

2026 - 2027 Renville County *Testa's Guide*





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Welcome to
Renville County
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**2026
RENVILLE COUNTY
FARMER'S MARKETS**

Buy Fresh! Buy Local!

Bird Island * Wednesday 4pm-7pm
Bird Island Cultural Centre
Coordinators: Rosemary 320-365-1011 & Leta 320-579-1412

Buffalo Lake * Saturday 8am-12pm
Hwy 212 Wayside Rest in City Park
Coordinator: Tracie 320-296-6292

Fairfax * Tuesday 4-6pm
1st Street SE (Downtown off Hwy 19)
Coordinator: Lori 507-276-5044

Olivia * Thursday 1-5pm
City Parking Lot (9th St. So & Fairview Ave.)
Coordinator: Terry Wallert 320-522-3017

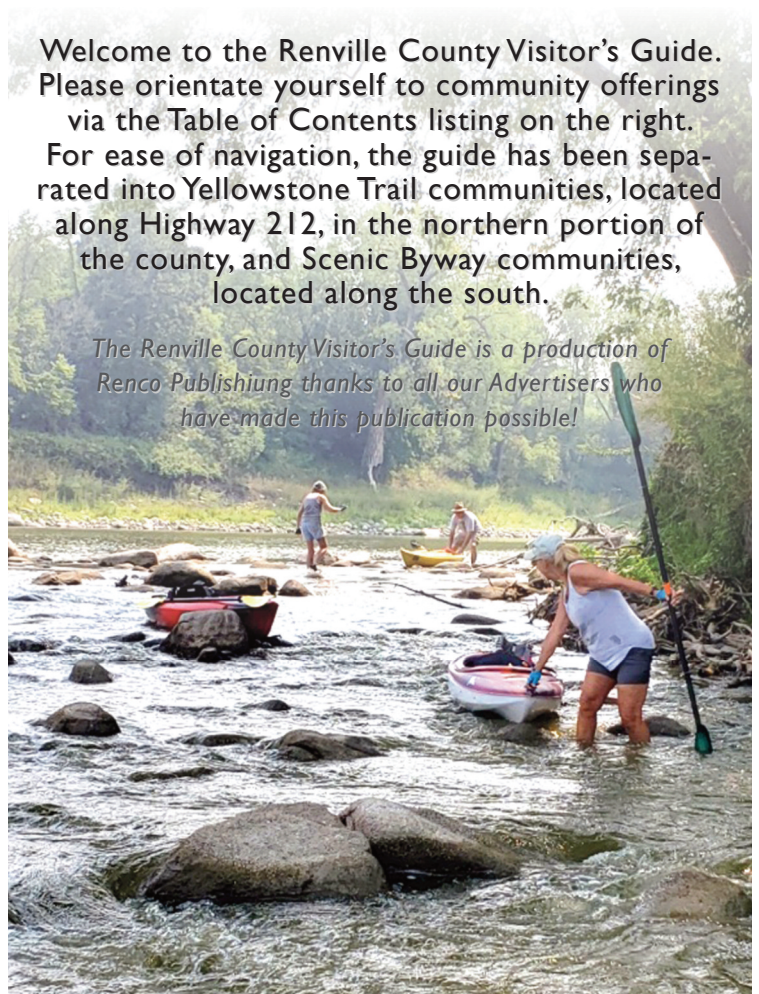
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RENVILLE COUNTIES

**Renville
COUNTY**
Senior Services - Shared Resources
HRA/EDA

Welcome to the Renville County Visitor's Guide. Please orientate yourself to community offerings via the Table of Contents listing on the right. For ease of navigation, the guide has been separated into Yellowstone Trail communities, located along Highway 212, in the northern portion of the county, and Scenic Byway communities, located along the south.

The Renville County Visitor's Guide is a production of Renco Publishing thanks to all our Advertisers who have made this publication possible!

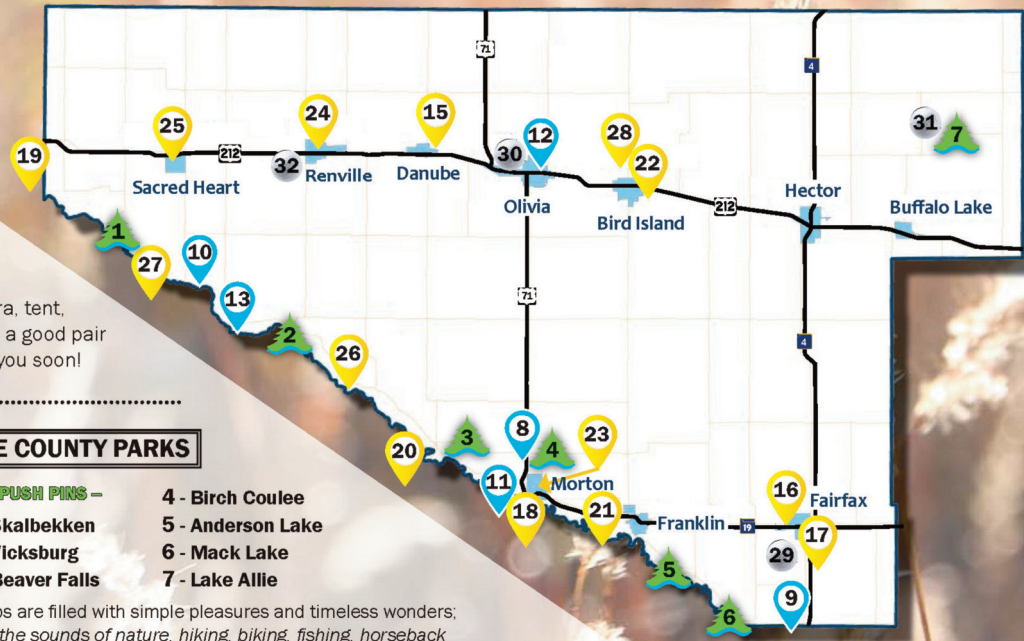


RENVILLE COUNTY

MORE THAN EXPECTED!

Whether you choose to visit for a day or stay for a lifetime, you will discover **"More Than Expected"** in Renville County, Minnesota!

You may want to bring your camera, tent, canoe, binoculars, horse, car and a good pair of hiking shoes. We hope to see you soon!



RENVILLE COUNTY PARKS

— TREE PUSH PINS —

- 1 - Skalbekken
- 2 - Vicksburg
- 3 - Beaver Falls
- 4 - Birch Coulee
- 5 - Anderson Lake
- 6 - Mack Lake
- 7 - Lake Allie

Camping and outdoor adventure trips are filled with simple pleasures and timeless wonders: *sleeping under the stars, waking to the sounds of nature, hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, canoeing, snowmobiling and more.* The perfect trip is waiting. The perfect place is here. Join us for unexpected adventures! **For more information call 320-523-3747.**

MINNESOTA HISTORIC SITES/BUILDINGS

— BLUE PUSH PINS —

- 8 - Birch Coulee Battlefield Historic Site
800-657-3773 | birchcoulee@mnhs.org
- 9 - Fort Ridgely State Park
507-426-7840
fortridgely.statepark@state.mn.us
- 10 - Joseph R. Brown Historic Site
- 11 - Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site
507-697-8674 | lowersioux@mnhs.org
- 12 - Renville County Courthouse
- 13 - Rudi Memorial

MUSEUMS, PARKS, AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

— YELLOW PUSH PINS —

- 15 - Danube Historical Society Depot Museum
danubehs@gmail.com
- 16 - Fairfax Depot Museum
- 17 - FairRidge Bike Trail
- 18 - Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel: 800-946-2274
- 19 - Prairie's Edge Casino Resort: 320-564-2121
- 20 - Ramsey Park
- 21 - Redwood Ferry Site
- 22 - Renville County Fairgrounds
320-365-3242 | revillecountyfair@gmail.com
- 23 - Renville County Historical Society Museum
507-697-6147
info@revillecountyhistory.com
- 24 - Renville Museum
- 25 - Sacred Heart Museum
- 26 - Schwandt Monument
- 27 - Swedes Forest Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)
- 28 - Renville Rangers Shooting Club

SWIMMING POOLS

Fairfax: 507-426-7503 **Hector:** 320-848-2533 *Closed Until Further Notice*
Olivia: 320-523-1031 **Renville:** 320-329-8368 x1035

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

BIRD ISLAND

- The Broaster Cafe: 320-365-4590
- Pelican Pub: 320-365-3091
- Rumors Bar: 320-365-3683
- The WingOut: 320-365-5000

MORTON

- The Korner: 507-697-6244

HECTOR

- Pete's Grill: 320-848-2200
- The Other Place: 320-848-6421

FAIRFAX

- Monk's Bar & Grill: 507-426-9965
- Squirrels Bar & Grill: 507-596-4155

DANUBE

- The Hawk's Nest: 320-826-2606
- Main Street Cafe: 320-826-2390

SACRED HEART

- Kathy's Place: 320-765-2229
- Sacred Heart Liquor: 320-765-2981

RENVILLE

- Dave's Place: 320-329-8145
- Main Street Bar & Grill: 320-329-3290

FRANKLIN

- Franklin Depot: 507-557-2227
- Longbranch Saloon: 507-557-2748

OLIVIA

- American Legion: 320-523-5513
- Brly's Den: 320-523-5300
- Chatter Box Cafe: 320-523-5384
- Dairy Queen: 320-523-2200
- Max's Grill and Sheep Shedde Inn: 320-523-5000
- Subway: 320-523-2724

BUFFALO LAKE

- The Buffalo Range: 320-833-2321

RENVILLE COUNTY HRA/EDA:
320-523-3656
EDA@revillecountymn.gov
www.reville.com

RENVILLE COUNTY PARKS:
320-523-3747
ParksDept@revillecountymn.gov
www.revillecountymn.gov



Updated April 2026

Learn more about our beautiful Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway: www.mnrivervalley.com

Renville County

Government Services Center

105 South 5th Street
Olivia, MN 56277

Courthouse

500 East DePue Avenue
Olivia, MN 56277

Commissioners

Craig Carlson, District 1
320-522-3374
craig.carlson@renvillecountymn.gov

John Robinson, District 2
320-522-6622
john.robinson@renvillecountymn.gov

Greg Mertens, District 3
320-522-4254
greg.mertens@renvillecountymn.gov

Greg Snow, District 4
218-251-1640
greg.snow@renvillecountymn.gov

David Hamre, District 5
320-522-6493
david.hamre@renvillecountymn.gov

Board Meets:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays (*Work Session*)
2nd and 4th Tuesdays (*Regular Meeting*)

Population: 14,723
Area in Sq. Mi.: 979
Senate District: 16
House District: 16A
Congressional District: 7
AMC District: VI



Renville
COUNTY
Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility



Departments

Administration
320-523-3710

Assessor
320-523-3645

Attorney
320-523-2661

Auditor/Treasurer
320-523-2071

Court Administration
320-523-3680

Court Services/Probation
320-400-0711

Drainage
320-523-3759

Economic Development Authority
320-523-3656

Emergency Management
320-523-3838

Environmental Services
320-523-3768

Extension / 4-H
320-523-3713

GIS (County Maps)
320-523-3811

HRA (Housing Programs)
507-637-4004

Human Services
320-523-2202

License
320-523-3612

Parks
320-523-3747

Public Health
320-523-2570

Public Works
320-523-3759

Recorder
320-523-3669

Restorative Justice
320-523-3871

**Redwood-Renville Regional
Solid Waste Authority (RRRSA)**
320-523-8002

Sheriff
320-523-1161

Veterans Services
320-523-3763

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Renville
COUNTY
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2026 EVENTS

