Your go-to guide to discover the best that the Twin Cities has to offer!
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Recreation & Wellness

RENTALS & PRICE LIST

Camping:
- Wiggy’s 15 degree Sleeping Bag: $3.00 per night
- Backpacking 3 Person lightweight tent: $5.00 per night
- Sleeping Pad: $1.00 per night
- Coleman 2 burner Stove: $2.00 per night
- Backpacking Stove: $2.00 per night
- Cooking Kit: $2.00 per night
- Backpacks: Women’s Osprey Ariel 65 liter & Men’s Osprey
  Aether 70 liter: $3.00 per night

**Car Camping Kit:** $30 for 2 nights-$5 per extra night
Includes: One 3 person tent, 3 sleeping bags, 3 sleeping pads, stove, cook kit

Other Activities:
- Slackline Kit: $1.00 per day
- Bike Helmet: $1.00 per day
- Outdoor Volleyball set: free
- Laddergolf: free
- Ultimate Frisbee disc/kit: free
- Bean Bag Toss: free
- Spikeball: free
- Polish Horseshoes: free
Twin Cities NICE RIDE
Biking Adventures

Ever feel like biking around the Cities, but don’t have access to a bike? Don’t worry, you can use the NICE RIDE bikes.

NICE RIDE bikes are a great way to get around the Twin Cities. With stations all over the cities, you can practically take them anywhere... well, almost. Just pay a flat fee of $6 to rent a bike for a day. Then, if you can check into another station within 30 minutes, you will not have to pay anymore fees! It’s as simple as that, and completely do-able.

Chain of Lakes Tour
Take this tour and you will get to experience some of the finest lakes and parks in Minneapolis. It is a beautiful ride that would be great for you and your friends.

Bridges of Minneapolis Tour
This tour is great for discovering popular areas of Minneapolis such as St. Anthony Main, Nicollet Island, Boom Island, and the Stone Arch. This would be a particularly great idea for those new to North Central and those who want to discover the city.

For more info and tour maps, go to: https://www.niceridemn.org/
Local FREE Activities
Best Minneapolis/St. Paul Picnic Spots

1. Hidden Falls Park – St. Paul
1313 Hidden Falls Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55116
(651) 632-5111
Both the Southern and Northern portions of Hidden Falls Park, there are several picnic spots available in open green spaces and also right along the Mississippi. The Northern portion has a large picnic shelter that seats 60 people and is available for reservations.

2. Minnehaha Falls & Park – Minneapolis
4801 South Minnehaha Park Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55417
(612) 230-6400
Overlooking the Mississippi River, Minnehaha Park is one of Minneapolis’ oldest and most popular parks, attracting over 850,000 thousand visitors annually.
Located at the intersection of Hiawatha Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway, the 193-acre park features a 53-foot waterfall, limestone bluffs and river overlooks. There are several scenic picnic areas available throughout the park.

3. Chain of Lakes - Minneapolis
http://www.minneapolisparks.org/grandrounds/
Have a Picnic along the most beautiful lakes in Minneapolis, the Chain of Lakes. Chain of Lakes includes Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet, Lake of the Isles, and Cedar Lake. With each lake, you will experience a different atmosphere and different views. However, all of these locations are beautiful places to have a picnic and hangout.

4. Loring Park - Minneapolis
1382 Willow St., Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 370-4929
Located across the street from the infamous Sculpture Gardens, Loring Park is the largest park in Central Minneapolis. With a beautiful lake and an excellent view of the city, this is a great place to have a picnic.
Best Local Hikes

**Lebanon Hills Regional Park**
860 Cliff Road
Eagan, MN 55123
651-554-6530
www.co.dakota.mn.us

Spanning over nearly 2,000 acres Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Dakota County offers over 14 miles of summer hiking trails and over 12 miles of winter ski trails. Start your hike at the Schulze Lake Trailhead which is located adjacent to the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center.

