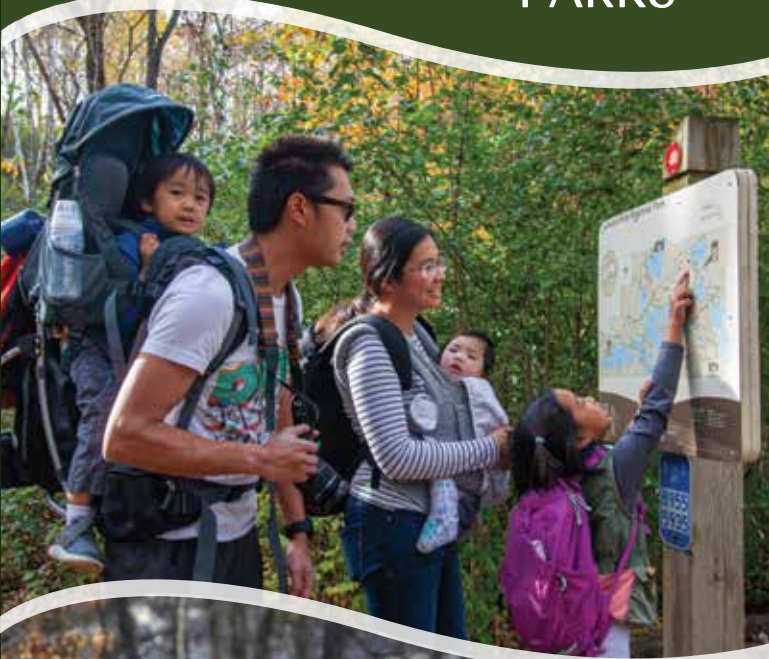


*Dakota*  
COUNTY

# forever wild PARKS



Parks and Greenways Guide



# WELCOME

Dakota County Parks improves lives by providing high-quality recreation and education opportunities in harmony with natural resource preservation and stewardship.

Parks and greenways offer a variety of recreational activities that allow you to enjoy the outdoors and stay active year-round. Entry to parks and greenways is free. Immerse yourself in nature, find a new passion, embrace the snow, spend time outside with family and friends, and make memories that will last a lifetime. There are activities for everyone at Dakota County Parks.







# Things To Do

Dakota County Parks offers countless outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the year. Hike, walk, bike or roll along miles of trails and greenways that wind through urban, suburban and rural areas of the county. Explore 11 miles of top-rated mountain bike trails or more than 10 miles of beautiful horse trails. Enjoy the views from trails and overlooks along the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. Bring your four-legged friend to an expansive dog park or hit the lake to enjoy canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding. There are swimming and fishing opportunities in the summer, while hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and kicksledding reward winter adventurers.



  
ENJOY  
—the—  
VIEW



Lake Byllesby Regional Park





# Camping

Sleep under the stars and wake up in Dakota County's great outdoors. Three regional parks feature camping – Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby and Whitetail Woods – and each offers a unique experience. You can camp surrounded by peaceful woodlands, nestled along a lakeshore, or in camper cabins with pine forest or prairie views.



# Facilities

Celebrate your biggest day, reunite with loved ones or gather with family and friends in Dakota County Parks. More than a dozen indoor facilities and outdoor picnic shelters are available for rent. Make scenic natural settings the backdrop for your wedding, birthday and anniversary celebrations. From intimate outdoor gatherings to professional retreats and banquet-style celebrations, you'll find a perfect setting in Dakota County Parks.



# RENT AN Adventure



Whitetail Woods Regional Park





# Education & Events

## Programs

Learn about nature, wildlife, ecosystems, recreation basics, wilderness survival and much more at Dakota County Parks. Hundreds of outdoor education programs help visitors of all ages and abilities discover and experience all nature has to offer.

To learn more about outdoor education programs, visit [www.dakotacounty.mn.us/parks](http://www.dakotacounty.mn.us/parks) click *Program & Events*.

## Events

Special park events provide activities and entertainment the whole community can enjoy. Ring in the New Year at our family-friendly New Year's Eve Party, enjoy a candlelit hike during Trails by Candlelight or introduce a child in your life to angling at Take a Kid Fishing. You can also get creative at Arts in the Park, try mountain biking at the Wild Ride Mountain Bike Festival, tap your feet to the beat at Music in the Park, celebrate at the Summer Solstice Party or get a little dirty and help us with natural resource restoration at a volunteer stewardship events.

# -Be- TOGETHER



Lebanon Hills Regional Park





# Natural Resources

Dakota County has abundant natural resources and protected areas that are home to diverse plants and animals. Greenways and trails connect communities to one another and to rivers, prairies, forests, lakes, bluffs and wetlands. Take in the landscapes, native plants and river views.

We regularly restore and manage land and water habitats in the parks to improve the environment, enhance the outdoor experiences for park visitors and protect the quality of life for residents. Many hundreds of volunteers help us with natural resource projects each year, including habitat restoration, stewardship events, and bumblebee, aquatic species and animal surveys. We welcome you to join us as a volunteer.

