

# Dunn County Backroads



right in the middle  
of everywhere...

While you are visiting the Menomonie area, you may want to know what's beyond the city limits. In fact, you will miss a lot if you don't attempt a little country adventure.

This introduction gives you a taste of what we have to offer in the four corners of Dunn County. Our history in logging, followed by small, family dairy farms, means that we have an extensive system of paved and well maintained town and country roads, perfect for leisurely touring by car, motorcycle or bicycle.

Our small, friendly towns and country taverns offer wonderful food and drink, and some great live bands. Summer celebrations, concerts and fairs offer a chance to experience the best small town community life in the country. When snow allows, our 230 miles of snowmobile trails take you through forest, field and river bottoms.

Call the new Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce tourism line, 888-595-4223, for more information on Dunn County tourism. Pick up a new county map to plot your backroad tour.

For more Dunn County travel information

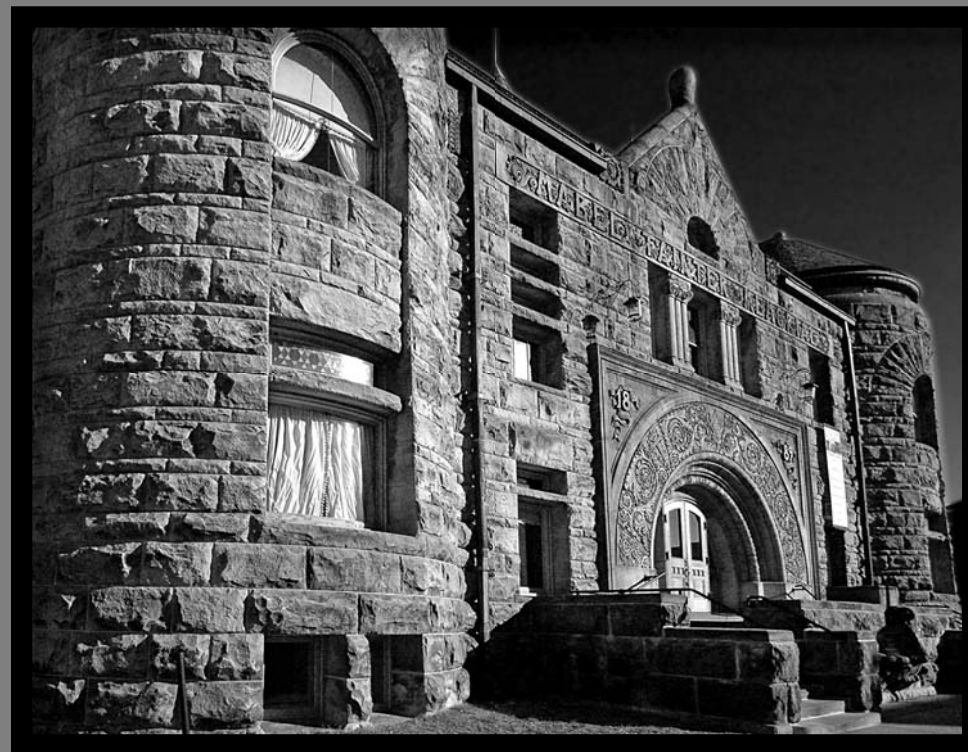
Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce  
342 E. Main Street, Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-235-9087  
www.menomonicchamber.org  
TOURISM LINE: 888-595-4223

Tourism Contacts:  
Dunn County  
800 Wilson Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751  
Facilities and Parks: 715-232-1581  
Land Conservation: 715-232-1496  
dunncountywi.govoffice2.com

Dunn County Snowmobile Association  
Trail condition hotline: 715-664-SNOW  
www.dunncountysnow.com

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
921 Brickyard Road, Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-1242, www.dnr.wi.gov

Dunn County Historical Society  
1820 Wakanda Street, Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-8685, http://discover-net.net/~dchs/



Photography, Steve Braker, Colfax, WI

## ...Cool Cruise

### Cool Cruises of Dunn County

You've got the hot ride, the cool partner and a hunger for adventure...then come to Dunn County for the "cool cruise" road trip of your life! Our country roads feature twisting, turning, mind-blowing drives into the most gorgeous landscapes and elevations this side of the Rocky Mountains. Throw in fun country pubs and grub, an amazing selection of live entertainment and the friendliest locals, and you know you're in Dunn County.

