



Get to Know Greater St. Cloud

A Guide to Central Minnesota Communities

**st cloud
shines**

Prepared by St. Cloud Shines, updated in 2022

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Welcome to Greater St. Cloud

Just up the road from the Twin Cities is a cluster of communities known for a little bit of everything: small-town comforts, big-city conveniences, outdoor recreation, cultural diversity, inspiring art, and entertainment.

If we weren't such humble Minnesotans, we'd shout from the rooftops how much we love the combination of small-town communities and big-city business. We'd talk about how much we enjoy being surrounded by dozens of lakes, parks, trails, fields, and forests. We might even brag to our metro-dwelling neighbors to the south about our ability to drive just about anywhere in 20 minutes.

If we weren't so modest, we'd boast about our rock-solid education options, spanning from Pre K-12 to vocational training to advanced degrees at six local colleges. We'd share stats about the manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and education businesses rooted in our community and the thousands of job opportunities they offer.

Last, but not least, we'd announce our enjoyment of a place so full of culture. From the restaurants we frequent to the art fairs we stroll to the entertainment we watch at the array of local theatres, the world is a much smaller place than it used to be and a slice of it can be experienced in Greater St. Cloud.

In this guide, you'll learn about the 20+ communities that together make up Greater St. Cloud, the 8 races represented throughout our cities, the schools we're so proud of, our expansive workforce and the industries they belong to, as well as demographic information like population, median income, tax information, and more.



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Take a look around.
Make yourself at home.
We *love* living here.
We know you will too.

St. Cloud

"Just the right size."

Thank you, City of St. Cloud, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

Population (as of 2020): 68,462

95% urban | 2% rural
15.8% increase since 2000

Median Age of Residents: 34.1 years

Median Home Price: \$207,118

Detached Houses: \$213,301
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$173,784
5+ Unit Structures: \$92,553
Mobile Homes: \$12,614
Median Rent: \$870

Foreign-born Residents: 7,840

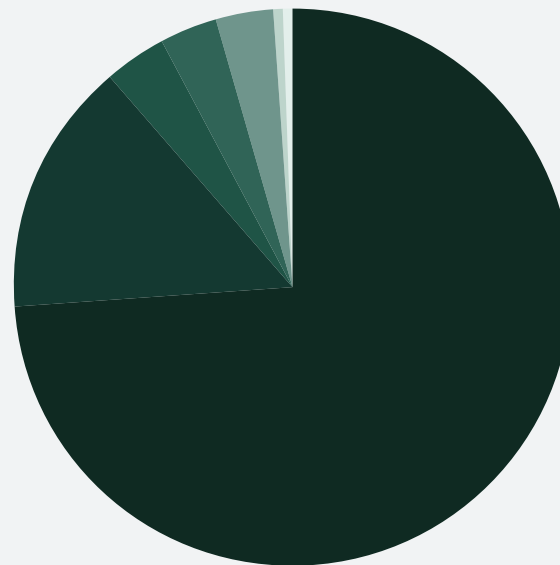
7.7% Africa | 2.1% Asia

Median Household Income: \$53,829

Estimated per capita Income: \$31,252

Unemployment Rate: 5.1%

We are the 8th largest city in Minnesota, making us “just the right size” – large enough to provide the best in big-city business, entertainment, and lifestyle amenities, but with a small-town feel of comfort and community in a college-town setting. And with our outstanding recreational opportunities, exceptional healthcare services, beautiful gardens, rich history, historic downtown, vibrant arts, restaurants and shopping, friendly neighborhoods, excellent education facilities, fun events throughout the year, and growing opportunities everywhere you can see why St. Cloud is a great place to live, work, and play!



- 74.1% White
- 14.9% Black
- 3.5% Asian
- 3.4% 2+ Races
- 3.3% Hispanic
- 0.6% American Indian
- 0.4% Other

A Brief History

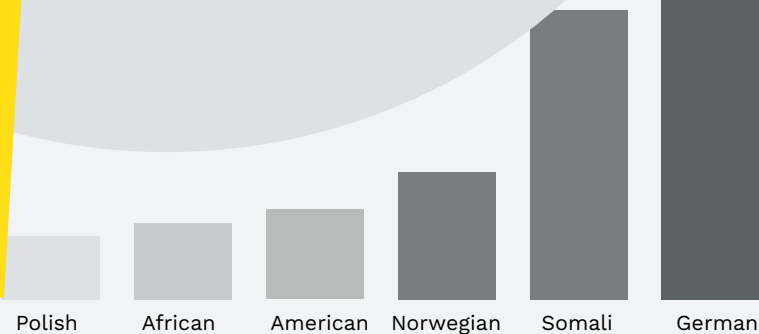
Since its founding in 1856, St. Cloud has had a history of many valuable manufacturing industries thriving here. Though a sawmill was the first major manufacturing organization in town, it soon became the granite industry that really defined St. Cloud. With the first quarry opening in 1863, there are now over 30 granite quarries in the Greater St. Cloud Area. And thus, the “Busy, Gritty Granite City” was born.

St. Cloud is a regional transportation hub with its major roadways and regional airport. It is also central to the state’s top agricultural region, which produces dairy products, poultry, oats, barley, rye, hay, corn, and soybeans. Manufacturers in the region include freezers, wood products, busses,

packaging, storage tanks, concrete, paper, machinery, and outdoor products. Poultry processing, financial services, printing, and mail-order sales and warehousing are also important to the economy. Other top sectors include healthcare, business, retail, manufacturing, and financial services.

“As the 8th largest city in Minnesota, we deliver urban perks in a welcoming, college-town setting along the mighty Mississippi River. Centrally and conveniently located in the heart of the Midwest, we boast big city business, amenities, and entertainment, balanced by the comforts and support of a smaller community. You’ll get the best of both worlds in St. Cloud!”

- Mayor Dave Kleis



Workforce

Common Industries:

- Educational Services
- Healthcare
- Accommodation & Food Services
- Construction
- Finance & Insurance
- Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services
- Manufacturing

Top Employers:

- CentraCare Health Systems - Medical
- State of Minnesota - Educational, Government, Public Safety, Agriculture, Human Rights
- St. Cloud VA Health Care System - Medical
- St. Cloud Area School District #742 - Education
- Fulfillment Distribution Center - Warehouse
- New Flyer of America, Inc - Manufacturing
- Stearns County - Government
- Capital One - Customer Service Center
- Coborn's, Inc - Grocery + Convenience Stores
- Anderson Trucking Services, Inc. - Sales & Logistics
- Essilor of America - Manufacturing
- Wolters Kluwer Financial Services - Computer Programming
- Bluestem Brands, Inc. - Mail Order House

Schools & Education

Elementary Schools:

- Oak Hill Community Elementary, grades PK-5
- Talahi Community Elementary, grades PK-5
- Lincoln Elementary, grades KG-5
- Madison Elementary, grades KG-5
- Westwood Elementary, grades KG-5

Middle Schools:

- South Junior High, grades 6-8
- North Junior High, grades 6-8

High Schools:

- Apollo Senior High, grades 9-12
- Technical Senior High, grades 9-12

Charter Schools:

- Stride Academy Charter School, grades KG-5
- Stride Academy Middle School, Grades 4-8
- Athlos Academy of St. Cloud Elementary, KG-8

Technical Schools:

- St Cloud Technical and Community College
(full-time enrollment: 3,493)
- Rasmussen College-Minnesota
(full-time enrollment: 4,575)

College / Universities:

- Saint Cloud State University
(full-time enrollment: 12,822)

Schools & Education Cont.

Private schools

- St. Katharine Drexel, grades PK-6
- Saints Peter Paul & Michael, grades PK-6
- Prince of Peace Lutheran, grades PK-8
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, grades PK-6
- St Augustine & St. Mary's Cathedral, grades PK-6
- Cathedral High, grades 7-12
- St. Cloud Christian, grades KG-12
- Northland Christian, grades KG-12
- Granite City Baptist Academy, grades KG-12

A state and nationally recognized leader in innovative education, St. Cloud Area School District 742 is the 15th **largest school district** in Minnesota serving a population of over 100,300 residents within 250 square miles. It encompasses four counties and nine communities: St. Cloud, Clear Lake, Clearwater, Collegetown, Luxemburg, Pleasant Lake, St. Augusta, St. Joseph, and Waite Park. In partnership with the surrounding community, District 742 **prepares, engages, educates, empowers, and inspires** over 10,000 students to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society. With 926 teachers, 80 leadership team members, 803 support staff, and 433 temp/substitutes, a total of 2,242 full and part-time employees strive daily to create a safe and caring climate and culture ideal for optimal learning. Learn more [here](#).

