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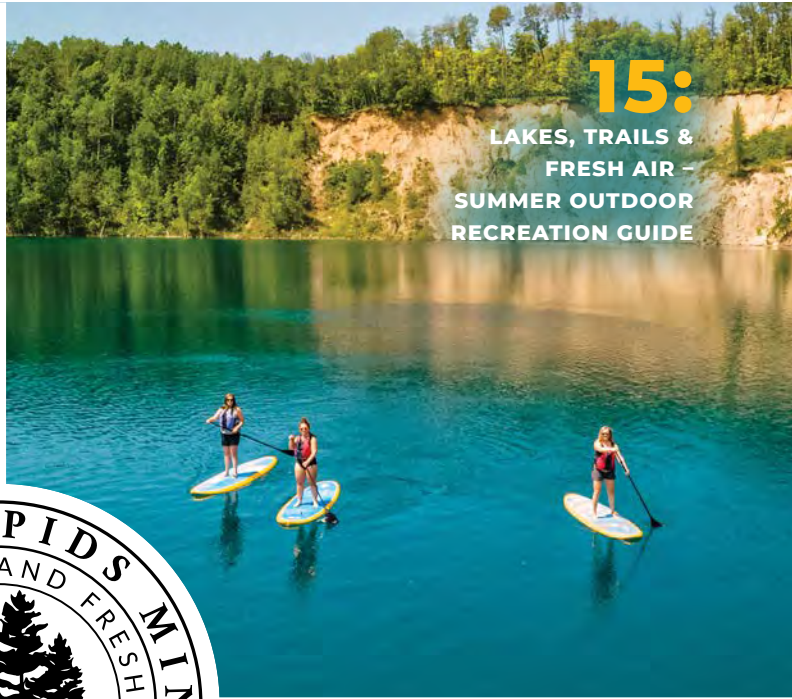
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TOP 10 THINGS TO DO
IN THE SPRING



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LAKES, TRAILS &
FRESH AIR –
SUMMER OUTDOOR
RECREATION GUIDE



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FALL COLORS TOUR
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Minnesota
North College

Itasca

PAGE 26

THE OUTDOOR RECREATION
MECCA OF THE NORTH

THRIVE
UP NORTH

PAGE 27

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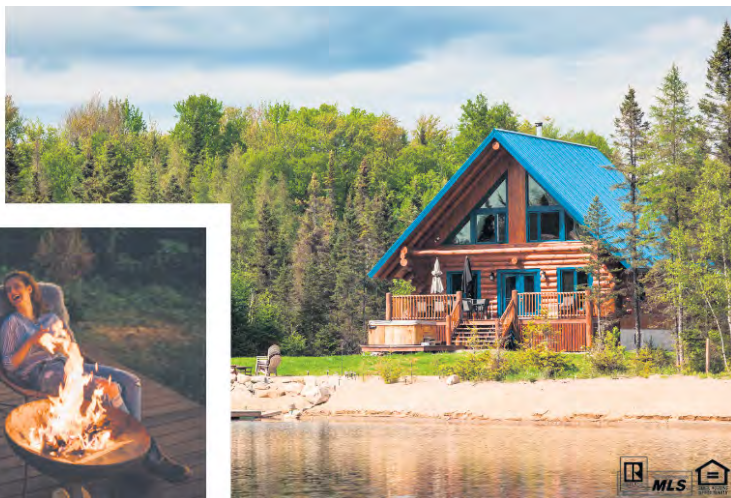
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**To Find
Things To Do:**



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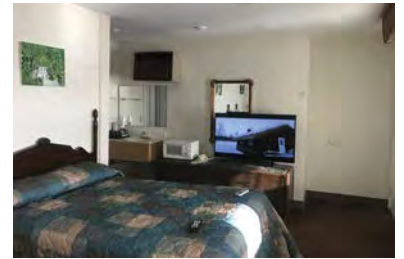
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Itasca Motel



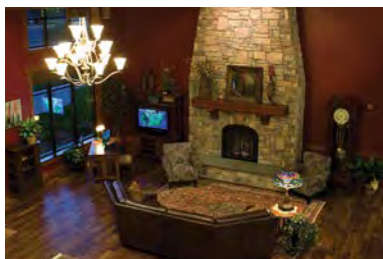
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Buckhorn on Caribou Lake



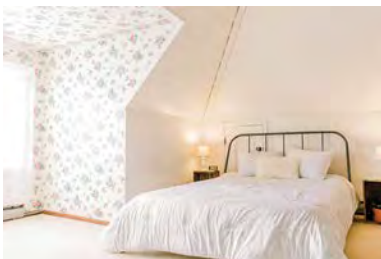
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Marcell, MN 56657
218-256-0089
buckhornoncaribou.com