To volunteer, visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) search *parks volunteering*.



# Nurture NATURE +VOLUNTEER+



Spring Lake Park Reserve





# Lake Byllesby Regional Park

Located along the shoreline of scenic Lake Byllesby, this newly improved park is a great destination for a day of play or a week-long camping vacation. Explore the outdoors, bring your boat for fishing and water sports, or bike the nearby Cannon Valley Trail. Spend time with family and friends in new picnic areas and a nature-inspired beach play area and splashpad.

📍 8150 295th St. E., Cannon Falls







# Lebanon Hills Regional Park

This nearly 2,000-acre oasis features the convenience of a suburban park with deep woods and shimmering lakes. From skiing to camping to mountain biking, you can do it all here. The park is home to the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center, open 363 days a year, and many educational and recreational programs and events.

📍 860 Cliff Road, Eagan







# Miesville Ravine Park Reserve

Located in the heart of the Cannon River Valley, this park offers the scenic landscapes of southeastern Minnesota in our own backyard. Acres of restored prairie and wooded trails along the Cannon River and Trout Brook offer an intimate nature experience in every season.

📍 1.5 miles east of County Road 91 & 280th Street, Miesville







# Spring Lake Park Reserve

Enjoy a great getaway without the long drive. This park offers a mix of sweeping views of the Mississippi River Valley from 150-foot limestone bluffs and acres of deep woods to explore. The park is also home to the Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center and the scenic Mississippi River Greenway. Look for the return of American plains bison to the prairies in this park in fall 2022.


8395 127th St. E., Hastings





# Thompson County Park

City sounds quickly fade away in this charming 57-acre urban woodland. A large, shaded picnic area; new, accessible playground; and scenic trails along the restored Thompson Lake make this delightful park a perfect stop along the River to River Greenway. The park is home to the Dakota Lodge and Thompson Park Activity Center.

 360 Butler Ave. E., West St. Paul







# Whitetail Woods Regional Park

Century-old oaks, pristine wetlands and beautiful Empire Lake make this peaceful park, along with neighboring wildlife management areas and the University of Minnesota's UMORE Park, a unique 4,000-acre habitat for bald eagles, red fox and other wildlife. Take a hike, enjoy Fawn Crossing Nature Play Area or spend a night in a camper cabin. Winter thrill-seekers can enjoy a sledding hill featuring overhead lighting until 10 p.m. nightly.

 17100 Station Trail, Farmington





# Greenways & Trails

Dakota County offers miles of scenic regional trails and greenways that showcase the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, connect communities and provide safe ways for residents and visitors to bike, walk and roll through the county. The trail network is a work in progress and future development will offer even more recreational opportunities and destinations. Signature trailheads offer a place to start, stop or rest with parking, a picnic shelter, restrooms, seating and bike repair stations.



## River to River Greenway

An 8-mile corridor with connections to Valley Park, Dodge Nature Center, Thompson County Park, Kaposia Park and the Mississippi River Greenway.

📍 Lilydale to South St. Paul

## Big Rivers Regional Trail

A 5-mile trail from Lilydale to Eagan that overlooks the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, known as bdote, an important landmark in Dakota culture. Connections to Fort Snelling State Park, Lilydale Regional Park and the Sam Morgan Regional Trail.

📍 Highway 13 and Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights

## Minnesota River Greenway

A 17-mile trail that is a work in progress. The trail will connect Burnsville to St. Paul through the scenic Minnesota River Valley. Four miles are open from I-35W to the Cedar Avenue Bridge in Eagan, with some of the best birding views at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

📍 Four miles are open from I-35W to the Cedar Avenue Bridge in Eagan

## Mississippi River Greenway

A 26-mile trail — nearly complete — along the Mississippi River connecting South St. Paul to Hastings. The greenway provides scenic river views and connections to local parks and other community destinations. Visitors can continue north to St. Paul on the new Robert Pira Regional Trail connection in South St. Paul.

📍 South St. Paul to Hastings

## North Creek Greenway

A 3.2-mile greenway connecting Lebanon Hills Regional Park to the Minnesota Zoo.

