The Association
Retreat Center
Osceola, Wisconsin

Large & Small Group Gathering Spaces - Full Gymnasium - Water Slide - Just 45 Minutes From The Twin Cities

Housing For Up 600 People!

www.arc-aflc.org

Fawn-Doe-Rosa
WILDLIFE EDUCATIONAL PARK
715-483-3772

BRINGING FRIENDS TOGETHER!

Deer & other forest animals
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Large Gift Shop - Something for everyone!
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2 Miles East of the scenic St. Croix River on US Hwy 8
www.fawndoerosa.com

Visit these unique works of art, each created by local youth and community partners with a local artist. Enjoy exploring the natural and historic sites, local businesses and restaurants, and parks along the Art Bench Trail.

www.artbenchtrail.org

Brought to you by The Phelps Center for the Arts, the St. Croix Valley Foundation, and The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
POLK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
is your “one-stop” for business information and assistance.

Your Business Source

Some of the many services we can offer to your business are:
- Economic development staff to assist you with business expansion and siting.
- Education to improve business practices.
- Regional connections to other businesses to market your products and services.
- Information on financing opportunities.
- Connections to low-interest loans.
- Information on training available to improve your business practices.
- Information to help you move a business to Polk County.
- Resources to help if you are just starting a business.

Polk Burnett • 715-646-3369
1001 State Rd 35 • PO Box 411, Centuria, WI 54824
www.polkcountyedc.com • E-mail: info@polkcountyedc.com

Your county extension office

UW Extension
Cooperative Extension
Polk County

WHO WE ARE
We work with people, families, farms, business and communities, applying university knowledge and research to address local issues. County based Cooperative Extension staff collaborates with University of Wisconsin campus specialists to provide educational programming in Wisconsin's 72 counties and within three tribal nations.

WHAT WE DO
We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

OUR OBJECTIVES:
- Create stronger families by enhancing family relationships, parenting, and financial management;
- Prepare leaders, improve economic development efforts;
- Enhance planning, community/organizational development initiatives;
- Work towards increasing the profitability of Polk County farms and agricultural enterprises, educate consumers and protecting the environment;
- Teach youth life and workforce preparedness skills.

NUTRITION EDUCATION
Works with organizations to teach low income families nutrition, food preparation, and food safety.
Bonnie Cronin
Nutrition Educator
bonnie.cronin@uwex.edu

FAMILY LIVING
Responds to community needs through research based education that supports Wisconsin families.
Gail Peavy
Family Living Agent
Dept. of Family Living
gailpeavy@uwex.edu

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Protects state resources & facilitates community/economic development.
Bob Kazmerski
Community Resource Agent
Dept. of Community Development
bob.kazmerski@uwex.edu

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Young participate learn, develop, citizenship and life skills.
Chuck Prinsel
4-H Youth Development Agent
Dept. of Youth Development
chuck.prinsel@uwex.edu

AGRICULTURE
Providing research, information, best practice and strategies on agriculture and resource management topics.

PROGRAM SUPPORT
Coleen Hoeman
coleen.hoeman@uwex.edu

Wendy Lake
wendy.lake@uwex.edu

Polk County UW-Extension Office
Polk County Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 100 • Balsam Lake, WI 54810 • Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm Monday - Friday
715-485-8600 • Fax: 715-485-8601 • www.polk.uwex.edu
Polk County has lots of places to see, things to do, and experiences to be had. Polk County is an all season vacation destination with a natural landscape found nowhere else in the world.

The Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway frames our backyard and hiking boots, kayaks, canoes, bicycles and paddleboats are your keys to unlock this national treasure. In a catch phrase, “It’s where people go to pay tribute to nature.” Visit Interstate Park, the oldest state park in Wisconsin, Straight Lake State Park, one of the newest state parks, or Stower Seven Lakes Trail, a new state trail.

Numerous lakes, rivers and streams mean ample opportunities at a wide variety of fish species: smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, muskie, pike, trout and sunfish.

Soak up the warm, summer sunshine on a sandy beach as you watch the flittering dragonflies. Lace up the hiking boots and explore what’s behind the next bend on the trail. Unleash the Lewis and Clark within and discover the fun of geocaching, mountain biking and ziplining. Snowmobiling, Nordic skiing and downhill skiing enthusiasts rave about our trails and facilities. Eight quality golf courses are well worth your drive. Paddleboat tours and railroad excursions are memorable travel alternatives.

Park the car and enjoy life at a walking pace. Hand-dipped ice cream anyone? Fine dining and casual eateries, antique, craft and unique gift shops and art galleries saturate the downtowns. If you crave a chance at a big jackpot, exciting 24-hour gaming can be found at the St. Croix Casino.

Local, regional and national talent is showcased at The St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, the St. Croix Art Barn in Osceola, and Northern Lakes Center for the Arts in Amery. The many exhibits, shows and workshops can be found there as well as at local, privately-owned studios.

Well before explorers and settlers ventured into Polk County, Native people inhabited the land. Later, those engaged in railroading, logging, farming and resorts left their imprints. That rich history is captured in extensive displays, exhibits and artifacts collected and available for viewing at museums and historical sites throughout the county and the Polk County Information Center.

Welcome to Wisconsin & Polk County

Nestled in the Wild and Scenic St. Croix River Valley, Polk County is home to over 400 lakes, numerous trout streams, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, two state parks and two state trails for biking and hiking. The area is also the launching point for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, which winds its way through Wisconsin for 1,000 miles – a true “gift of the glaciers!”

Less than an hour from St. Paul and Minneapolis, Polk County is an easy drive to beautiful countryside where you will find outdoor recreation including paddlewheel boat excursions, canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, and ziplining. Visit our wineries, theatre, animal wildlife park and fish hatchery.

Be sure to include a stop at the Polk County Information Center during your visit and let their friendly staff guide you to all of the fun in the local area and throughout Wisconsin. More resources and great travel information are also available on TravelWisconsin.com.

On behalf of Wisconsin’s tourism industry, we look forward to welcoming you and making sure you have a memorable vacation experience.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Klett
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Tourism

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Business Directory
Polk County Communities

Embrace the good life found in our communities, which range in size from progressive small cities to rural villages. Each is unique and full of old-fashioned charm.

When it's time to say “Let's go!,” Polk County is ready with dozens of outdoor recreation possibilities that span the four seasons. Coupled with the indoor attractions, the welcome mat is out for families with children ranging from the very young to teens. Couples looking for romantic getaways won't be disappointed either.