The best way to do a cool cruise is to establish your base of operations: check into one of our local fine lodging establishments, choose your cruise and put the pedal to the metal! The Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce has all the information that you need on visitor's packages as well as great dining and entertainment options. However, part of the thrill of the cruise is to discover on your own that hidden café that is famous for its ribs, or that rocking juke box in the place you least expect it. Whether you are seeking adventure or looking to soothe your overworked senses, dense woodlands, quiet brooks, roaring rivers and pastoral landscapes will unfold in front of you as you explore our back roads.

For more information on Cool Cruising contact the Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce for a custom cruise for you or your car/bike club. We guarantee a good ride during all seasons!



## Attractions and more...

The following information is just a sampling of what you can find, per quadrant, in Dunn County

### NORTHEAST:

**PARKS:** Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area (707 acres) - north of Menomonie off County E

**CAMPING:** Myron Park - north of Sand Creek on the Red Cedar River

**WATER ACCESS:** Boat landings - south of Sand Creek off Hwy 64; 22 Mile Ford Park - 8 miles north of Colfax; Felland Park and Tom Prince Memorial Park - Hwy 170, Colfax; Peninsula Landing - 910th Avenue; Russian Schlough - off 860th Ave.; Champney Park - 660th St. and 836th Ave.; Northwest Landing - 618th St. and 848th Ave.; Lamb's Creek Bridge Park - Hwy G; Kleist Landing - Tainter Lake

**SPORTS:** Whitetail Golf Course - Hwy 40 south of Colfax; Colfax Shooting Range

**MUSEUMS:** Colfax Railroad Museum

**WILDLIFE:** Hay Creek Wildlife Area - 375 acres, 15 miles north of Colfax on Hwy 64; Otter Creek Wildlife Area - 402 acres, 6 miles northeast of Wheeler, Hwy SS; Hay River Wildlife Area - 122 acres, 1 miles east of Wheeler, Hwy 170

### NORTHWEST

**PARKS:** Thatcher Park - off 90th St., north of Connorsville; Boyceville - Andy Pafko Recreational Park, Airport Park (camping); Wheeler - Ball fields, swimming, picnicking; Knapp - swimming, fishing; Ridgeland - Village Park and Fairgrounds

**WATER ACCESS:** Hay River - 1170th St. and 450th St.; Hay River - Hwy F and N, Village of Wheeler.

**SPORTS:** Northwest Public Shooting Range

**MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SIGHTS:** Nanawongabe Point - marker on F south of the Dunn County line commemorating the last battle in Wisconsin between the Anishinabe (Ojibwa or Chippewa) and the Santee Dakota (Sioux)

**WILDLIFE:** Big Beaver Creek Wildlife Area - 584 acres, 8 m. northeast of Boyceville, Hwy F; Lambs Creek Wildlife Area - 711 acres, 4 miles north of Menomonie, 810th Avenue

### SOUTHEAST

**TRAILS:** Red Cedar State Trail - Skiing and bicycling, enter in Downsview at the bridge on Hwy 25, go south to Dunnville. Turn right and go to Durand, or turn left and go 23 miles along the Chippewa River Trail to Phoenix Part at the confluence of the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers in downtown Eau Claire.

**PARKS:** Elk Mound - Hill Park (great views, hiking trails), picnicking, ball fields, playgrounds, shelter, horse shoe pits, soccer, tennis, indoor swimming pool; Rock Falls Park: Hwy 85 at Rock Falls

**WATER ACCESS:** Caryville - Hwy H; Chippewa Bottoms - 240th Ave. west of Caryville; Meridean - 730th St.; Downsview - Hwy 25; Dunnville - Hwy Y.

