocks from the LeDuc Estate. You will learn how the Vermillion River and the milling industry shaped Hastings while taking in the natural beauty of the river & breathtaking falls.

The [LeDuc Historic Estate](#) is one of the last remaining examples of Gothic Revival residential architecture in the United States. [Guided tours](#) are available.

[Alexis Bailey Vineyard](#) 18200 Kirby Ave S, Hastings, MN 55033 6 miles  
651-437-1413 Fri Noon-6PM



# Appendix 1: Tour of Minnesota Detailed Itinerary 2024

(subject to change) updated May 15, 2024

**June 15 DAY #0 (Saturday) Cannon Valley Fair** (800 N 9th St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009)

Check-in (3:30-5:30 p.m.)

Welcome & Safety meeting in the school (**7 p.m.**)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Cannon Valley Fair (800 N 9th St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009)

**June 16 DAY #1 (Sunday) Red Wing out and back loop** (~21, 44 or 49-mile options)

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: (~mile 10.7) Trail Head (Welch)

Rest stop #2: Trail Head (Welch) on your way back

Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Cannon Valley Fair (800 N 9th St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009)

Dinner: at campsite

**June 17 DAY #2 (Monday) Cannon Falls to New Prague** (~46 or 64 miles)

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: (~mile 17.4) Sechler Park (Northfield)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 32.7) White Sands Park (Faribault)

Lunch: (~mile 33/51) Trcka Park (Lonsdale)

Camping: New Prague High School (221 12th St NE, New Prague, MN 56071)

Dinner: at campsite (cafeteria)

**June 18 DAY #3 (Tuesday) New Prague to Waconia** (~31 or 51 miles)

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 13) Court Square Park (Belle Plaine)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 30) Legion Park (Norwood Young America)

Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Waconia Middle School (1400 Community Dr, Waconia, MN 55387)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

**June 19 DAY #4 (Wednesday) REST DAY IN WACONIA** (0 scheduled miles)

Breakfast: **ON YOUR OWN**

Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Waconia Middle School (1400 Community Dr, Waconia, MN 55387)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

**June 20 DAY #5 (Thursday) Waconia to Stillwater** (~64 miles)

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 21) Wayzata boardwalk (Wayzata)

Lunch: (~mile 42) Como Park (St. Paul)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 513) Rotary Park (North St. Paul)

Camping: Stillwater Middle School, 523 Marsh St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Dinner: at campsite (school gym)

**June 21 DAY #6 (Friday) Stillwater to Hastings** (~57 miles)

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 16) Town Square Park (Afton)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 34) Rock Island Swing Bridge (Inver Grove Heights)

Lunch: (~mile 56) Rotary Park (Hastings)

Camping: Hastings Middle School, 1000 11th St W, Hastings, MN 55033

Dinner: at campsite (school cafeteria)

**June 22 DAY #7 (Saturday) Hastings to Cannon Falls** (~28 miles)

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 17) Trail Head (Welch)

Return to the Cannon Falls High School (Cannon Falls)

**Good job! Safe travels!**

1-2 DAY SAMPLER OPTION SCHEDULE (for Sunday, June 16 and Monday, June 17)

Day #1 (Sunday, June 16) is an out and back route with two distance options for you. You can bike (one way) 10 miles to Welch or 22-24 miles to Red Wing before turning around and biking back to camp in Cannon Falls.

Day #2 (Monday, June 17), you will ride with the group 17 miles out to Northfield to Rest Stop 1, before reversing the route back to Cannon Falls. The weeklong riders will continue on from Northfield towards New Prague. One of our SAG vehicle drivers will be waiting for you back in Cannon Falls with lunch and to see you on your way!

## Appendix 2: History—Cities With Camping

### Cannon Falls

*From the Cannon Falls Chamber of Commerce website:*

#### **Cannon Falls Area Heritage--How Cannon Falls Got Its Name:**

In historic times, Native Americans and traders frequently hid their canoes near the river's mouth, away from the heavily traveled Mississippi River, because of this the French Fur Traders named the stream "Riviere aux Canots" or River of Canoes. Easterners hearing the French pronounce "canots" thought they were saying Cannon, and the Cannon River it became. Zebulon Pike mentions the Cannon River in his journals. Our town is named after the river and the falls, a natural cascade located along the Little Cannon River. In 1853, father and son, Richard & William Freeborn traced the Cannon River upstream to its falls. The two explorers kept their find a secret until they could return a year later to stake a claim. The city was settled in 1854. It is the only city in the world named Cannon Falls.

Cannon Falls has a wealth of buildings on the Historic Register. In 2000, 29 buildings in the downtown commercial district of Cannon Falls were put on the National Register of Historic Places. The district is an excellent example of a small Midwestern agricultural service community with most of the buildings constructed in a period from 1880-1915.

