



*Discover the Minnesota River Valley  
and unlock a piece of American history*

This map is the western portion of the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway. Here you'll view remnants of two consequential Minnesota stories: the geological formation of the river valley and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

Go to our website to get more information on these stories and view the full 287-mile Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.



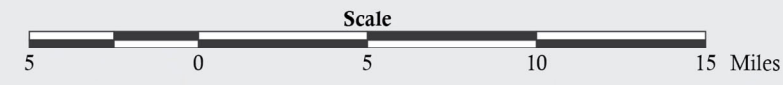
# Minnesota River Valley NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

[www.mnrivervalley.com](http://www.mnrivervalley.com)



Scan to Explore

- KEY**
- Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway Paved Surface
- Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway Gravel Surface
- Alternate Route Paved Surface
- Alternate Route Gravel Surface
- Discovery Site
- Historic Dakota Village, mid-1800's (no longer exists/not public)
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Road





## 1 Continental Divide

320-695-2110 At this remote site west of Browns Valley, you will find a section of the Laurentian Divide, a continental divide in central North America.



## 2 Samuel J. Brown Memorial Park

320-695-2110 | 796 West Broadway, Browns Valley  
A historic cabin, where you can learn about Samuel Brown and Browns Valley's history.



## 3 Browns Valley Man

TH 28/7 E, Browns Valley  
Uncovered in 1933, experts named the bone fragments "Browns Valley Man" and estimated the burial to be 9,000 years old.



## 4 Big Stone Lake State Park

320-839-3663 | [dnr.state.mn.us](http://dnr.state.mn.us)  
35889 Meadowbrook State Park Rd, Ortonville  
This state park offers visitors a quiet camping experience with fishing, swimming, hiking, and bird watching.



## 5 Big Stone County Museum

320-839-3359 | 985 U.S. Hwy 12, Ortonville  
Turn in at Paul Bunyan's anchor to tour the museum featuring an extensive waterfowl collection, a 1900's boat, octagon county schoolhouse, church, and log cabins.



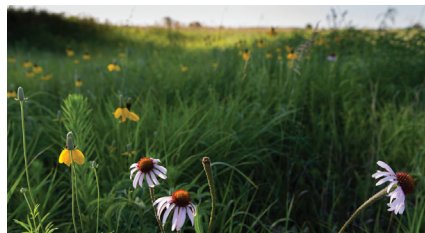
## 6 Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

320-273-2191 | [fws.gov/refuge/big-stone](http://fws.gov/refuge/big-stone)  
43966 720th Ave CR 5, Ortonville (Auto Tour)  
44843 County Rd 19 Odessa (Visitor Center)  
Drive or bike the auto tour where you can enjoy the granite outcrops, wetlands, woodlands, prairie, and wildlife.



## 7 Plover Prairie

Odessa A beautiful nature preserve with a wide variety of plant and animal species.



## 8 Marsh Lake Dam

Appleton A lake on the Minnesota River with abundant fish, waterfowl, and wildlife. Home to Minnesota's largest breeding colony of American white pelicans.



## 9 Chippewa Prairie

Chippewa-Swift St NW, Appleton  
This prairie, protected from the plow by scattered boulders, represents a diverse remnant of the once vast northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem.



## 10 Arv Hus Museum

320-734-4868 | 228 Main St, Milan | [milanmn.com](http://milanmn.com)  
A treasure trove of the history on Milan packed with artifacts and photographs.



## 11 Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area

320-734-4451 | [dnr.state.mn.us](http://dnr.state.mn.us)  
14047 20th St NW, Watson (Lac qui Parle DNR Headquarters)  
More than 33,000 acres of land and water made up of wetlands, brush lands, woodlands, native prairie, and more.



## 12 Lac qui Parle State Park

320-734-4450 | [dnr.state.mn.us](http://dnr.state.mn.us)  
14047 20th St NW, Watson (Lac qui Parle DNR Headquarters)  
3749 State Park Rd, Montevideo (Lower Entrance)  
Go canoeing or kayaking, camp in a prairie setting, go walleye fishing, explore trails, or watch for wildlife and birds.



## 13 Fort Renville Historic Site

320-269-7636 | 173 140th Avenue NW, Watson (Ft. Renville)  
[mnhs.org/lacquiparle](http://mnhs.org/lacquiparle)  
A fur trading post established in 1826 by Joseph Renville near a Dakota village on the shore of the Minnesota River.



## 14 Lac qui Parle Mission

320-269-7636 | [mnhs.org/lacquiparle](http://mnhs.org/lacquiparle)  
115 140th Ave NW, Watson (Lac qui Parle Mission)  
Joseph Renville invited missionaries to establish the Lac qui Parle Mission near this post in 1835.



## 15 Lac qui Parle County History Center

320-598-7678 | 250 8th Ave S, Madison | [lqphc.org](http://lqphc.org)  
Exhibits feature the pioneer lifestyle, agriculture, Civil War artifacts, and the famous poet, Robert Bly's, study.



## 16 Camp Release State Monument

1893 445th Ave, Montevideo  
This monument commemorates the release of 269 captives taken during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.



## 17 Historic Chippewa City

320-269-7636 | 151 Arnie Anderson Dr, Montevideo  
[chippewacohistory.org](http://chippewacohistory.org)  
Visit the replication of a unique, 24-building, turn-of-the century village.



## 18 Milwaukee Road Heritage Depot

320-321-1197 | 301 State Rd, Montevideo  
[montevideomrhc.org](http://montevideomrhc.org)  
Tour the Depot Building built in 1901, complete with exhibits and model railroad trains.



## 19 Olof Swensson Farm Museum

320-269-7636 | 115 County Rd 15 SE, Granite Falls  
[chippewacohistory.org](http://chippewacohistory.org)  
Tour the 22-room brick house, timber-framed barn, family cemetery, and remains of a gristmill.



**Dakota Language** One of the first and oldest languages in this region (or State) is known as Dakota lapi. Place names are included on this map to honor the Dakota community and the names used and borrowed to understand the Minnesota we know today.

The Dakota have ancient and sacred relations with the Minnesota River Valley and adjacent landscape. Stories identify Mni Sota (Minnesota) as homeland, a place of creation to which Dakota have always been connected.

**Historic Dakota Village Sites** Historic Dakota Villages The Mni Sota River Valley is Dakota homeland. This map illustrates some mid-1800s village locations, but Dakota people and their ancestors have lived throughout the river valley for millenia. These historic sites acknowledge this strong cultural context and remind all Minnesota River Valley visitors and residents of its history. **NOTE:** These approximate locations are for context only and are not open to the public.