

2025/2026

DEER RIVER

MINNESOTA

Gateway to the Chippewa

Maps Inside!



LOCAL
TRAIL
MAPS
INSIDE

*No matter the season
there is always a reason*

STAY & PLAY WITH US!

and enjoy the great outdoors!



DEER RIVER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

ACCESS TO 1,000'S OF MILES OF TRAILS

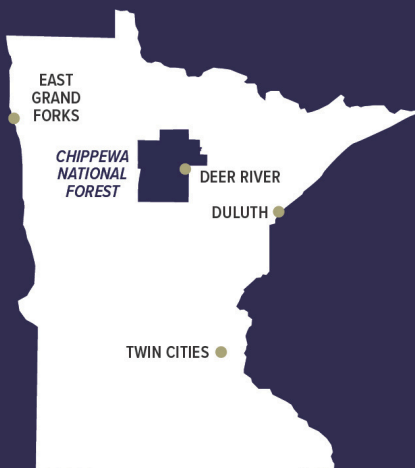


- A. Bass Lake
- B. Big Turtle Lake
- C. Bowstring Lake
- D. Cutfoot Sioux Lake
- E. Deer Lake
- F. Fawn Lake
- G. Fox Lake
- H. Jack the Horse Lake
- I. Jessie Lake
- J. Lake Winnibigoshish
- K. Moose Lake
- L. North Star Lake
- M. Portage Lake
- N. Sand Lake
- O. Spring Lake
- P. Wabana Lake



Miles to DEER RIVER

Canada	112
Duluth	93
Twin Cities	200
East Grand Forks	160
Chicago	595
Des Moines	460



Welcome

to the Gateway to the Chippewa National Forest! Growing up in this community then leaving for a short time solidified the feeling that the trees, water and wildlife are engrained in our DNA - there is truly a spiritual connectedness to

nature. I have been privileged to serve as the Deer River Chamber president since 2023, not only to support our local business and commerce, but also to share our region of the state with anyone who may wish to feel that same connectedness.

The Deer River area is surrounded by more than one million acres of forests, 1,100 lakes, and 923 miles of rivers and streams offering activities for everyone! We boast fishing, boating, kayaking and canoeing, hiking, hunting, cross country skiing and over 2000 miles of ATV/UTV, snowmobile, bike, horse and walking trails! Access to all of these natural amenities are right outside the back doors of many of our lodging properties, restaurants, cultural, and retail spaces.

The Deer River area is host to large, annual community events including the World's Largest Wild Rice Festival, Party in the Park, WinterFest and multiple Pow wows hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Additionally, Deer River is home to one of the four Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe casinos.

Our area offers a relaxed-paced lifestyle, affordable cost of living, and a friendly community with excellent healthcare and education. Residents and visitors alike enjoy breathtaking scenery, miles of unspoiled natural beauty, abundant wildlife, history, and culture with year-round recreation and hospitality.

We hope you enjoy your stay taking with you heartwarming memories to last a lifetime!



President

Aimee



Dreaming of the Perfect Wedding



MAGIC IN THE NORTHLAND

There's a certain kind of magic that settles over northern Minnesota. The air feels fresher, the lakes quieter, and the tall pines seem to stretch on forever. In Itasca County, time truly slows down, and for couples looking to get married, that's part of the charm. As more people seek meaningful, laid-back ways to celebrate life's biggest moments, Itasca County is quickly becoming one of Minnesota's most enchanting wedding destinations.

Weddings here aren't just about a single day. They're about the full weekend, the kind of experience where guests can unplug, explore, and really savor the time together. Whether it's a morning paddle on the lake, an afternoon hike through the woods, or a bonfire under the stars, Itasca County offers a setting that invites connection and memory-making. For couples, it means getting married surrounded not just by loved ones, but by the natural beauty that makes this part of the state so special.

Guests traveling from out of town will quickly see why the area is worth the trip. Itasca County offers shopping, dining, art galleries, and trails that wind along the water. It's the kind of place where you can spend the morning exploring a boutique, grab lunch at a cozy café, then rent a bike and spend the afternoon coasting along the scenic Mesabi Trail or at Tioga Recreational Area.