Our ancestors certainly had their fun, but they would be amazed with ziplining, rock climbing, ATVing and snowmobiling that you will find here. The fun doesn’t stop there of course: there’s cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, alpine skiing, hiking, road bicycling and mountain biking, boating, swimming, kayaking, horseback riding, paddlewheel boat tours, train rides, and more.

You’ll find our communities loaded with contemporary charm, flanked by bucolic byways, picturesque farms, and lakes – lots of them. Balsam Lake, Clear Lake and Turtle Lake take their names from lakes of the same name. St. Croix Falls grew up with the lumbering era that relied on the St. Croix River to move logs downstream. Amery is on an isthmus nestled between the Apple River and Pike, North Twin and South Twin lakes. Brighten up the holidays with visits to Amery and Turtle Lake where they turn their park into a magical, lighted winter wonderlands. Turtle Lake also has a casino for non-stop action.

Beautiful parks – from ones in neighborhoods to the fabulous Interstate Park – are perfect places for summer picnics, casual walks, or a game of horseshoes. Kick off the sandals and walk the sandy beaches at Clayton. Straight Lake State Park in Luck is the state’s latest park.

Eight of our communities have manicured public golf courses that challenge golfers of every skill level: Amery, Clear Lake, Luck, Turtle Lake, Balsam Lake, Frederic, Osceola and St. Croix Falls. Among the occasional hazards: a brown-eyed deer walking the fairway or an eagle soaring above. Stop by or call the Information Center and we’ll be glad to provide directions and other information on each.

Stroll through history at your leisure with a visit to one of the museums located in Polk County. Clear Lake has a museum devoted to U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, and Burleigh Grimes, the last legal spitballer and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Frederic’s museum is a renovated 1901 Soo Line Depot. The former county courthouse and now Polk County Historical Museum in Balsam Lake has an amazing three stories of exhibits and displays (Nye bison bone exhibit is the newest).

Festivals, competitions and celebrations are major draws to Polk County when it’s time to fill in the blank pages on weekends. Milltown hosts an outstanding Fisherman’s Party each summer, as does Osceola with its “Wheels & Wings” festival. Cushing Fun Days features a soapbox derby for adults! Tractor pulls, ATV pulls, county fairs, and much, much more can be seen at various communities throughout the year.

Walmart

2212 Glacier Drive
St. Croix Falls, WI
(715) 483-1399
The Information Center has a complete listing of churches and other houses of worship with telephone numbers so you can get times of services, locations, etc. Call 1-800-222-7655 or e-mail info@polkctytourism.com, or stop by at the center.

Sprinkle your recreation with great scenery and miles of trails. Meet up with friends at the trailhead of the Gandy Dancer State Recreation Trail at St. Croix Falls. Be prepared to say “Hello” to several communities as you bike or hike its path northward: Centuria, Milltown, Luck, Frederic and Lewis. Osceola, now there’s a place you can hike to the stars and down the stairs! It’s 156 steps down to Wilkie Glen, past the magical Cascade Falls (bathed in colored lights during the evening) and along the St. Croix River. Or, take the steep route up the Osceola Bluff Trail.

When winter comes calling, Trollhaugen near Dresser offers alpine skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing. Each winter, the smallest of small communities spring up on many lakes in the county. Pop-up ice shelters, wooden “shanties” and even $6,000 aluminum icehouses are the real estate for anglers. Bait and tackle stores and large sporting stores can supply you with bait, ice augers, tip-ups, fishing poles and more.

So get out there & stir up something amazing!
### Spring Stepping-out time

April and May are the months to run out and smell the wildflowers in Polk County. Spring showers might bring a gorgeous rainbow and its pot of gold to chase. Runners are in full stride in 5K and full marathon mode. Golfers plant spikes as they send the dimpled ball heaven-bound with a prayer it won’t kiss the woods. Hike & bike trails are flush with walkers and bicyclists. Others cling to our nurseries to check out hanging baskets, perennials, fruitful trees and other plant treasures.

### Summer Pack your SPF & pick your pleasure

Summer is when Polk County, well, shines! Plenty of sunshine, warm days and nights, and hundreds of lakes – at last count, 431 of them! -- draw boaters of every stripe from paddleboarders and kayakers to bass fishermen and cruisers. Thirty-six trout streams tempt fly fishermen. Parks and beaches are perfect for a summer tan, for kids to build sandcastles and for family picnics. When the kids have had their fill of water and sand, take them to a wildlife education park or an afternoon of ziplining. Complete a visit to Polk County with a trip to Interstate Park and its fabulous gorge flanked by rocky cliffs. ATVers can explore three state trails. Savor numerous summer festivals.

### Fall Enjoy the turning leaves

Autumn delivers a perfect pairing – turning leaves and harvest time. Before they fall, the leaves go out in an explosion of color. Crimson reds, pumpkin oranges and sunny yellows are revealed in their splendor from mid-September to mid-October. Be sure to check with the Information Center or local chambers for the latest color reports. The bounty of late summer harvest continues into fall, with recommended visits to local farmer’s markets and apple orchards. And a glass of crisp wine goes just fine with autumn – we have award-winning wineries for you to tour and sample.

### Winter Play nice with ice & snow

We’re never at a loss for something to do in our snowy season, which stretches from mid-November to March. Bundle up and frolic in the snow -- sledding, snowman building, snow angel making, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, downhill skiing and snowboarding are among favorites. Did we forget to mention bonfires, hot cocoa, cookies and toasted marshmallows! Polk County has 365 miles of state-funded snowmobile trails that network with other counties’ trails for days of riding adventures. Whether solo or in a small village, ice fishermen soon populate the frozen lakes.

Check the calendar of events for hundreds of events scheduled throughout the four seasons. And then make reservations for accommodations and the start of an adventure in Polk County.
SAINT CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER WAY
Extends for some 250 miles along both sides of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers. Primitive camping only. Excellent fishing, canoeing and wildlife watching. Visit www.nps.gov/sacn or call (715) 483-3284.

INTERSTATE PARK
Oldest state park in Wisconsin. Unique geology found nowhere else. Ice Age Interpretive center open daily. Year round camping on St. Croix River; some sites handicap accessible. Several picnic shelters, scenic overlooks. Swimming beach with bathhouse but no lifeguards. Hiking, snowshoe & cross-country ski trails, boat access, shore fishing. Open year-round, park sticker required. Call (715) 483-3747 or visit www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/interstate/.