**SPORTS:** Chippewa Valley Golf Course - 490th Ave. south side of Menomonie; Thunder Hill Speedway - 690th St.

**MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SIGHTS:** Caddie Woodlawn Park - Hwy 25 south of Downsview; Empie in Pine Museum, Downsview

**WILDLIFE:** Muddy Creek Wildlife Area - 4,351 acres, 2 miles east of Elk Mound, access 730th St.; Dunnville Wildlife Area - 5,063 acres, 5 miles south of Downsview on Hwy 25, east on Hwy Y; Caryville Savanna State Natural Area - 420 acres on Brush Island, Chippewa River Bottoms, access by canoe from the Caryville boat, Hwy H; Rock Falls Wildlife Area - 271 acres, one mile southwest of Rock Falls, access 890th St.

### SOUTHWEST

**TRAILS:** Red Cedar State Trail - Skiing and bicycling trail, enter at the old Depot off Hwy 29 on the west side of Menomonie, 14.5 miles to the Chippewa River

**MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SIGHTS:** Devil's Punchbowl Scientific Study Area

- off Rustic Road 410th St. south of Menomonie

**SPORTS:** Pinewood Golf Course - north of Irvington on 451st Ave.

**WATER ACCESS:** Eau Galle: Sportsman's Lodge Park, Pine View Park and Dam Park

**WILDLIFE:** Eau Galle River Wildlife Area - 237 acres, 14 miles sw of Menomonie on Hwy C; Gilbert Creek Fishery Area - 120 acres, 7 miles west of Menomonie, access on Hwy D.

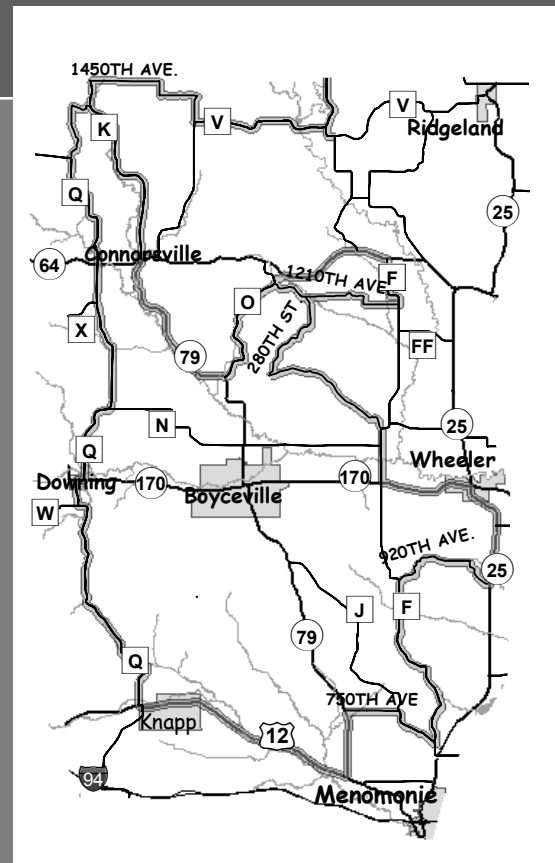
## the sound of water...

### Hay River Valley and the Knapp Hills

The northwest section of Dunn County has recreational opportunities for all types of water enthusiasts. The Hay River Valley has excellent fishing, including numerous Class 1 trout streams. Some of the best canoeing and kayaking in the area is on the North Fork of the Hay River.

The challenge in this quadrant is deciding whether to put into the pristine Hay River for a kayaking or canoeing adventure or to spend the day motor touring through the switchback roads of the Knapp Hills and enjoying the terrain carved out by these chalk hills.

The back roads in this region will lead you into the towns of Wheeler, Ridgeland, Connorsville, Downing, Boyceville and Knapp, where the locals will be happy to tell you where to find the best country pubs, food, artist studios and entertainment in the valley.