About the District

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Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with mortgages: \$1,931
- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with no mortgage: \$1,835

City Tax Rates: 7.63%

- MN tax: 6.88%
- County tax:
 - Stearns: 7.13%
 - Benton: 7.38%
 - Sherburne: 7.38%
- Local Option Sales Tax: 0.5%
- Stearns Co Transportation tax: 0.25%

Public Safety

- 140 Full-time law enforcement employees, including officers
- 113 full-time officers = 1.65 per 1,000 residents

Transportation

- St. Cloud Regional Airport
- St. Cloud Amtrak
- St. Cloud Metro Bus
- North Star Link

Average commute time is 17.4 minutes

St. Cloud

Healthcare

- St Cloud Hospital
- St Cloud VA Medical Center
- St Cloud Surgical Center
- St. Cloud Medical Group
- U of M St. Cloud Hospital - Family Medicine Residency
- Gillette Children's - St. Cloud Clinic
- St. Cloud Pediatrics
- St. Cloud ENT
- Mid-Minnesota Family Practice Center
- CRCCS Child & Adolescent Specialty Care
- CentraCare Orthopedics
- Midwest Clinic of Dermatology
- Assured Health Clinic
- Simplicity Health
- Sweat Health Care LLC

Leisure Activities

Attractions:

- Clemens & Munsinger Gardens
- St. Cloud State University
- Paramount Center for the Arts
- River's Edge Convention Center
- Crossroads Mall
- Stearns History Museum
- MN Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame

Recreation:

- Herb Brooks National Hockey Center
- YMCA
- Mississippi River
- Beaver Island Trail
- Lake George
- St. Cloud Rox Baseball
- Heritage Skate Park
- Pineview BMX Park
- St. Cloud Regional Airport

Annual Events:

- Summertime By George
- Granite City Days
- Earth Day Run
- Central MN Farm Show
- Central Minnesota Builders Association Home & Garden Show
- Common Roots Festival
- SCSU Homecoming



St. Cloud Fun Facts

Granite from the St. Cloud area can be found in buildings, monuments, and homes all over the United States, including the University of Notre Dame, Kennedy Space Center, the Martin Luther King Jr., National Korean War, and FDR memorials, Mount Rushmore, West Point Cadet Barracks, Chicago Riverwalk, US Air Force Academy, and more.

In 2019, St. Cloud earned first-place in three categories from the Livcom awards, an international competition recognizing the most livable cities in the world. First place was won in the following categories:

- Enhancement of landscapes and public spaces
- Arts, culture and heritage management
- Community participation and empowerment

Sartell

"Booming area of growth and innovation."

Thank you, City of Sartell, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

Population (as of 2020): 19,351

98% urban | 2% rural
96.3% increase since 2000

Median Age of Residents: 34.6 years

Median Home Price: \$255,725

Detached Houses: \$273,806
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$162,793
Mobile Homes: \$26,681
Median Rent: \$1,023

Foreign-born Residents: 822

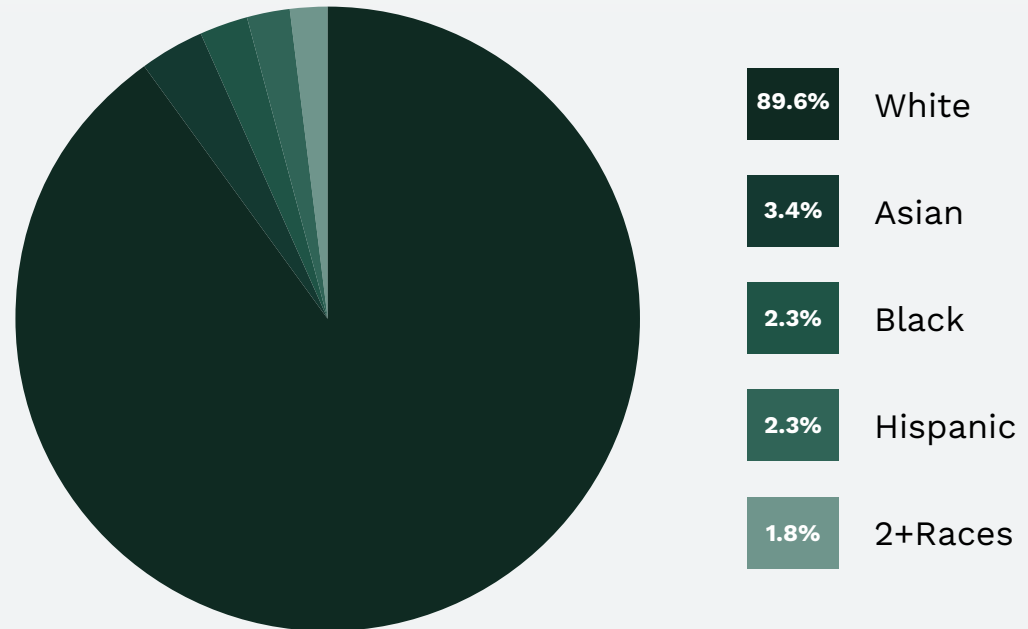
1.6% Africa

Median Household Income: \$78,621

Estimated per capita Income: \$36,635

Unemployment Rate: 3.8%

The City of Sartell sits along the Mississippi River in central Minnesota. Our unique city offers visitors the charm of a small town and a stimulating environment. The City of Sartell is a booming area of growth and innovation—a fantastic place to start a family, grow a business, or have some fun! It's our residents that make Sartell a great place to live and we want our residents to be proud to call Sartell their home.



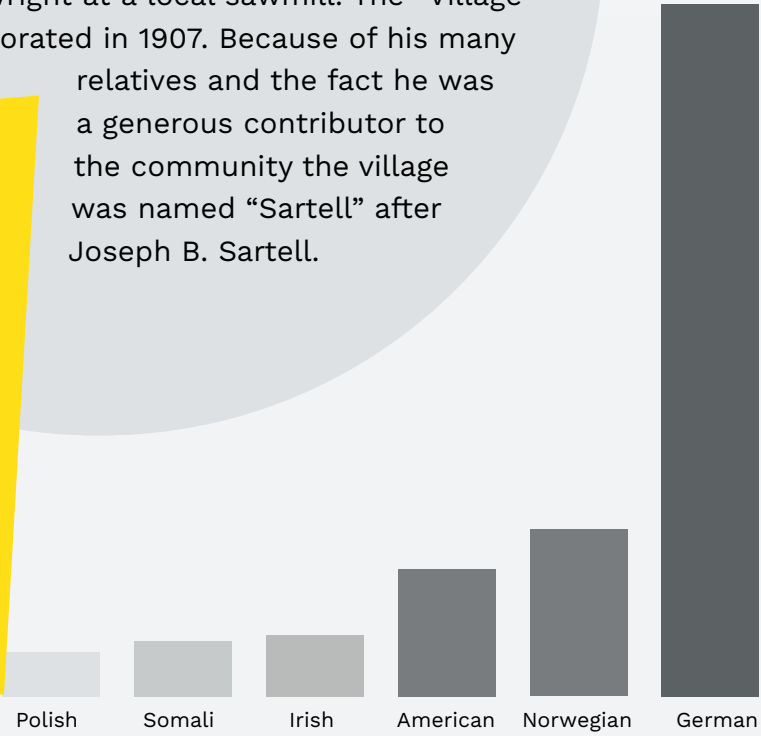


A Brief History

Sartell began as a small river town relying on lumber and a paper company for its existence. The present site of the City of Sartell was first known as “The Third Rapids”, this name was given by the French fur traders because it was the third “rapids” they would encounter as they traveled north up the Mississippi River from St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis. One of the first settlers of the community was Joseph B. Sartell who arrived in 1854 and worked as a millwright at a local sawmill. The “Village of Sartell” was incorporated in 1907. Because of his many relatives and the fact he was a generous contributor to the community the village was named “Sartell” after Joseph B. Sartell.

“What makes Sartell special is the sense of pride that our residents and businesses have for each other and our City. Whether it’s people coming together at a neighborhood park, a sporting event at one of our state-of-the-art facilities, a bite to eat at a local restaurant, or an event - our community always shines, and we are so proud of that.”