May 25	Memorial Day Programs, Various Communities	August 4	Fairfax National Night Out, Fairfax
May 27 - October	Renville County Market, Cultural Centre, Bird Island (Wednesdays 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm)	August 4	Renville National Night Out, Renville
June - September	Buffalo Lake Farmer's Market, Buffalo Lake (Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - Noon)	August 8	Ride to Remember
Mid June - September	Fairfax Farmer's Market, Fairfax (Tuesdays 4:00 p.m.)	August 9	Bechyn Czech Festival, Bechyn
June 4 - 7	Sugar Beet Days, Renville (Parade: 6/6 at 4 pm)	August 12 - 14	Renville County Fair, Bird Island
June 14	Flag Day, Fly Your Flag	September 12	Renville County Fireman's Rib Cook Off, American Legion, Olivia
June 15 - 21	Island Days, Bird Island (Parade: 6/16 at 6:30 pm)	September 20	Hector Lion's Fly-In Pancake Breakfast, Municipal Airport, Hector
June 26 - 28	Dayz of Thunder, Fairfax (Parade: 6/28 at 4 pm)	October 11	Spooky Splash 5K, Hector Swimming Pool
July - October	Olivia Farmer's Market, Olivia (Thursdays 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)	October 24	Hobo Days Harvest Festival, Olivia
July 4	Independence Day Celebration, Morton (Parade: TBD)	October 24	Spooktacular, Renville
July 6 - 12	Corn Chaff Days, Hector (Parade: 7/11 at Noon)	October 25	Trunk or Treat, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Sacred Heart (4 pm)
July 8 - 12	Danube Fun Days, Danube (Parade: 7/11 at 2 pm)	October 30	Trick or Treat Bingo, Bird Island
July 13 - 19	Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake (Parade: TBD)	November 20	Fire Department Steak Fry, Morton
July 15 - 19	Summerfest, Sacred Heart (Parade: 7/17 at 6 pm)	November 28	Small Business Saturday, Bird Island
July 24 - 26	Catfish Derby Days, Franklin (Parade: 7/26 at 1:30 pm)	November 29	Sacred Heart Christmas, Sacred Heart
July 20 - 26	Corn Capital Days, Olivia (Parade: 7/25 at 3 pm)	December 3	Unforgettable Christmas, Hector
August 7	Renville County Walk in the Park, Olivia	December 4	Taste of Bechyn, Olivia
		December 4	Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island
		December 5	Miracle on Main, Renville

Visit www.renville.com for the most up-to-date listing of community events. Event dates are subject to change and events may be canceled. Confirmed events as of 04.2026





Sugar Beet Days

Renville, June 4-7

Sugar Beet 5K run, parade, vendors in the park and many other activities.



Island Days

Bird Island, June 15-21

Island Days includes a Legion Ball Tournament, vendors and new this year - a pickleball tournament and splash pad.



Dayz of Thunder

Fairfax, June 25-28

Fairfax's Dayz of Thunder celebration includes a parade and many vendors.



Independence Day

Morton, July 4

Vendors in the park, a parade and their annual Fire Dept. pork chop feed.

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

ANNUAL DATES FOR '26



Corn Chaff Days

Hector, July 6-12

Vendors in the park, parade and softball tournaments are some of the highlights.

Renville County Fair

Bird Island - Aug. 12-14



Danube Fun Days

Danube, July 8-12

Danube Fun Days has vendors in the park, a parade, 5K run and much more.



Buffalo Lake Days

Buffalo Lake, July 13 -19

Buffalo Lake Days features various tournaments, a parade and a street dance.



Summerfest

Sacred Heart, July 15-19

Summerfest in Sacred Heart includes a rodeo prior to its community street dance.



Corn Capital Days

Olivia, July 20-26

An all-you-can-eat free sweet corn feed and the Grand Parade are some of the many highlights of Corn Capital Days.



Catfish Derby Days

Franklin, July 24-26

Take part in the annual fishing competition during's Catfish Derby Days.



Czech Fest

Bechyn, August 9

Bechyn Czech Fest celebrates the heritage of Czech regions of Bohemia and Moravia with a Polka Mass and Dinner and other authentic offerings.

Welcome to Renville County



Welcome to Renville County, Minnesota, a hidden gem in west central Minnesota, approximately 90 miles west of Minneapolis and St. Paul. This rural county, with a population of just under 15,000, offers a delightful blend of small-town warmth, rich history, and natural beauty, making it an ideal destination for visitors seeking authentic experiences and scenic adventures.

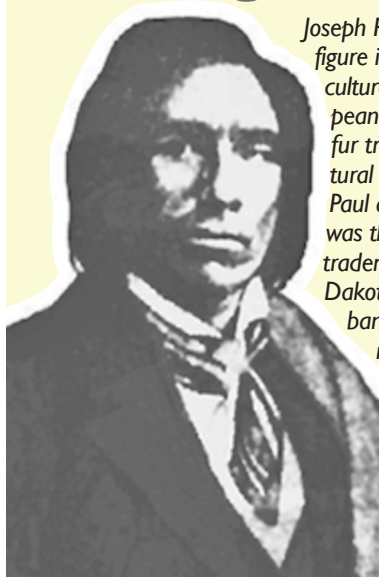
Agricultural heritage

Renville County's agricultural heritage is a defining feature, earning it the nickname "Corn Capital of the World," particularly in Olivia, the county seat. The county has been a pioneer in agricultural innovation since the establishment of some of the nation's first crop and animal cooperatives. It is home to multiple seed crop breeding and production companies, with farmers utilizing cutting-edge technology for smarter, sustainable production. Olivia, located on Highway 212, part of the original Yellowstone Trail, sits in the heart of the richest agricultural county in Minnesota, with one of the highest concentration of seed research and processing companies globally. The county's agricultural economy is further evidenced by its focus on diversifying commerce while maintaining its agricultural leadership, with strong corn markets boosting farmland values.

Seven County Parks

Nature lovers will find Renville County's seven county parks, spanning over 1,300 acres, a haven for outdoor exploration, largely on the southern portion of the county. These parks feature primitive stands of trees, wildflowers, native prairies, wildlife, and unique bedrock outcroppings along the Minnesota River. Notable parks include Beaver Falls, Birch Coulee, Skalbekken, Mack Lake, Lake Allie, and Vicksburg, each offering opportunities for hiking, camping, picnicking, and wildlife watching. Day visits are free, with small fees for overnight camping, and winter activities like snowshoeing and

Joseph Renville: *A bridge between worlds*



Joseph Renville, Jr. (1779–1846), a pivotal figure in Minnesota's early history, was a cultural bridge between Dakota and European communities, shaping the region's fur trade, missionary efforts, and intercultural relations. Born near present-day St. Paul at Kaposia, a Dakota village, Renville was the son of a French-Canadian fur trader, Joseph Renville, Sr., and Miniyuhe, a Dakota woman from the Mdewakanton band, linked to the Little Crow family. His mixed heritage and multilingual fluency in Dakota, French, and English positioned him as a vital intermediary in a rapidly changing frontier. He is the first individual of European heritage to be born in the territory that would become Minnesota.

Raised among the Dakota until age ten, Renville was then educated in Canada under a Catholic priest, gaining knowledge of French and Christian teachings. Returning to Minnesota as a youth, he leveraged his skills as an interpreter and guide, notably assisting Zebulon Pike in 1805–1806 and Stephen Long in 1823. During the War of 1812, Renville served as a captain in the British army, leading Dakota warriors, a testament to his influence among the Sioux. His marriage to a Dakota woman from the Little Crow family further solidified his ties to the Sioux, and together they raised eight children, fostering literacy in both Dakota and English.

In 1822, Renville co-founded the Columbia Fur Company, which he led until it was acquired by the American Fur Company in 1827. Prior to becoming the state's first governor, the American Fur Trade Company would operated by Henry Sibley, at present day Fort Snelling, or Mendota, which has great cultural significance to the Dakota. Settling at Lac qui Parle in 1826, Renville established a fortified trading post, Fort Renville, and organized a soldiers' lodge to manage hunts and protect the community. His trading success stemmed from his deep understanding of both European and Dakota cultures, making him a trusted figure among traders, settlers, and Native peoples.

A devout Catholic, Renville invited missionaries to Lac qui Parle in 1835, collaborating with Rev. Thomas Williamson and others to translate the Bible and hymns into Dakota, including the influential Dakota Dowaŋpi Kin (1842). His efforts preserved Dakota language and culture while introducing Christianity, strengthening ties between communities. Renville's hospitality was renowned, offering refuge to travelers like explorer Joseph Nicollet, who praised his influence over the Dakota.

Renville's legacy endures in Renville County and the city of Renville, named in his honor, as well as in the historic Lac qui Parle Mission. Until his death in 1846 from influenza, he remained a respected leader, fur trader, and cultural mediator, leaving an indelible mark on Minnesota's history.

cross-country skiing are available on groomed trails, such as 1.5 miles in Skalbekken and 2 miles in

Beaver Falls (Renville County Parks). The parks are nestled along the Minnesota River Valley Scenic

Byway, providing access to historic sites and breathtaking views of steep-wooded bluffs.

Historic & Scenic Byways

Renville County's connections to historic and scenic byways enhance its appeal for visitors. The Yellowstone Trail, a historic auto route running from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound, passes through the northern portion of the county along U.S. Highway 212. Museum, antiques, boutiques and other unique retail destinations offer authentic destinations along its course.

The same can be said for the Minnesota River Scenic Byway, however a more scenic drive awaits travellers along the Minnesota River Valley. There historic sites often look back further in the historic timeframe, where the delve into the story of the Native American Dakota communities. At any rate, opportunities to observe the region's natural and cultural heritage are rich.

Hospitals and schools

The award winning Olivia Hospital & Clinics is the gem of the county's medical offerings. The primary hospital is located in Olivia with a new clinic in Renville set to break ground in 2025. New day-care offerings and senior housing are top priorities, with the Island Living senior residences opening in 2024 in Bird Island and a new daycare center coming soon in Renville. Area School Districts long Highway 212 include Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart (BLHS) in Hector, Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lilian-Danube (BOLD) in Olivia and Renville County West (RCW) in Renville. Additionally, faith-centered education is available at St. Mary's School in Bird Island. On the southern portion of the county Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop School District, is located Gibbon, while faith-based Prairie Lutheran School is in Fairfax. Cedar Mountain Elementary School is located in Franklin.

Sacred Heart

The Sacred Heart area is known for its rich history and beautiful river valleys. Its history is imbedded throughout the community and is showcased at the Sacred Heart Area Historical Museum while Skalbekken County Park provides stunning views and trails over and within the river valley. All Skalbekken has 14 rustic campsites as well as amenities including shelters, restrooms, water, picnic areas, plus horse trails and camps with horse ties and manure bunkers. Also, be sure to stop at Kathy's Place, everybody's favorite place to meet and eat.



Kathy's Place is the place to eat and meet.



The Sacred Heart Area Historical Museum.



The entire community helps put on the fire department's famous Sacred Heart Smelt Feed, drawing a crowd from a multi-state area.