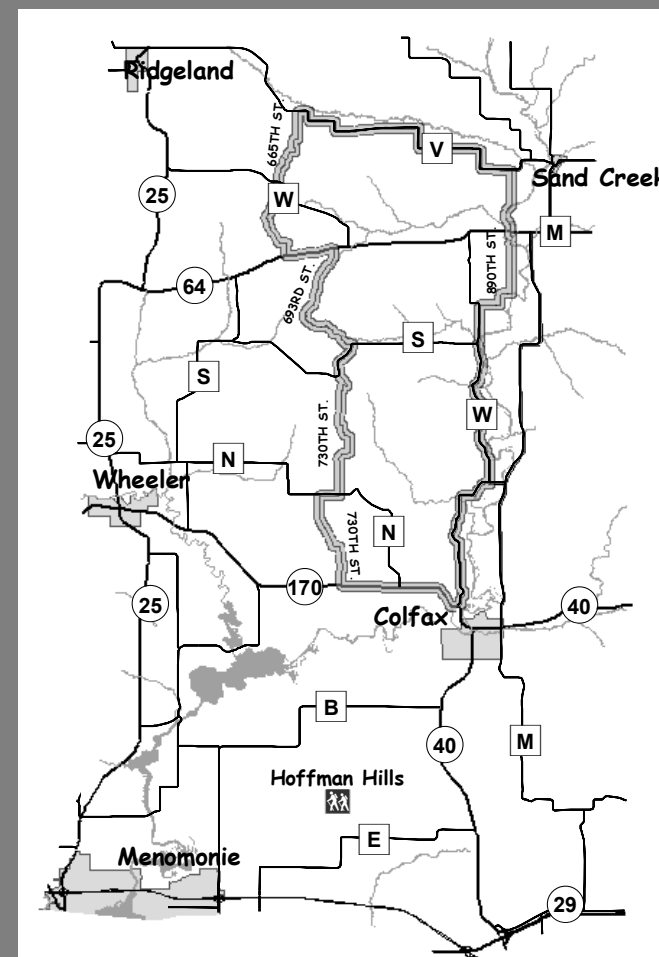


## the seclusion of the big woods...

### Otter Creek and Hoffman Hills, and the Red Cedar River

We challenge you to drive into the Otter Creek Hills and not get delightfully lost! While driving the winding, oak-canopied roads you may expect to see Robin Hood leap out of the trees in front of you. Start your driving tour in Menomonie and head northeast to Colfax, to experience its cafes, historic village hall and picturesque parks along the Red Cedar River. Driving north and west from Colfax takes you on a road tour challenge. If you find yourself on State Hwy 64, wander north to Ridgeland or Sand Creek and Myron Park, the only public campsite on the Red Cedar River.

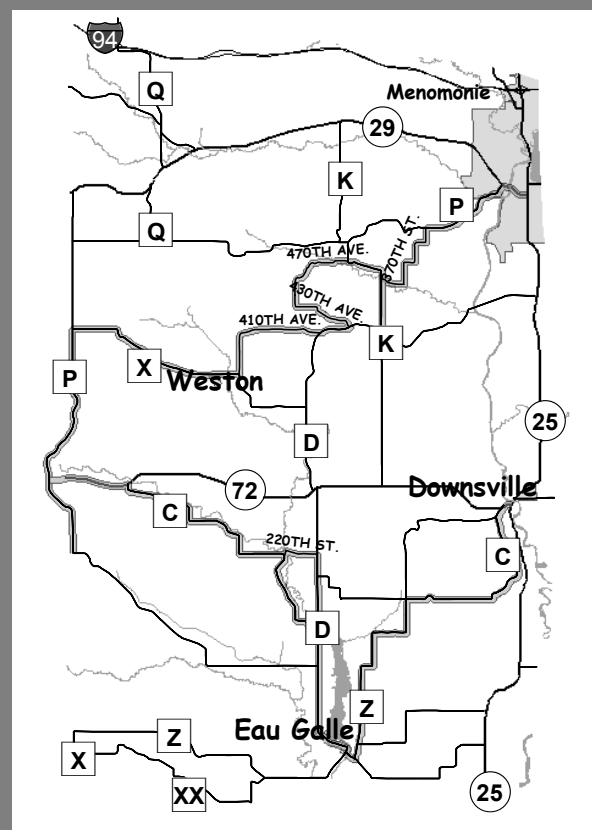
Going south and west from Colfax you will find Tainter Lake. Tainter Lake hosts not only great boating and fishing, it rocks with some of the best live music in the area. You can make new friends, sip a drink, eat a great dinner and dance the night away. Just south and east of Tainter Lake lies the Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area with miles of hiking trails and an observation tower overlooking one of the most dramatic vistas in the area. All roads lead to adventure in this section of Dunn County!