- Mayor Ryan Fitzthum



Healthcare

- CentraCare, Sartell Clinic
- St. Cloud Orthopedic Associates
- Williams Integracare Clinic
- Sartell Family Medicine
- Sartell Pediatrics

The Sartell-St. Stephen School District serves 4,100 students in Preschool through 12th Grade. Located in Central Minnesota, the district boundaries border St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids-Rice, and Holdingford School Districts. The District is proud of its well-balanced, robust programming and excellent services that are offered to students and families. We believe preparing students for the future means providing them with 21st Century skills integrated across all learning areas. In today's world, this means students graduate with content knowledge coupled with lifelong skills. These goals are accomplished by focusing on differentiating instruction, personalizing education for students, utilizing technology to maximize student achievement, and ensuring best practices in instruction and assessment in every classroom.

Learn more [**here.**](#)

About the District

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Schools & Education

Elementary Schools:

- Oak Ridge Early Learning Center (PKG-KG)
- Pine Meadow Primary School (Grades 1-2)

Middle Schools:

- Riverview Intermediate School, Grades 3-5
- Sartell Middle School, Grades 6-8

High School:

- Sartell High School, Grades 9-12

Private Schools:

- St. Francis Xavier, Grades KG-6
- Immaculate Conception Academy, grades KG-12

Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with mortgages: \$2,848
- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with no mortgage: \$2,403

City Tax Rates: 7.625%

- MN tax: 6.88%
- County tax:
 - Stearns: 7.13%
 - Benton: 7.38%
- Local Option Sales tax: 0.5%
- Stearns Co Transportation tax: 0.25%

Sartell

Workforce:

Common Industries:

- Healthcare
- Educational Services
- Construction
- Finance & Insurance
- Accommodation & Food Service
- Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services

Top Employers:

- DeZurik - Manufacturing
- Toppan Merrill - Technology
- St. Cloud Orthopedics - Healthcare
- Coborn's - Accommodation & Food Service
- City of Sartell - Government
- Walmart / Sam's Club - Accommodation & Food Service
- Country Manor - Healthcare
- Granite Logistics - Professional Services
- Sartell-St. Stephen School District - Educational

Leisure Activities

Attractions:

- Scheels Athletic Complex
- Pinecone Central Park
- Sartell Community Center
- St. Cloud Orthopedics Field at Northside Park

Annual Events:

- Country Lights Festival
- Sartell Community Showcase
- Sartell Summerfest
- Monster Dash
- Sartell Choice Awards

Recreation:

- North Side Park: Disc Golf Course, Volleyball Court, Basketball Court, and Sledding Hill
- Sauk River Regional Park + Biking Trails - opening Spring 2022
- Watab Park: Splash Pad, Pickleball Court, Tennis Court, Basketball Court
- Celebration Park Wading Pool
- Golf Courses: Blackberry Ridge and Pine Ridge Golf Course
- Val Smith Park: Outdoor hockey rink and Basketball Court
- Sartell Rotary Park Fishing Pier
- Nordic Ski Trails
- Sartell Community Center: Basketball, Volleyball Pickleball Courts, indoor walking track, outdoor walking path

Public Safety

- 24 Full-time law enforcement employees, including officers
- 21 full-time officers = 1.09 per 1,000 residents



Transportation

- St. Cloud Metro Bus
- ConneX On-Demand Ride Service

Average commute time is 23.1 minutes

Sartell Fun Facts

In the 1940s and 1950s, Sartell continued to grow slowly and developed a number of businesses and a “downtown” on the east side of the Mississippi along US Highway #10. In the 1960’s US Highway #10 was re-routed and this project greatly contributed to the demise of the downtown area. Then the construction of the new bridge over the Mississippi in the early 1980s replaced the remaining businesses. This and Sartell’s nearby location to St. Cloud’s major retail center accounts for Sartell not having a traditional “downtown”.

Despite not having a downtown the city continues to grow and the pace of the growth started to pick up in the 1970s. Since then, the city’s population has grown from 700 to over 18,000. Sartell is known as a popular place to live and raise a family because of the fine school system, affordable and well-kept housing, proximity to work, active local organizations and churches, and yet truly maintains a small-town atmosphere.

Sauk Rapids

Thank you, City of Sauk Rapids, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

"Offering a sense of comfort and security."

Population (as of 2020): 14,146

100% urban | 0% rural
38.5% increase since 2000

Median Age of Residents: 33.9 years

Median Home Price: \$181,380

Detached Houses: \$176,237
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$147,709
Median Rent: \$775

Foreign-born Residents: 521

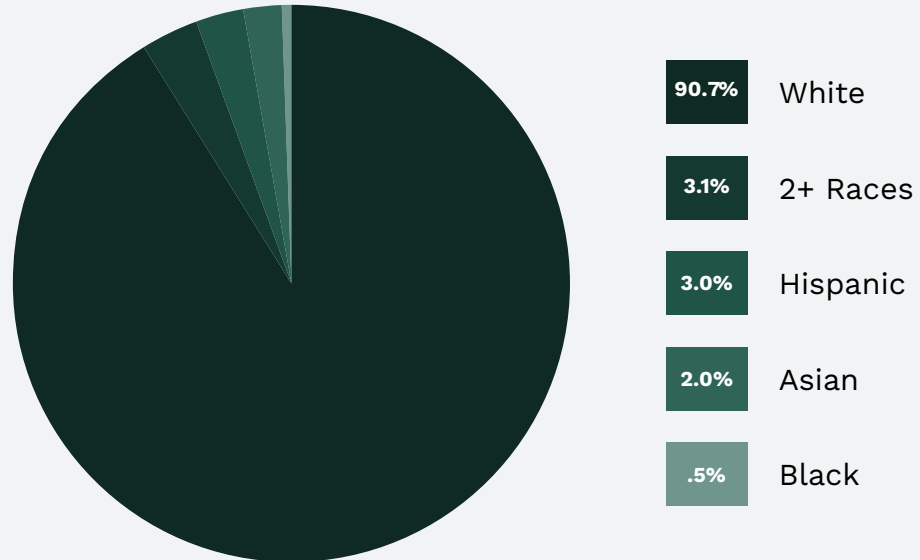
1.2% Latin America | 0.6% Asia

Median Household Income: \$54,508

Estimated per capita Income: \$30,083

Unemployment Rate: 4.6%

Nestled along the banks of the Mississippi River, Sauk Rapids is a thriving Central Minnesota City with a rich history. With a population over 14,000, Sauk Rapids enjoys the many benefits of being part of the regional hub yet has the tranquility of a small town. Neighbors know neighbors. Walk down the sidewalk or into a store and you're bound to see friends, colleagues, or relatives. There's a sense of comfort and security in feeling a part of a close-knit community. Whether you are a lifelong resident, new to town, or considering relocating to the City of Sauk Rapids we welcome you to enjoy all that the City of Sauk Rapids has to offer.



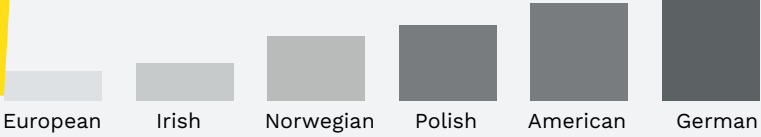


A Brief History

In 1850 Sauk Rapids consisted of oak, maple, and basswood trees. In 1851, the first home was built by W.H. Wood, it was a large mansion named Lynden Terrace. Soon other settlers followed and the town was named Sauk Rapids after the rapids just below the mouth of the Sauk River. Soon a general store was built, then a hotel, and a large jail. In 1856 the county seat moved to Watab, then returned to Sauk Rapids in 1859. A new courthouse was built, but then finally in 1897, the seat moved to Foley where it currently resides. In 1917 the courthouse burned. The first settlers organized a Congregational church that was soon followed by a Methodist, an Episcopalian, and a Lutheran church. The first paper outside of St. Paul was the "Sauk Rapids Frontiersman". It started in 1854. In 1876 the first bridge was built but then destroyed later in 1876. It was rebuilt in 1879. A flour mill was erected in 1875, then destroyed in 1886. In 1874 Sauk Rapids was the end of the line for the railroad. All the settlers from as far away as the upper Red River Valley brought their produce here to ship it. A six-horse stagecoach made bi-weekly trips between St. Cloud and Crow Wing. The first public school on record was built in 1858.

"To me, Sauk Rapids is a place that you will always feel at home and where you can always return. Sauk Rapids enjoys the many benefits of being part of a regional hub, yet has the tranquility of a small town where neighbors know neighbors. The City of Sauk Rapids embodies what it means to be a hometown."