**Winchell Trail**
3601 West River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612 230-6400
www.nps.gov

The Mississippi Gorge has a fascinating geological history as it is the only gorge dug by the Mississippi River. Hikers can enjoy an easy five-mile roundtrip hike or wander off the main trail for some slightly more challenging paths. Most of the trail runs along the bluffs and passes one of the Mississippi’s steepest and deepest points. The trail is easily accessible along every part of the trail. Sections of the trail are paved.

**Minnehaha Park Trails**
4801 South Minnehaha Park Dr.
Minneapolis, MN 55417
(612) 230-6400
www.minneapolisparks.org

Any hiking trail featuring a waterfall is going to top the charts and that’s certainly the case for Minnehaha Park with its 9.91 miles of trails. As one of Minneapolis’ oldest and most cherished parks, this 193-acre haven overlooks the Mississippi River and has a vast landscape providing beautiful displays of seasonal wildflowers and native trees. Keep an eye out for several historic-inspired sculptures.
1. Wild River State Park
39797 Park Trail
Center City, MN 55012
(651) 583-2125
Located along the St. Croix River, Wild River State Park offers several great opportunities for winter explorations. You can snowshoe, cross-country ski, or even take part in cool park lead activities. One night each year, in January, Wild River State Park offers a nighttime candlelight event, which is a beautiful hike through lit up trails. Rentals are available at the park. Check out more of the park’s information at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html

2. Afton State Park
6959 Peller Avenue South
Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 436-5391
Grand oaks grace the rugged, rolling landscape of this park. Trails traverse remnant and restored prairies, wind down deep ravines and rise up to the grassy ridgetops and bluffs overlooking the scenic St. Croix River. The trails are perfect for hikers, horseback riders and cross-country skiers. Snowshoeing rentals are available at the park for a great winter’s hike! Check out more of the park’s information at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html

3. Baker Park Reserve
2309 Baker Park Road
Maple Plain, MN 55359
(763) 694-7860
Located on scenic Lake Independence, Baker Park Reserve offers 2,700 acres of natural landscape and accommodations for almost any activity from golfing to camping to cross-country skiing, and so much more. No matter the season, there’s always something fun to do. During the winter, there are several great opportunities such as snowshoeing, sledding, dogsledding, cross-country skiing, and skijoring. Rentals available at the park. Check out more of the park’s information at: http://www.threeriversparks.org/
Best Lakes to Walk Around

1. Chain of Lakes — Minneapolis
   *See PAGE 6 (Best Picnic Spots)*

2. Centennial Lakes — Edina
   7499 France Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435 (952) 833-9580
   http://edinamn.gov/index.php (Search Centennial Lakes Park)
   With a 24-acre park and pond, Centennial Lakes Park offers the ultimate urban escape. The park features more than 1.5 miles of paved pathways meandering around a 10-acre lake interspersed with beautifully landscaped grounds, formal and informal seating areas, swinging benches and fountains. The park offers many great opportunities for free or a low cost.

3. Lake Nokomis — Minneapolis
   4800 E Nokomis Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55467 (612) 370-4938
   This is a beautiful lake right in the heart of Minneapolis, and a great place for anyone to occupy a few hours of their time. It is not quite as crowded as some of the other popular lakes in the cities. Check this lake out for a nice, quiet lake experience. It is located in the southern part of the city, west of the Mississippi River and south of Lake Hiawatha.

4. Normandale Lake - Bloomington
   84th St. & Chalet Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55438 (952) 563-8878
   Find your city escape to the one-of-a-kind Normandale Lake. Take a walk on the famous Normandale Lake Trail that wraps around the entire lake and all it’s scenery. You could even end your day at the Normandale Lake Bandshell and enjoy one of the many events they hold there. It’s a great atmosphere.

