

Land Conservation

BINGO

Visit free recreational areas and unique landforms in Dakota County. After your visit, mark each space.

Chimney Rock	Oheyawahe/Pilot Knob	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	Hampton Woods WMA	Dodge Nature Center – Lilly Preserve
Chub Lake WMA	Vermillion Falls Park/Old Mill Park	Pine Bend Bluffs SNA	Rudy L. Kraemer Nature Preserve	180th Street Marsh
Mud Creek WMA	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve	Ritter Farm, Casperson & West Lake Marion Parks	Lone Rock, Vermillion Highlands Research Recreation & WMA	Caponi Art Park
Gores Pool #3 WMA	South Branch Vermillion River AMA	Historic Cedar Avenue Bridge	Rambling River Park	Carleton College – Cowling Arboretum
Lilydale Regional Park	Carroll’s Woods Park	Big Slough Preserve	Kaposia Park/Kaposia Landing	Black Dog Preserve

AMA: Aquatic Management Area **SNA:** Scientific and Natural Area **WMA:** Wildlife Management Area

Chimney Rock SNA, Marshan Township: Joan Ave, 4.3 miles south of Co Rd 47 (44°38’16”N, 92°53’37”W). 76-acre SNA features a 30 foot, 450-year-old St. Peter Sandstone pillar.

Oheyawahe/Pilot Knob, Mendota Heights: Pilot Knob Rd, half-mile north of Hwy 13 (44°52’43”N, 93°10’01”W). Historic landmark once a sacred gathering place for indigenous people. Used by river boat captains to navigate portions of Minnesota River.

Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: Hwy 316, 1.3 miles south of Hwy 61 split (44°42’25”N, 92°49’37”W). 267-acre SNA features valley formed by a glacial stream that is now the most significant dry prairie in the county.

Hamptons Woods WMA, Castle Rock/Hampton Townships: 22000 Collier Ct, off Hwy 50, 5 miles east of Hwy 3 (44°37’37”N, 93°01’57”W). 197-acre WMA, one of the largest contiguous oak forests in Dakota County. Critical habitat for numerous species.

Dodge Nature Center — Lilly Preserve, Mendota Heights: 656 Hwy 62, south or eastbound side, between Dodd Rd and Delaware Ave, take the left fork and look for red barn (44°52’57”N, 93°06’59”W). 170-acre nature preserve offering environmental education, hiking and nature exploration.

Chub Lake WMA, Greenvale Township: Grenada Ave, north of Co Rd 86 (44°33’03”N, 93°13’21”W). 202-acre WMA of oak woodland, grassland areas and part of Chub Lake.

Vermillion Falls Park/Old Mill Park, Hastings: 215 21st St E (44°43’27”N, 92°50’57”W). 25-acre park with a 35-foot waterfall, where Vermillion River runs through limestone gorge and forest. Old flour mill ruins to explore on Vermillion River.

Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Inver Grove Heights: 111th St E; Hwy 52/55, take frontage road north of 117th St interchange to 111th St, go east to parking area (44°47’17”N, 93°01’52”W). 256-acre SNA with oak forests, dry prairies and scenic views from 200-foot bluffs overlooking Mississippi River.

Rudy L. Kraemer Nature Preserve, Burnsville: 12799 Chowen Ave S; (44°46’26”N, 93°19’30”W). 75-acre prairie restoration area with a half-mile nature trail.

180th Street Marsh, Vermillion Township: Between Hwy 55 and Co Rd 62, take Co Rd 85 to 180th St, go west to where the road straddles the water. Park along wider spots on the road. Property is on south side of 180th St; stay within restored prairie, do not enter private marsh property on north side of road (44°41'16"N, 92°56'57"W). Popular bird-watching wetland in county/state. Important habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Mud Creek WMA, Greenvale Township: Hwy 96 (320th St), 2.75 miles west of Foliage Ave (Co Rd 23), or 5.5 miles west of Hwy 3 (44°29'08.7"N, 93°15'24.2"W). 256-acre WMA, includes a portion of marsh and uplands restored to native prairie.