- Mayor Kurt Hunstiger



Schools & Education

Elementary Schools:

- Mississippi Heights Elementary, Grades KG-5
- Pleasant View Elementary, Grades PK-5

Middle Schools:

- Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle, Grades 6-8

High School:

- Sauk Rapids Senior High, Grades 9-12

Private Schools:

- Petra Lutheran School, Grades KG-8

At Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, students find an environment where they are embraced and appreciated for the precious individuals that they are. We want each student to thrive and grow in a caring environment, rich in learning and nurturing. Our school district provides a personalized approach to learning for all students through quality programming and a caring and competent staff. Sauk Rapids and Rice residents play an important role in the education of our children and are genuinely engaged, attentive, and part of everyday activities. Together, we prepare all children for the future as evidenced through successful post-secondary experiences, career preparedness, and their continued and positive contributions made throughout central Minnesota. Learn more [here](#).

About the District

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Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with mortgages: \$2,126
- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with no mortgage: \$2,270

City Tax Rates: 7.625%

- MN tax: 6.88%
- Benton County tax: 7.38%
- Local Option Sales tax: 0.5%

Public Safety

- 18 Full-time law enforcement employees, including officers
- 17 full-time officers = 1.21 per 1,000 residents

Transportation

- St. Cloud Metro Bus

Average commute time is 20.6 minutes

Sauk Rapids

Workforce:

Common Industries:

- Healthcare
- Educational Services
- Construction
- Electronic Shopping & Mail-Order Houses
- Public Administration
- Accommodation & Food Service

Top Employers:

- J-Berd Security / Berd Electric - Professional Services
- Sauk Rapids-Rice ISD #47 - Educational Services
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Home - Healthcare
- Ichor Systems - Manufacturing
- Coborn's - Accommodation & Food Service

Leisure Activities

Attractions:

- Riverside Terrace Event Center, The Lookout Room, & 1851 Square Amphitheater at The Clearing
- Mississippi River view + public access
- Granite City Speedway
- Molitor's Haunted Acres
- Vibrant Downtown, Industrial Park, & variety of Businesses
- Restaurants, Taverns, Coffee Shops & Bakeries

Annual Events:

- Rapids River Days Festival
- Benton County Fair
- Riverside Nights
- Holiday Parade of Lights
- Fire Department Open House

Recreation:

- Community Education & Recreation Programs
- Swimming Pools, Wading Pool, Splash Pads
- Playgrounds at all Parks and Elementary Schools
- Sauk Rapids Athletic Complex: Softball, Baseball, Tennis
- Arena East Ice Hockey Rink + 4 Ice Skating Rinks
- Boating, Kayaking & Fishing on Mississippi River
- 10 Community Parks and 5 Main Recreational Trails
- Disc Golf Course
- MASH Baseball Sport Training



Sauk Rapids

Sauk Rapids was one of the most important cities in Minnesota until 1886, when, on April 14 at approximately 4:00 pm, a tornado struck town. The twister swept through the heart of the city, destroying all of the stores. As a result, 44 people were killed and several hundred were wounded. The event was a great setback for the city, and though it has rebuilt since then it never regained its former prominence in statewide affairs.

St. Joseph

"Genuine small-town character."

Thank you, City of St. Joseph, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

Population (as of 2020): 7,351

99% urban | 1% rural
57% increase since 2000

Median Age of Residents: 23.4 years

Median Home Price: \$199,288

Detached Houses: \$217,647
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$145,454
Mobile Homes: \$8,305
Median Rent: \$822

Foreign-born Residents: 451

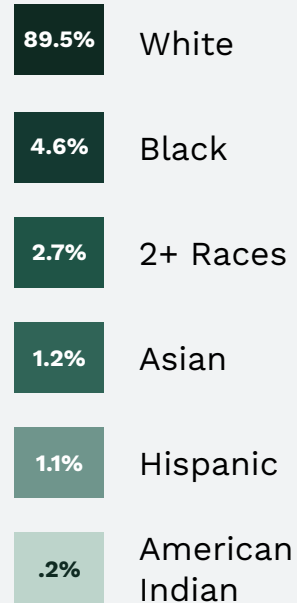
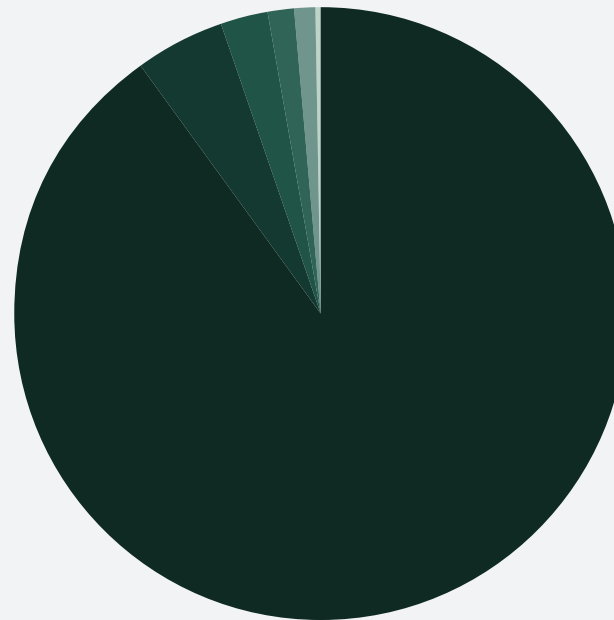
5.2% Africa | 0.8% Asia

Median Household Income: \$61,292

Estimated per capita Income: \$21,928

Unemployment Rate: 3.8%

St. Joseph - located in central Minnesota - enjoys the amenities of the St. Cloud metro, while retaining its genuine small-town character. St. Joseph is located just 8 miles west of St. Cloud and 70 miles from Minneapolis. The city has excellent transportation access from Interstate 94 and Highway 75. St. Joseph is 13 miles from St. Cloud Regional Airport and 86 miles from Minneapolis-St. Paul Regional Airport. Our regional urban area has an array of medical, educational, and park, and recreational facilities making St. Joseph a prime location for your business and home.



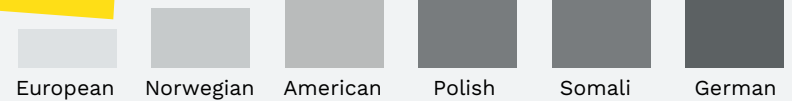


A Brief History

The first settler, German immigrant Peter Loso, came in 1854. St. Joseph was laid out in 1855 and named after a local church. St. Joseph was later incorporated in 1890. St. Joseph contains three properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the 1869 Church of St. Joseph, the 1918 First State Bank building, and a district of historic buildings at the Saint Benedict's Monastery and College built from 1882 to the 1920s.

“With a population of a little more than 7,000, a rich history, and close proximity to a major metropolitan area, St. Joseph is a wonderful place to call home. There are few communities where you can literally have it all: a Norman Rockwell setting in one of America’s most vibrant regions with access to leading educational, entertainment, and outdoor activities. St Joseph stands for **preservation of what has come and what has been given to our area while appreciating that the future is now with an expectation of strong community values. Small town **warmth**, big-city **cool**.”**

- Mayor Rick Schultz



Schools & Education

Elementary Schools:

- St. Joseph Laboratory School, Grades PK-6

Middle Schools:

- Kennedy Community School, Grades PK-8

Private Schools:

- St. Francis Xavier, Grades KG-6

College / Universities:

- College of Saint Benedict
(full-time enrollment: 1,655)
- Saint John's University
(full-time enrollment: 1,625)

District Information:

- St. Joseph, MN is part of the St. Cloud Area School District. Learn more [here](#).

Healthcare

- CentraCare, St. Joseph Clinic

Public Safety

- 23 Full-time law enforcement employees, including officers
- 20 full-time officers = 1.07 per 1,000 residents

Transportation

- St. Cloud Metro Bus

Average commute time is 19.6 minutes

Workforce

Common Industries:

- Educational Services
- Accommodation & Food Service
- Healthcare
- Construction
- Department & Other General Merchandise Stores
- Electronic Shopping & Mail-Order Houses

Top Employers:

- College of Saint Benedict | Saint John's University - Educational Services
- Coborn's - Accommodation & Food Service
- Kennedy Community School - Educational Services
- Central MN Credit Union - Financial
- Astech - Construction

Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with mortgages: \$2,171
- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with no mortgage: \$1,812

City Tax Rates: 7.625%

- MN tax: 6.88%
- Stearns County tax: 7.13%
- Local Option Sales tax: 0.5%
- Stearns Co Transportation tax: 0.25%

St. Joseph



Leisure Activities

Attractions:

- Vibrant Downtown - Brewery, Local Restaurants, Coffee & Ice Cream Shops, Boutiques, etc.
- Wobegon Trail Head
- CSB Campus Activities & Events

Annual Events:

- Rocktober Fest
- Millstream Monday Night Market
- Joetown Rocks
- Rock 4 Alzheimer's

Recreation:

- Wobegon Trail
- Millstream Park Disc Golf + Dog Park
- Memorial Park Baseball Field
- Klinefelter Park Walking Path
- CSB Athletic Complex (Soccer, Softball, etc.)
- Northland Park Footgolf
- Sauk River Canoeing & Kayaking

Fun Fact

35% of the property in St. Joe, MN is tax-exempt! To qualify for tax exemption, the property must be owned by a qualifying person or entity, and it needs to be used for public, educational, religious, or charitable purposes.