APPLE RIVER COUNTY PARK

ATLAS COUNTY PARK

BLACK BROOK COUNTY PARK
Large dam creates the Black Brook Flowage of the Apple River southwest of Amery. Boat landing, picnic shelter, playground.

D.D. KENNEDY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA
106 acres along Balsam Branch Waterway south of Balsam Lake. Canoeing, fishing, hiking and cross-country ski trails. Picnic shelter and playground.

GARFIELD RECREATION AREA
A 188-acre area in Garfield Township between Balsam Lake and Amery south of Hwy. 8. Cross-country skiing and mountain biking, plus hunting in season.

LOTUS LAKE PARK

SOMERS LAKE RECREATION AREA
East of Frederic. Hiking trail plus hunting in season; snowshoe trail.

STRAIGHT LAKE WILDERNESS STATE PARK
Wisconsin’s newest state park and Straight River Wildlife Area located northeast of Luck near intersection of Hwy. 48 and County Road I. Over 2,700 acres includes mature hardwood forest, three flowages and varied habitat for rare plant and bird species.

LAKE WAPOGASSET PARK
Located off County Road F on the southeast shore of Lake Wapogasset in the town of Garfield. Fishing piers, 24-hour boat launch, playground, picnic shelters, restrooms.

PLUS MANY MORE LOCAL PARKS
Call (800) 222-POLK for information on the many fine county and city parks offered in every part of the county.
Rev it Up in Polk County

Polk County is home to over 360 miles of state-funded snowmobile trails that are nicely groomed and well marked. Major routes such as the Gandy Dancer State Trail will take you quickly to your destination. Or, ease off the throttle and explore remote trails as they meander through breathtaking scenery.

The well-marked trails pass through farmland and forests of Polk County. Enjoy the hospitality of the communities and businesses along the way. You can find sled repairs, fuel, dining, lodging and other necessities for your snowmobiling adventure. Snowmobile trail maps are available at many businesses.

Snowmobilers put their sleds to good use when in Polk County, and not just for trail riding. Once lakes freeze solid snowmobiles transport anglers and their shelters to their favorite fishing spots. If Mother Nature cooperates, an early snowfall in mid- to late November means hunters can use sleds as well as ATVs.

Polk County trails connect to those in neighboring counties for extended trips. The Cattail State Trail travels nearly 18 miles on a former rail corridor from Amery to Almena in neighboring Barron County. All-terrain vehicles are allowed on the trail year-round. There is one tunnel and six bridges along the way.

All Terrain Excitement

Polk County is in the heart of northern wilderness and farmland with beautiful scenery. ATV and motorbike enthusiasts can find three ATV trails in Polk County that will provide hours of riding enjoyment.

THE CATTAIL TRAIL runs from Amery to Almena for a total of 18 miles of which 12 miles are in Polk County. The trailhead is in Amery where restrooms and picnic areas can be found. Along the trail you will spot lots of wildlife. The trail is a former railroad bed that runs across six bridges. The multi-use trail is open all year to ATVs and motorcycles.

THE STERLING TRAIL offers seven miles of closed loop wooded trail. Sterling Trail is open from June 1 through Nov. 15. No dirt bikes or horses are allowed on the trail.

THE CLEAR LAKE-CLAYTON TRAIL, another multi-use trail, is open year round. It follows 11 miles of former railroad bed. There is an ATV trail through the Village of Clear Lake. Motorcycles not licensed for highway use cannot use that village trail.

If your sled is not registered in the state of Wisconsin, you will need a non-resident snowmobile trail pass on all county trails. Trail passes are available at any DNR licensing station: Amery True Value, Amery; Arrow Marine, St. Croix Falls; St. Croix Outdoors, St. Croix Falls; Breezy Bay Motor Sports, Balsam Lake; Brenizer Motorsports, Frederic; Deer Lake Sports, St. Croix Falls; Lakeland Power Sports, Inc., Clear Lake; Luck Sport and Marine, Luck; and Morks Big Lake Store.

Remember, too, that there is a maximum speed limit of 55 mph during nighttime hours. Please practice snowmobile etiquette and stay on marked trails, as most trails are located on private property.

Polk County’s 15 snowmobile clubs lead the way in brushing, signing and grooming the trails. They invite out-of-area riders to join them for a club ride. The public can also enjoy the fun at their fundraisers, such as poker runs and meals. They welcome new members anytime. The clubs are also excellent sources of information for trail rides. Contact a representative from the listing below:

Snowmobile Clubs
- Amery Snowmobile Club | Jim Ellefson, 715-268-9542, jimsauto@amerytel.net
- Balsam Lake Sno-ciables | Lori Larson, 715-405-3142, sweetpea5958@yahoo.com
- Centuria Sno Drifters | William Schultz, 715-646-2562, wschultz2001@centurytel.net
- Clear Lake Ditch Dusters | Janelle Paulson, jjccpaulson@gmail.com
- Eio Snow Riders | Jen Alden, 715-554-2338, jentheplowchic@yahoo.com
- Fox Creek Foxtrotters | Sue Wonka, jswonka@lakeland.ws
- Jack Pine Savages | Tammy Jensen, 715-648-5311
- Joelmobilers | Jill Ladwig, 715-948-4112, pnjwig@amerytel.net
- Luck Snowmobile Club | Mary Erickson, 715-822-4152 or 715-822-4170, erickson4111@hotmail.com
- Milltown Sno Rovers | Marie Sogge, 715-825-4357, mah@lakeland.ws
- Osceola Valley Sno-Goers | Sheryl Hoiby, 715-755-2452
- Polk County Youth Snowmobile Club | Brittany Kruse, 715-553-0492 or Andrew Kromrey, 715-222-1755
- S.N.O.W. - Snow Neighbors of West Sweden | Bob Coen, 715-327-8975
- Snowpackers of Polk County | Liz Buchholz, 715-822-8044, sonnyliz@hotmail.com
- Wild River Hill Climbers | Dee Olson, 715-825-2577

If your machine must be registered in the state of Wisconsin, you will need a non-resident snowmobile trail pass on all county trails. Trail passes are available at any DNR licensing station: Amery True Value, Amery; Arrow Marine, St. Croix Falls; St. Croix Outdoors, St. Croix Falls; Breezy Bay Motor Sports, Balsam Lake; Brenizer Motorsports, Frederic; Deer Lake Sports, St. Croix Falls; Lakeland Power Sports, Inc., Clear Lake; Luck Sport and Marine, Luck; and Morks Big Lake Store.
Polk County
Snowmobile Trails

[Map of Polk County with marked snowmobile trails and other locations]
1. GANDY DANCER TRAIL
Starts at the Polk County Information Center. 98 miles along old railroad grade between St. Croix Falls and Superior. 47 miles from St. Croix Falls to Danbury is surfaced with crushed limestone and is a state recreational trail. (800) 222-POLK.
SUMMER: Hiking, Biking: Bikers 16 and older need bike pass or DNR patron license. Passes available at local retailers or Polk County Information Center.
WINTER: Snowmobiling, ATVing.