Just west of Grand Rapids lies Deer River, a small town with big charm and some of the best access to the outdoors you'll find in Minnesota. Whether you're casting a line into one of the area's lakes, exploring the Chippewa National Forest, or visiting the historic Schoolcraft State Park, there's no shortage of ways to spend a peaceful day outside. In the summer months, the local Wild Rice Festival brings a taste of the region's heritage, with food, music, and community spirit that leaves an impression. For wedding guests, Deer River offers the perfect mix of Northwoods adventure and relaxed small-town hospitality.

Wedding venues across Itasca County are as varied as the landscape itself. You'll find rustic barns tucked into the trees, cozy lodges on the water, and elegant estates with views that stretch for miles. One standout is Malbay Estate, a lakeside property just outside of Grand Rapids, MN that offers week-end-long wedding experiences rooted in nature and connection. With open-air ceremony spots, charming indoor-outdoor spaces, and access to nearby vacation rentals and resorts, Malbay makes it easy to turn a wedding into a full retreat, for the couple and their guests.

But what truly sets Itasca County apart isn't just the scenery, it's the sense of community. Local vendors, artists, caterers, and planners work together with a shared goal: to make each wedding feel personal, thoughtful, and stress-free. From delicious catering by Pinched Catering and Four Seasons Market, to stunning floral arrangements from Deer River Floral & Gifts, to unforgettable dance floors brought to life by TruNorth Productions, the talent up here is both impressive and down-to-earth. There's an ease to things in this part of the state, where the pace is slower, the people are kind, and the service always comes with a personal touch. Couples often leave not just with beautiful memories, but with new friendships and a real appreciation for the people who helped make their day so special.

Whether your vision includes a candlelit dinner in a barn, a barefoot ceremony by the water, or a weekend of lakeside relaxation with your closest people, Itasca County delivers. It's a place where the experience stretches beyond the ceremony, where guests have time to explore, celebrate, and enjoy the kind of peaceful beauty that's hard to find elsewhere. For those dreaming of a wedding that feels more like a retreat, where the moments are slow, the surroundings are stunning, and the memories last long after the last sparkler fades, Itasca County might just be the perfect place to begin your forever.

Article written by Bailey Walsh, Malbay Estate
Photographs taken by Kristina Hendrickson Photo

Community Events

OFF-ROAD ON-TRACK ATV RUN

May // deerriver.com

Come ride with the Deer River Chamber of Commerce as we work to raise funds for the area around our 'big fish.' We will take you on over 90 miles of scenic trails with stops at some of our best local establishments! While we hope to raise funds, the primary focus of this ride is to support local Chamber businesses that have been impacted greatly by our mild winter. We hope you join in the fun!

WORLD'S LARGEST WILD RICE FESTIVAL

July // Downtown Deer River // wildricefestival.com

Join us for our 75th year of celebrating the Mississippi River and our local resource of fresh, natural wild rice! Weekend activities include a pow wow, live music, street dances, fireworks, carnival midway, parade, and free outdoor concert on Sunday afternoon featuring **William Micheal Morgan!** This event is sponsored by the Deer River Lions Club.

ANNUAL PARTY IN THE PARK

August

White Oak Antique Tractor Club // forwardhealthfoundation.org

Party in the Park is an outdoor, free family and community event celebrating our unique community. There will be a free pancake breakfast, Ninja Anywhere obstacle wall, youth and adult activities, Craft & Artisan Market, food trucks, local vendors and the list goes on!

ITASCA COUNTY FAIR

August

Itasca County Fairgrounds // itascacountyfair.org

Each day brings new adventure, fun to explore, midway rides, games, vendors, animals and performances throughout the grounds. Be sure to take advantage of the pre-fair discount tickets during the last week of July, for \$20.00 available at Northern Star Convenience Center. You don't want to miss the Itasca County Fair!