& Best Beaches

Along many of these lakes, there are many beaches for you and your friends to lay out on or swim at. Here are some of the Twin Cities most popular beaches for you to check out:

1. Cedar Lake in Minneapolis — 3 Beaches
2. Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis — 3 Beaches
3. Phalen-Keller Park in St. Paul — 1 Beach
4. Lake Harriet in Minneapolis — 2 Beaches
Best Open Field Spaces

Lake Calhoun—Minneapolis
3000 Calhoun Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55408  (612) 230-6400
With a great lake and beaches, there are also many great open field spaces for those who wish to play a game of football, ultimate Frisbee, or a pick-up game of soccer.

Edward C. Solomon Park—Minneapolis
14th Ave & E 58th St Minneapolis, MN 55417  (612) 230-6464
This developing 40-acre park is located right in South Minneapolis and offers a large amount of open green space for large group activities. This is a great, quiet location for your outdoor games.

Sculpture Gardens—Minneapolis
726 Vineland Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403  (612) 230-6400  Hours: 6am-Midnight
Right across from the Walker Art Center, sits the infamous Sculpture Gardens. It’s usually known for its large sculptures and designs; furthermore, this place is a great area to hold some large outdoor games.

Best Bonfire Spots

Who doesn’t love a good bonfire? St. Paul has many great parks with bonfire pits that are on a first-come, first-served basis. Some parks have one pit, and some have many more. Make sure you get there to claim your spot for nightly fun! Here, listed, are parks that have fire pits available:

Como Park
1225 Estabrook Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55103
(651) 487-8200

Highland Park
1200 Montreal Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116
(651) 632-5111

Hidden Falls Regional Park
1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St.
Paul, MN 55116
(651) 632-5111

Phalen Regional Park
1600 Phalen Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 632-5111

Newell Park
North Fairview Ave. & Hewitt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 632-5111
Best Disc Golf Courses

Disc Golfing, Frolfing, Frisbee Golfing... whatever you want to call it... is a great recreation. The Twin Cities provide several wonderful areas to play this sport. Listed below are some of the best:

1. C.P. Adams Park (18-hole) – Hastings
1301 18th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033  (651) 437-3191
If a challenging disc golf course is what you’re looking for, C.P. Adams Park in Hastings is the place for you. This 18-hole course has long and short holes, wide and narrow fairways and hilly terrain that make for a diverse and exciting course.

2. Bryant Lake Park (18-hole) – Eden Prairie
6800 Rowland Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344  (763) 694-7764
The 18-hole disc golf course at Bryant Lake Regional Park offers short and long tee boxes, scenic lake views and the infamous hole #17, where golfers throw their discs off a cliff to reach the basket. Certain holes have two baskets to give players an option.

3. Minnehaha Park (9-hole) – Minneapolis
4801 S. Minnehaha Park Dr., Minneapolis, MN 55417  (612) 230-6400
Minnehaha Park may be famous for its 53-foot waterfall but it also has a popular 9-hole disc golf course. The course terrain is flat with mature trees. The nine-hole course makes for a nice short game and is ideal paired with a picnic at the nearby Wabun Picnic Area.
Best Sledding Hills

SEWARD HILL
E. 24th St. and 28th Av. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406  (612) 370-4950
Conservative sledgers who don’t like to see their lives flash before their eyes will appreciate the hill at Matthews Park in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis. There are a few hills in the park, all medium-sized. A tennis court and small cluster of trees sit at the end of one of the hills. A playground is nearby. Matthews Park is located at 2318 29th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

COLUMBIA GOLF COURSE
3300 Central Av. NE., Minneapolis, MN 55418  (612) 789-2627
Bomb down one of the steepest hills in northeast Minneapolis at Columbia Golf Course, a hike-it-back-up hill with a warming clubhouse nearby. Tube rental is $5. Concessions available in clubhouse 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. www.minneapolisparks.org.

HIGHLAND PARK
1200 Montreal Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116  (651) 632-5111
Hills bordering the golf course provide precipitous sledding with long run-outs at this St. Paul park. Access the best sledding behind the water tower near the intersection of Ford Pkwy. and S. Snelling Av.; www.stpaul.gov.