Sacred Heart - pop. 510

City celebrations: Summerfest – July 15-19

Sacred Heart Christmas – Nov. 30

Restaurants:

1) Kathy's Place

Recreation:

2) Skalbekken County Park

3) Sacred Heart Ballpark

History & Culture:

4) Sacred Heart Area

Historical Museum

5) Hotel Sacred Heart

6) Veterans Memorial

Retail:

7) Bropt Jewelry

School District: Renville County West



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Sun. 11am-6pm

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May - August



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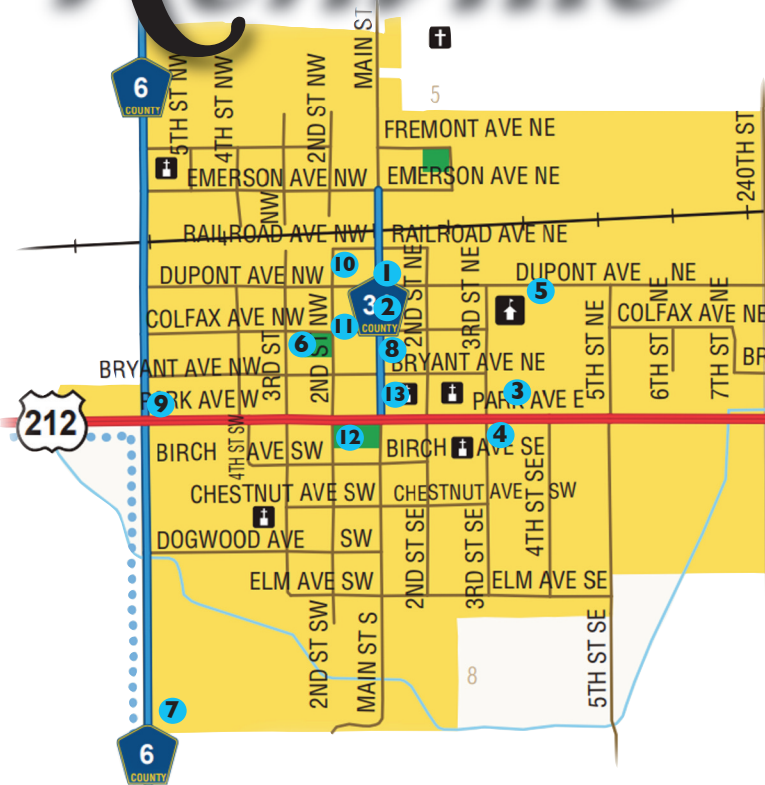


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Renville



The City of Renville opened a revamped North 'Angel Babies' Park in February of this year.

TC & W Railroad

Renville - pop. 1,301

City celebrations: Sugar Beet Days – June 4 - 7

Restaurants:

- 1) Main Street Bar & Grill
- 2) Dave's Place
- 3) Riverbottom Nutrition
- 4) Tacos Don Piris

Retail

- 8) Circle Boutique
- 9) Antique Junction
- 10) Magnolia Market

Recreation:

- 5) Renville pool
- 6) Pickleball
- 7) Vicksburg County Park

Culture:

- 11) Renville Historical Museum
- 12) Veterans Memorial
- 13) Friends of the Arts Center

School District: Renville County West

The city and county of Renville were named for Joseph Renville, an incredible man of French and Dakota descent. Renville is an industrious ag community and home of the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, one of the largest cooperatives in the world. At present, Forsman Farms is set to open a new state-of-the-art egg laying facility on the eastern outskirts of city limits. In the vicinity, are the beginning's of an even more groundbreaking company, CelluComp, which is just beginning to set up operations. Main Street Renville stays active with a variety of businesses and restaurants, including Main Street Bar & Grill and Dave's Place. Also complementing the downtown area is the Renville History Museum, Community Center and newly opened Friends of the Arts Center. Local school, Renville County West, is also located in town, offering a premiere education for students, Kindergarten through 12th grade.



Take a tour of the Renville History Center and be surprised by all inside.



Vickburg County Park is located south along the Minnesota River Valley.



Antique Junction is located at the intersection of Hwy. 6 & Hwy. 212.

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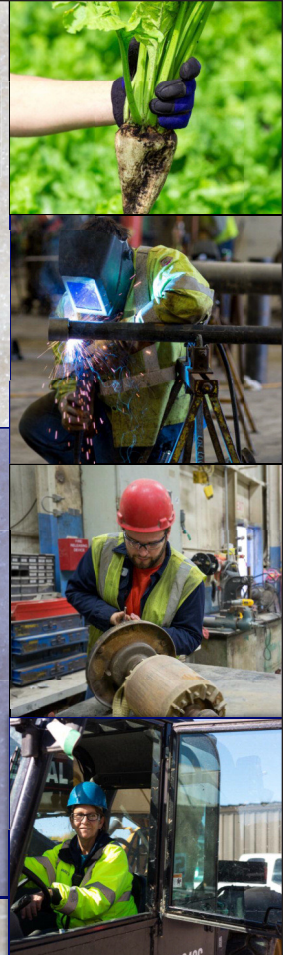
FROM OUR FIELDS TO YOUR TABLE POWERED BY PEOPLE GROUNDED IN GOOD

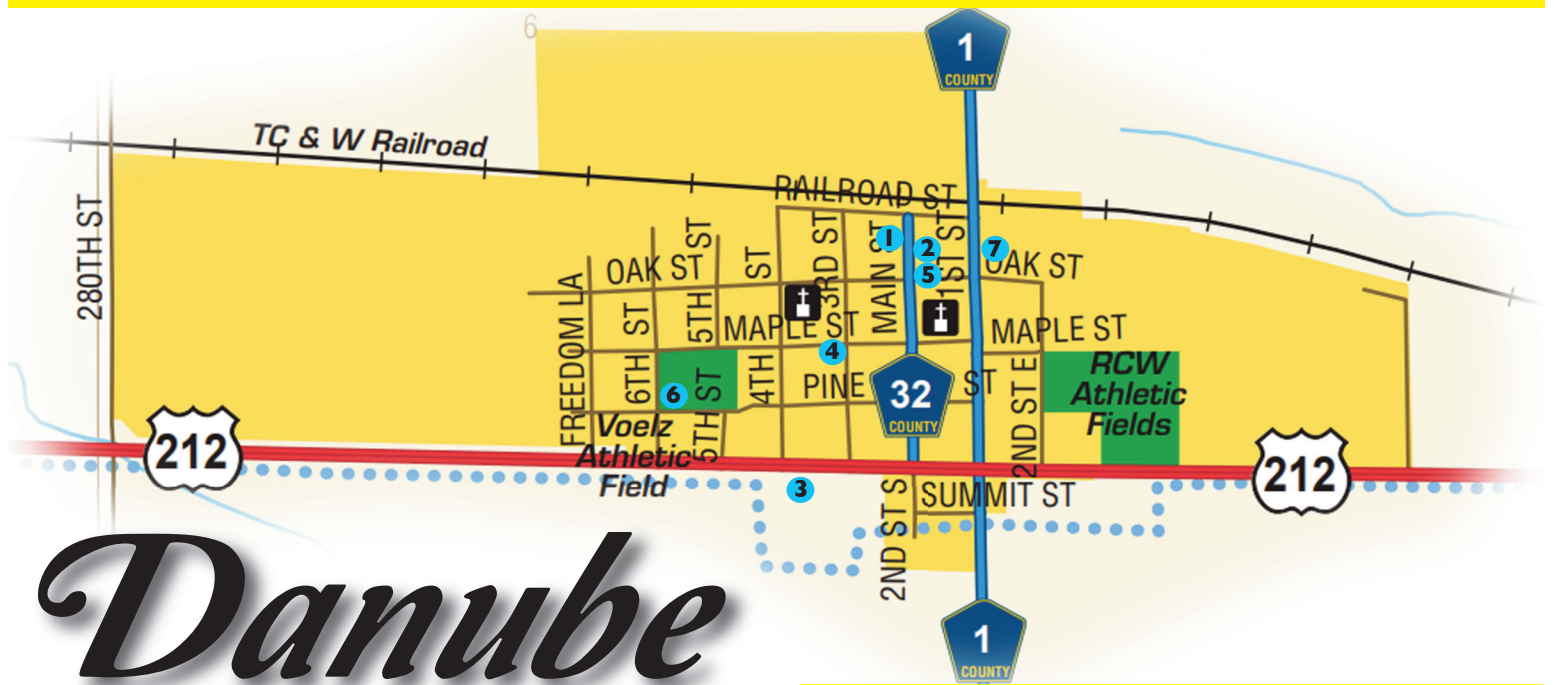
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Danube

Danube is a small town with a big heart, located 5 miles west of the county seat, Olivia, on US Highway 212, and along the railroad tracks that serve TC&W rail line. The population is about 500 residents. Every summer, the second week of July sees an influx of people celebrating Danube's Fun Days with a homemade ice cream social, parade, volleyball tournament, street dance and other fun activities for families. The park has been newly renovated as a destination playground for children with disabilities, and a dedicated group of young Danube residents maintains an ice hockey rink in the winter months. Danube is part of the Renville County West school district, and the football and softball fields for RCW are located in Danube. Danube has well-maintained homes, with a growing population of young families. Affordable housing, and an opportunity to be a part of positive progress present the community as an attractive community for residents and visitors alike.



Lightner Creek is the city of Danube's newest downtown retail establishment.



The destination playground in Danube is suited for youth of all abilities.

Danube - pop. 500

City celebration: Danube Fun Days July 8-12

Restaurants:

- 1) The Hawks Nest
- 2) Main Street Cafe & Catering

Retail:

- 3) Grizzly Hardware
- 4) Nancy Jolene Quilting
- 5) Lightner Creek Co.

Recreation:

- 6) Destination Playground and ice rink at Voelz Park

Culture:

- 7) Danube Historical Society Campus and Veterans Memorial

School District: Renville County West



The Danube Historical Museum is located in the former Danube Depot bldg.



The Danube Historical Campus and Veterans Memorial.

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DAILY SPECIALS:

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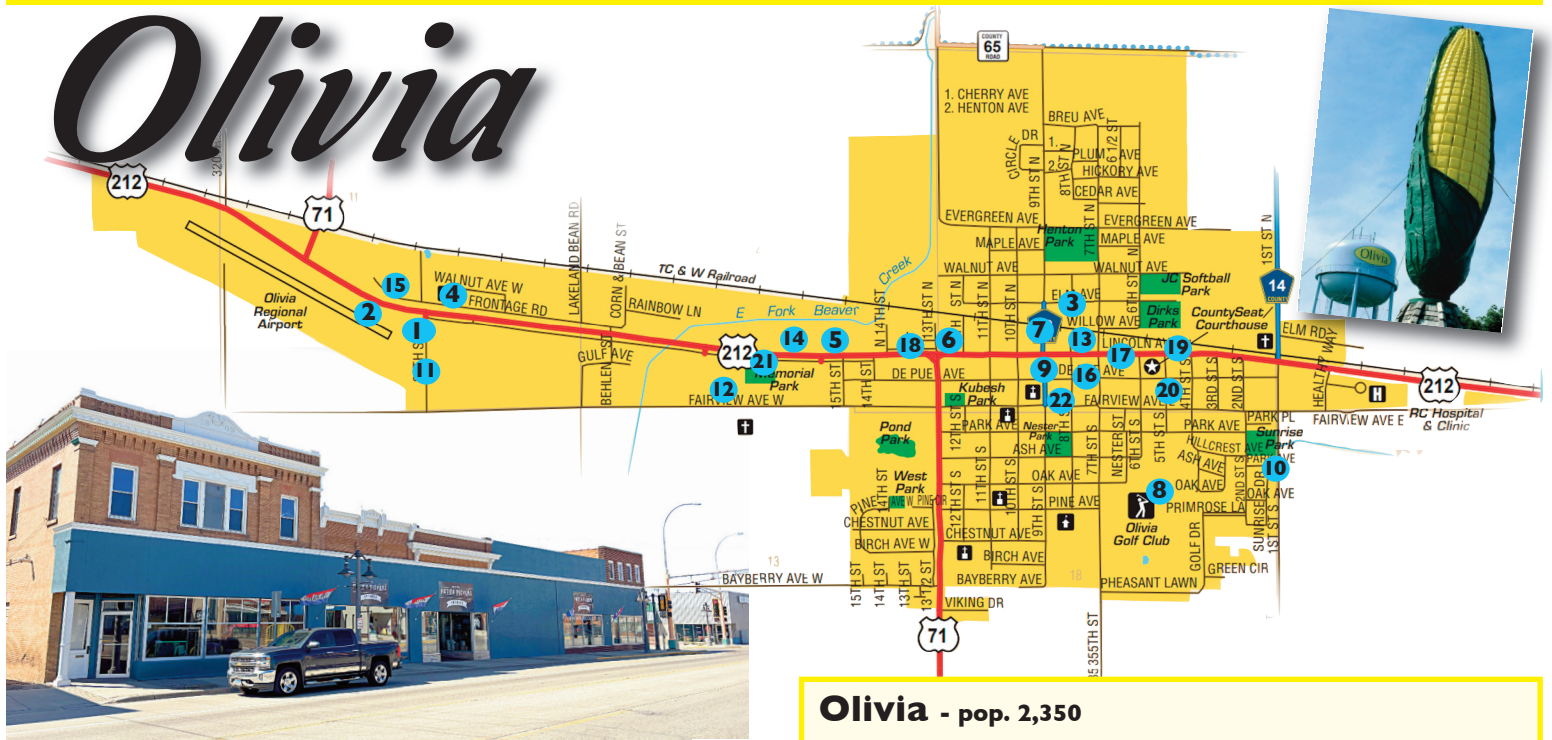
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802 E. Lincoln Avenue, Olivia, MN 56277