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Lake & Co. Loft



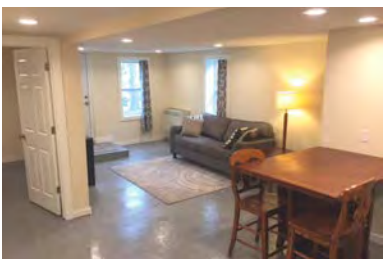
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<https://birchbayresort.us/>



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218-259-2594
jessieviewresort.com



Loon's Landing on Big Jessie



48989 County Road 134
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loonslanding.net



Loon Point Resort



51898 CR 310 • Bigfork, MN 56628
218-245-1470
loonpointresortmn.com



Moose Lake Resort



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Deer River, MN 56636
218-246-8675
mooselkresort.com



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pokegamalakeresort.com



Rising Eagle Resort



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Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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ATTRACTIONS



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www.cdmkids.org
www.judygarlandmuseum.com

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Main Street | Bigfork, MN

An artist's rendition of a Log Driver and
Cook Boat Wannigan Display. Also, a
painting depicting airmen bailing out of
a B-29 over Itasca County in 1945.

Outdoor Recreation

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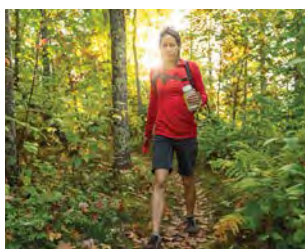
Spring

Head north in the spring and personally experience all of nature coming alive. Hear the welcome sounds of birds singing, witness the verdant buds blooming, and smell the refreshing fragrance of forests reawakening.



Biking – There are many places to bicycle in Grand Rapids including the Mesabi Trail and in-town paved trails. Get Fit Itasca has created a Grand Rapids trails map for walking,

hiking, and biking. The Mesabi Trail is an approximately 140 paved trail that runs from Grand Rapids, MN to Ely, MN.



Hiking – There are tens of thousands of forest acres to hike. The Chippewa National Forest offers hundreds of miles of hiking trails. Some of our favorites are Simpson Creek, Suomi Hills and Legion Trail.



Mountain Biking – The Tioga Recreation Area (25 miles) and Legion Trail (7 miles) are two great places to ride single track mountain bike trails in the greater Grand Rapids, MN area.

Be aware early season may lead to trail closures due to wet, soft trail conditions.



ATV/OHV – In the Grand Rapids, MN area there are over 300 miles of designated and well-groomed ATV/ OHV trails. The closest ATV/ OHV trail to town is the UPM

Blandin ATV Trail that is located 9 miles south of the center of town in Grand Rapids, MN.

Summer

For hundreds of years, families have been coming to the greater Grand Rapids, MN area to make memories on our pristine lakes. Summer is the perfect time of the year to fish, swim, boat, paddle, and make memories at the campfire. Reconnecting with loved ones in Minnesota's nature is the perfect way to spend a summer vacation.



Fishing – With over 1,400 area lakes you can catch everything from panfish to trophy fish. You can fish right in town at the Grand Rapids Library Fishing Pier; the library even loans out fishing rods and tackle.



Camping – There are several places to camp in the greater Grand Rapids, MN area. The Itasca Fairgrounds will be opening their newly renovated 47 full hookup sites located

across from Crystal Lake in the summer of 2023. Two Rivers RV & Campground is opening 50+ seasonal and night-by-night camping spots located on the Mississippi and LaPrairie Rivers.



Paddle – Our area lakes are perfect for kayaking, canoeing, and stand up paddle boarding. Our crystal clear reclaimed mine lakes are uniquely stunning places to explore

from directly on the water.



Golfing – Grand Rapids has three Grand Lakes of Golf Courses: Sugarbrooke Golf Course, Pokegama Golf Course and Eagle Ridge Golf Course. All three courses offer

golf club and cart rentals, and onsite restaurants for food and beverages.



Motorcycling – Grand Rapids has three scenic byways that are perfect for two-wheel rides that have slow curves and rolling hills among tall pines, tamarack

bogs, and beautiful lakes and rivers. The Great River Road, Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway, and the Avenue of the Pines Scenic Byway are all beautiful scenic roads to enjoy on a motorcycle.

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Fall & Winter FEATURES

Fall

Grand Rapids, MN is one of our state's dream fall color viewing destinations. Breathtaking scenery and abundant wildlife abound for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. In addition, Broadway style theater and performances, live music, public art, boutique style shops, and fun places to eat & drink make this the perfect fall getaway for everyone.



ATV/OHV – Being on an ATV/ OHV allow you to explore deeper into the forest on designated trails. With over 300 miles of trails, you can ride for days.



Hiking – Cool crisp fall days are perfect for hiking on the Suomi Hills, Simpson Creek, and Legion Trail. As the leaves fall the forest opens up revealing more of mother nature's hidden treasures.