2. CATTAIL TRAIL
18 miles from Amery to Almena. Trailhead and trailer parking next to Apple River in Amery. (800) 222-7655, (715) 483-1410.
SUMMER: Hiking, Biking, ATVing, Motorcycling.
WINTER: Snowmobiling, ATVing.

3. INTERSTATE PARK
12 trails, 10 miles through unique glacial terrain overlooking St. Croix River. Four observation points; warming shelter for skiers. Ice Age Interpretive Center serves as trailhead, access to the Ice Age Trail. (715) 483-3747.
SUMMER: Hiking. WINTER: Snowmobiling, ATVing.

4. STERLING FOREST
7-mile closed loop, wooded. Dirt bikes, motorcycles and horses prohibited. (800) 222-7655.
SUMMER: ATVing.

5. SOMERS LAKE TRAIL
5-mile closed loop divided into shorter loops. Woods and lakeview. (715) 485-9294 or 1-800-222-POLK.
SUMMER: Hiking.
WINTER: Snowshoeing.

6. BALSAM BRANCH

7. COON LAKE TRAIL
5.3K trail groomed for classical and skate-style skiing. (715) 327-4294 or (800) 222-POLK.
SUMMER: Hiking.

8. TRADE RIVER TRAIL
8.5K groomed for classical and skate cross country skiing plus fat tire biking. Day passes available at Cyclova XC. For skiing conditions, visit skinnyski.com.
WINTER: Classic and skate cross country skiing plus fat tire biking. Day passes available at Cyclova XC. For skiing conditions, visit skinnyski.com.

9. CLEAR LAKE-CLAYTON
Between Clear Lake and Clayton. Popular for mountain biking. (800) 222-7655.
SUMMER: Biking, Hiking, ATVing, Motorcycling.
WINTER: Snowmobiling, ATVing.

10. ICE AGE TRAIL
National Scenic Trail. Starts in St. Croix Falls and crosses the state. Hiking only. (800) 222-7655.

11. DRY CREEK TRAILS
North of Hwy. 8 near Deer Lake. Park on 140th Ave. (715) 327-4294 or (800) 222-POLK.
SUMMER: Hiking.
WINTER: Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing.

12. BIG ROCK CREEK RETREAT
Three miles north of St. Croix Falls. 1,600 acres of trails for all seasons ranging from rugged, wooded Birkie-style trails to scenic, well-maintained and marked trails for all ages and levels of experience. 20+ kilometers of immaculately groomed trails for fat tire biking, classic and skate cross country skiing.
SUMMER: Hiking and fat tire biking. Day passes available at Cyclova XC.
WINTER: Classic and skate cross country skiing. Day passes available at Cyclova XC. For skiing conditions, visit skinnyski.com.

13. TRADE RIVER HORSE TRAILS
35 miles of maintained and marked trails, primitive camping. Located in southern half of Gov. Knowles State Forest. (715) 463-2898.
ALL YEAR: Horseback Riding, Horse-Drawn Driving.

14. ST. CROIX FALLS TRAILS
“City of Trails,” excellent hiking trails within scenic, hilly city limits. (715) 483-3929.
SUMMER: Hiking and Biking
WINTER: Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing.

15. RIDGE VIEW TRAIL
Near the St. Croix River south of St. Croix Falls. Trailhead parking off County Road S. (715) 268-7585.
SUMMER: Hiking.
WINTER: Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing.

16. WILKE GLEN & OSCEOLA BLUFF TRAIL
Descend 156 steps into Wilkie Glen, past Cascade Falls and along the St. Croix River. (715) 483-3747.
SUMMER: Hiking.
WINTER: Snowshoeing

17. STANDING CEDARS
On the bluffs of the St. Croix River south of Osceola. One trail extends to the riverbank.
SUMMER: Hiking.
WINTER: Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing.

18. STOWE SEVEN LAKES TRAIL
Non-motorized 14-mile Stower Seven Lakes Trail begins at Soo Line Park (off Harriman Avenue) in Amery and ends at Lotus Lake County Park, about one mile from Dresser on 90th Avenue.
SUMMER: Hiking, biking
Gandy Dancer State Trail

Mileage between towns along the Gandy Dancer Trail is as follows:

- St. Croix Falls-Centuria: 4.5 miles
- Centuria to Milltown: 6.2 miles
- Milltown to Luck: 3.7 miles
- Luck to Frederic: 6.1 miles
- Frederic to Lewis: 5.4 miles
- Lewis to Siren: 5.7 miles
- Siren to Webster: 7.2 miles
- Webster to Danbury: 8.9 miles