Olivia



Patina Pickers in Olivia boasts 15,000 sq. feet of antiques from 40 vendors.

Olivia, the Corn Capital of the world, sits in the heart of the richest agricultural county in the state where it is a world leader in agricultural innovation. Continuing in that tradition is the expansion of a state-of-the-art Beck's Hybrids Seed facility set to open in 2026. Olivia is the county seat of Renville County and a focal point of the historic Yellowstone Trail, as residence and burial place of Minnesota legend and trail champion, Michael J. Dowling. Olivia features the historic Renville County Courthouse and adjacent Government Center as well as the award-winning Olivia Hospital & Clinics. A burgeoning retail district offers opportunities to find unique antiques and gifts in downtown Olivia. While one is at they can also bring the kids to the new Olivia Community Center, located in the former National Guard Armory. Additionally, they can visit the onsite Olivia CornCade and nearby CornLand USA youth-gearned STEM exhibit. The monument is located in Memorial Park, which is one of eight total parks within city limits and the lone available for camping. An emerging trail system, connects the newly renovated BOLD School District and City Hall. Additionally, the city welcomed new pickleball courts and a Community Center.



Olivia acquired the National Guard Armory for a nominal fee and has since turned it into a long-requested Armory.

Olivia - pop. 2,350

City celebrations: Corn Capital Days – July 20 - 26
Renville Co. Walk in the Park – Aug. 7

Restaurants:

- 1) Max's Grill
- 2) The Chatterbox
- 3) Brly's
- 4) Olivia Legion
- 5) Meyer's Coffee Shack
- 6) Godfather's Pizza/Cenex
- 7) Discover Nutrition

Recreation:

- 8) Olivia Golf Course
- 9) Corncade
- 10) Pickleball

Lodging & camping

- 11) Sheep Shedde Inn
- 12) Memorial Park camping

School District: BOLD

Retail & Community:

- 13) Olivia Armory
- 14) ACTS Thrift Stores
- 15) Cornland
- 16) Patina Pickers (Antiques)
- 17) Next Step Creativity
- 18) Chamber of Commerce
- 19) T.J. Pedals & More

History & Culture:

- 20) Renville Co. Courthouse
- 21) Corn Monument/memorial
- 22) Dowling Plaza



The Olivia CornCade offers arcade action and quality eats and treats.

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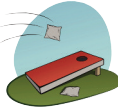
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SUMMER:

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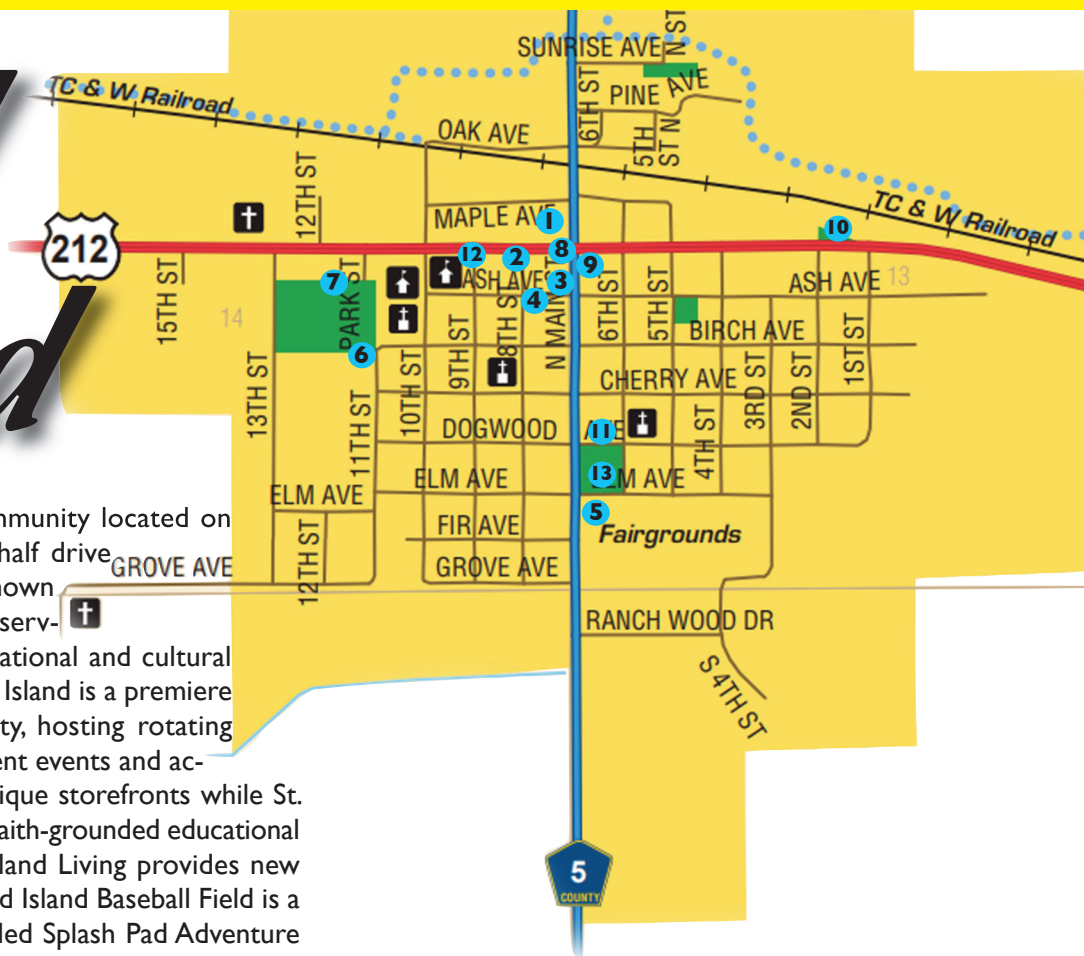
PO BOX 86
115 SOUTH NINTH STREET
OLIVIA, MN 56277

320.523.5328

THE TITLE TEAM . COM

Bird Island

Friends abound in Bird Island, a community located on Highway 212 about an hour and a half drive west of the Twin Cities. The City is known for its hometown pride, good quality services and its close proximity to recreational and cultural activities. The Cultural Centre of Bird Island is a premiere arts and culture venue in the county, hosting rotating monthly exhibits in addition to frequent events and activities. On Main Street you'll find unique storefronts while St. Mary's Elementary offers exceptional faith-grounded educational opportunities for youth while the Island Living provides new senior housing within the city. The Bird Island Baseball Field is a gem that is located near newly installed Splash Pad Adventure Park and Pickleball Courts. Bird Island is also home of the Renville County Fair, which occurs in August.



The new Island Living senior housing facility is top notch.



Newest additions to the ball park area in Bird Island are the Splash pad and pickleball courts.

Bird Island - pop. 1,000

City celebration: Island Days – June 15-21

Renville County Fair August 12-14

Restaurants:

- 1) Wing Out
- 2) The Broaster
- 3) Trisha's Pelican Pub
- 4) Rumors

Retail

- 8) The Old Wives Tale
- 9) Creative Stitches
- 10) Packrat Junction

Recreation:

- 5) Renville Co. Fairgrounds
- 6) Bird Island Splash Pad and Adventure Park
- 7) Lions Memorial Ballpark

Culture:

- 11) Bird Island Cultural Centre
- 12) Tinnes Baker House
- 13) Veterans Memorial

School District: BOLD, St. Mary's Catholic School



Lion's Memorial Baseball Park is a community gem.



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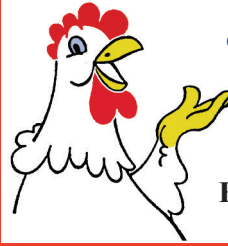
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Island Living is dedicated to providing high-quality senior citizen services to ensure that clients are able to live their best lives. The mission is to improve the overall well-being of the senior population by providing assistance and support.



300 South 13th St.,
Bird Island, MN 55310

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e: admin@islandlivingmn.org

www.islandlivingmn.org

Island Living

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EEO/AA



assisted living facility

Hector

Hector was founded in 1878 when the Hastings and Dakota Railway Company constructed the railroad on the north side of the original town site. The village was named after the township of Hector, which had been organized in June 1874. It was originally named Milford, but the name was changed when it was learned there was already another Milford in Minnesota. There was heated debate between those who favored the name Plainfield (after the stage stop and post office) and those who favored the name Hector, a township in New York on the east shore of Seneca Lake where many of the early settlers came from. Hector, New York, was named after the bravest of the ancient Trojan warriors whose story is told in Homer's "Iliad". (Later research showed the other Milford was actually in South Dakota, so the town could have been named Milford after all.) Hector has a strong connection to its heritage as exemplified by its strong Yellowstone Trail and the Hector Historical Center. It's Lion's Fly-in Breakfast held in September is also the state's longest running fly-in.



Pete's Grill in downtown Hector has been a local favorite for many years.



Hill's Unique Gifts along Highway 2012 has 8,000 sq. ft. of antique space.



Totally U Salon and Boutique has great selection of gift items.

Hector - pop. 1,000

City celebration:

Corn Chaff Days – July 6-12
Fly-in Breakfast – Sept. 20

Restaurants:

- 1) Pete's Grill
- 2) The Other Place

Retail:

- 4) Hill's Unique Gifts
- 5) Totally U Salon & Boutique

Culture/Recreation:

- 6) Hector Historical Center
- 7) Hector Swimming Pool
- 8) R&S Snowmobile Museum

School District: BLHS



Prairie View is an assisted living/nursing home located on the east side of the Hector, presenting a beautiful view of the seasonal changes.



The R&S Snowmobile and Thrift and Nifty Thrift Shop in downtown Hector.