ANNUAL WHITE OAK ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW

August

White Oak Antique Tractor Club // white-oak-antique-tractor-club.com

Come enjoy a pancake breakfast, a tractor parade, antique tractors, and equipment on display. Demonstrations throughout the day, a great farmers market, country store, crafts Food, drinks, and music. There is something for someone of all ages to come out and enjoy the fun!

LIGHTS IN THE PINES

End of November - December

Itasca County Fairgrounds

12 Nights of Northern Minnesota's Biggest Drive-Thru Light Spectacular. After you have seen all the lights, join us at NORTH POLE JUNCTION. You can find Santa and Mrs. Claus waiting for you too! Don't miss out on this great winter wonder adventure! Look for us on Facebook!

WINTERFEST

1st Saturday in December

Downtown Deer River // deerriver.org

Join us as we welcome in the beautiful winter months in northern Minnesota. There will be kid and adult activities, smores, chilli cook-off, visits with Santa, downtown tree lighting and more!



Visit us at deerriver.org

Your outdoor adventure starts here . . .

HIKING | HORSE BACK RIDING | CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

THE LOST FORTY

A day trip to the Lost Forty offers the opportunity to meander among 400-year-old virgin pine trees hidden in the Chippewa National Forest. The trip will lead you through up to 1.5 miles of some of the last remaining virgin red and white pines in Minnesota, some measuring up to 48" in diameter.

The history of the Lost Forty is as legendary as the trees! A surveying error in 1882 marked this area as Coddington Lake leaving the trees unharvested by loggers. They are a living reminder of our north woods forest history and continue to 'wow' visitors through their grandeur.

There is a free, but small parking area at the entrance to the Forest with a picnic area. The first quarter-mile loop weaves through old-growth pine while the back loop will take you along rolling hills and pine that grew after a forest fire around 1900.



Though the hike may not be long, the awe runs deep. Just like the sunsets over the lake, the flight of a majestic eagle, or the crackle of an evening fire leave you connected to the earth – likewise will these majestic pines.

*Where the forests are
majestic as your dreams!*





CUT FOOT SIOUX HORSE CAMP

Just past the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center north of Deer River on Hwy 46 lies the Cut Foot Experimental Forest. With over 120 miles of forest roads and recreational trails, the Cut Foot Trails system and Cut Foot Horse Camp, with over 34 camping sites, is available for horse trail riding in summer and fall. Directions: 3.2 miles past the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center along Highway 46, turn left on Forest Road 2171 and go three miles.



*Step outside,
strap on your skis,
and discover...*

MINNESOTA'S VAST NETWORK OF CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS!

ROBIN BAKER BLUEBERRY HILLS

The Robin Baker Blueberry Hills cross-country ski trails include both intermediate and gentle hills with marked sport plunging downhills. The trails weave among high pines and cedar valleys. Directions: 2 miles north of Deer River on HWY 6, to right on Cty Rd 142 (Chase Lake Road).

<https://northernlightsnordic.org/trails/>



Your Dream Wedding Venue In Northern Minnesota



MALBAY ESTATE

ON BASS LAKE IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA

Nestled on an expansive 80-acre property, our venue is a true gem, offering a perfect blend of rustic charm and natural elegance.

Malbay Estate provides the canvas for a wedding weekend filled with multiday activities and pre-wedding events, creating an experience that's just as fantastic for local guests.

31122 Malbay Road
Cohasset, MN 55721

malbayestate.com • tel. 218-259-9874 • malbayestate@gmail.com



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218-203-5031



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carrollfuneralhomes.com

Deer River Laundromat
319 Main Ave West, Deer River
218-244-7060

Deer River Lumber
218-246-8405
deerriverlumber.com

GoVenture web design
218-671-3547
GoVenturewebdesign.com

Greater Insurance Service
218-327-1854
gismn.com

Iseman Homes
218-398-5067
isemanhomes.com

Lakeside Lumber and Supplies
49208 MN-38, Marcell
218-832-3300

Malbay Estate Venue
218-259-9874
malbayestate.com

McFadden Enterprises
218-259-9515
Facebook:
McFadden Enterprises, LLC

**New Beginnings
Pregnancy + Family Support**
218-246-2010
newbeginningspregnancy.com

Northern Star Cooperative
218-246-8296
northernstarcoop.com

Northland Portables
218-326-1662
northlandportablesmn.com

Northview Bank
218-246-8221
northviewbank.com

Paul Bunyan Communications
218-999-1234
paulbunyan.net

Stromberg Construction
218-259-2879
strombergconstruction.net

Woodland Bank
218-246-2444
woodlandbank.com

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Deer River Healthcare Volunteers
115 10th Ave NE, Deer River
218-246-4387