BEARD'S PLAISANCE PARK
4525 Upton Av. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410  (612) 230-6400
An unmanaged hill above the west shore of Lake Harriet, Beard’s Plaisance attracts neighborhood sledgers to schuss under giant oak trees for 400 feet toward a parking lot far below. www.minneapolisparks.org.

For other sledding hills, check out the Three Rivers Park District website.

http://threeriversparks.org/activities/sledding.aspx
Local Activities with Fees $$$$$
Vertical Endeavors:

Rock Climbing

Vertical Endeavors-Minneapolis, located on 26th and Nicollet (Eat Street), in Minneapolis, MN, is built in one of the last remaining historic Ice House buildings. This state-of-the-art facility opened its doors in November, 2011. It is contained within a 10,500 square foot space. With approximately 28,000 square feet of climbing walls built by Nicros, Inc. and 50-60 foot tall climbing walls, VE-Minneapolis is one of the largest and tallest climbing facilities in the country.

Vertical Endeavors-Minneapolis is a full-service climbing facility with amenities including two community/party rooms, a pro shop to fulfill all your climbing needs, showers, lockers and year-round climate control.

Never climbed before? No problem. Vertical Endeavors offers something for everyone from first timers to experienced climbers. Along with areas for lead climbing, bouldering and top roping there are 24 auto belays so no experience is necessary. VE also offers a full line of indoor and outdoor lessons, youth programs, group events and experiential programs for corporate and non-profit groups.

Check out the VE-Minneapolis website for details about hours and pricing:
http://verticalendeavors.com/minneapolis/

*Equipment rentals available through Recreation & Wellness.
Best Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddle Boarding, & Paddle Boating Places

Canoe & Kayak
- Above the Fall Sports  http://www.abovethefallssports.com/rentals/

Stand-Up Paddleboard
- Stand Up MN  http://www.standupmn.org/

Paddle Boat
- Lake Como Rentals  http://blackbearcrossings.com/boat

Various Boat Rentals
- Chain of Lakes, Lake Nokomis, & Minnehaha Falls
  ** http://www.wheelfunrentals.com/Locations/Minneapolis  **
  http://www.minneapolisparks.org/?PageID=797
Best Ice Skating Places

When it comes to ice skating, there is always the option of going out on the lakes for a free skate. However, if you would like more options that just the open lakes, the Twin Cities has many options. Listed below are some of the best places.

1. The Depot — Minneapolis
225 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55401  (612) 375-1700
The Depot is an indoor ice arena located right in downtown Minneapolis. It has been named the top ten best in America by USA Today and MSNBC. This place has great views inside and out with its gorgeous glass walls and metal beams of the historic train shed. Besides, it is conveniently close to NCU.
http://www.thedepotminneapolis.com/ice-rink.php

2. Bloomington Ice Garden — Bloomington
3600 W. 98th St., Bloomington, MN 55431  (952) 563-8842
Often referred to as BIG, the Bloomington Ice Garden has three different rinks to offer skaters of different levels of experience an enjoyable time. The rinks, including the Olympic-sized rink, are open for public skating as well as for offered training classes. Check the website for times and prices.
http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us/main_top/2_facilities/rec_facility/big/big.htm

3. Wells Fargo Winter Skate — St. Paul
Landmark Plaza (75 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55102)  (651) 228-1664
Right in the heart of downtown Saint Paul, exists a beautiful, free, outdoor skating rink. The views of the city and urban setting of the historic buildings turn this skating experience into one that is like none other. This winter rink’s season usually goes from November to February.
http://www.wellsfargowinterskate.com/

4. Plymouth Ice Center — Plymouth
3650 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55446-3201  (763) 509-5250
As a part of Life Time Fitness center, the Plymouth Ice Center features three ice rinks, one Olympic-sized and two professional-sized. There is even an additional mirrored room with ballet bars for practicing your moves. Check out the website for varied times and prices:
Best Skiing Places

Winter is always a great time of year. In Minnesota, it is usually a long time of year. Why not take advantage of the long season and go have some fun. The Twin Cities offers a variety of winter fun, including skiing, both cross country and downhill. Listed below are some of the best places worth checking out.