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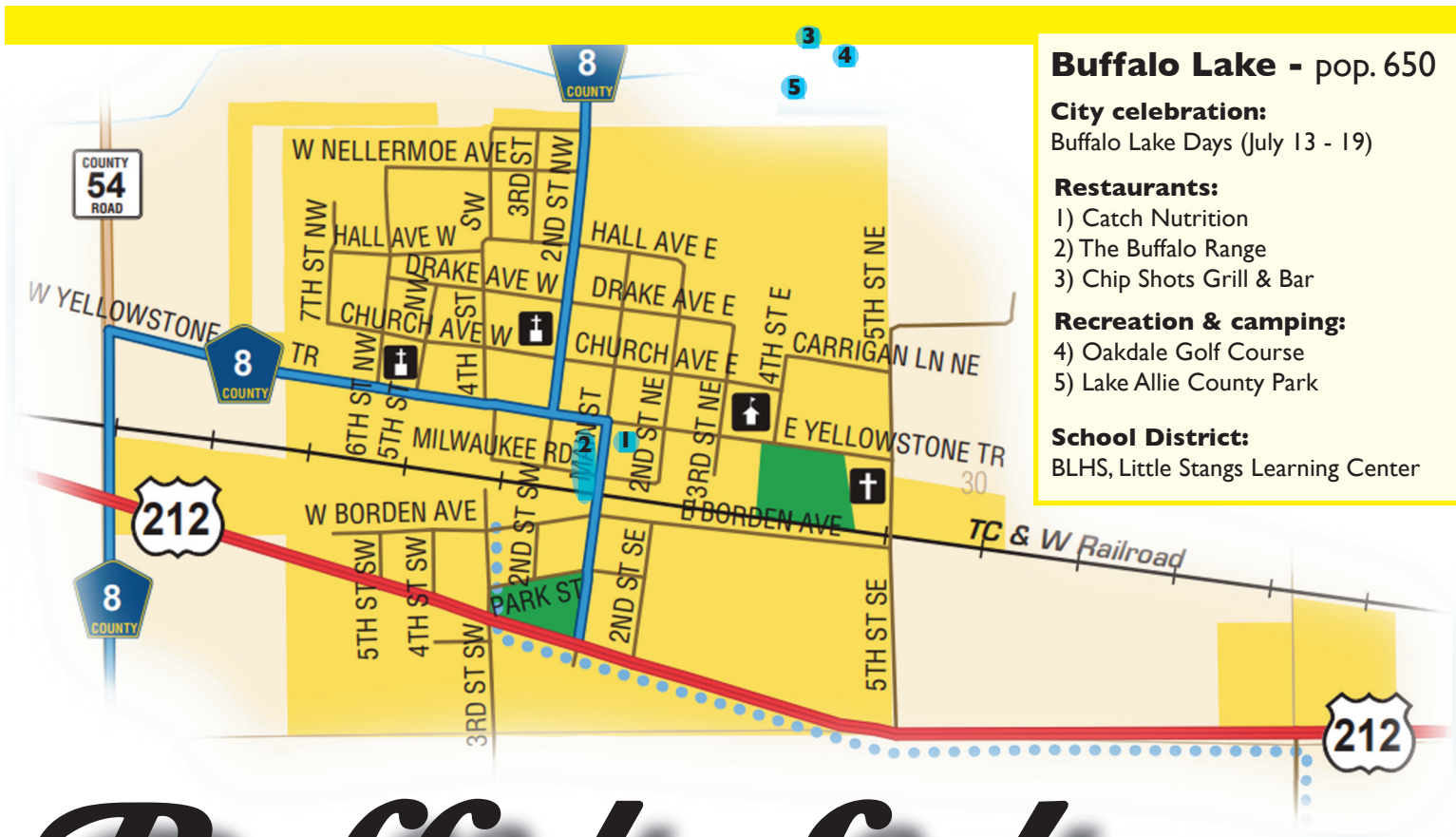
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Buffalo Lake



Lake Allie County Park.



A Bird's Eye view of the beautiful Buffalo Lake area from on high.

Buffalo Lake is a small town with big character in Renville County. Family and a good quality of life are central to the west centrally located Minnesota community. Residents enjoy active churches and organizations that go hand-in-hand with great public schools, community activities, parks and all the other wonderful benefits of living in Minnesota. There is a strong agricultural and business presence that offer an economically stable future. Lake Allie County Park is located north of the city and offers a shelter, picnic areas, playground and fishing pier. There are also 16 RV sites available for camping. A point of pride in downtown Buffalo Lake is the licensed Little Stangs Learning Center.



The Little Stangs Learning Center provides local childcare.



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ATM, Deli & C-Store
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Gibbon - BP
1253 1st Ave.
Gibbon, MN 55335
ATM, Deli & C-Store
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Redwood Falls, MN 56283
ATM, Deli, C-Store & Car Wash
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Lamberton - Cenex
25861 US Hwy 14
Lamberton, MN 56152
ATM, Deli & C-Store
507-752-7811

Gaylord - BP
120 High Ave
Gaylord, MN 55334
ATM, Deli & C-Store
507-237-2281

New Auburn - BP
7390 7th Ave.
New Auburn, MN 55366
ATM, Deli & C-Store
320-864-2811

Olivia - Cenex
1208 E. Lincoln Ave.
Olivia, MN 56277
ATM, Deli, C-Store, Bulk Fuel
& Car Wash
320-523-1241

Mayer - BP
308 Ash Ave. N.
Mayer, MN 55360
ATM, Deli, C-Store, Car Wash,
& Liquor Store
952-657-2197

Lafayette - BP
180 9th St.
Lafayette, MN 56054
ATM, Deli & C-Store
507-228-8364

Arlington - AMOCO
512 2nd Ave. NW
Arlington, MN 55307
ATM, Deli & C-Store
507-964-2920

Renville - Cenex
712 Park Ave E.
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ATM, Deli & C-Store
952-353-2601

Green Isle - BP
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More than just
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Renville County Parks

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In **Renville County Parks**, camping and outdoor adventure trips are filled with simple pleasures and timeless wonders; sleeping under the stars, waking to the sounds of nature, hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, canoeing, snowshoeing, and more.

HIKING AND BIKING: Miles of trails give hikers and bikers of all ages and skill levels the chance to explore the road less traveled. Ranging from

“beginner” to “difficult,” the trails meander through the pristine woodlands of the Renville County Parks and along the beautiful Minnesota River. Many trails offer trail name and directional signage, with printed trail maps available on park kiosks and online.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Fun for the whole family! Saddle up and ride the beautiful trails and roads in Beaver Falls and Skalbekken.

CAMPING: From intimate valleys deep in the woods to a public campground with parking and water, we’ve got your ideal spot under the stars.

FISHING: Multiple public locations provide beginners and experts alike material for their next whopper of a fish tale! The river contains over 70 species of fish.

ANDERSON LAKE

Anderson Lake County Park is a day use only park, and its principle feature is shoreline fishing. During times of high water, the park is subject to flooding.



Anderson Lake

BEAVER FALLS

Beaver Falls County Park is divided into two parts: the horse camp and the recreation area.

The horse camp features wooded ravines, horse ties, manure bunkers and Beaver Creek. The upper half features the Beaver Creek Recreational Area. Both areas consist of shelters, restrooms, water (hand pump), fire pits and ample multi-use trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

Beaver Creek was formed with the Minnesota River Valley and carved into the landscape by the massive Glacial River Warren. This glacial river occurred with the collapse of Lake Agassiz somewhere between 11,700 and 9,400 BC. The old town of Beaver Falls once boasted a population of 500 people. It was the seat of Renville County from 1860-1900. Remnants of some of the buildings remain next to the creek.



Swimming at Beaver Falls



Horseback Riding at Beaver Falls

Renville County Park Locations

Anderson Lake County Park

63339 County Road 5,
Franklin, MN 55333

Beaver Falls County Park

31599 County Road 2,
Morton, MN 56270

Birch Coulee County Park

68638 County Road 18,
Morton, MN 56270

Lake Allie County Park

84068 County Road 24,
Buffalo Lake, MN 55314

Mack Lake County Park

60757 County Road 5,
Fairfax, MN 55332

Skalbekken County Park

79257 County Road 10,
Sacred Heart, MN 56285

Vicksburg County Park

73715 County Road 6,
Renville, MN 56284

Renville COUNTY PARKS

RENVILLE COUNTY PARKS OFFICE

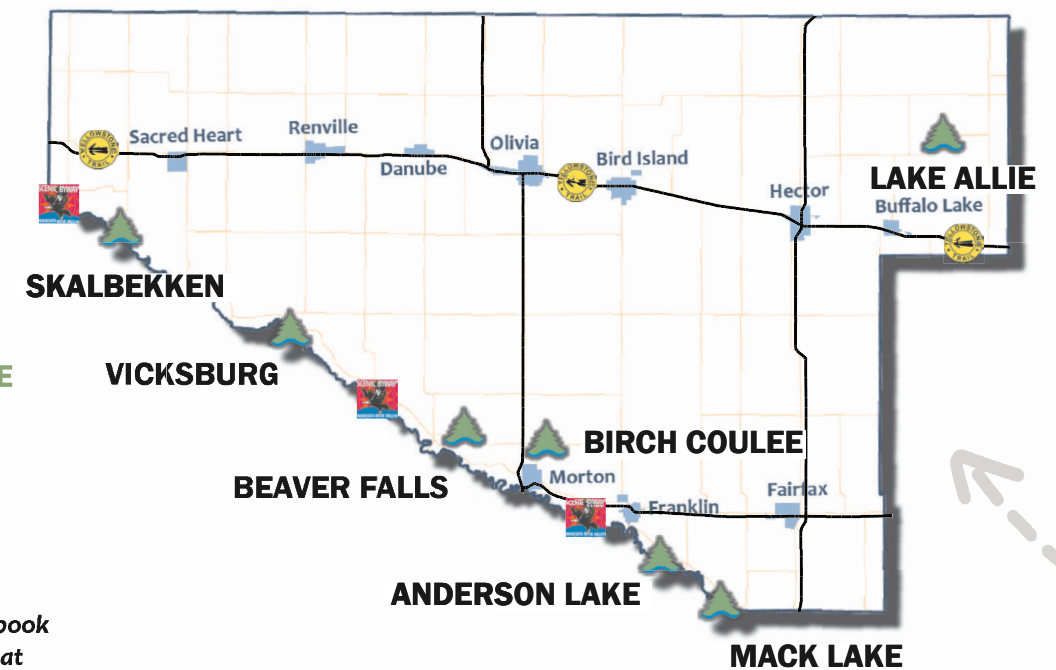
105 - 5th Street South, Suite 319
Olivia, Minnesota 56277
320-523-3747

ParksDept@renvillecountymn.gov

www.renvillecountymn.gov

Like “Renville County Parks” on Facebook

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Horseback Riding at Beaver Falls



Camping at Vicksburg



Hiking at Skalbekken

PARK FACILITY
AMENITIES KEY:

BOAT LANDING

CAMPING

FISHING

HORSE CAMPS

SHELTER/RESTROOMS

WATER



Lake Allie Fishing Pier



Historic Log Cabin at Skalbekken

BIRCH COULEE

Birch Coulee County Park features a shelter, restrooms, water, picnic areas, a stone bridge, and trails. Both rustic camping and camping with water and electrical hook-ups are available. There is also a waste dump station.

Birch Coulee, named after its paper birch trees, is better known for the neighboring Birch Coulee Battlefield where the Battle of Birch Coulee took place in 1862.