Becker

"An energy-rich community."

Thank you, City of Becker, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

Population (as of 2020): 4,954

84% urban | 16% rural
85.3% increase since 2000

Median Age of Residents: 33.8 years

Median Home Price: \$208,670

Detached Houses: \$203,104
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$157,682
Mobile Homes: \$26,131
Median Rent: \$1,094

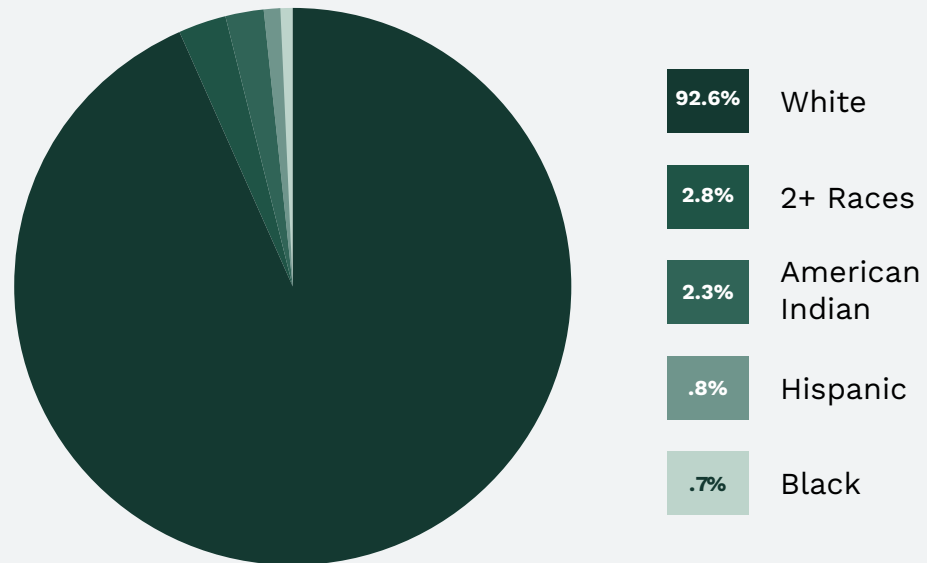
Foreign-born Residents: 50

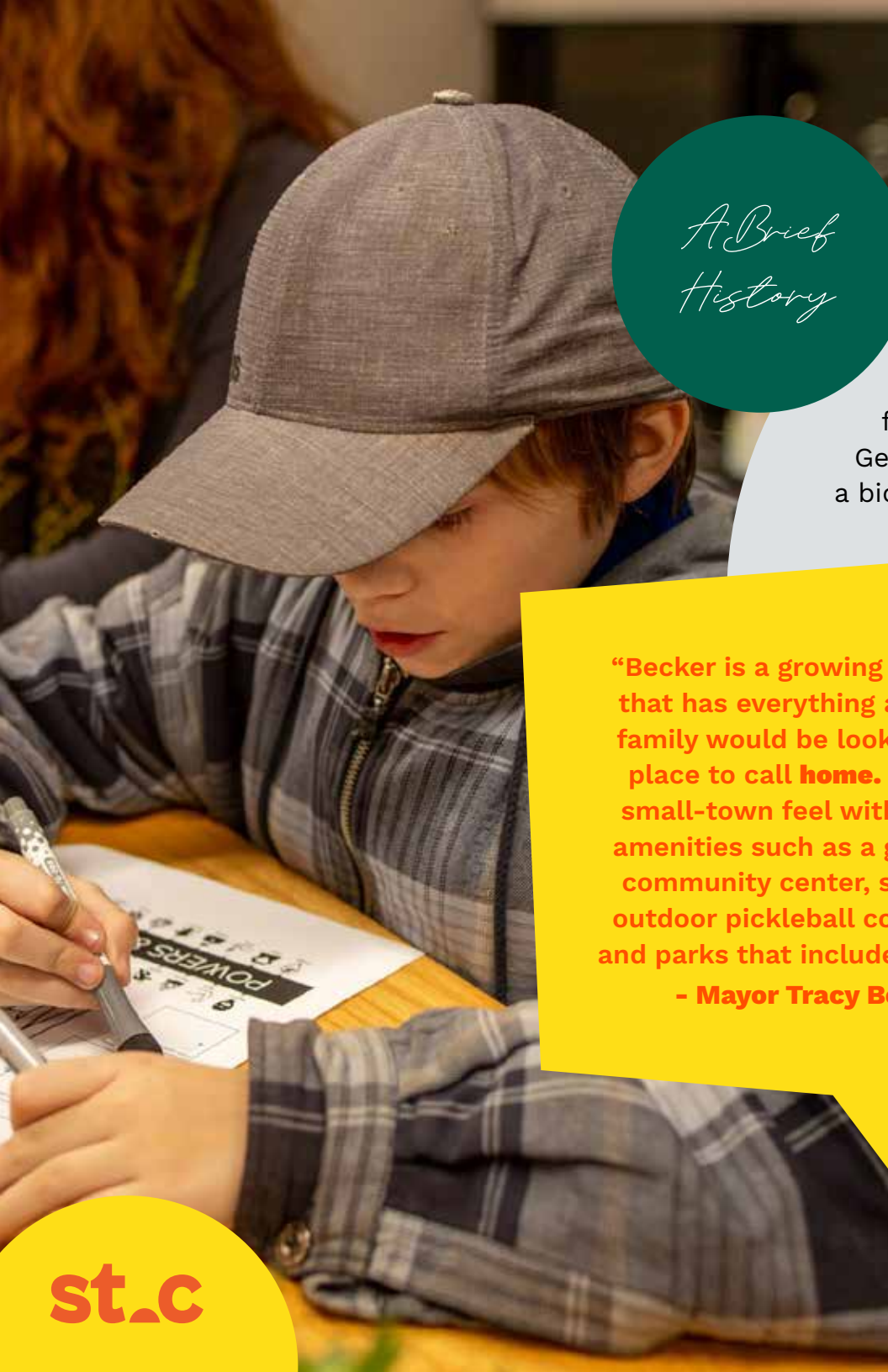
Median Household Income: \$100,789

Estimated per capita Income: \$40,102

Unemployment Rate: 4.0%

Becker is an energy-rich community with a variety of amenities to support large-scale industrial and manufacturing businesses, local agricultural companies, and small locally owned businesses. Conveniently located along Highway 10 in Sherburne County, Becker is only 16 miles from the regional hub city of St. Cloud and 45 miles from downtown Minneapolis. Travel is easy for Becker residents, as the City is located approximately 50 minutes from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport and 20 minutes from the St. Cloud Regional Airport. Properties located in the industrial park have the potential to access the BNSF rail line from a city-owned rail spur and abundant power from Xcel Energy's "Sherco" plant.





A Brief History

Becker was settled in 1855, organized in 1871, and its city in sections 31 and 32, founded in 1867, were named in honor of George Loomis Becker of St. Paul, for whom a biographic sketch has been presented in the chapter of Becker County. The city was platted on December 5, 1870, and incorporated as a village on November 22, 1904; the post office began as Pleasant Valley in 1866, changing to Becker in 1870; it had a station of the Great Northern Railway and Northern Pacific Railroad.