Cross Country Skiing

Wirth Winter Recreation Area; (763) 522-4584; minneapolisparks.com


French Regional Park, Three Rivers Parks and Trails; (763) 694-7750; ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org


Fort Snelling State Park; (612) 725-2389; dnr.state.mn.us

Located near Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport on the Minnesota River. Warming house. Level terrain along the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.

Downhill Skiing

Hyland Ski & Snowboard Area
8800 Chalet Road, Bloomington, MN 55438
(763) 694-7800

Buck Hill
15400 Buck Hill Road, Burnsville, MN 55306
(952) 435-7174
Rentals available. Levels from easy to difficult. Beginner Freestyle terrain available. Snowboard.

Afton Alps
6600 Peller Ave. S., Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 436-5245
Lessons and Rentals available. Snowboard.

Wild Mountain
37200 Wild Mountain Rd, Taylor Falls, MN 55084
(651) 465-6315
Weekend & Overnight Trips
Crosby Farm
Regional Park
2595 Crosby Farm Road
St Paul, MN 55116
(651) 632-5111

About the Park:
Crosby Farms Regional Park, at 763 acres, is the largest natural park in the St. Paul park system. It runs right along the Mississippi River and contains 6.7 miles of paved trails and natural trails. Crosby Farm Regional Park is connected to Fort Snelling State Park and other parks within the vicinity by an extensive trail system. The size of Crosby Farms Regional Park, its diversity of life, many recreational opportunities, and easy access makes this a popular park to escape the bustle of a frenzied city life.

Activities:
Bicycling and walking trails, picnicking and picnic shelter, water fountains, grills, horse shoes, fire pit, boat launch, fishing, cross country ski trails, and bird watching.

Hours:
The southern unit is open from sunrise to 9:00pm, while the northern unit is open from sunrise to 10:00pm.

Amenities:
Free Parking available. Bathrooms available near parking lot. Picnic areas and picnic shelter available.
Hidden Falls Regional Park
1313 Hidden Falls Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55116
(651) 632-5111

About the Park:
Connected closely by trail system, Hidden Falls Regional Park is a beautiful places to enjoy a day off. The park is easily accessible for all people to enjoy. The park contains a primitive setting where nature abounds, in addition to more developed areas. There are also several open green spaces available for large group activities.

Activities:
Bicycling and walking trails, picnicking/shelter, grills, two fire rings, horseshoe pits, water fountains, horseshoes, boat launch, fishing, cross country ski trails, waterfall viewing.

Hours:
The northern unit is open from sunrise to 10:00pm; the southern unit is open from sunrise to 9:00pm., unless otherwise posted.

Amenities:
Free parking available. Restrooms available in the northern unit. Picnic areas and picnic shelter available.
Lebanon Hills Regional Park

12100 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Apple Valley, MN 55124  (651) 554-6530

About the Park:
Lebanon Hills Regional Park is the largest park in the Dakota County park system. Containing, almost 2,000 acres, the park offers miles of trails and many lakes for year-round outdoor sports, recreation, and environmental education. This is a great place for group retreats and weekend trips.

Activities:

Hours:
5am-10pm—Visitor Center Trailhead; 8am-10pm—West Trailhead; After 1pm for Campground Check-In Times.