Birch Coulee Bridge



Birch Coulee Shelter



Hiking at Birch Coulee



Lake Allie Aerial View



Lake Allie

LAKE ALLIE

Lake Allie County Park amenities include a shelter, restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and a fishing pier. Camping is available with one camper cabin and 15 RV sites that include water and electrical hookups and a waste dump station. Lake Allie offers two public boat landings.

Oakdale Golf Club is located less than a mile down the road.



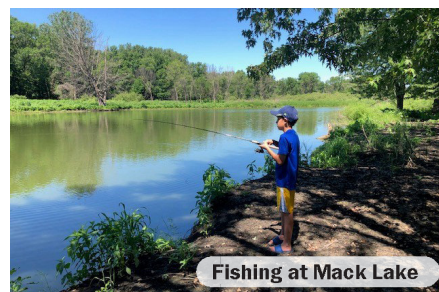
Lake Allie Shelter

MACK LAKE

Mack Lake County Park offers a shelter that is great for hosting get-togethers. A restroom, water (hand pump), and boat landing on the Minnesota River are available. Rustic camping and fishing are the main draws to the park. Fish species that have been pulled from the waters include bass, bullhead, catfish, crappie, northern pike, sunfish, and walleye. During times of high water, the park is subject to flooding.



Rustic Camping at Mack Lake



Fishing at Mack Lake



Minnesota River View at Mack Lake

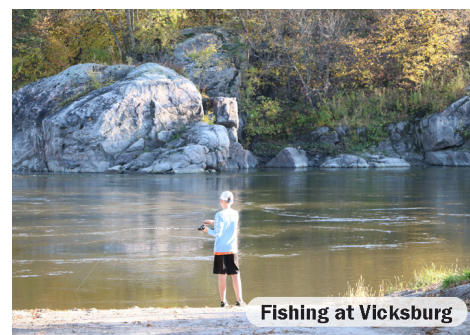
SKALBEKKEN

Skalkbekken County Park offers scenic water views with rushing waters of Limbo Creek, Hawk Creek, and the Minnesota River.

This 400-acre park offers panoramic overlooks, a thick canopy of hardwood forest, and abundant wildlife viewing opportunities. Park amenities include shelters, restrooms, water (hand pump), picnic areas, rustic camping areas, plus horse trails and camps with horse ties and manure bunkers.



Hiking on Outcrops at Vicksburg



Fishing at Vicksburg

Skalbekken became Renville County's first park in 1967. The original deed belonged to Ole Skalbeck. Skalbeck's dovetail log cabin, originally built in 1868, was moved to the park in 1974.



Horse Ties at Skalbekken

VICKSBURG

Vicksburg County Park offers a shelter, water (hand pump), restrooms, rustic camping and picnic areas.

The river is great for fishing, as well as canoeing and playing on the sandbar. The park features ancient granite and gneiss outcrops, a large sandbar, and oxbow ponds.

Thanks to the outcrops, Vicksburg is home to the Five Lined Skink, many other reptiles, and Juniper Hairstreak Butterflies.



Minnesota River View at Skalbekken



Snowshoeing at Skalbekken

Vicksburg was named after a town that was nearby from 1860 until 1905. The park was home to the county's first businesses: a trading post by French fur traders back in 1783, a fur trading post in 1833 run by Joseph Renville, and a freight-line company from the mid-1800s.

PARK FACILITY
AMENITIES KEY:

 BOAT LANDING

 CAMPING

 FISHING

 HORSE CAMPS

 SHELTER/RESTROOMS

 WATER



Antiques galore

Approximately 25,000 square feet of antique space and scores of vendors await antique shoppers along Highway 212 strip in Renville County. Pictured, clockwise, is Patina Pickers, the largest antique store in western Minnesota, Hill's Antique Gifts, located at the intersection of Highway 212 and County Road 4 in Hector and Antique Junction, located in Renville at the intersection of Highway 212 County Road 6.



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Czech Fest

The Bechyn Czech Fest is a culturally unique, joy-filled event with food, dancing and plenty of fellowship. The 35th annual event will be held Sunday, Aug. 9 with Polka Mass at 10 a.m. and Czech Dinner starting at 11 a.m.



Blue Ribbon Kicks in '26

August 12-14, 2026

- Nightly \$500 drawings at 10 pm
- Jackpot Barrel Race, ATV Big Air Tour & Demo Derby
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www.renvillecountyfair.org

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- St. Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers



Polka Mass— 10 a.m.

Czech Dinner— 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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www.BechynCzechFest.org

[Facebook.com/BechynMinnesotaWorld](https://www.facebook.com/BechynMinnesotaWorld)



SITES OF THE SCENIC BYWAY



Wood Lake Battlefield

On County Road 18, west of Highway 67, between Granite Falls and Echo. A granite monument was erected by the state in 1910 in memory of the government soldiers who died in this battle. Travel less than a mile to the core of the battlefield and walk a mowed path along Wood Lake Creek where the battle between the forces of General Sibley and Chief Little Crow took place on September 23, 1862. A private non-profit organization obtained the lease for the battlefield access.

6029 210th Ave, Echo (Monument address)
2136 600th St, Echo (Wood Lake Battlefield)
woodlakebattlefield.com



Joseph R. Brown State Wayside Rest

Located on Renville County Road 81, south of Sacred Heart, the Joseph R. Brown State Wayside Rest displays the granite ruins of Brown's home from 1862. Destroyed during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, the three-story home was a mansion compared to normal pioneer homes. Brown's family was spared because of his wife Susan's Dakota heritage. Brown was a politician, inventor, publisher and Indian Agent. Staff from Upper Sioux Agency State Park manage this site.

76941 145th St, Sacred Heart
320-564-4777
dnr.state.mn.us



Sacred Heart Area Museum

Sacred Heart Area Museum On the west edge of Sacred Heart stands a stucco building with a dome-style bell tower where people once congregated for church services. Built in 1916, it houses all of the collections of the Sacred Heart Area Historical Society. Emphasis is placed on past and present businesses, churches, families, organizations, military personnel, and schools of the area.

300 5th Ave, Sacred Heart
320-765-8868
sacredheartareamuseum.org



Vicksburg County Park

Vicksburg County Park offers a shelter, water, restrooms, rustic camping and picnic areas. The river is great for fishing, as well as canoeing and playing on the sandbar. The park features ancient granite and gneiss outcrops, a large sandbar, and oxbow ponds. View an interpretive panel that describes the beginning of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

73715 County Rd 6, Renville
320-523-3747
renvillecountymn.com



Skalbekken County Park

Skalbekken County Park is nestled in the Minnesota River Valley southwest of Sacred Heart. Skalbekken offers scenic views of the rushing waters of Limbo Creek, Hawk Creek, and the Minnesota River. Park amenities in this 400-acre park include shelters, restrooms, water, picnic areas, rustic camping areas, river fishing, hiking trails, plus horse trails and camps with horse ties and manure bunkers.

79257 County Rd 10, Sacred Heart
320-523-3747
renvillecountymn.com



Schwandt Memorial

Located on Renville County 15, south of Sacred Heart. The Schwandt Memorial Monument was erected on August 18, 1915, near the spot where the Johan Schwandt family died during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. It was built in memory of the six Schwandt family members and two of their friends who died on August 18, 1862. Two of the Schwandt children survived. The daughter, Mary, was taken captive, but was protected by a Dakota woman, Snana Win. This powerful story is memorialized today with an interpretive panel onsite.

County Rd 15, Renville



Beaver Falls County Park

Beaver Falls County Park is divided into two parts: the horse camp and the recreation area. The horse camp features wooded ravines, horse ties, manure bunkers and Beaver Creek. The upper half features the Beaver Creek Recreational Area. Both areas consist of shelters, restrooms, water, fire pits and ample multi-use trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Beaver Creek was formed when the Minnesota River Valley was carved into the landscape by the massive Glacial River Warren. See remnants of the old town of Beaver Falls that boasted a population of 500 people and was the county seat of Renville County from 1860-1900.

31521 County Rd 2, Morton
320-523-3747
renvillecountymn.com

Morton Monuments

Upon the bluff, just east of Morton, stand two granite markers memorializing the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. They are not on the battlefield, but were instead placed on the old Renville County Fairgrounds in the 1890s. In 1894 an obelisk was erected "in grateful remembrance of the heroism of



those gallant soldiers and citizens who fought the Battle of Birch Coulee." The second obelisk was erected in 1899 and is referred to as "The Faithful Indians Monument" to commemorate the Dakota that saved the lives of Euro American settlers. Six names are listed on the monument. The road leading to the monuments may need to be walked instead of driven depending on the current road conditions.

35003 650th Ave, Morton



Renville County Historical Museum

Visit Morton, Minnesota and explore the Renville County Historical Society & Museum! The Historical Society has been preserving Renville County's history since 1940. The museum grounds consist of six buildings. The main museum features exhibit areas, a research library, and a gift shop. Take a trip back into history in the Norfolk Township District 36 schoolhouse, learn of pioneer life in the 1869 Lerud log cabin in the Heritage Building, experience early farming in the machine shed, and visit St. John's Church built in 1891 and remodeled in 1909

441 N. Park Dr, Morton
507-697-6147
renvillecountyhistory.com



Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site

The Lower Sioux Agency was established in 1853 by the U.S. government to distribute promised goods and services to the Dakota people. Visitors will learn more about the government's efforts to remove the dewakaŋ-tuŋwaŋ and Waŋpekte bands of Dakota to reservation lands and colonize them into self-sufficient farmers. Explore the history, art, and culture of the Dakota Oyate (nation), learn about the effort to change their traditional way of life at the agency, and discover the roots of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 in the visitor center exhibit. Hikers can investigate the original 1861 agency warehouse and three miles of trails with a self-guided virtual tour explaining more of the agency's story.

32469 County Rd 2, Morton, MN
Located on Redwood County Hwy 2, south of Morton.
507-697-8674
mnhs.org/lowersioux



Birch Coulee Battlefield State Historic Site

Two miles north of Morton on US Highway 71, then east on Renville County Road 2. On September 22, 1862 an advance party of 150 soldiers was surprised and attacked at this site by Dakota akicita during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. The battle went on for 36 hours with heavy U.S. casualties. Visitors can walk a self-guided trail through recreated prairie and read about the battle from the perspectives of Joseph Anderson, a captain in the U.S. Army, and Wamditariŋka (Big Eagle), a Bdewakaŋ-tuŋwaŋ soldier. Sketches from soldier Albert Colgrave provide vivid battle details. Guideposts help pinpoint where the U.S. soldiers were camped and the positions the Dakota took while surrounding the U.S. soldiers.

County Hwy 2, Morton
800-657-3773
mnhs.org/birchcoulee



Fort Ridgely State Park & Historic Site

Located off Highway 4, south of Fairfax. Fort Ridgely State Park offers opportunities for camping, hiking, picnicking, and horse trails. Within the state park is the Fort Ridgely State Historic Site, managed by the Minnesota Historical Society. Built in 1853 without a protective outer wall, Fort Ridgely was a staging ground for Civil War soldiers. Fort Ridgely was attacked twice during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Fort Ridgely Cemetery exists within Fort Ridgely State Park.

