



- 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.

What makes a Destination or Business Green?

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 an advisory committee of business and community leaders from the Highway 18 Corridor region, with the generous support of the Minneapolis Foundation, North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

For more information about tourism in this region, contact or visit Mille Lacs Area Tourism (www.millelacs.com or 1-888-350-2692)

GREEN ROUTES

Mille Lacs Lake to Sandstone, Minnesota

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.

- 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.
- 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 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.

What Is Green Routes?

Tamarack

The tamarack (*Larix laricina*) abounds in this east central Minnesota region. This tree's unique look sets it apart from other pines, changing color in the fall, losing its needles in the winter, and becoming green again in the spring.

For generations, families have been “going to the cabin” in this near north region, but its best-kept secrets are still undiscovered by many and the natural landscape is only a small part of what gives this region its unique flavor. See for yourself by picking up a unique piece of local artwork at Someday Isle, staying at a local bed and breakfast, enjoying a quiet retreat at the Dwelling in the Woods, or stopping in at the Mille Lacs food coop in Isle (the only remaining volunteer-run food coop in the country!) before heading out on a picnic in any of the region's numerous parks and forests.

Lose yourself on a dirt road along the Snake River, and keep an eye out for the elusive White Tail deer, or look out on the smallest federal game reserve in the U.S. from the shores of the 132,510-acre Lake Mille Lacs. East central Minnesota's people, artisans, and rich heritage will keep you coming to this region again and again.



1 An Webi Win
26716 Riverview Drive
Mora, MN, 55051
(210) 679-9269
www.webiwin.com
Hours: Flexible, call ahead.

A peaceful, riverside getaway for people to do crafts, enjoy the outdoors, or relax and just be. Visitors stay in a cozy private cabin and have easy access to fishing, swimming, hiking, birding, cross-country skiing, and more. Owner Latana Harris also offers full-body massage, manicures, pedicures, and facials. The cabin sleeps 6-8.

2 Audubon Center of the North Woods
54165 Audubon Drive
Sandstone 55072
(320) 245-2468
www.audubon-center.org

A year-round residential education center that's great for conferences, retreats, and family reunions. It's a perfect setting for environmental education! Depending on the season, you can hike or cross-country ski across the ACNW's 500 acres of open and forested land. Don't miss the informal Minnesota art gallery, featuring paintings by a variety of state artists.



Tamarack in spring — Photo by Mike Link

3 Bark! Rustic Woodworking
13500 Dahlstein Road
Finlayson, MN, 55735
(320) 233-7232
www.logsauna.org
Hours: flexible, call ahead.

Tom Doherty designs and builds small cabins, log saunas, and a variety of unique furniture items, including headboards, tables, and chairs. The wood he uses is harvested straight from his family's 110 acres of land. Tom tailors his designs to the unique qualities of the wood he finds, and he tailors their price to the needs of his customers.



Log sauna and table with benches

4 Barneveld's Resort
39245 State Highway 18
Aitkin, MN, 56431
(218) 678-2433
Hours vary: For launch trips, usually 8-12, 2-6, 7-11.
Resort is open as needed.

A third-generation, family-run fishing resort located on the north shore of Lake Mille Lacs. Features guided fishing trips and a variety of lodging options. Families can choose between two modern cabins, or enjoy the full-service site campground. Special efforts are made to accommodate senior citizens. Fabulous lake view. Convenient access to nearby Garrison and other towns.



Photo by Steve Niedorf

5 Dwelling in the Woods
14044 220th Street
McGrath, MN, 56350.
(320) 592-3708
www.thedwellinginthewoods.org
Open year round. Office hours: M-F 9-6, weekend hours vary.

A retreat center designed with peace and rejuvenation in mind. The five “hermitages” are cozily tucked in the woods alongside scenic walking trails, a rose garden, and a labyrinth. All rooms come with a clear conscience—only all-natural cleaning products are used.

6 Father Hennepin State Park
Box 397
Isle, MN 56342
(320) 676-8763
Hours: Summer 9-8, call for winter hours.

A lakeside state park known for its beautiful sandy beaches. Great for swimming and fishing. Over 100 campsites to choose from, and 6 group sites. Very popular in the summertime—get there early to stake out your spot!