Hunting – Itasca County is known for its high population of grouse. Grand Rapids is home to over 1 million publicly accessible acres for hunting. The UPM Blandin

Forest has some of the highest bird counts in the nation.



Biking – The cooler temperatures make for an enjoyable bicycle ride on the Mesabi paved bike trail. At Tioga and Legion, the beautiful fall colors provide a wonderful

scenic view as you ride the single track trails.



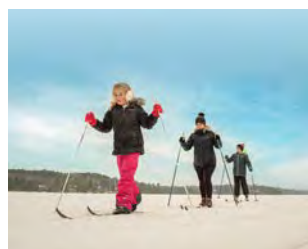
Winter

Winter is a season of reconnecting with loved ones in a cozy cabin rental with a fireplace. The brisk air that can take your breath away awakens the soul. Being outdoors in the winter allows you to get a new perspective of the forests and lakes. The icy chill that blankets the landscape is a beautiful site. Come inside to enjoy warm and cozy places to eat & drink, be entertained, shop, and enjoy locally created art.



Snowmobiling – There are over 300 miles of snowmobile trails through the winter wonderland forests. The trails lead to fun and interesting places to eat & drink, places to get gas, and places to lodge.

Ride through tall pine forests, over tamarack bogs, and across vast frozen lakes.



Cross-Country Skiing – There is something special about Nordic skiing through the Chippewa National Forest. A great way to seek solitude and reconnect with nature's

wilderness in the winter. There are over 200 KM of well-groomed ski trails in the greater Grand Rapids, MN area.



Snowshoeing – A lot like hiking, but you blaze your own trail through the fluffy snow. You get an up close and personal perspective of the forest on snowshoes. A great

way to see bucket list locations like the Lost Forty in the winter.



Downhill Skiing – The famous Mt. Itasca is the outdoor winter sports center for the entire family. From downhill skiing and chair lifts to Area 51 snowboard skills

course to snowtube runs and over 20 KM of cross-country ski trails. Warm up inside the ski chalet for some hot chocolate and snacks.



Fat Tire Biking – There are two single track trails that are perfect for fat tire biking: Tioga Recreation and Legion Trail. Tioga offers 15 miles of winter single-track trail riding,

hundreds of acres to snowshoe, and two lakes to ice fish. The Legion Trail is 7 miles of single track trail where you can blaze your own trail, cross-country ski, and snowshoe.

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Seasonal Getaway ITINERARIES

Grand Rapids, MN is the outdoor mecca of the north for all seasons. These sample trip itineraries were created to help spur ideas to help you plan a trip to the greater Grand Rapids, MN area.



Spring Getaway

BREAKFAST: Hot cup of coffee and breakfast at NoPo Coffee Co or Brewed Awakenings

OUTDOOR RECREATION: Hike in the Chippewa National Forest at Simpson Creek. Bike the Mesabi Trail. Get bicycle from bike bro

LUNCH IDEAS: Gosh Dam Place (Avenue of the Pines Scenic Byway) or Florio's Grill & Tavern (Cohasset)

TOUR: The Judy Garland Museum & Children's Discovery Museum, or Itasca County Historical Society Museum and Escape Room (Grand Rapids)

DINNER IDEAS: Timberlake Lodge Restaurant (Grand Rapids), Timberlake Lodge (Marcell)

Summer Getaway

BREAKFAST: Dottie's Café (Grand Rapids) or Sportsman Café (Deer River)

OUTDOOR RECREATION: Paddle the Mississippi or reclaimed mine pit. Fish at the Mississippi River fishing pier (Grand Rapids Library). Hike Legion Trail (Grand Rapids). Golf at one of the Grand Lakes of Golf Courses: Pokegama, Sugarbrooke, or Eagle Ridge.

LUNCH IDEAS: Wizards Bar (Nashwauk) or Pinecone Café (Marcell)

TOUR: Forest History Center (Grand Rapids), Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center (Marcell) or Hill Annex Mine (Calumet)

DINNER IDEAS: or Cedar Creek Grille (Grand Rapids)

Fall Getaway

BREAKFAST: Pinecone Café (Marcell),
Park Recreation (Bigfork)

OUTDOOR RECREATION: ATV/OHV Balsam to Bigfork
or in the Chippewa National Forest, Hike the Suomi Hills
(Marcell), Hike at Scenic State Park (Bigfork), or Hike Lost
Forty (Alvwood)

LUNCH: Antler Lodge (Bigfork), Tavern on the Range
(Bovey) or Fish Tales (S Lake)

TOUR: Edge Center for the Arts Gallery (Bigfork),
Cedar Street Bridge Wanigan Park and Lumberjack
Statue (Bigfork)

DINNER: Mucho Si Restaurant (Nashwauk), Locker Room
Bar & Grill (Coleraine), Leino's Pub (S Lake)

Winter Getaway


BREAKFAST: Country Kitchen (Grand Rapids) or Pickled
Loon Saloon (Grand Rapids)

OUTDOOR RECREATION: Cross Country Ski at Sugar
Hills (Cohasset), Snowshoe or Fat Tire Bike at Tioga
Recreation Area, Ice Fish in Tioga Bay on Pokegama Lake, or
Snowmobile on the Taconite Trail.

LUNCH: Rapids Brewing Company (Grand Rapids) or
Unwined Up North (Grand Rapids)

ACTIVITIES: Bowl at Thunder Alley XL, Tour MacRostie Art
Gallery & Giinawind Creative Space, Play Slots at White Oak
Casino, Live Music at Klockow Brewing Company





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- 9) Mountain Biking, Snowmobiling, Hunting, Fishing, and more. The outdoors is your playground...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpscdce31YM&t=4s>
- 8) ...and the outdoors is often your classroom at Minnesota North College.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyuMRlktbiQ>
- 7) Interested in sports? All of our Minnesota North College campuses have competitive athletics.
<https://minnesotanorth.edu/athletics/>
- 6) A nationally recognized engineering program at Itasca with a pathway to the Iron Range Engineering program in Virginia. Both programs utilize principles of project-based learning.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnXnYQpcYNQ>
- 5) Scholarship opportunities galore! With five campus-based foundations that provide scholarships to students and program or geography-specific scholarship programs, it's never been a more affordable time to attend Minnesota North College.
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- 4) Small class sizes, individualized attention, tutoring availability, and a focus on student basic needs – We even have a food pantry on our campus for those that need it.
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- 3) There are great opportunities to study abroad!
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- 2) If you are an adult and looking to come back to school at any of our campuses, we have an EMPOWER grant program that helps students pay for costs associated with childcare, transportation, study assistance, and loan forgiveness when you enroll in specific programming.
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THRIVE UP NORTH

"Nothing about spending three hours in my car commuting to a job or home excites me at all. When I can get from one end of town to the other in 10-15 minutes, give or take lights... that excites me," says Trisha.

Meet Trisha and Kingston! Trisha Peterson grew up in Deer River, MN. After high school, she spent almost 20 years away from home. Trisha chased her passions, playing and coaching collegiate volleyball. After that, she realized she wanted to give back in some way. So, Trisha enlisted in the United States Airforce. After a family hardship arose, she took an honorable discharge and moved back to Minnesota.

Trisha's son, Kingston is five years old. Trisha says that she couldn't think of a safer, more comfortable area to raise him. They both love the Itasca County Family YMCA. Kingston is not only enrolled in preschool at The YMCA, but is also involved in all the extracurriculars there. From swimming to soccer and flag football - you name it... the YMCA has it!

Some of Trisha's favorite parts about living in this area are the seasons and the endless opportunities that Itasca offers. She appreciates the arts, the outdoors, and all community events. She mentions that it's nice to feel the busyness of activities that your family can be involved in.



Trisha closes her interview by saying, "If someone is wondering why to move up here, just look around... or listen. What do you hear? You hear peace. You hear birds. You hear nature." Why wouldn't you want all that and more?"



Luring you to Itasca

Relocation incentives are popping up across the country. These programs showcase an area as the perfect place to live, work, and play with the incentives needed to encourage people to make the move. The Thrive Up North taskforce decided that 2022 was the year to start an incentives program of our own.

There are over 1,400 lakes in Itasca County, countless miles of trails, and endless amenities. We want to lure YOU to Itasca County: Hook, Line, and Sinker. Area leaders have come together to create a collaborative rural recruitment

marketing campaign that showcases the Itasca County communities as a place that offers a great work life balance, good place to start a business, and a great place to raise a family. Check out our new Incentives Package. Four Incentives, one great outcome: a life in Itasca County. What's stopping you? Come THRIVE with us!

The package includes:
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We have had over 20 applicants. Of those, 13 have been accepted and additional applications are still under review. We are excited with the response we've had with our program and look forward to continuing these efforts into 2023 and beyond.

For more information regarding the Thrive Up North campaign, please head to our website: www.thriveupnorth.com.

Scenic BYWAYS

Great River Road

The mighty Mississippi River runs right through downtown in Grand Rapids. Two great places to view the Mississippi are the Pokegama Dam on Hwy 2 W, and the new walking bridge next to KAXE Northern Community Radio. The Grand Rapids Area Library offers people to check-out fishing poles and tackle boxes so you can fish on their Mississippi River fishing pier. Look for the green



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and white Pilot's Wheel sign to guide your way along Minnesota's 565-mile Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The Itasca County Historical Society offers a River Room exhibit located inside their museum that is located across the street from the Mississippi River in downtown Grand Rapids.