“Becker is a growing community that has everything a person or family would be looking for in a place to call home. We have a small-town feel with large city amenities such as a golf course, community center, splash pad, outdoor pickleball courts, trails, and parks that include dog parks.”
- Mayor Tracy Bertram



Schools & Education

Elementary Schools:

- Becker Primary, Grades PK-2
- Becker Intermediate, Grades 3-5

Middle Schools:

- Becker Middle, Grades 5-8

High School:

- Becker Senior High, Grades 9-12

Becker Public Schools

(Independent School District No. 726)

is located in the city of Becker, Minnesota, about 45 minutes away from the Twin Cities. The community offers the charm of a rural lifestyle with the convenient services of city living. The Becker School District is proud of a long tradition of excellence. The staff is made up of a nice blend of teachers with varying degrees of experience and educational backgrounds. The support staff is dedicated and has maintained an admirable record of longevity with the district. Our students come from supportive families that value education and who have formed a healthy partnership with the teachers of their children. The community is well represented by a school board that emphasizes student achievement in an environment of academic rigor. They have maintained reasonable class sizes and provided excellent facilities. Learn more [here](#).

About the District

Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with mortgages: \$2,452
- Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with no mortgage: \$2,265

City Tax Rates: 7.625%

- MN tax: 6.88%
- Sherburne County tax: 7.38%
- Local Option Sales tax: 0.5%
- Sherburne Co Transportation tax: 0.5%

Healthcare

- CentraCare, Becker Clinic
- Stellis Health

Public Safety

- 23 Full-time law enforcement employees, including officers
- 20 full-time officers = 1.07 per 1,000 residents

Transportation

- Schroeder Airport

Average commute time is 33.3 minutes

Workforce

Common Industries:

- Construction
- Healthcare
- Accommodation & Food Service
- Educational Services
- Public Administration
- Utilities

Top Employers:

- Xcel Energy - Utilities
- Becker Furniture World - Retail
- Liberty Paper Inc - Utilities
- Manufacturing Partners Inc. - Manufacturing
- TJ Potter Trucking - Professional Services
- Northern Metal Recycling - Utilities
- Becker Public Schools - Educational Services

Leisure Activities

Annual Events:

- Freedom Days
- Concert at the Creek
- Class A State High School League Golf Championship
- Becker Chamber Business Expo

Attractions:

- Sherburne History Center
- Pebble Creek Golf Course
- Becker Community Center with Great River Regional Library
- Farm Friends Barn
- Kolbinger Skate Park

Recreation:

- Park and boat landing at Snuffy's Park on the Mississippi River
- Disc Golf
- Horse trails within City Park
- Oak Savanna County Park & trails
- Pickleball and Basketball Courts
- Splash Pad



Fun Fact

Oak Savanna Park, located in Becker, is home to one of the most imperiled habitats in the world. Thirteen species have been documented there that are listed as rare, endangered, threatened, or species of greatest conservation need. These plant and animal species depend on the unique plant community known as Dry Barrens Oak Savanna. The broader category of Oak Savannas was once the most common vegetation type in the Midwest. Today their extent has been reduced so severely that they are one of the rarest plant communities on earth! This park has multiple walking trails and horse trails for the public.

Waite Park

"A small city with big city amenities."

Thank you, City of Waite Park, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

Population (as of 2020): 7,768

96% urban
4% rural

Median Age of Residents: 31.9 years

Median Home Price: \$162,769

Detached Houses: \$190,052
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$147,366
5+ Unit Structures: \$104,529
Mobile Homes: \$10,774
Median Rent: \$893

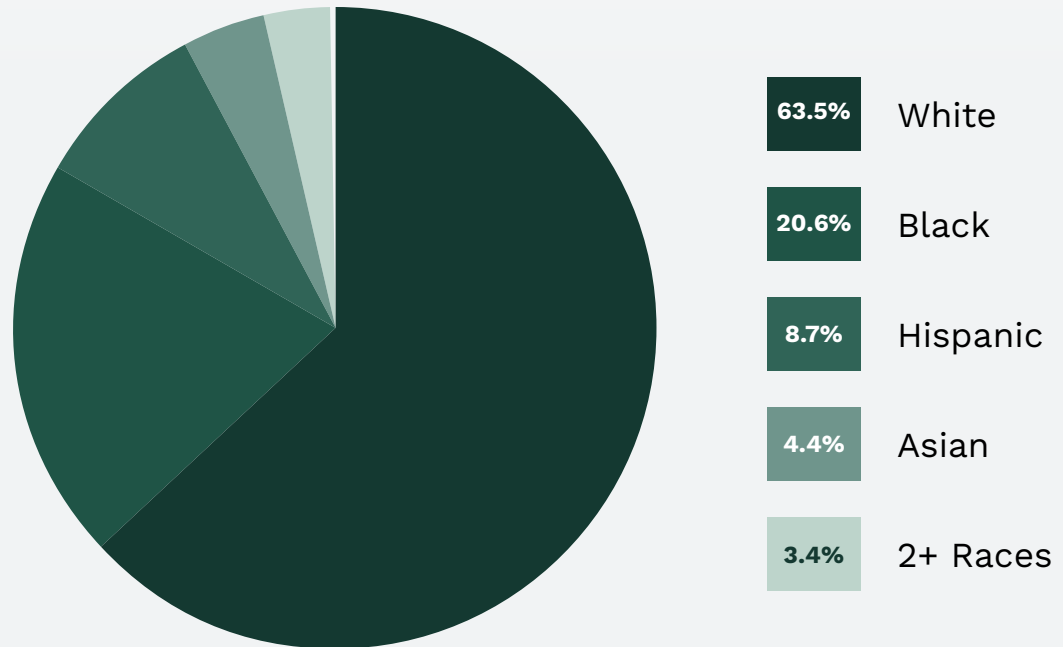
Foreign-born Residents: 1,488

Median Household Income: \$43,673

Estimated per capita Income: \$ 25,142

Unemployment Rate: 3.8%

The City of Waite Park was incorporated as a village on March 20, 1893. Waite Park was named after Henry Chester Waite of St. Cloud, who was a local landowner, attorney, statesman, and entrepreneur. The city of Waite Park is located on the western edge of the regional trade center, St. Cloud, approximately 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.



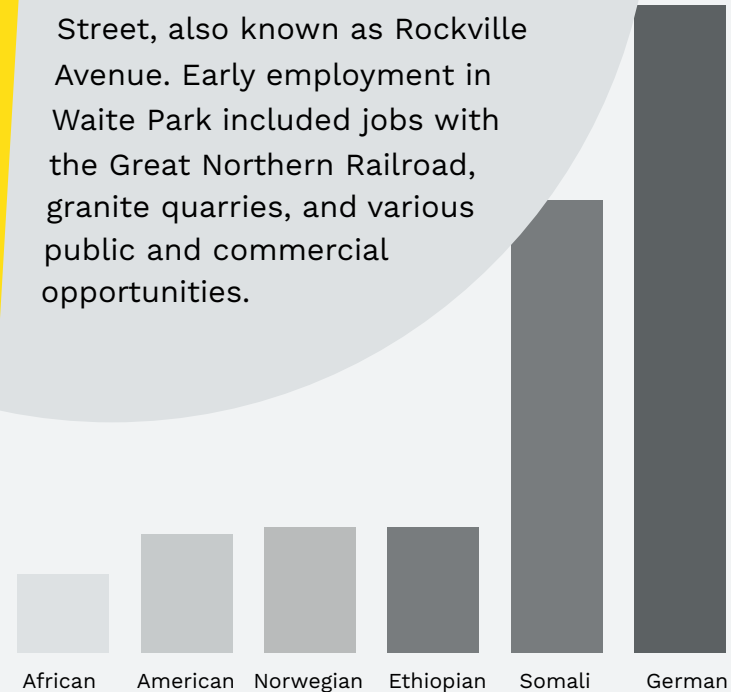


A Brief History

The development of Waite Park began in the 1840s as travelers crossed the Sauk River between St. Paul and Breckenridge at a place that became known as “Waite’s Crossing”. As the population of the area increased, ox cart trails were upgraded to wagon trails and later to stagecoach lines. In 1890 James J. Hill, railroad tycoon, purchased 300 acres of land which

became home to the Great Northern Railway shops, built between 1890 and 1891. The first street to be platted in Waite Park was 3rd Street, also known as Rockville Avenue. Early employment in Waite Park included jobs with the Great Northern Railroad, granite quarries, and various public and commercial opportunities.

“Waite Park is the City where Minnesota connects! Home of the Ledge Amphitheater, Quarry Park, Lake Wobegon Trail, Rivers Edge Park, and many retail and restaurant establishments. A small city with big-city amenities.”
- Mayor Rick Miller



Schools & Education

Elementary Schools:

- St. Cloud Math & Science Academy, Grades KG-4
- Discovery Community Elementary, Grades KG-5

Middle & High Schools:

- St. Cloud Area Learning Center, Grades 7-12

Private Schools:

- Holy Innocents School, Grades KG-12

Technical Schools:

- Minnesota School of Business
- Regency Beauty Institute

District Information:

- Waite Park, MN is part of the St. Cloud Area School 742 District. Learn more [here](#).