Deer River Lions Club
drlions.com

Forward Health Foundation
218-246-4212
forwardhealthfoundation.org

Itasca County Agricultural Assn
itascacountyfair.org

United Way of 1000 Lakes
218-999-7570
uwlakes.org

**Vets Club-American Legion VFW
2720 - Post 122**
12 First Street NE, Deer River
218-246-9116

White Oak Antique Tractor Club
218-398-7665
white-oak-antique-tractor-club.com

HEALTHCARE

Essentia Health
218-246-2900
essentiahealth.org

LODGING/ CAMPGROUNDS

Anchor Inn Resort
218-659-2718
Anchorinnresort.com

Blueberry Hills RV Park
218-246-8010
golfdeerriver.com

Cedarwild Resort
218-246-8680
cedarwild.com

Eagle Nest Lodge
218-246-8701
eaglenestlodge.net

Georgene's Haven
218-832-3076
georgeneshaven.com

Island View Resort
507-828-4203
islandviewresortonsand.com

**Jessie View Resort &
RV Campground**
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jessieviewresort.com

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jessieviewresort.com

Lakewood Lodge
218-659-2839
lakewoodlodge.com

Moose Lake Resort
218-246-8675
mooselkresort.com

Nodak Lodge
800-752-2758
nodaklodge.com

**Northland Lodge Resort
& Campground**
218-246-8531
northlandlodge.com

Pincherry Grove Resort
218-328-5909
Pincherryresort.net

Pine Grove Lodge
218-659-2865
pinegrovelodgemn.com

Rising Eagle Resort
218-832-3955
risingeagleresort.com

Sand Lake Lodge
718-755-8707
sandlakelodge.com

Sunset Point Resort
218-328-5334
sunsetpointresort.net

Timber Wolf Inn
218-832-3990
timberwolfinn.net

**Williams Narrows Resort
& Bobber's Bar**
800-325-2475 / 218-246-8703
williamsnarrows.com

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Blueberry Bowl
44919 Golf Course Rd, Deer River
218-246-8048

**Blueberry Hills
Golf Course**
218-246-8010
golfdeerriver.com

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Paddle Hoppers, Inc
218-326-5853
paddlehoppers.com

Visit Grand Rapids
855-944-7748
visitgrandrapids.com

White Oak Casino
800-653-2412 / 218-246-9600
whiteoakcasino.com

RESTAURANTS

Blueberry Bowl
44919 Golf Course Rd, Deer River
218-246-8048

**Bobber's Bar at
Williams Narrows**
218-246-8703
williamsnarrows.com

Outpost Bar and Grill
203 4th ave NW, Deer River
218-246-9868

Timber Wolf Inn
218-832-3990
timberwolfinn.net

RETAIL

The Chocolate Dog
4 1st Street NE, Deer River
The chocolate dog.com

Cinderella's Closet
101 Main Ave E, Deer River
218-246-8282

Daylily Gifts
115 10th Ave NE, Deer River
218-246-4342

Deer River Floral and Gifts
DeerRiverFloral.com
218-246-8653

Dodge and Co.
68 2nd Street SE, Deer River

L & M Fleet Supply
1400 S Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids
landmsupply.com

Northern Star Market Place
218-246-8296
northernstarcoop.com/
northern-star-market-place

Orty's Custom Meats
31136 Cty Rd 161, Deer River
218-246-9922



DEER RIVER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Deer River, MN 56636
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218-246-8195



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deerriver.org

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