Miesville Ravine Park Reserve, Douglas Township: 27970 Orlando Trail (44°32'35.0"N 92°48'10.6"W). Large nature preserve with trails and scenic views of the Cannon River Valley.

Ritter Farm, Casperson & West Lake Marion Parks, Lakeville: West and east of I35, south of 185th St (Co Rd 60) (44°39'56"N, 93°17'13"W). 340-acre parks for outdoor recreation, wildlife watching and relaxation.

Lone Rock, Vermillion Highlands Research Recreation & WMA, Empire Township: Between Hwy 3 and Hwy 52, off Co Rd 46, south on Biscayne Ave to 170th St W, take a left and go east to Station Trail (44°41'07"N, 93°04'44"W). 2,822-acre WMA with access to trails, scenic views, wooded areas, wetlands and recreational activities.

Caponi Art Park, Eagan: 1220 Diffley Rd (44°48'15"N, 93°09'18"W). 60-acre art and sculpture park that combines art, life and nature.

Gores Pool #3 WMA, Hastings: One mile east of Hastings on 4th St. After it turns to gravel, stay to the left (44°42'08"N, 92°45'31"W). 7,052-acre WMA of Mississippi and Vermillion River floodplain forest and backwater marshes.

South Branch Vermillion River AMA, Vermillion Township: South side of Co Rd 66 (200th St E), 730 feet west of Hwy 52. Small parking area. Stay close to river and off private property (44°39'33"N, 93°01'23"W). 43-acre AMA on a major tributary of the Mississippi River and home to trophy brown trout.

Historic Cedar Avenue Bridge, Eagan: Parking lot under the Hwy 77 bridge, SE side of Minnesota River. From Hwy 77/Cedar Ave, take Hwy 13 north, take a left on Silver Bell Rd and right on Nichols Rd/Black Dog Rd. Parking lot is on the right at end of the road. Must have a state park sticker to park in lot; if not, park on the road (44°49'50"N, 93°14'41"W). Historic site with 864-foot bridge built in 1920 to provide passage over Long Meadow Lake.

Rambling River Park, Farmington: 17 Elm St, 3 miles east of Cedar Ave (Co Rd 23) on Hwy 50 (212th St W/Elm St). Entrance to the right, off Pine St (44°38'30"N, 93°09'09"W). Opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature exploration.

Carleton College Arboretum, Northfield: South of Dakota County border on Three Oaks Dr, south of Hwy 19 (44°27'55"N, 93°08'56"W). 800-acre arboretum with rich history, natural and restored habitats, and many plant and animal species.

Lilydale Regional Park, West St. Paul: 950 Lilydale Rd Between Mississippi River and Pickerel Lake (44°55'02"N, 93°07'40"W). 636- acre park with floodplain forest for recreation, picnic sites, playground, baseball diamonds and more.

Carroll's Woods Park, Rosemount: 3335 142nd St W. Enter off Dodd Blvd, south of Connemara Tr (44°44'55"N, 93°07'47"W). 44- acre park named after Don and Mary Carroll. Previous site of a dairy farm.

Big Slough Preserve, Farmington: Off Ash St/220th St W, south of fairgrounds. Park near signage (44°37'24"N, 93°08'49"W). Preserve that features scenic views and opportunities for nature exploration.

Kaposia Park/Kaposia Landing, South St. Paul: 1028 Wilde Ave (44°54'26"N, 93°03'48"). One of South St. Paul's largest and oldest parks, named for native Dakota people who settled in the area in 1826.

Black Dog Preserve, Burnsville: Park in Cliff Fen parking lot, north side of Cliff Rd or in parking area by observation platform on south side of West Black Dog Road (44°47'13"N, 93°16'32"W). 1,505-acre preserve surrounding Black Dog Lake. Named after Chief Black Dog who led a band of Mdewakanton Sioux that established a village in the area centuries ago.

For more information about Dakota County Land Conservation or the above land features, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *land conservation* or scan the QR code.



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