72158 County Rd 30, Fairfax
507-426-7840 (park office)
507-628-5591 (historic site)
dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/
mnhs.org/fortridgely

Morton

If you're looking for history, gaming opportunities and a plethora of outdoor experiences—Morton is the place. Situated upon the Minnesota Scenic Byway, Morton is the home of the Renville County Museum campus where it is a repository for an impressive number of historical artifacts and gift items. In downtown Morton, Dakota Wicohan exists to revitalize the Dakota language and culture, with Lower Sioux Community and the Jackpot Junction Casino and Wacipi grounds just a stones throw away. Beaver Falls and Birch Coulee County Parks offer first class outdoor experiences with a number of amenities and camping opportunities while Interpretive trails at the Birch Coulee Battlefield allow reflections on the U.S. Dakota War. Morton is famous for its 3.5 million year old granite outcrops. The granite has been quarried as a component of a number of high profile architectural projects, including on the grounds of Whitehouse where they serve as 55 ton fountains that frame historic home.



The City of Morton is known for its gneiss outcrops.



Morton City Hall with the Korner Bar & Grill in the background.

Morton - pop. 400

City celebration: Independence Day – July 4

Restaurants:

1) The Korner Bar & Grill

Culture:

- 7) Renville County Historical Society
- 8) Dakota Wicohan
- 9) Birch Coulee Battlefield
- 10) Veterans Memorial

Recreation:

- 2) Jackpot Junction Casino
- 3) Dakotah Ridge Golf Club
- 4) Beaver Falls County Park
- 5) Birch Coulee County Park
- 6) Morton Gneiss SNA

Lodging & camping:

- 11) Morton Inn
- 12) Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
- Jackpot Junction RV Park

School District: Redwood Area



Renville Co. Museum and affiliate sites are located in Morton.

EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF TWO COUNTIES



Redwood County Historical Society and Museum

913 W. Bridge St.
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
507-641-3329
507-430-5781

• Old Poor Farm (1908) • 1865 Jail • 1881 Dist. 53 Schoolhouse •

Memorial Day through Labor Day

Wednesday through Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.
Open holidays and by appointment.



Redwood County Historical Society



Historic 1882 Gilfillan Estate

28263 State Hwy. 67
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

- Original Manor House and Office
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- Antique Farm Machinery Building
- Heritage House circa 1940

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redwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Renville County Historical Society

Preserving Renville County History Since 1940



441 N. Park Drive
Morton, MN 56270

507-697-6147

renvillecountyhistory.com
info@renvillecountyhistory.com
Facebook @RCHSMuseum
YouTube@
renvillecountymuseummn

- Kid Friendly & fun for all ages!
- Six Building Complex
- Research Library
- 4th of July Celebration in Morton
- Building #4 Renville County Fair in August
- Historic & Author Presentations
- Workshops & Hands-on Activities

Call to make an appointment outside
the posted hours. Admission charged.

June - August

Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September - May

Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Minnesota River Divides us and Brings us Together!

"A good river is nature's
life work in song. - Mark Helprin

Visit Morton



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EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

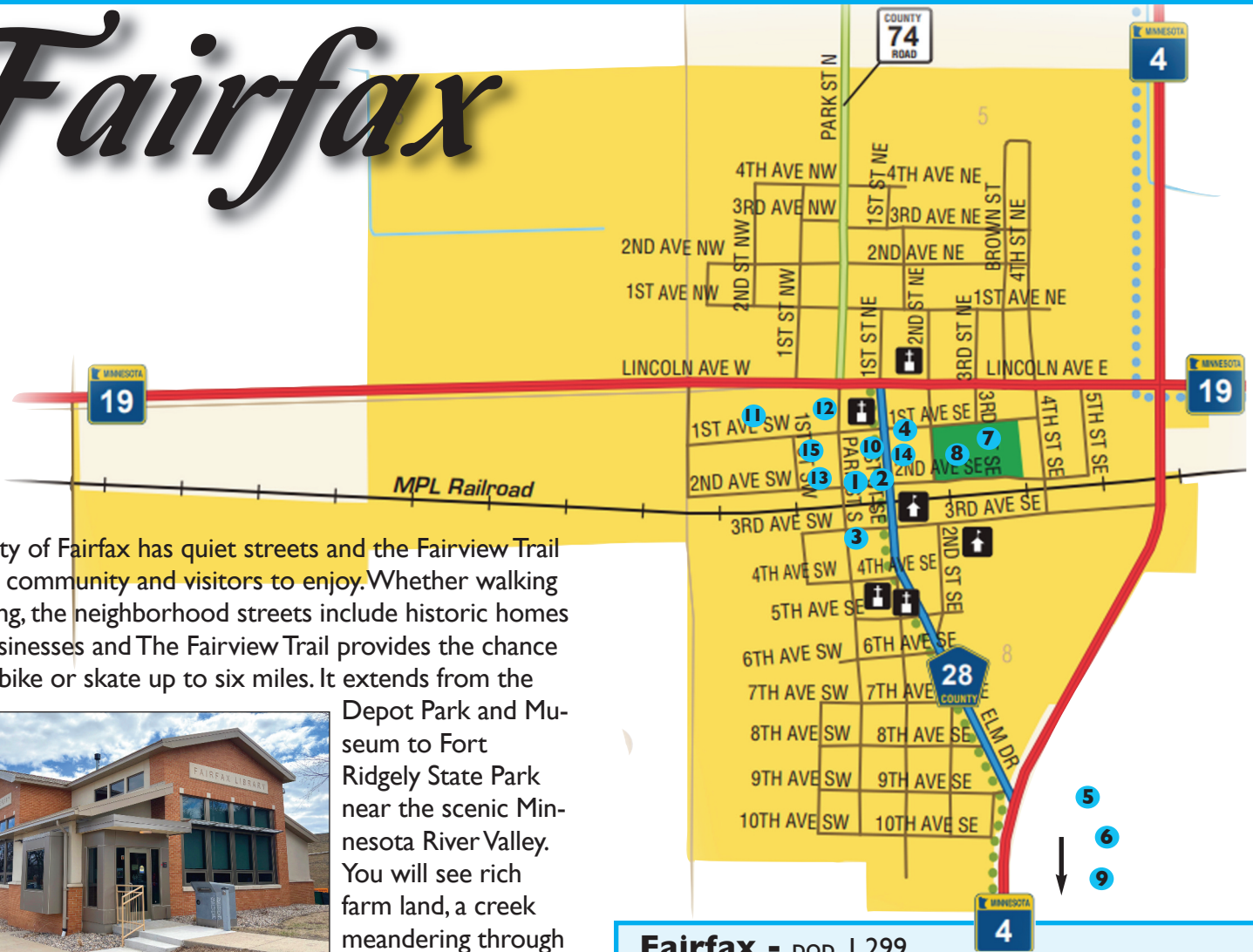
- Camping, Hiking & Horse Trails
- Minnesota River access at the Seth Eastman Canoe Landing & Picnic Shelter
- Lodging — walking distance to downtown
- City Park: Softball Field, Picnic Shelters, Restrooms & Playground

- Bar & grill, gas station, casino, gun shop, pet grooming, Tattoo Shop & more
- Job opportunities in the community
- Historic sites & SNA Morton Outcrop
- Celebrate 4th of July in Morton

Morton Area Chamber & Tourism Bureau
507-697-6147 • PO Box 316, Morton, MN 56270
www.mortonareachamber.org
#LetsGotoMorton to Play, Stay, and Live



Fairfax



The City of Fairfax has quiet streets and the Fairview Trail for the community and visitors to enjoy. Whether walking or biking, the neighborhood streets include historic homes and businesses and The Fairview Trail provides the chance to jog, bike or skate up to six miles. It extends from the



The Fairfax Library is top notch.

Depot Park and Museum to Fort Ridgely State Park near the scenic Minnesota River Valley. You will see rich farm land, a creek meandering through the wooded hills and the scenic river valley with a wide variety of wildlife, including the majestic bald eagle. The park system also offers picnic shelters, municipal swimming pool, playgrounds, baseball field and grandstand complex, basketball courts, and softball diamonds. A quality lifestyle and a great variety of businesses and services that you would expect to find in a larger community. In other words, it's a "Little Big Town."



The Fairfax Depot Museum is a great spot for a picnic.

Fairfax - pop. 1,299

City celebrations:

Dayz of Thunder – June 26 - 28

History & Culture:

- 1) Fairfax Depot Museum
- 2) Veterans Memorial
- 3) Community Center
- 4) Fairfax Library

Recreation:

- 5) Mayflower Golf Club
- 6) Fair Ridge Recreation Trail
- 7) Fairfax Fitness pool
- 8)Memorial Park
- 9) Fort Ridgely State Park

Restaurants:

- 10) Monk's Bar & Grill
- 11) Squirrels Bar & Grill
- 12) Sweet Spot Bake Shop & Lolo's Chicago style dogs

Retail:

- 13) Grapevine Gifts & Rentals
- 14) Farm Mercantile
- 15) F&F Floral

School District:

Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop
Cedar Mountain



The Fairfax swimming pool is located amidst Memorial Park.

Franklin



Welcome to the City of Franklin, Minnesota's Catfish Capital! Franklin is located on State Highway 19 overlooking the beautiful Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway. The area businesses and residents are known for their friendliness. A great time to visit is during Franklin's annual Catfish Derby Days, held the 4th weekend in July. However, any time is a good time with the opportunity to explore the outdoors and access the river via the Cedar Mountain Science and Natural Area and Boat Landing Park. The park features river access, a picnic area and shelter as well as campsites, public restrooms, shower and electricity. For those interested in our story, head over to the Franklin Depot Railroad Museum.



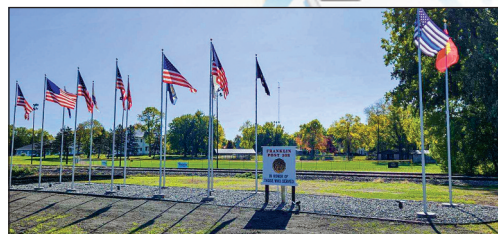
The Franklin Community remembers Sgt. Brent Koch and Navy man John (Eddie) Johnson.



The Franklin Community Center is situated to the right while the Cougar Cub Daycare is left.



The Longbranch Saloon has a draw that is well beyond the Franklin area.



Franklin - pop. 525

City celebration:

Catfish Derby Days
July 24-26

Culture:

- 1) Franklin Depot Railroad Museum
- 2) Veteran's Memorial x 2

Restaurants:

- 3) Long Branch Saloon

Recreation:

- 4) Cedar Mountain SNA
- 5) Dakota Ridge Golf Club
- 6) Minn. River Boat access
- 7) Community Center

Camping:

- 8) MN River Boat Access

School District:

Cedar Mountain

The Corn Capital of Minnesota



The Corn Monument in Memorial Park is the largest in the state.

In 1973 the Village of Olivia authorized the preparation of a new 'roadside' park adjacent to U.S. Hwy 71, immediately west side of Olivia. Purpose was for the erection of a Giant Ear of Corn mon-

ument to show the world that Olivia is indeed the Corn Capital of Minnesota. In fact it was officially designated as such by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1993.

Why such preponderant claims?

Renville County with Olivia as the County Seat, perennially is the top producing corn county in Minnesota; and often ranks in the top five counties nationally.

This ear of corn statue is a 25 foot fiberglass monster weighing approximately 3,500 pounds. Supported by an 18-

inch diameter and 30 foot steel pipe, the Ear stands 75 feet tall with a 25 foot diameter wood and steel base structure with four walls...each displaying information about the statue and why Renville County is the number one corn producing county in the state of Minnesota; and reliably also one of the top five counties in the United States in corn production.

Why the 75 feet of height? Because the city of Rochester had at that time a 70 foot tall statue depicting a huge ear of corn. And if Olivia was to live up to its claim as the number one corn production county in Minnesota it certainly seemed necessary to have the tallest ear of corn also.

The City of Olivia provided water service, shrubbery, grass, picnic tables and lighting for the display.