Amenities:
Free Parking available; Restrooms available at major trailheads, campground, and visitor center; Picnic Areas and Picnic Shelters available; Meeting rooms available; Firewood available.  (See Recreation & Wellness Department for more information)
Things to Do in Duluth

1. Lief Erickson Park & Rose Garden (Outdoor Walk/Stroll)
2. The Boundary Waters (Superior National Forest) (Outdoor Recreation & Sightseeing)
3. Lakewalk/Baywalk (Outdoor Walk/Stroll)
4. Adventure Zone (Indoor Recreational Fun)
5. Aerial Lift Bridge (Outdoor Walk/Stroll)
6. Spirit Mountain (Winter Skiing) & Spirit Mountain Adventure Park (Recreational Fun)
7. Glensheen Estate (Museum Tour)
8. Oberg Mountain Loop (Outdoor Hike)
9. The Apostle Islands (Outdoor Sightseeing)
10. Chester Park (Outdoor Sightseeing)
11. Great Lakes Aquarium (Indoor Sight)
12. Jay Cooke State Park (Camping & Sightseeing)
13. Enger Tower (Outdoor Sightseeing)
14. Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad (Sightseeing)
15. Vista Fleet Sightseeing & Dining Cruises
16. Superior Whitewater Raft Tours/Sea Kayak Tours (Outdoor Recreation) *May through Sept. only

*For a more extensive list of things to do in Duluth, check out www.TripAdvisor.com and search “Duluth, MN+Things to do”.
Team Building Activities

1. Vertical Endeavors
   *See Page 14

2. Ultimate Frisbee
   *See Page 10 (Best Open Field Spaces)

3. Dodgeball Game
   *See Page 10 (Best Open Field Spaces) or Contact Rec & Wellness

4. Ropes Courses
   - Sand Creek Adventures
     www.sandcreekadventures.com
   - Base Camp
     www.explorewildbasecamp.org
   - YMCA Twin Cities: Camp Ihduhapi
     www.ymcatwincities.org/camps/

5. Ice Skating
   *See Page 16

6. Bowling
   - Bryant Lake Bowl (Minneapolis)*
     www.bryantlakebowl.com
   - Brunswick Zone (Eden Prairie)
     www.bowling.com
   - Elsie’s Restaurant, Bar & Bowling Center (Minneapolis)
     www.elsies.com

7. Disc Golf Course
   *See Page 11

8. Outdoor Mini-Golf
   - Grand Rounds Miniature Golf Course at Northeast Park (Minneapolis)
     (612) 370-4937  www.minneapolisparks.org
   - Putt’er There Mini Golf (Como Park)
     (651) 488-0277  www.puttherere.com
   - The Links at Dred Scott Miniature Golf Course (Bloomington)
     (952) 941-2444  www.linksminigolf.com

9. Indoor Mini-Golf
   - Grand Slam Sports (Burnsville)
     (952) 224-0413  www.grandslammn.com
   - Golf Zone (Chaska)
     (952) 445-1500  www.yourgolfzone.com
   - Triple Play Sports (Prior Lake)
     (952) 440-3330  www.tripleplaysports.biz

10. Golf Driving Range
    - Columbia Learning Center & Driving Range (Minneapolis)
      (612) 370-4949  www.minneapolisparks.org
    - Hiawatha Learning Center & Driving Range (Minneapolis)
      (612) 724-7715  www.minneapolisparks.org
    - Braemar Golf Course (Edina)
      (952) 903-5760  edinamn.gov
Extra Recreation Resources

Minnesota State Parks:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html

Minnesota National Parks:
http://www.nps.gov/state/mn/index.htm?program=all

Three Rivers Park District:
http://www.threeriversparks.org/

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation:
http://www.minneapolisparks.org/home.asp

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation:

Wisconsin State Parks:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/

Superior Hiking Trail:
http://www.shta.org/

Boundary Waters Canoe Area:
http://www.bwca.com/

Minnesota State Forests:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/index.html

**Best of Minnesota:
http://www.uniquelyminnesota.com/activities/must-see-mn-state-parks.htm
Best Campgrounds:
http://www.tripleblaze.com/best/?c=78

Minneapolis Bike Map:

Minnesota Bike Trails: