



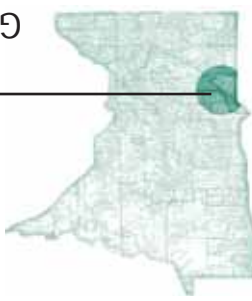

What Is Green Routes?

- Green Routes directs people to places where they can get locally grown food and locally made products as well as participate in a community's natural attractions and amenities.
- Green Routes encourages individuals to eat and vacation in ways that support healthy rural communities as well as encourage businesses to contribute to environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social and community well-being.
- Green Routes offers people the opportunity to learn how to incorporate economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable practices into their tourism, travel, and other business plans.
- Green Routes involves local residents and business owners in creating a collaborative tourism plan that benefits both visitors and the community.

In addition to promoting environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social and community well-being, Green Routes offers an alternative to conventional tourism. Use this opportunity to take time to explore the back roads and learn about a region from the people who live and work there. And, since the places highlighted in this brochure are not necessarily your typical tourist destination – rather, an artist's studio or a community gathering space – please respect the hours of operation as well as the spaces themselves, and call ahead if you have special needs.

Upper Minnesota River Valley

Big Stone Lake to Granite Falls, Minnesota

GREEN ROUTES

Renewing the Countryside
2105 First Avenue South · Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404 USA
1.866.378.0587 · rtc@rtcinfo.org
www.GreenRoutes.org

This map was developed in collaboration with a review committee of business and community leaders from the Upper Minnesota River Valley, in partnership with Western Minnesota Prairie Waters, Java River Café, and CURE (Clean Up the River Environment.) For more information on tourism in the Upper Minnesota River Valley, visit www.prairiewaters.com or call 866.866.5432.

Upper Minnesota River Valley

The Upper Minnesota River Valley is full of history, natural beauty, and a dynamic arts and culture scene. From Tokheim Stoneware in Dawson to the friendly staff and local fare at Montevideo's Java River Café to abundant canoeing and kayaking along the Minnesota River, the Upper Minnesota River Valley truly has something for everyone. The winding roads will lead you to unique artist studios, fantastic farms, and quaint shops where you will meet friendly people with fascinating stories to share. Enjoy a canoe or kayak trip on one of the region's six rivers and keep an eye out for pelicans, kestrels, and meadowlarks along the way. While you're in town, be sure to get a good taste of the region's local fare – the Upper Minnesota River Valley offers a bounty of locally grown foods. Come experience the charm of western Minnesota – *we can't wait to meet you!*

1 **A to Z Letterpress Printing**
218 S. 1st Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-9174

Hours: Open most days. Call ahead to be sure.

A turn of the century print shop run by Andy Kahmann, who has over 35 years experience in the trade, A to Z specializes in hand printed linoleum block prints, business cards, stationery, and Christmas cards. Named for Andy and his son, Zachary, the letterpress heir, the shop feels much like a museum, with the added bonus of being able to purchase the final product!

2 **Big Stone Lake State Park**
35889 Meadowbrook State Park Road
Ortonville, MN 56278
(320) 839-3663

A beautiful land preserve bordering the east side of Big Stone Lake. Choose between Meadowbrook and Bonanza, two main areas offering a variety of recreational opportunities. The Bonanza section is home to the Scientific and Natural Area and an Environmental Learning Center.

3 **Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge**
44843 County Road 19
Odessa, MN 56276
(320) 273-2191

Hours: Wildlife drive available daily, dawn to dusk (May to September). Refuge Headquarters open M-F, 8-4:30. All other facilities open daily, dawn to dusk (year-round). www.fws.gov/midwest/bigstone

Named after the distinctive granite outcroppings located on the refuge, Big Stone is a hot spot for waterfowl production and migration. It sits at the headwaters of the Minnesota River, and consists mainly of the wetlands and grasslands typical of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Region. Visitors can walk almost everywhere on the refuge. Fishing and hunting are permitted. Beautiful refuge drive open May through September.

4 **Big Stone County Historical Museum**
985 US Highway 12
Ortonville, MN 56278
(320) 839-3359

Hours: M-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-4
<http://www.bigstonelake.com/attractions.htm>

A history museum with all sorts of unusual treasures. Their waterfowl collection is one of the largest in the country, representing 25 percent of the world's waterfowl, all done by a local taxidermist. Other artifacts include a Muskegon boat from 1909, 410 tons of Paul Bunyan's anchor, an 1870's log cabin, and a variety of historical farm machinery.

5 **Bill's Supermarket**
132 West Nichols Avenue
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-8274

Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-8:30pm, Sat 8am-7:30pm, Sun 9am to 6:30pm

Montevideo's only full-service, locally-owned grocery store is no typical supermarket. In addition to everything you'd expect in a grocery store, Bill's offers as many locally-produced items as possible, and has plans of taking on even more natural products, like organic sausage. To encourage bag recycling, Bill's offers five-cents for each time a customer uses a Bill's Supermarket reusable shopping tote.

6 **Bergen's Prairie Market**
234 N. 2nd Street (Box 200)
Milan, MN 56262
(320) 734-4429

Hours: M, T, R, F 6-7, W 8-7; Sat 8-6; Sun 11:30-3
www.bergensprairiemarket.com

A locally-owned grocery that gets its meats, eggs, and milled products (flour, flax, steel-cut oats) from local farmers. In addition to providing natural foods, the store serves as a sort of community center, supporting local conservation and habitat organizations, and continually making efforts to trim energy use, promote recycling, and be involved in local cultural events.

7 **Chippewa County Historical Society**
151 Pioneer Drive
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-7636

Office Hours: M-F 9-12 and 1-5; site hours vary

Forget dragging bored-looking kids through the typical museum—kids really like this one! The Historical Society maintains a series of buildings that visitors can wander through and even rent, if you make arrangements beforehand. Historic Chippewa City is a collection of 24 buildings from the late 1800's—complete with log cabins and boardwalks. The Swensson Farm Museum is located in an 1880's timber-framed farmhouse with 22 rooms. Last but not least, the Lac Qui Parle Mission was home to many historic Dakota happenings.

8 **Coyote Grange**
3476 271st Avenue
Appleton, MN 56265
(320) 752-4462

At this certified organic farm tucked into the prairie of west central Minnesota, the Fernholz's grow strawberries, carrots, and peppers. The berries, if your timing is right, are available in abundance for pick-your-own! Along with farming in a way that passes the "seventh generation" rule, considering the impact of their farming techniques on the next seven generations, Brad and Kristi maintain 40 acres of native prairie.

9 **Donna's Delights**
110 N. 1st St.
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 226-6457

Hours: M-F 10-5, Sat 9-12, also by appt. · www.maxminn.com/bev/index.html

Donna says she tries to treat every customer like the best customer she'll ever have. One encounter with her, and you'll believe it! Donna's wool & yarn shop is a great place to pick up supplies or take classes. It's also the ideal place to shop if you're looking for something truly one-of-a-kind—since she spins wool from her own sheep, no two spools are the same. She also has hard-to-find items like organic cottons, drop spindles, looms, and bamboo knitting needles.

What makes a Destination or Business Green?

- Contributes to the local economy by employing local residents, using local products and growers, and supporting other local businesses.
- Conserves natural resources by reducing the use of non-renewable resources or using energy efficient appliances.
- Uses sustainably produced or organically grown products.
- Engages customers and visitors through active, personal, and meaningful participation in nature, people, places, history, and/or cultures.