Avenue of the Pines Scenic Byway



Some of the Highway's outstanding scenic values include views of mature red pine stands, sparkling lakes, marshes, and aspen stands. Spatial sequences range from enclosed and focused in the pines, to

open and expansive near the lake and marsh areas. Island, Round, Nature's, Cut Foot Sioux, Little Ball Club, along with Lake Winnibigoshish, the state's fifth largest lake, give travelers glimpses of northern ecosystems along the byway corridor. The Avenue of the Pines starts in Deer River, MN and travels north 46 miles to Northome, MN. Much of the Avenue of the Pines Scenic Byway is located in the Chippewa National Forest, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe territory. There are many annual events that take place along the Byway like the World's Largest Wild Rice Festival, and the WAA WI YE GAA MAAG Traditional Pow Wow. There are many trail access points throughout the Byway for hiking, biking, ATV/OHV, hunting, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. There are many lakes and rivers which are great for fishing. Find fun places to eat & drink, places to shop, places to get gas, and places to lodge along the Byway. For hundreds of years visitors have been vacationing along the Avenue of the Pines Scenic Byway making memories at family owned resorts and vacation rentals.

Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway



A National Scenic Byway

This route was once used by voyageurs and loggers through the Chippewa National Forest, over rolling hills, and past bogs and fishing lakes. Much of the 47-mile drive that connects Grand Rapids to Effie was reconstructed in recent years, promising a smooth ride and spectacular scenery - from historic sites and lumberjack-influenced small towns to bald eagles and balsam firs.

Find numerous resorts and campgrounds around Marcell, where the ranger station for the Chippewa National Forest is located, and Grand Rapids, and the neighboring lakes. There are several hiking trails, including one that leads to the old Joyce Estate, once a millionaire's vacation hideaway.

Grand Rapids is home to the Judy Garland Museum and Judy's childhood home. At the Forest History Center, you can tour a reconstructed 1900 logging camp and learn about forestry. Check for concerts or plays at the Myles Reif Performing Arts Center.



BUCKET LIST *Vacation*

While on vacation you might be searching for new experiences and adventures. A bucket list is a great way to help encourage your inner explorer. Below is a seasonal bucket “checklist” to help you and your loved ones discover and make lasting memories in Minnesota’s nature.

Spring

- ☐ Forage for Mushrooms in the Chippewa National Forest
- ☐ Bike on the Mesabi Trail
- ☐ Hike at Scenic State Park
- ☐ Mountain Bike at Tioga Recreation Area
- ☐ Fish on Opening Fishing on Bowstring Lake

Summer

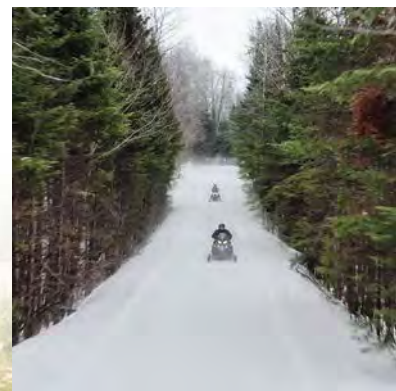
- ☐ Take a pontoon ride around Pokegama Lake
- ☐ Paddle the Mississippi River
- ☐ Paddle LaRaue Mine Pit
- ☐ Float in Tioga Pit Lake
- ☐ Pick Strawberries at Luneyberries or Lavalier’s Berry Patch

Fall

- ☐ Hike the Lost Forty
- ☐ Mountain Bike at Tioga Recreation Area
- ☐ Fish on Lake Winnibigoshish for perch
- ☐ ATV/OHV in the Chippewa National Forest
- ☐ Bike along the Mesabi Trail

Winter

- ☐ Ski, Snowboard or Snowtube at Mt Itasca
- ☐ Spear for Northern Pike on Bass Lake
- ☐ Snowmobiling on the Taconite Trail
- ☐ Ice Skate on a frozen lake
- ☐ Cut Down Your Own Christmas Tree in the Chippewa National Forest



Discover Culture, HERITAGE & HISTORY

In the greater Grand Rapids, MN area there are several places where you can learn about unique Minnesota history and the culture and heritage of the people that call this place home. Indigenous people that live in this area celebrate through song and dance at their annual Pow Wows. They welcome visitors to their annual celebrations to learn about their culture, heritage, and history. There are several Pow Wows that take place in the region; a way of meeting together, to join in dancing, singing, visiting, renewing old friendships, and making new ones.



The Grand Rapids Arts, Grand Rapids Art & Culture Commission and MacRostie Art Center have helped to create public art in downtown to celebrate the culture and heritage of the region. Tour the Giinawind Creative Space in the MacRostie Art Center that was created as a welcoming community space that centers around Indigenous art & culture. Each month there are new exhibits and events in the Giinawind Creative Space and MacRostie galleries. Tour the River Room exhibit at the Itasca County Historical Society that features traditional jingle dresses, and Indigenous artifacts from around the region. The Forest History Center is an environmental learning center that also showcases logging, forestry, and life as it would have been in the early 1900's.