Healthcare

- CentraCare, Waite Park Clinic
- Rejuv Medical Center
- Central Minnesota Mental Health Center

Public Safety

- 21 Full-time law enforcement employees, including officers
- 18 full-time officers = 2.32 per 1,000 residents

Workforce

Common Industries:

- Accommodation & Food Service
- Educational Services
- Healthcare
- Construction
- Electronic Shopping & Mail-Order Houses
- Electrical Equipment, Appliances, and Components
- Department & Other General Merchandise Stores

Top Employers:

- Bernick's - Accommodation & Food Service
- Hardrives, Inc. - Construction
- Charter Communications - Utilities
- McDowall Company - Electrical Equipment, Appliances, and Components
- Clifton Larson Allen - Finance & Insurance
- Fleet Farm - Department & Other General Merchandise Stores
- Menards - Department & Other General Merchandise Stores
- Home Depot - Department & Other General Merchandise Stores
- Rejuv Medical - Healthcare

Transportation

- St. Cloud Metro Bus

Average Commute time is 19.1 minutes



Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes, units with mortgages: \$2,046
- Median real estate property taxes, units without mortgage: \$1,957

City Tax Rates: 7.625%

- MN tax: 6.88% | Stearns county tax: 7.13%
- Local Option Sales Tax: 0.5% | Stearns Co Transportation: 0.25%

Leisure Activities

Annual Events:

- Family Fun Fest
- Waite Park Babe Ruth Tournaments
- Oktoberfest (new in 2022!)

Attractions:

- The Ledge Amphitheater
- Quarry Park
- River's Edge Park
- The Park Event Center

Recreation:

- The Ledge Amphitheater
- Quarry Park & Nature Reserve
- Back Shed Brewing
- Wobegon Trail
- Thunder Road R/C Raceway
- Ultimate Sports Bar & Grill

Fun Fact

Waite Park was named after Henry Chester Waite of St. Cloud, who was a local landowner, attorney, statesman, and entrepreneur. Mr. Waite moved to Minnesota from New York in 1855 and became St. Cloud's first attorney. He was a member of the state constitutional convention in 1857, a representative in the legislature in 1863, and a state senator from 1870 to 1871 and again from 1883 to 1885.

Photo credit: Jeff Reiter

St. Augusta

"Where country meets community."

Thank you, City of St. Augusta, for making this guide & other efforts possible for our communities to shine.

Population (as of 2020): 3,785

23% urban
77% rural

Median Age of Residents: 39.9 years

Median Home Price: \$242,204

Detached Houses: \$255,084
Townhouses/Attached Units: \$172,041
Mobile Homes: \$26,827
Median Rent: \$1,002

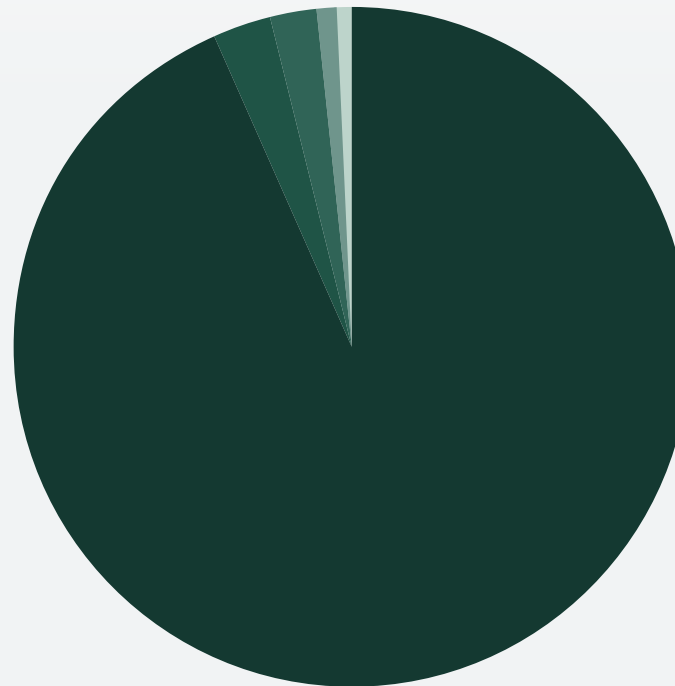
Foreign-born Residents: 66

Median Household Income: \$97,167

Estimated per capita Income: \$41,294

Unemployment Rate: 2.4%

St. Augusta has all the small-town charm with all the perks of being just outside a larger city in neighboring St. Cloud. As a community rich in nature and history, you'll step outside of the hustle-and-bustle of ordinary city life and find it's the perfect place to call home.



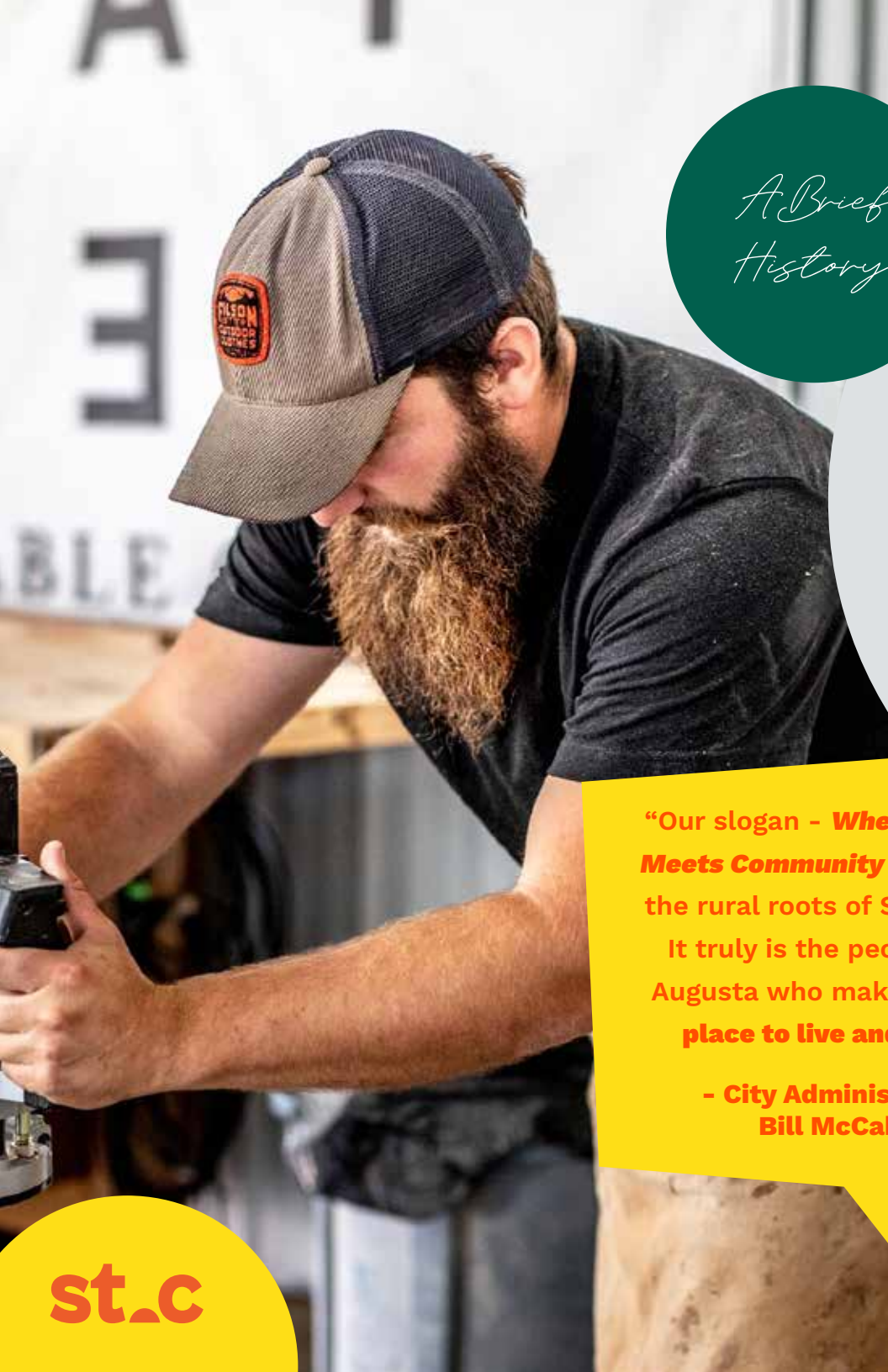
95.2% White

1.6% 2+ Races

1.2% Asian

.8% Hispanic

.2% American Indian



A Brief History

St. Augusta was named in the 1850s after a local church. The city contains one property listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the 1873 St. Mary Help of Christians Church and its 1890 rectory. Originally Saint Augusta Township, it was incorporated as a city on May 2, 2000.