## the rush of wind...

### Rustic roads and the Red Cedar Trail

West of Menomonie on State Highway 29 is the head of the Red Cedar Trail. Next to the trail is Rustic Road #89, the only rustic road in Dunn County. This road will lead you to Devil's Punchbowl Scientific Study Area, a unique geological formation which holds many hidden and unique natural treasures. With only a few twist and turns, you will find yourself in the small village of Weston. Walking, biking or cross country skiing on the Red Cedar Trail will take you into Downsville, with its unique inns and pubs offering refreshments and food. Further south, Pineview Park on Lake Eau Galle offers a clear lake for boating, fishing and swimming.

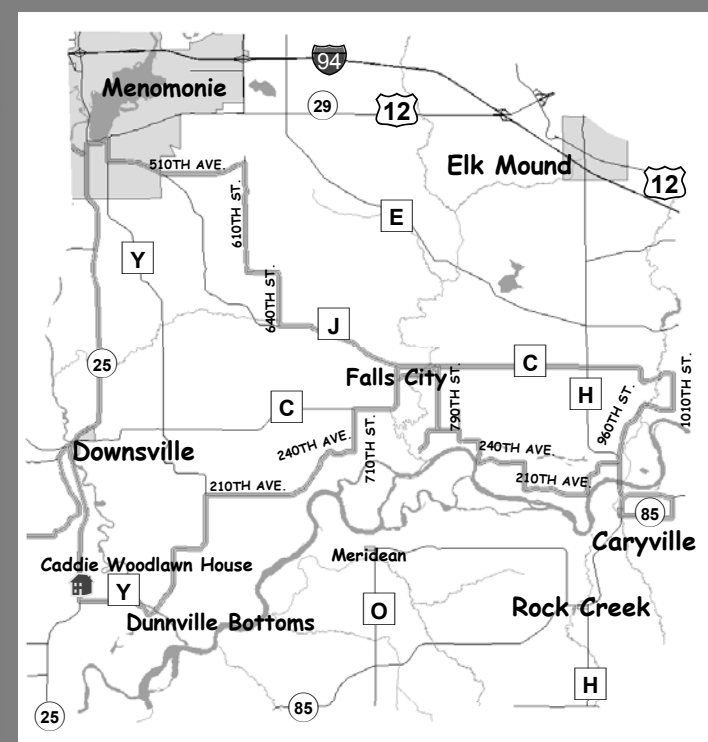


## the view across the prairie...

### Caddie Woodlawn Country and the Dunnville Bottoms

Little has changed in this area since John Woodhouse and his family settled here from Boston in 1857. One of the Woodhouse children, Caroline, became "Caddie Woodlawn" in the Newberry Award-winning book penned by her granddaughter Carol Ryrie Brink. The Woodhouse home, which attracts numerous visitors annually, sits on the original acreage in a county park just off Hwy 25 south of Downsville.

The Red Cedar and Chippewa Rivers converge in the Dunnville Bottoms. This area features the largest concentration of remaining prairies and savannahs in the state, and an abundance of bird watching opportunities. Habitat for numerous birds, including six state-threatened species, is provided in this nature site.



Caryville is home to the last working ferry on the river. Driving through the settlements of Rock Falls, Meridean and Falls City takes you back to the early days of the county with its picturesque old barns and churches.

The Elk Mound tower is located on one of the tallest hills in the area and offers a breathtaking sunset view.