Wiye Gaa Maag Pow Wow

Deer River, MN • June 2023

Waa Wuye Gaa Maag

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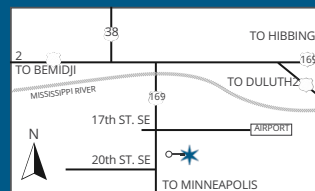
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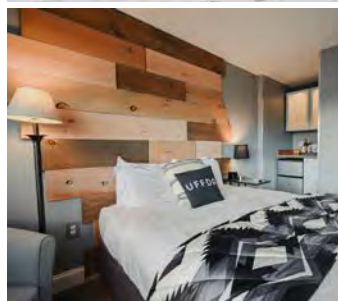
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As a small business owner, I like that Grand Rapids State Bank is locally owned and totally invested in our community. They are very proactive in wanting to be known as the local bank with strong ties to the community. It seems they help sponsor nearly everything in town!

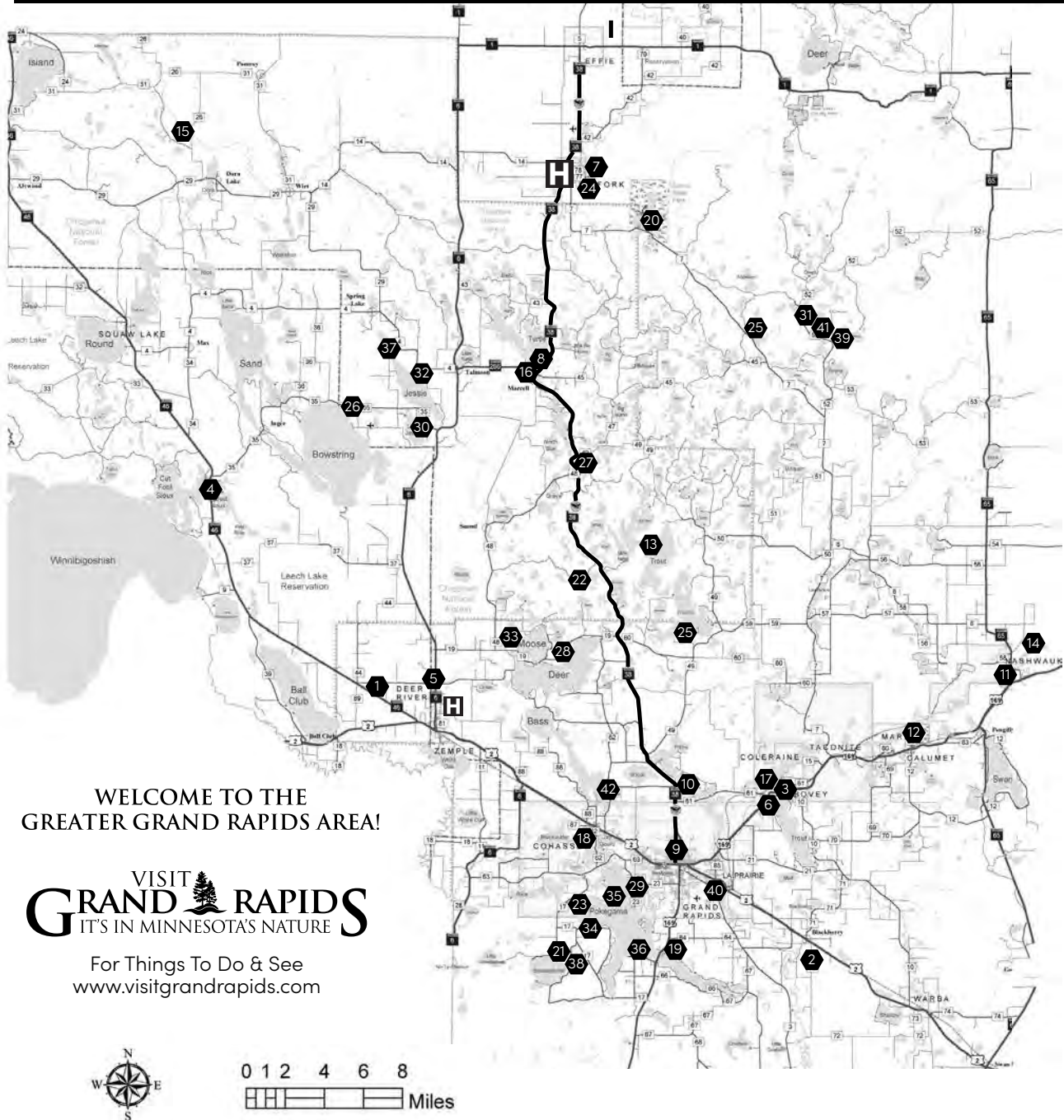
Lisa Johnson, Grand Dental Center



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ITASCA COUNTY



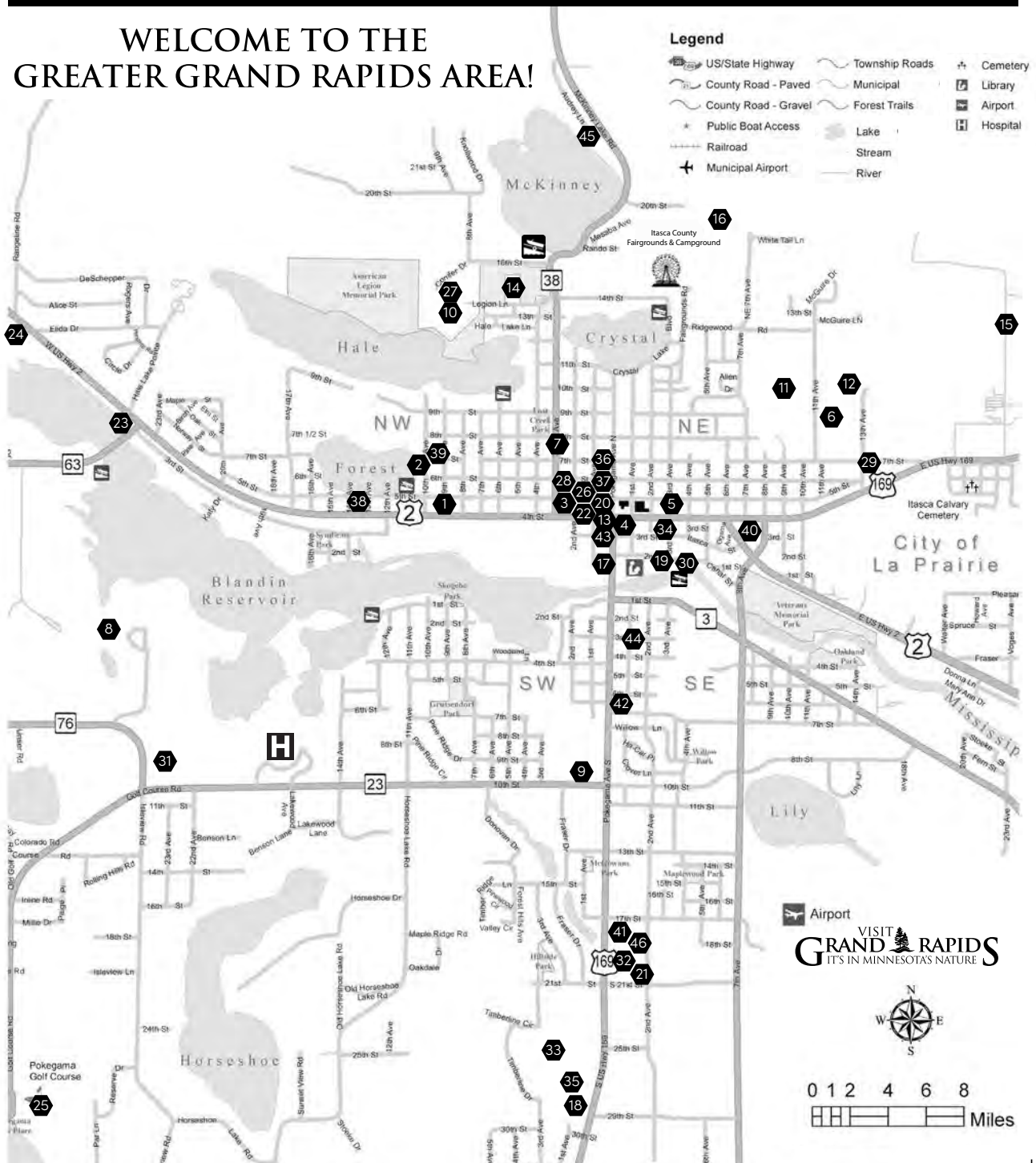
POINTS OF INTEREST	1 Avenue of the Pines Scenic Byway (Cty 46)	11 Hawkins Mine Pit	25 Birch Bay Resort	38 Sugar Lake Lodge
	2 Blackberry Show Grounds	12 Hill Annex Mine	26 Bowstring Shores Resort	39 The Hideaway
	3 Bovey Prohibition Speakeasy Underground Tunnel	13 Joyce Estates	27 Buckhorn on Caribou Lake	40 Two Rivers RV Park & Campground
	4 Cut Food Sioux Visitor Center	14 LaRue Mine Pit	28 Camp Hiawatha	41 White Pine Vacation Home Rental
	5 Deer River Ranger Station	15 Lost Forty	29 Green Heron Bed & Breakfast	42 Wildwood Resort
	6 Eagle Ridge Golf Course	16 Marcell Family Center	30 Jessie View Resort & Campground	
	7 Edge Center for the Arts	17 Mt Itasca	31 Loon Point Resort	
	8 Edge of Wilderness Discovery Center	18 Portage Park	32 Loon's Landing	
	9 Edge of Wilderness Scenic Byway (Cty 38)	19 R&R Rental	33 Moose Lake Resort	
	10 Gunn Park	20 Scenic State Park	34 Moose Point Lookout	
LODGING PROPERTIES		21 Sugarbrook Golf Course	35 Nevaeh Properties on Pokegama	
		22 Suomi Hills	36 Pokegama Lake Resort	
		23 Tioga Beach & Recreational Area	37 Rising Eagle Resort	
		24 Wannigan Display		