📍 4801 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Eagan

## Dakota Woods Dog Park



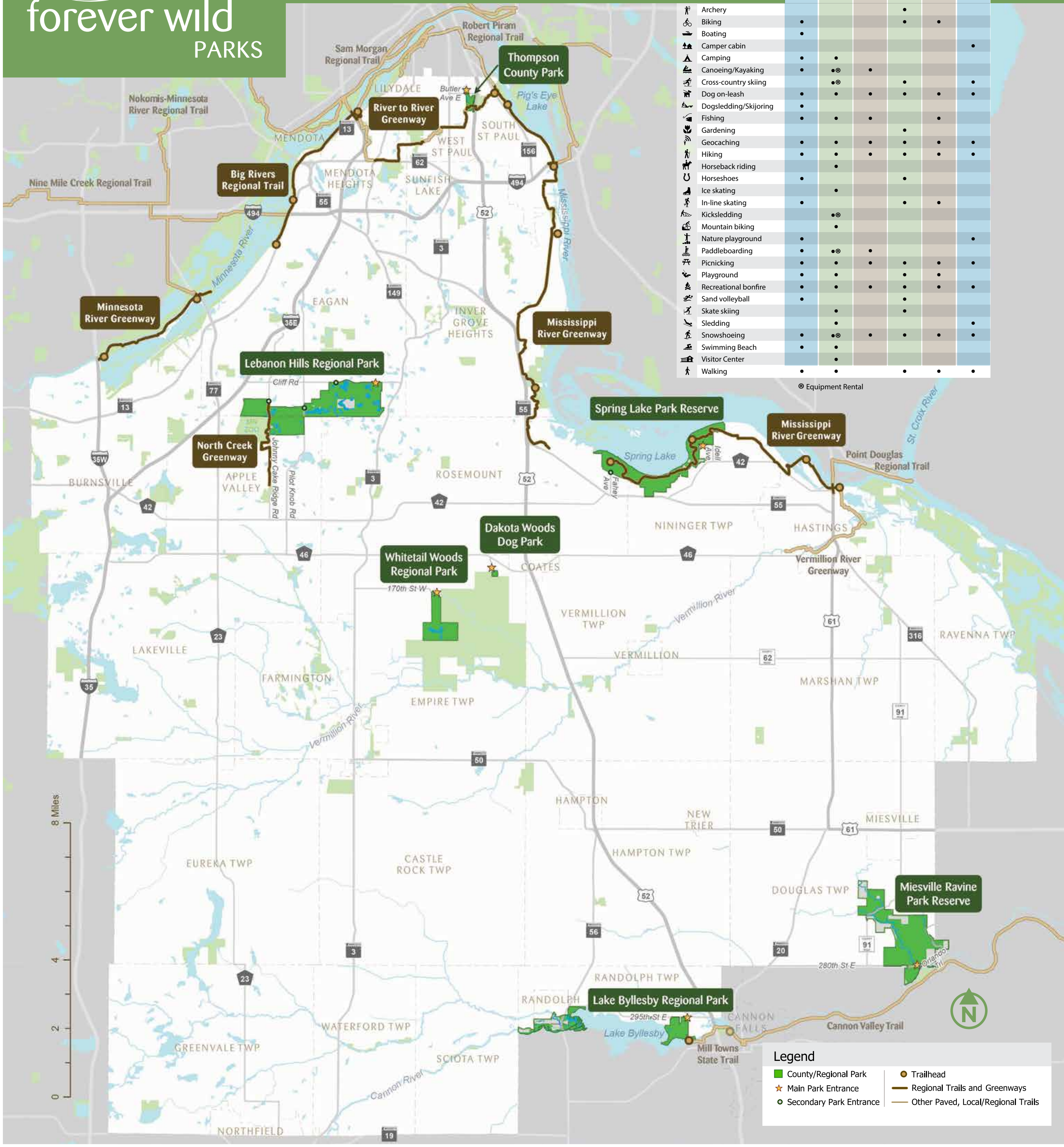
Let your dog make friends and run wild at the Dakota Woods Dog Park. This fenced, 16-acre park is a popular spot for dogs to exercise off-leash with their owners.

📍 16470 Blaine Ave., Rosemount



Activities Guide		Lake Byllesby Regional Park	Lebanon Hills Regional Park	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve	Spring Lake Park Reserve	Thompson County Park	Whitetail Woods Regional Park
	Archery				•		
	Biking	•			•	•	
	Boating	•					
	Camper cabin						•
	Camping	•	•				
	Canoeing/Kayaking	•	•®	•			
	Cross-country skiing		•®		•		•
	Dog on-leash	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Dogsledding/Skijoring	•					
	Fishing	•	•	•		•	
	Gardening				•		
	Geocaching	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Hiking	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Horseback riding		•				
	Horseshoes	•			•		
	Ice skating		•				
	In-line skating	•			•	•	
	Kicksledding		•®				
	Mountain biking		•				
	Nature playground	•					•
	Paddleboarding	•	•®	•			
	Picnicking	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Playground	•	•		•	•	
	Recreational bonfire	•	•	•		•	•
	Sand volleyball	•			•		
	Skate skiing		•		•		
	Sledding		•				•
	Snowshoeing	•	•®	•	•	•	•
	Swimming Beach	•	•				
	Visitor Center		•				
	Walking	•	•		•	•	•

® Equipment Rental







## Dakota County Parks

14955 Galaxie Ave.

Apple Valley, MN

952-891-7000

[www.dakotacounty.us/parks](http://www.dakotacounty.us/parks)

[parks@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:parks@co.dakota.mn.us)

## Lebanon Hills Visitor Center

860 Cliff Road

Eagan, MN

651-554-6530

### **No entrance or parking fees.**

Dakota County Parks are tobacco free.

Commercial tobacco use is only permitted in parking lots, roadways and in individual campsites. We support traditional tobacco for ceremonial use.

## Keep in touch

Sign up to get park news and information sent directly to your email inbox. Visit [www.dakotacounty.us/parks](http://www.dakotacounty.us/parks) and search *e-news*.