The entire Gandy Dancer Trail is marked with mile post signs. Maps available at 800-222-POLK or www.polkcountytourism.com.
### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-31</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Art Exhibit at ArtZ Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Student Art Exhibit at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Luck Football Ice Fishing Contest on Bone Lake 8am-3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Writers Forum at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 &amp; 18</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Free Fishing Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Clear Lake</td>
<td>Fireman’s Oyster Supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Vinterfest at DD Kennedy Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Celebrating the Haggis at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Ice Fishing Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Candlelight Ski &amp; Snowshoe on Stower 7 Lakes Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Frederic</td>
<td>Winter Fun Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Balsam Lake</td>
<td>Winterfest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balsam Lake</td>
<td>Winterfest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-28</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Ice Fishing Contest on Lake Waposasset 9am-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wanderoso</td>
<td>Wandroos Ice Fishing Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Luck Winter Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Clam Falls</td>
<td>Winter Carnival/Ice Fishing Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day Dinner at Dancing Dragonfly Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Candlelight Ski at Interstate Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Love Poems for St. Valentine’s Day at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>Lake Magnor Ice Fishing Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>Ice Fishing Contest on Big Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Hymn Sing/Her Sing at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-31</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>An Evening with Young Readers at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>An Art Exhibit Opening at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Annual St. Patrick’s Concert at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Bridal Fair at Dancing Dragonfly Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Maplefest at Glenna Farms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-30</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt at Amery Fire Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Spring Home/Garden/Recreation Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Luck Ambulance Annual Smelt Fry 3:30-7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Turtle Lake</td>
<td>American Legion Smelt Fry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cushing</td>
<td>Spring Bash at Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>An Evening of Classical Favorites at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-25</td>
<td>Turtle Lake</td>
<td>Earth Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>Wellness Fair &amp; Garden Show at Osceola High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>Healthy Heart 5k walk/run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>The Northern Lakes Drama Series at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>The Falls Sampler at Polk County Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-31</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Aebleskiver Dinner-West Denmark Hall 3:30-7:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Wisconsin Draft Horse Association Field Demo-Luck School 10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Polk County</td>
<td>Earth Arts Spring Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>ACS Walk/Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Frederic</td>
<td>American Cancer Society Walk/Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>Turtle Lake</td>
<td>St.Croix Casino Anniversary Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Turtle Lake</td>
<td>Spring Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25</td>
<td>Dresser</td>
<td>47th Annual Total Off Road Rally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Garden &amp; Art Sale at Café Wren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Balsam Lake</td>
<td>Polk County Museum Opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Frederic</td>
<td>Soo Line Depot/Museum Opens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-30</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Music on the Overlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Seven Lakes Triathlon 9am at Soo Line Park-Pedal, Paddle, Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Amery Trails Day at Soo Line Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Milltown</td>
<td>Kids R 1st Fishing Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nation wide</td>
<td>Trails Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>Rhubarb Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>State-wide</td>
<td>Free Fishing Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>State wide</td>
<td>State Parks Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Wannigan Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Midsummer Festival at Dancing Dragonfly Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Taste of Glenna Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Deer Lake</td>
<td>Neil McKenzie 12th Annual Youth Fishing Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Frederic</td>
<td>Lion’s Classic Bike Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>St. Croix Falls</td>
<td>St. Croix Falls City of Trails 5k Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Milltown</td>
<td>Hansens Farms Milk Softball Tournament at Ball Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>City of Trails Race 5k/10k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Music on the Overlook 6:30-Shakespeare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Music on the River &amp; Car Show Cruise-In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>Cheese Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>Frederic</td>
<td>Family Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Frederic</td>
<td>Lion’s Classic Car Show 10am-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Amery</td>
<td>Women’s Club Art Fair at North Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Fete de Fluers at Chateau St. Croix Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Milltown</td>
<td>Fisherman’s Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Father’s Day Pig Roast at Dancing Dragonfly Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-28</td>
<td>Clear Lake</td>
<td>Heritage Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>St Croix Falls</td>
<td>Music on the Overlook 6:30-Kid’s Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Cushing</td>
<td>Sterling Setler’s Picnic at Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Luck</td>
<td>Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
July

1-31 Amery Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery
2 Osceola Music in the Park
2 Amery Giant Ice Cream Sunday at Noon, Soo Line Park
3 Osceola Fireworks Express Train Ride
3 St Croix Falls Balsam Lake Freedom Fest
4 Wanderos Independence Day Celebration
4 Clam Falls 4th of July Parade
4 Amery Fireworks at Soldiers Field
7 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
9 Osceola Music in the Park
10 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm
10-12 Turtle Lake Inter-County Fair
10-12 Centuria
11-12 St Croix Falls Jazz Festival at Dancing Dragonfly Winery
14 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
16 Osceola Music in the Park
17 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook & 6:30pm
17 Amery Music on the River & Car Show Cruise-In
17-20 Luck Lucky Days Festival
18 Balsam Lake Classic Fishing Tournament
21 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
23 Osceola Music in the Park
24 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm
25 Clayton Lion's Brewfest
25-26 Frederic Indianhead Gem & Mineral Show/Pie Social/Depot Square
28 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
30 Osceola Music in the Park
30-8/2 St Croix Falls Polk County Fair
31 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm

August

1-31 Amery Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery
1 Luck FFA Annual Truck & Tractor Pull at Noon
4 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
4 Turtle Lake National Night Out
7 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm
7-9 Lewis Charles E. Lewis Days
8 Luck Luck Fire Dept. Annual Corn Feed 2-8pm
8 St Croix Falls Relay For Life
9 Turtle Lake Cars & Crafts in the Park
11 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
14-16 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm
15 Turtle Lake Moon Lake Threshing Bee
15 Frederic Arts & Crafts Fair/Pie Social/Depot Square
15 Cushing Fun Day at Community Center
18 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
21 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm
21 Amery Music on the River & Car Show Cruise-In
25 Luck Music in the Park 6:30pm Triangle Park
28 St Croix Falls Music on the Overlook at 6:30pm
28-30 St Croix Falls Festival of the Monarch Butterfly
29-30 Balsam Lake Corn on the Curb Days

September

1-30 Amery Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery
5 St Croix Falls Rustic Road Fun Run-5k Walk/10k Run
5 Clayton Clayton Tractor/Truck Pull Benefit
11-13 Osceola Community Fair
12 Osceola Wheels & Wings
13 Amery FFA Alumni Farm Toy Show
12 Luck Tri Your Luck Triathlon
17-20 Amery Fall Festival
19-20 Amery Apple River Quilt Guild-Quilt Show
19-20 St Croix Falls Fall Harvest at Chateau St. Croix Winery
26 Cushing River Road Ramble-St. Croix Falls-Cushing
26-27 Centuria Baker Orchard Fall Festival

October

1-31 Amery Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery
3 St Croix Falls Autumn Fest/Arts & Crafts Fair
3 Amery Indianhead Chorus -- “Harvest of Harmony” Concert at High School
3 Centuria Baker Orchard Bicycle Cyclocross Race
3-4 St Croix Falls Food/Wine Festival & Grape Stomp at Dancing Dragonfly Winery
10 Luck Gandy Dancer Marathon (Full & Half)
10-11 Webster Mixed Sampler Quilt Guild at Webster High School 10am-4pm
16-18 Luck Fall Art Salon @ Cafe Wren
18 Turtle Lake Toy Tractor Show
18 Clayton Lutefisk Dinner at Moe Church
24 Luck Scrap Fest
24 Frederic Annual Halloween Party & Dance at the Elementary School
31 Luck Trick or Treat on Main Street 11:30-1pm & Kiddie Parade at 1:15pm
31 Amery Halloween Fun at Soo Line Park & townwide

November

1-30 Amery Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery
7 Turtle Lake American Legion Vet’s Dance
7 Cushing Cushing Fire Dept. Venison Feed at Community Center
7 Balsam Lake Polk County Homemakers Fair at Unity High School 10am-2pm
14 Osceola Lutefisk Dinner 11am-7pm at West Immanuel Lutheran Church
21 Wolf Creek Chili Supper at United Methodist Church
22 Frederic St. Dominic’s Church Fall Bazaar
24 Amery Light up the Park & Parade
27-29 Luck Holiday Art Sale at Café Wren

December

1-31 Amery Art Exhibition at ArtZ Gallery
1-31 Turtle Lake Christmas Lights in the Park
4-6 Luck Holiday Art Sale at Café Wren
5 Frederic Christmas in Frederic
5 Luck Luck Holiday Experience
5 St Croix Falls Holiday Boutique at Dancing Dragonfly Winery
5 Turtle Lake Chamber Christmas
5 Centuria Cozy Country Christmas
5-6 St Croix Falls Rivertown Holiday
6 Amery Holiday Stroll
19 Frederic Christmas in Frederic
24 Amery Light up the Park & Parade
31 St Croix Falls New Year's Eve Dinner at Dancing Dragonfly Winery
On the crossroads of US Hwy 8 & 63, Turtle Lake is the natural choice. With lovely hotels and all sorts of accommodations, Turtle Lake is the place to stay while you play in Northwest Wisconsin! Nestled just right to be quiet, quaint and convenient.

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ARTS & THEATRE

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ST. CROIX FESTIVAL THEATRE
www.festivaltheatre.org
715-483-3387 (box office)

One Festival Theatre patron described the past 20 years of professional theater in St. Croix Falls as “world class theater in a small town package.” And, that’s what audiences have to come to expect from St. Croix Festival Theatre as they gather professional actors, directors and designers from all over the country and bring them to the St. Croix Valley each year. Performances take place in a 1917 Vaudeville house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Located in downtown St. Croix Falls, the theater seats 250 with no seat more than 70 feet from the stage. A café offers refreshments before, during and after the show. Combine inspiring live entertainment with Festival Theatre’s beautiful atmosphere and you’ll have a perfect getaway for couples, groups or the entire family. The yearlong schedule includes live theater, children’s productions, concerts and other events.

POLK COUNTY EARTH ARTS
www.earthartswi.org • 800-222-POLK

Earth Arts is an organization of local artists from throughout the Upper St. Croix Valley. Members include painters (varied media), photographers, potters, glass blowers, writers, book makers, musicians, basket makers, sculptors, chainsaw carvers, jewelers and crafters. Earth Arts makes local galleries and studios available as sites for tour groups. This group also presents special events, sales and festivals, including the Earth Arts Art Tour, the first weekend in May. The Fall Salon opens the third weekend of October, with a public reception Friday evening.

FREDERIC ARTS
www.Fredericarts.org • 715-327-8181

The Frederic-area based organization supports artistic opportunities for people of all ages and enhances and preserves the cultural fabric of the community through educational events and programs. It sponsors various events such as writer readings and music concerts, as well as projects and exhibits. Some of these happenings take place at the Frederic Art Center, 310 S. Lake Avenue, open April-November.

NORTHERN LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS
www.northernlakescenter.org • 715-268-6811

Amery ranks as one of the nation’s top 100 small arts towns. This designation, made in a book entitled, “The 100 Best Small Arts Towns,” is in large part due to Northern Lakes Center for the Arts. Northern Lakes has been honored with the Governor’s Award in Support of the Arts, Wisconsin’s highest honor for arts groups and the rural Genius Award from the Front Porch Institute, a training institute for arts organizations. The center is where musicians practice, Community Theater performs, writers gather, and visual artists display works.

ST. CROIX ARTBARN
www.stcroixartbarn.com • 715-294-2787

St. Croix ArtBarn is a bi-state community arts organization. Guilds include theater, visual arts, music, writing and dance. ArtBarn has received national, state and local awards for original as well as collaborative programming with other arts and civic organizations and schools. ArtBarn offers intergenerational theatrical opportunities April through October and a month-long summer art camp for children. Other annual events include a concert series, bluegrass festival, garden tour and art classes. ArtBarn is located at 1040 Oak Ridge Drive, one block east of State Hwy. 35 behind the Osceola Middle School.

OTHER ARTSY PLACES

Your art adventure trip won’t be complete without a visit to ArtZ Fine Arts Gallery and Café Wren. ArtZ Fine Arts Gallery in downtown Amery is a treasure trove of art ranging from mixed media, pastels, watercolors and oils to photography, pottery, fabrics, blown glass, sculptures and much more, all created by prominent local artists. ArtZ Gallery is located in the historic J. E. Harkinson building, 208 N. Keller Avenue. See www.artzgallery.org for more details about exhibitions, receptions and classes. Café Wren in Luck is a great place for your taste buds to try out their unique recipes crafted from locally grown produce. Your eyes will be treated to wonderful original art displayed on the café’s walls. They post images of their current art show on their website, www.cafewren.com. Located at 2596 State Hwy. 35 w.
Twin Attractions in Osceola

Osceola Bluff, a limestone bluff that overlooks the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, has been an area landmark for thousands of years and one that today still draws many visitors to Osceola. The bluff is a resting place for resident bald eagles. White-tailed deer walk its trails. Hepaticas, dogtooth violets and trillium grow in profusion. The Village of Osceola owns the bluff, which is open to visitors. You can hike to the top of the bluff, which rises 300 feet above the river. The trailhead can be found behind the Cascade BP. The trail is gated against motor vehicle traffic: park on Depot Road and walk up the hill to find the trailhead. The 0.7-mile trail winds through a pretty, hardwood forest. Spectacular views of St. Croix River and downtown Osceola, especially during fall leaf colors, await you at the top!

Another natural attraction, also in downtown Osceola, is Cascade Falls, created by the drop of Osceola Creek some 30 feet. The falls was a stop for excursion steamboats in the late 1880s, according to a historical marker at the site. A set of stairs (156 steps) takes you into Wilke Glen, which is the base of the falls. Visitors can touch the falling water or even go behind the falls, but be careful of the slippery rocks. During evening hours the waterfall is now bathed in alternating colors of light from floodlights. You can also follow the trail along Osceola Creek to the St. Croix River. Want to know more? Visit www.MyOsceola.com.
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Indianhead Gem and Mineral Show attracts all ages

Boardwalk connecting the East and West sides of Coon Lake Park

The Gandy Dancer State Recreation Trail runs through Frederic

Frederic Lions Car Show is part of Frederic Family Days in June

Frederic Area Historical Society’s entry in the 50th Family Days Parade

2 of 4 pieces of public art. Can you find the other two?

Antique cars stop by the Soo Line Depot/Museum in September
The Village of Frederic is a rural community located in western Wisconsin an hour and a half north of the Twin Cities and an hour and a half south of the Duluth-Superior area on State Highway 35. Farms, forests, open land and many lakes characterize the Frederic area.

Originally a logging community, Frederic was founded in 1903 and over the next 70 years grew into a retail and service hub serving northern Polk County and southern Burnett County.

Included in the village are over 40 acres of public parklands and a 20-acre lake with access and docks for public use. Three shelters, a ballpark, basketball court and a bandstand are available for family outings, special events or just peaceful afternoon picnics. Winter activities include snowmobiling, ice-skating on the public rink, cross-country skiing on trails around the lake and ice fishing.

Frederic also boasts a flourishing arts and cultural community. In 2000, the community dedicated the renovated original Soo Line depot as the Frederic area museum. In addition, the community renovated the old theater building turning it into a new 6,000-square-foot public library – the second largest in the county. Frederic is a wonderful place for someone raising a family, for a person wishing to retire or for the young entrepreneur.

Popular events include the Classic Bike Race and Frederic Family days, both in June; the Gem & Mineral Show in July, farmers market each fall, and Winter Fun Day and the Vintage Snowmobile Show and Ride each winter.

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The village of Clear Lake in the southeastern section of Polk County is named after the lake which lies about one-half mile from town. The water in the lake is supplied from living springs, which makes for good fishing and swimming. The lake is part of a 260-acre park that has a playground, shelters, picnic sites, modern camp sites, an archery course, horseshoe court and softball field. The village of Clear Lake has a nine-hole golf course with dining facilities, and is the trailhead for a multi-use trail for ATV, snowmobile, mountain bike and motorcycle riders.

Main Street is occupied by several small businesses including a quilt shop, restaurants and bars. Professional services include a medical clinic, veterinarian, optometrist, chiropractors, massage therapist and funeral director. Clear Lake also has a grocery store, hardware store, car wash, auto repair shops, and a public library. The industrial park offers room for business expansion.

Clear Lake has its own museum, featuring U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, and Burleigh Grimes, the last legal spitballer and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Nelson and Grimes are buried in the Clear Lake Cemetery, which has a Veterans’ Memorial. Tours are available for both places. The annual Oyster Supper, hosted by the Clear Lake Fire Department, is held each January. June 25-28 are the dates for the 2015 Heritage Days, an annual celebration featuring a parade, carnival, games, races, concerts and a demolition derby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Clear Lake Village Office: (715) 263-2157
Clear Lake Public Library: (715) 263-2802
E-mail: clearlakelibrary@clearlakelibrary.org
Visit: www.clearlakewi.com or www.clearlake-wi.gov
Gaylord Nelson was born in Clear Lake in 1916, the son of the local doctor. After graduating from Clear Lake High School in 1934 and the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1942, he fought in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He served in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1948-58, when he was elected governor. He later served as U.S. Senator from Wisconsin from 1962 through 1980. Nelson was an advocate of conservation since his earliest days in politics. He created Earth Day in 1970 as a way to heighten awareness of conservation and environmental concerns.

Information on Gaylord Nelson is available at the Clear Lake Historical Museum, Polk County Museum and libraries throughout the county.

If you’ve ever been to a Civil War re-enactment you may have seen heavy artillery fired by the re-enactors. But did you know that Bernie and Bruce Paulson, who own Paulson Brothers Ordnance Corp., right here in Clear Lake, might have produced the gun carriage for the field piece?

The Paulson brothers have been producing Civil War gun carriages and related parts since 1976. They produce and sell aluminum carriages for permanent outdoor displays (the life-span of a wooded carriage is less than five years; an iron carriage subject to the elements might last upwards of 50 years; but an aluminum carriage lasts at least 100 years). The aluminum carriages are patterned with oak grain so that they look original. Among their clients was the Walt Disney Company.
Dresser offers Outdoor Fun

The residents of Dresser are never in want of outdoor recreation throughout the four seasons: boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling are popular pursuits, as well as the facilities at Trollhaugen where you can find alpine and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and tubing in the winter, and ziplining and aerial adventure park in the summer. The Trollhaugen Totally Off Road Rally is held there each May.

For more information: Village of Dresser, 102 W. Main St., Dresser, WI 54009, 715-755-2940.

Cushing is Big on Small Town Charm

Rolling hills, hardwood trees and open farmland with a healthy dose of friendly, small-town America is what makes the Polk County community of Cushing so special. The community officially numbers about 200 people and is located on Hwy. 87 north of St. Croix Falls.

Residents enjoy fishing and boating with several lakes and rivers, as well as parks, just a short drive away. Several community events throughout the year draw visitors to this area. A popular summer event is Cushing Fun Days, which features a soapbox derby for adults! Another is the “River Road & Hwy. 87 Ramble,” a self-guided tour each September that uses the River Road and Hwy. 87 loop from St. Croix Falls to the county line and back. Along the way participants are treated to historical displays, art, food, music and community garage sales.
Welcome to Balsam Lake

Established in 1905, the Village of Balsam Lake rests on the southwest shore of Balsam Lake in one of the most prime tourist locations of northwest Wisconsin. Whether you are looking to relax or take part in a wide variety of activities, both on and off shore, Balsam Lake is the place for you!

Nestled in the center of all your entertainment options, Balsam Lake has many things to offer all year long. Just minutes away are movie theaters, golf courses, casinos, antique and boutique shopping, a water park and downhill skiing. Many trails go through Balsam Lake, which include cross-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, ATVing and snowmobiling.

In the winter, Balsam Lake is transformed into a dreamy state of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing for the silent sports crowd. Snowmobile routes become active, as riders thrill to the rush of their sleds. A meal at their favorite local establishment provides energy for the next stretch of trail. In addition to providing trail links, the frozen lake is a magnet that draws anglers seeking a bag limit of game fish and panfish.
In the summer, the lake embraces water sport enthusiasts of all descriptions. Several quality public accesses are available where you can launch your watercraft and enjoy the lake. Take part in water sport activities or relax while taking a leisurely cruise past the beautiful shorelines and scenery. Get out on the lake early to enjoy a beautiful sunrise and stay out late to take in the stunning sunset views. While on the lake you can dock up for gas, bait and snacks at Sunny Side Marina located right on the water. Imagine living in Balsam Lake and being adjacent to the lake of the same name with 2,054 acres of water! Anglers have a ball seeking out bass, walleye, pike and panfish. Many come to take part in pro and amateur tournaments. Personal watercraft and skiers have plenty of room to carve up a wake. You might even see a sailboat or two catching the summer breeze. Summer months bring the opportunity to relax on a beach towel and soak up the sun or take a swim at the town beach.

Looking for a place to camp or enjoy a picnic? Point the picnic basket toward Pine Park, a local favorite. There you will find camping facilities, showers and rest rooms, a picnic shelter, grills, softball field, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, a playground, Frisbee golf course and a skateboard park. Having fun must have been written in the bylaws of the community’s charter because there’s so much to see and experience during all four seasons. Don’t feel like camping? Stay at the newly remodeled Balsam Lake Motel, Wards Balsam Beach Resort, Sunnyside Marina & Resort, Dream Catcher Inn or Thirsty Otter Tavern & Resort.

The Balsam Lake Chamber of Commerce sponsors several events, which are fun for all ages! Winter Fest features 4X4 truck ice drag racing, polar plunge, adult and kids games on the ice and an ice fishing contest on Balsam Lake in February. Freedom Fest is held over the July 4th weekend and includes craft fair, fire department water fights, parade, car show and many other activities. Cruz In Fest made its debut in 2012 over Labor Day weekend and was a huge success! Cruz In Fest is now on our list of annual events. Don’t forget to participate in the annual visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Christmas Day dinner. The Chamber is always looking to add more fun activities throughout the year so make sure to visit their website at balsamlakecc.com or visit their Facebook page on a regular basis to keep up to date. There is always more fun to come!

Looking for more things to do? The active Fire Department crew holds an Easter Egg Hunt, a fundraising spaghetti dinner in March, softball tournament during the Freedom Fest and a Demolition Derby during Corn on the Curb Days over Labor Day weekend. Enjoy some delicious food at the smelt fry in April, courtesy of the Rod & Gun Club. Specific dates for all events can be found on the Chamber’s website.

Numerous options exist when it’s time to treat your taste buds to an ice cold drink or a great meal. There are several local establishments that offer both fine and casual dining. Several establishments offer Internet access as well. Speaking of food, a local farmer’s market is held in the Village on Friday afternoons June to October. The extensive selection covers all types of produce, flowers, plants, baked goods and many more items.

The full story of the area’s history can be found within the Polk County Historical Museum, which is housed in the historic courthouse in Balsam Lake. Nearby, the Public Library overflows with over 20,000 items for your reading and viewing pleasure and it also offers Internet service.
Explore the Past at the Polk County Museum

Tales of bygone eras will come to life for the entire family when they visit the Polk County Museum in Balsam Lake. Built in 1899, the museum was the Polk County courthouse until 1975. The magnificent edifice is on the National Register of Historic Places. You’ll find no shortage of history lore. The museum’s three stories are filled with numerous artifacts and exhibits, including items that date back to the Revolutionary War!

Guided tours are available; call (715) 485-9269 for more information. The museum also hosts special exhibits throughout its season. The museum is located on Main Street, downtown Balsam Lake.

Walk back into time as you step into the first floor galleries that feature a barbershop, country store and doctor’s office, among others. The nation’s military forces are honored with exhibits and artifacts dating from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War. Before there were settlers and farmers in Polk County, Native people occupied the land. A full-size wigwam, Indian art and many other authentic items are on display.

More ethnic exhibits are located on the museum’s second floor, including those of Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Irish, Scottish, English and French descendants. As with most of the exhibits, the second floor galleries reflect life as it was in the early 1900s. You can view clothing styles and home furnishings along with writing and musical instruments of that era. Imagine a world without iPods or the Internet!
Balsam Lake

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The Apple River, which flows through Amery, is famous throughout the region as a popular place for tubing, kayaking and canoeing. The Apple is a great place to practice your kayaking and canoeing skills, whether solo or with family and friends.

Canoeing and kayaking on the Apple River became easier with the installation of the new canoe and kayak portage around the Amery Dam in 2010. There is a dock to use on the north side of the dam and the easy access portage is located east of the Amery Dam on the other side. If you want to enjoy a picnic before you continue on your journey there are several picnic tables to have a relaxing lunch or dinner.

The Apple River is a tributary of the St. Croix River, about 70 miles long, in northwestern Wisconsin in the United States. Via the St. Croix, it is part of the watershed of the Mississippi River. Its headwaters is Staples Lake in Barron County. It flows generally southwestwardly through Polk and St. Croix Counties, through several lakes and past the City of Amery. It joins the St. Croix River seven miles northeast of Stillwater, Minnesota and the village of Star Prairie.

In the Ojibwe language, the Apple River is called Waabizipinikaan-ziiibi, meaning “River Abundant with Swan Potatoes.” This name was translated into French, but only pomme (apple) of the French word for “potato” (pomme de terre - apple from the earth) was translated into English.

The Apple River was once an important route for the logging industry to move cut trees to the mills. The Amery Dam was first constructed in 1888 to run a sawmill and aid log driving on the river. Timber was floated downstream from logging camps in the north to the Amery sawmill where it was cut, loaded onto trains and transported throughout the region. The dam is now used exclusively to maintain water levels on the flowage, which extends from the city of Amery to near Highway 8. This is about a seven-mile distance and comprises a 640-acre body of water.

Today, the river generates tourism revenue through recreation and resorts. Its relatively gentle rapids make it very popular for canoeing, tubing, kayaking and is also a fishing destination.
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