Legend

US/State Highway	Township Roads	Public Boat Access	Lake	Reservation Boundary	Municipality
County Road - Paved	Municipal	Railroad	Stream	State Park	Chippewa National Forest
County Road - Gravel	Forest Trails	Municipal Airport	River	Itasca County Park	Unincorporated Community

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

WELCOME TO THE
GREATER GRAND RAPIDS AREA!



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Ardent Bicycles
- 2 Blandin Beach
- 3 Central Square Mall
- 4 City Hall
- 5 County Court House
- 6 East Elementary
- 7 Edge of Wilderness Scenic Byway
- 8 Forest History Center
- 9 Grand Rapids Farmers Market
- 10 Grand Rapids High School
- 11 Grand Rapids Middle School
- 12 Grand Rapids Sports Complex
- 13 GR Area Chamber of Commerce
- 14 IRA Civic Center
- 15 Itasca Community College/U of M North Central Research Outreach Center
- 16 Itasca County Fairgrounds /Mesabi Trail
- 17 Itasca County Historical Society
- 18 Judy Garland Museum & Children Discovery Musuem
- 19 Library
- 20 MacRostie Art Center
- 21 Mann's Cinema 8
- 22 Old Central School
- 23 Paddle Hoppers
- 24 Pokegama Dam & Recreation Center
- 25 Pokegama Golf Course
- 26 Post Office
- 27 Reif Center
- 28 Story Art & Museum
- 29 Thunder Alley Bowling Alley

LODGING PROPERTIES

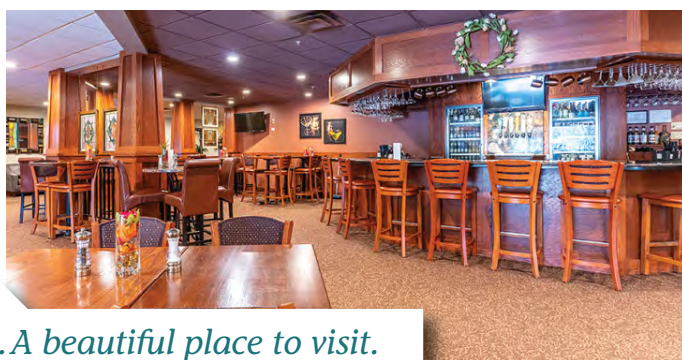
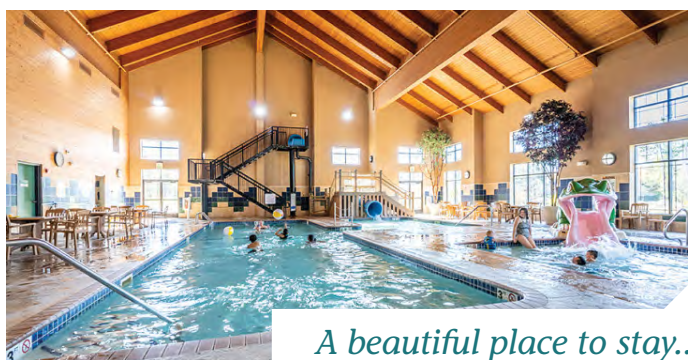
- 30 Walking Bridge
- 31 West Elementary School
- 32 Americinn by Wyndham
- 33 Best Western Plus
- 34 Brewed Awakening Air B&B
- 35 Country Inn & Suites by Radison
- 36 Doc House
- 37 First Avenue Suites
- 38 Forest Lake Motel
- 39 Grand Getaway
- 40 Hotel Rapids
- 41 IM Hotel
- 42 Itasca Motel
- 43 Lake & Co Loft
- 44 Nevaeh Properties in Grand Rapids
- 45 Retreat on McKinney Lake
- 46 Timberlake Lodge Hotel

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