For a more detailed history, see a much longer article in [Genealogy Trails](#)

### New Prague

*New Prague According to Wikipedia:*

With currently just over 8,000 residents, New Prague was laid out in 1856, and named after Prague, the capital of Bohemia (now the Czech Republic).[6] The immigrants from Bohemia built the town of New Prague, and many of them identified as Czechs.[7] Early residents began selling lots around 1856 with more Bohemian families locating here. The town was known as Praha from 1872 to 1879. On March 1, 1877, the state of Minnesota approved the incorporation of Praha as a village. In 1879 the name was changed to Prague. The village's name was changed from Prague to New Prague on February 25, 1884.

New Prague's early development was not spectacular for a variety of reasons. First, during the Civil War years, 1861–1865, European immigration almost stopped as European immigrants were naturally wary of the American Civil War. Second, located in the middle of the Big Woods, the enormous challenge of clearing fields proceeded at a slow pace.

One of the most important developments in the new village occurred in 1877 when the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway (M & St. L) reached New Prague. The arrival of the railroad era expedited agriculture as New Prague's most important industry. A link with the outside world enabled farmers to send their commodities to markets and created a conduit to bring inventory to the village's businesses. Just four years after the M & St. L reached New Prague, the first grain elevator and flour mill were completed, marking the beginning of New Prague earning its nickname, the "Flour City."

Czech immigration to the United States reached its peak during the 1880s with 62,000 coming to the United States during this decade. Along with Montgomery, which is approximately eight miles south of New Prague, New Prague was becoming the center of "The Bohemian Triangle" of Minnesota covering parts of Scott, Le Sueur and Rice counties, which are neighboring counties. Through the decades since 1856, Le Sueur County has had more Bohemians than any other county in the state.

Construction was booming in the 1880s. The town's first bank opened in 1883, the Czech-Slovak Protective Society (C. S. P. S.) Opera Hall was built, the New Prague Foundry started business, the second public school was built, and two hotels were constructed.

The 1890s were New Prague's heyday decade. The town was becoming a major market for farm produce and was providing goods and services for growing numbers of farmers and villagers for miles around. Streets were being graded and wooden sidewalks built along the streets. New Prague was incorporated as a city on April 4, 1891. The New Prague Flouring Milling Company completed its mill in 1895. Electric lights were installed in the city in 1895, and telephone lines were installed in 1898.

Like the rest of the state, the 1880s and 1890s were two decades with the greatest growth in population. New Prague's population more than tripled during that 20-year period going from 384 residents to 1228, while the state's population more than doubled during that same period.

Original businesses outgrew their original log and wood-frame storefronts. A large commercial district filled with solid brick, stone, and wood-frame commercial structures developed along Main Street.[8]

New Prague had one of the largest earthquakes in Minnesota history. On December 11, 1860, there was a 4.7 magnitude.

### **Waconia**

*A brief history from the Waconia Chamber of Commerce...*

Dakota groups lived in the Waconia area near Lake Waconia for over 10,000 years. They called the lake Meday Wa Ko Ni Ya, which meant "lake of the fountain" or "lake of the spring." Contemporary Dakota translate it as "out of the water comes life." Early settlers adopted this name for the lake and the town; over time, it evolved into "Waconia." Today, visitors can learn about and celebrate the area's heritage at the Carver County Historical Society.

Waconia incorporated as a village in 1880. Development of Coney Island on Lake Waconia in 1884 led to the growth of Waconia as a summer tourist destination. Tourists spent days, weeks, or the whole summer in Waconia. The town and island resort was known as the "Paradise of the Northwest." In 1886, the new Hutchinson Branch of the Great Northern Railroad opened, running just north of Lake Waconia, bringing even more tourists. Today, Waconia continues its tourism heritage, welcoming tens of thousands of visitors to its downtown, lakes, parks, and trails. Those numbers skyrocket during the area's many annual tourism events like the Carver County Fair, which draws over 100,000 fairgoers to the area.

#### **FUN & HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT WACONIA**

- Emile Amblard, a French wine merchant, built 3 chateaus on Coney island; 1 for himself, 1 for his wife, and 1 for his mother-in-law.
- The Yellowstone Trail went from Plymouth Rock Mass. to Puget Sound. It ran along the east side of Lake Waconia & down Main Street.
- Waconia was the nation's largest manufacturer of sorghum molasses
- In 1864, possibly earlier, the lumber mill was located where Lola's landing is now.
- The Waconia County fair was first located on the shores of the lake near Bayview Elementary.
- By the year 1907 Lake Waconia (then called Clearwater Lake) was well known for its bass.
- In 1907 Lake Waconia (then called Clearwater Lake) had several launches, 1 steamboat, and 110 boats on the lake.
- In 1921, Camp Manakiki opened and welcomed campers to the eastern shore of Lake Waconia.