So how did the Ear of Corn come into being? Because of a seed company called Trojan Seed which started in 1948 by Henry Rauhenhorst Sr, a long-time corn producer in Renville County. Early in the 1970s Trojan Seed had be-

come the number three ranking seed company in Minnesota in terms of number of bags of seed corn sold. With the ag-

gressive leadership of Bob Rauhenhorst, Trojan Seed soon became number eight in the nation. So with this incredible leap into America's corn industry, it was only logical that Trojan Seed notified the world of this accomplishment. And what better than the 'worlds' largest ear of corn prominently displayed along U.S. Highway 71, a very busy north/south highway leading to the Canadian border.

At one point in time during the 1980s, Olivia could claim 13 different seed companies had a presence in the town of Olivia.

Three were actually into seed production: Trojan Seed; Keltgen Seed; and Thurston Seed. Today, the town continues to be a major seed processing center with soybean now about equaling seed corn in seed processing, warehousing and marketing.



Beck's Hybrid Seeds is underway on a new state-of-the-art facility in Olivia, the Corn Capital.





Thrift Store

1640 West Lincoln
Olivia, MN 56277
(320) 523-1288

Furniture Store

124 South 9th Street
Olivia, MN 56277
(320) 523-1862

HOURS



Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

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1002 West Lincoln
Olivia, MN
320-523-1626



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Sunday 9 am-5 pm
125 N. Main St.
Bird Island, MN
320-522-5593

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At Olivia Hospital & Clinic, we've been providing exceptional health care for our communities since 1951. Today, our combined hospital and clinic campus, as well as our nearby clinic locations in Hector and Renville, allows us to offer comprehensive health services close to home.

Olivia Hospital & Clinic is a Level IV Trauma Center, a 5-Star Patient Rated Hospital and has been recognized for superior performance in quality and patient safety. We're known for our dedication to personalized patient care and clinical excellence, ensuring the best experience for every patient we serve. But most of all, we're known for being the friendly faces you can turn to for the care your family needs.

Olivia Hospital & Clinic is changing the face of rural health care. We're committed to building a healthier today and tomorrow for the communities we're proud to call home.



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- Walk-In Clinic



Renville County Churches

Psalm 27:4 - One thing I ask from the Lord this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Bird Island United Methodist Church

Corner of Birch and 8th in Bird Island
Pastor: Rev. Joseph Carpenter
Pastor's cell: 320-295-9870
Email: jocar330@yahoo.com

Sunday Service
9:30 am Worship

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

1103 W. Chestnut Ave., Olivia
320-523-1574
www.crossofcalvary.net
Rev. Matt Hausken; Sarah Hausken, Youth Director; Skye Hebrink, Office
Church services are aired online. Visit the website for more info.

Sunday Service
9 am Sunday Worship

Emden Christian Reformed Church

512 NW Emerson, Renville
320-329-3800 or 3932
www.emdencrc.org
Pastor David Zigterman
Services live-streamed and posted online.

Sunday Service
10 am Worship

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

86581 County Road 6, Renville
320-329-3643
Pastor Anna Williamson
Online streaming available.

Sunday Service
10 am Worship

Emanuel Lutheran

Wellington Twp
Pastor Jesse DeDeyne
emanuel2009@centurytel.net

Sunday Service
10:15 am Worship

Faith United Methodist Church

202 S. 9th St., Olivia
Cell: 309-226-3327
faithumc@gmail.com
Pastor Krey Leesman

Sunday Service
11 am Worship

First Lutheran Church

220 5th St. W, Hector, MN
320-848-2845
Sunday Service
9:00 am Worship

First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
316 SW 3rd Street, Renville
Office: 320-329-3954
www.flcmn.org
Email: firstrenville@gmail.com
Pastor Trevor Bailey
Online streaming available.
Sunday Service
9 am Worship

Grace Community Church

815 Lincoln Ave. E, PO Box 96, Olivia; 320-523-2711
www.sharinggodsgace.com

See our Facebook page for livestream.

Sunday Service
10 am Worship

Hawk Creek Lutheran Church

84082 130th St., Sacred Heart
Sacred Heart: 320-765-2783
Rock Valle: 507-925-4456
Parsonage: 320-765-2547
www.lutheranonline.com/hawkvalle
Pastor Daniel Bowman
Online streaming is available.

Sunday Service
9 am HC Worship
10:30 am RV Worship
HC/RV Online Worship

Hector United Methodist

300 2nd St. W, Hector, MN
320-848-2666
Pastor David Drager

Sunday Service
9:00 am Zoom Worship

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

106 SE 3rd Street, Renville
Office: 320-329-3884
Keller Hall: 320-329-8219
www.afcheartofjesus.org/HR
Fathers Joe Steinbeisser & George Schmit,
Senior Associate

Sunday Service
8:30 am Confession

Middle Creek Methodist

72971 County Road 21,
Redwood Falls
Cell: 309-226-3327
faithumc@gmail.com
Pastor Krey Leesman

Sunday Service
8 am Worship

New Life Community Church

450 Birch Ave. E, Hector, MN
320-848-2120
Pastor Mark Wathke

Sunday Service
10:00 am Worship

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Bird Island

510 Dogwood Ave., Bird Island
320-365-3996
Pastor Kari Shumaker

Sunday Service
9 am Worship (Summer)
10 am Worship (Fall/Winter/Spring)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Sacred Heart

400 1st Ave., Sacred Heart
Pastor Michelle Kleene
320-765-8823
www.sacredheartos.org

online services: www.youtube.com/sacred-heartos

Sunday Service
10 am Worship

Palmyra Community Bible Church

44031 Co. Rd. 4, Hector, MN
palmyracovenant@gmail.com
Pastor Les Minter

Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship

St. Aloysius Catholic Church

302 S. 10th St., Olivia
320-523-2030
www.afcheartofjesus.org/SA
Fathers Joe Steinbeisser & George Schmit,
Senior Associate

Sunday Service
8:30 am Mass

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

209 Bryant Ave. N.E., Renville
320-329-3826 / sjlc-wels.org
Pastor Keith Petersen

Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship

St. Mary's Catholic

220 Tenth St. S., Bird Island
320-365-3593
www.afcheartofjesus.org/SM
Fathers Joe Steinbeisser & George Schmit,
Senior Associate

Sunday Service
10:30 am Mass

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

304 Fourth St., Danube
320-826-2280
www.stmatthewsdanube.org
Pastor Keith Petersen

Sunday Service
8 am Worship

St. Paul's Lutheran

500 Cedar Ave E, Hector, MN

stpluth@frontiernet.net

Sunday Service
Online Worship - www.stpaulshec-tor.com

Swedlanda Lutheran

73950 Co. Rd. 16, Hector, MN
Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship

United Methodist Church

401 1st St. SE, Fairfax, MN
Worship Service
6:00 am Wednesdays

United Lutheran Church

811 Lakeview St. S, Lake Lillian, MN
320-664-7008
Pastor David Nelson

Sunday Service
11:00 am Worship

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

509 S. 11th St., Olivia
320-444-7641 / www.zionolivia.net
Pastor Engel

Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship

Zion Lutheran Church

228 5th St. NW, Buffalo Lake, MN
320-833-2024
Pastor Brian Lauer

Sunday Service
9:45 am Worship

Zion United Methodist Church - Buffalo Lake

306 2nd St. NW, Buffalo Lake
320-833-5356
Pastor David Drager

Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship

Zion United Methodist Church - Danube

300 N Main Street, Danube
PO Box 155; faithumc@gmail.com
Pastor Krey Leesman

Sunday Service
9:30 am Worship



Walk His Path Photos
Mark & Jill Schwiderski
markandjillski@zenfolio.com



Cross of Calvary

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming You

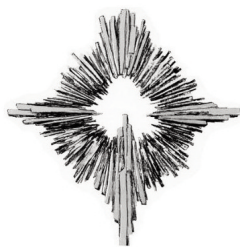
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9:00 AM

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Phone: 320-523-1574

<https://crossofcalvary.net/>



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St. Mary's

Catholic Church

220 South 10th Street

Bird Island, MN 55310

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am

Holy Redeemer

Catholic Church

106 3rd Street, SE

Renville, MN 56284

Sunday Mass 9:00 am

St. Aloysius Catholic Church

302 South 10th Street

Olivia, MN 56277

Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 8:30 am

Please check our weekly schedule at

www.heartofjesusaafc.org

Contact us at:

Heart of Jesus AFC Parish Office

302 South 10th Street

Olivia, MN 56277

320-523-2030/320-365-3593



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PO Box 500

Bird Island, MN 55310

320-365-3693

tsigurdson@stmarysbi.com

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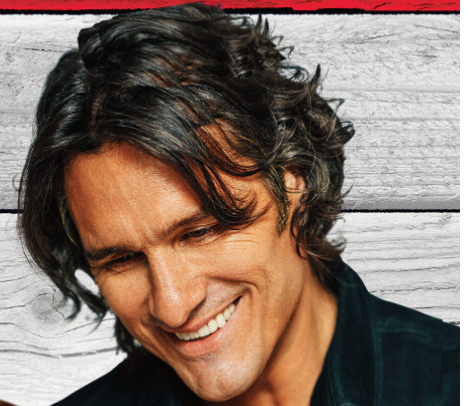
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18 holes - \$15



Hit the course! On one of the five beautiful courses available in the area.

Golfers looking for an affordable, relaxed alternative to crowded metro courses don't have to travel far. Tucked among rolling farmland and the river valleys of west-central Minnesota, the Renville County area offers five affordable public golf courses, each offering its own blend of scenery, playability and small-town hospitality. From nine-hole community staples to a full 18-hole layout, the region's courses provide options for beginners and experienced players alike. Here's a brief look at the area's five course options and what they have to offer.

Established in 1927, the Olivia Golf Club features a nine-hole course that remains a community fixture. Mature trees, well-kept fairways and a straight forward layout make it accessible for new golfers while still providing enough variety for regular play. Its compact design is ideal for

quick rounds, and its welcoming atmosphere continues to draw local leagues and returning visitors. The course plays fairly level and straight, but its center of town location can provide its challenges along the ground's outer fairways.

Located just outside Renville, Stoney Creek offers a quiet, rural setting. The course emphasizes open space and a slower pace of play, giving golfers room to focus on shot-making without the congestion often found at larger facilities. It's a fitting stop for those looking to combine golf with a day in the countryside. The open air nature of the prairie grounds can create challenging winds at times, but its manicured greens can help make up for its challenging fairways.

The Oakdale Golf Club in Buffalo Lake is an 18-hole course near Lake Allie. The course features

rolling terrain, tree-lined fairways, and natural elevation changes, which are all nestled in the backdrop of the beautiful waters of the nearby county park. Oakdale provides one of the more dynamic layouts in the county, balancing playability with a moderate challenge that rewards thoughtful course management. Although enjoyable throughout the season, those taking part in fall tee times can enjoy the additional backdrop that the course's magnificent fall colors provide.

The Mayflower Golf Club in Fairfax is known for its consistent conditions and community-centered feel. The Mayflower offers a traditional golf experience with an approachable and

reliable layout, which makes it a popular choice for league play and casual rounds alike.

For those looking for a full-service experience, Granite Run Golf Course in Granite Falls combines its 9-hole course with additional amenities, including the Granite Run Restaurant. Tucked away inside the Minnesota River Valley, Granite Run provides a unique experience. Its attached restaurant features an abundance of menu options, including their highly regarded grilled pork chop. Granite Run's layout mixes open and technical holes, and its location near Granite Falls makes it the perfect destination for day trips.



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