- In 1882, the Valley Herald reported that the 4th of July celebration began at 3 am with men marching and firing their guns.
- The first hotel in Waconia was called the Lake House, built in the early 1860's on the corner of Main and Vine Street.
- The Paradise Nite Club (now known as the Lake Waconia Event Center) opened on July 29, 1933.
- Island View Golf Club was officially incorporated on December 18, 1958.
- In 1917 Arthur Mackenthun opened a meat market in Waconia. Today, Mackenthun's is Minnesota's longest running family grocery.
- In 1872, 10,000 salmon were stocked in Lake Waconia.
- From 1903–1905, the U of M Varsity football team used Coney Island as a training facility, under Doc Williams.
- The town site of Waconia was platted in 1857 by R.P. Russell.
- In 1884, Lambert Naegle purchased Coney Island for \$5,200.
- The first Waconia Brewery, located on Oak St N on the lake, was built in 1875.
- The Sioux called Lake Waconia "Meday Wa Ko Ni Ya." This spelling evolved to Waconia.
- By 1913 there were 3 daily passenger trains going in each direction from the Twin Cities area to/from Waconia.
- The Coney Island Hotel, est. 1888, advertised Amusement, Dancing, Boating, Fishing, Croquet and Tennis.
- Room and board at the Coney Island Hotel was \$3 and \$3.50 per day.
- In 1885, the steamship Niagra was launched and served tourists on Lake Waconia until it was demolished by the tornado of 1904.
- The Boston Ice Company built their first icehouse on the east shore of Lake Waconia in 1902, harvesting 40,000 tons of ice in 1908.

## **Stillwater**

From [Discover Stillwater](#):

Stillwater is considered the Birthplace of Minnesota because in 1848 the first territorial convention that began the process of establishing Minnesota as a State was held on the corner of Myrtle and Main Street downtown. Stillwater is also one of Minnesota's oldest towns, preceding Minneapolis by years. At the time of incorporation as a city in 1854, Stillwater was the largest in the State.

The City of Stillwater is federally recognized as a Preserve America Community and the downtown Main Street area is Nationally registered as the Stillwater Commercial Historic District. In addition, there are 21 buildings on the National Historic Registry and over 100 Heirloom Homes and Landmark Sites. Visit the Washington County Historical Society website for more great history.

The lumber industry made Stillwater famous for at the height of the log boom, Stillwater's lumber mills turned out thousands of rail cars of timber of mostly white and Norway pines. Minnesota was one of the largest lumber markets in the world with Stillwater Lumber Company as one of the largest lumber mills in the country. Stillwater had all the ingredients for a lumbering town: river connections to the northern Minnesota and Wisconsin pine lands, still waters for assembling rafts, and water power. The Historic Lift Bridge built in 1931 connecting MN and WI is one of few remaining in operation in the country today.

Imagine... lumberjacks working the St. Croix River, steamboats bringing people and supplies, river logs jamming the river, horses and buggies tied to hitching posts, dirt and mud roads, shopkeepers selling their wares on Main Street, churches with tall steeples, Victorian mansions springing up on the hillsides and barroom brawls. You can still feel the spirit of those hard-working laborers and excitement of this booming time for business leaders.

Today, Stillwater's rich and vibrant history is evident everywhere you look and is now mixed with modern amenities, restored historic mansions, over 100 owner-operated shops and restaurants in downtown, 20+ outdoor dining patios, historic sites, wineries and breweries, paddlewheel cruises, antiques, museums, art galleries, music and many events. A popular destination for vacationers, events, and a premier Minnesota romantic city for weddings and honeymoons. WELCOME to STILLWATER.... ENJOY OUR FUN, HISTORIC, RIVER TOWN Year-round!

### **Hastings**

From the Hastings Visitors Guide:

Located at the junction of the St. Croix & Mississippi Rivers, along with the nearby Vermillion River Falls to provide water power, Hastings was a shipping and milling center for many years. With a deep-water harbor, steamboats could unload goods & passengers easily.

Also serving as the Dakota County Seat, Hastings offered its citizens many amenities from opera houses, numerous churches, and public and private educational choices, including post-secondary opportunities.

The skyline of Hastings still reflects the vision that five individuals had for this picturesque Mississippi River town more than one hundred and fifty years ago. As they laid out the original town plat, these founders hoped its strategic location on the Mississippi would make Hastings a distribution point for wheat and other goods, and they dreamed of the convergence of steamboat and rail routes.

Today, a fine collection of historic buildings record the progress of the community into the twenty-first century. The 1871 Dakota County Courthouse, rehabilitated in 1993 as the Hastings City Hall, and the rehabilitation of the 1862 LeDuc House as a museum in 2004, are prominent symbols of the success of community planning and historic preservation in the community.

Visit the Dakota County Historical Society at <https://dakotahistory.org/> for more information about Hastings history.