For a short time, Saint Augusta was officially named Ventura in honor of then-Governor Jesse Ventura, but voters decided on its current name months after incorporation, and the name was officially changed to Saint Augusta on November 7, 2000.

“Our slogan - *Where Country Meets Community* - highlights the rural roots of St. Augusta. It truly is the people of St. Augusta who make it a great place to live and work.”

- City Administrator, Bill McCabe



Schools & Education

Private Schools:

- St. Mary Help of Christians, Grades KG-6
- St. Wendelin, Grades PK-6

District Information:

- St. Augusta, MN is part of the St. Cloud Area School 742 District. Learn more [here](#).

Public Safety

- St. Augusta is served by contract with the Stearns County Sheriff's Department.

Leisure Activities

Annual Events:

- National Night Out
- St. Mary Help of Christians Parish Festival
- St. Wendelin Parish Festival

Attractions:

- Hidden Lake Park
- Kiffmeyer Park

Recreation:

- Snomobile Trails
- Disc Golf Course
- Pickleball Courts
- Sand Volleyball Courts

Transportation

Average Commute time is 26.7 minutes

Tax Information

Property Tax:

- Median real estate property taxes, units with mortgages: \$2,476
- Median real estate property taxes, units without mortgage: \$2,850

City Tax Rates: 7.88%

- MN tax: 6.88% | Stearns county tax: 7.13%
- Local Option Sales Tax: 0.5% | Stearns Co Transportation tax: 0.25%

Workforce

Common Industries:

- Agriculture
- Transportation

Top Employers:

- Field's Manufacturing
- PleasureLand RV
- Voight's Bus Service, Inc.

Fun Fact

St. August is home to the 1873 St. Mary Help of Christians Church and its 1890 rectory, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. Stephen

Population (as of 2020): 865

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 37 years

Median Home Price: \$188,508

Median Household Income: \$88,683

Median Real Estate Property Tax:


Housing units with mortgages: \$2,023

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,504

District Information:

St. Stephen, MN is part of School District 748. More information [here](#).

St. Stephen was incorporated in 1914. It's a rural community with the slogan "A Place to Call Home."



"St. Stephen is a beautiful community that many call home. With **deep roots** in farming, many generations sharing in this beautiful land and a strong sense of community. We work hard to be a welcoming city that grows with **grace**."

- Mayor Lisa Marvin

Clearwater

Population (as of 2020): 1,818

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 31.7 years

Median Home Price: \$191,616

Median Household Income: \$72,377

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$2,029

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,345

District Information:

Clearwater, MN is an area with varied school districts, based on location, including Annandale Public School District, Becker Public School District, and St. Cloud Public School District.

Located in the Northern tip of Wright County, MN, near the junction of the Clearwater and Mississippi Rivers, Clearwater is a great place to call home. We invite you to explore our website and learn about our past, our present, and our future. Come visit Clearwater and see for yourself why it truly is “one of the prettiest little villages in the state.”



Clear Lake

Population (as of 2020): 707

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 31.7 years

Median Home Price: \$200,474

Median Household Income: \$92,976

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$2,312

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,187

District Information:

Clear Lake, MN is part of School District 742. More information [here](#).

Clear Lake is a growing rural community located in central Minnesota just north of the Twin Cities. Our city was established more than 100 years ago and has maintained its rural identity. Clear Lake is experiencing new growth and development in recent years. Because we expect this trend to continue, we are looking forward to a diverse and vital population with growing new businesses and job opportunities. Being located on major traffic arteries between both St. Cloud and the Twin Cities allows us to have easy access to larger city shopping and conveniences while still maintaining our small-town neighborhood atmosphere.



Rockville

Population (as of 2020): 2,585

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 34.7 years

Median Home Price: \$279,633

Median Household Income: \$87,820

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$3,075

Housing units without mortgage: \$3,793

District Information:

Rockville, MN is part of School District

750. More information [here](#).

The city of Rockville - where granite is the heart of our city and our beautiful lakes replenish the soul! The City of Rockville is conveniently located 10 minutes west of St. Cloud, near the intersection of State Highway 23 and Interstate 94. This ideal location has brought about exciting growth in our community. The City has maintained and is committed to its small-town amenities such as excellent schools, lower crime rates, investment in parks and trails, and much more. Whether you're looking for a place to call home, to do business, or to stop by for a visit - you'll find that Rockville just may be the place for you.



Cold Spring

Population (as of 2020): 4,284

99% urban | 1% rural

Median Age of Residents: 37.8 years

Median Home Price: \$186,971

Median Household Income: \$65,243

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$2,066

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,105

District Information:

Cold Spring, MN is part of School District 750. More information [here](#).

Cold Spring is located at the gateway to the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes in Central Minnesota and has been termed by developers as “the best-kept secret in Minnesota.” ColdSpring, with an eye to the future, is maintaining that special “Hometown Pride” while experiencing an orderly growth. A drive through city streets shows a safe, attractive environment with ‘down home’ friendliness.



Avon

Population (as of 2020): 1,590

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 35 years

Median Home Price: \$192,021

Median Household Income: \$81,840

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$3,050

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,886

District Information:

Avon, MN is part of School District 745.

More information [here](#).

Fifteen minutes from St. Cloud to the east and 90 minutes from the Twin Cities to the southeast, Avon boasts the best of both worlds: small-town living and community life with easy access to big city convenience and pleasure. Avon is well known for its recreational delights, including fishing, boating, beach, and cross-country skiing. The Lake Wobegon Trail: a 46 mile long, 10-foot wide hiking and biking path utilized by outdoor enthusiasts statewide is located in Avon, with a great Trail Head Park. There are 7 lakes within miles of each other, including the Spunk Lakes: Lower, Middle, and Upper Spunk, including a City Beach on Middle Spunk! Join our safe growing community, and make yourself at home in Avon!

“The city of Avon is nestled around the Spunk Lakes and Avon Hills that provides a truly beautiful setting for this quaint, charming town, rich in history and loved by all who have been touched by its friendliness and vibrancy. Situated right along I-94 and close to the nearby urban area of St. Cloud, Avon is a bustling business community of local, national, and home-based enterprises that helped this town to be selected by Minnesota News Country to be one of the best small towns in Minnesota with high rankings for jobs, affordability, safety, and education. Come and visit, come to work, and come to live and raise a family. It is a special place and you are invited.”

- Mayor Jeff Manthe

Foley

Population (as of 2020): 2,673

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 32.7 years

Median Home Price: \$168,580

Median Household Income: \$62,112

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$2,503

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,102

District Information:

Foley, MN is part of School District 51.

More information [here](#).

The City of Foley is a thriving rural community with traditional family values located 50 minutes north of Minneapolis. Our diversified economic base, strong educational system, and many area recreational activities make the town a great choice whether you are looking to open a business, raise a family, or a new place to call home. You'll find us one hour from the northern lakes area of Brainerd, or, if big city life is what you crave, the Twin Cities and St. Cloud are only a short drive away. Highway 23 and 25 intersect in Foley, making travel in any direction easy. Looking to stay close? We offer two city parks with playgrounds, a ball field, and park shelters, perfect for family gatherings. We also have a Municipal Swimming Pool, golf course, walking trails, and our historic movie theater! With so much to offer, our town is a great place to live and visit!



Kimball

Population (as of 2020): 798

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 32.1 years

Median Home Price: \$154,693

Median Household Income: \$68,460

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$1,599

Housing units without mortgage: \$1,910

District Information:

Kimball, MN is part of School District

739. More information [here](#).

Kimball was established in the early 1900s. Their City Hall - built in 1908 - still stands today. The city was named for Frye Kimball, an early settler. During the past century, many businesses have come and gone. New businesses have been established to replace those that disappeared. Today, Kimball Prairie (now known as Kimball) is a modern town with pleasant streets, attractive homes, churches, and businesses.



“Kimball is a wonderful small-town community, where community members **care** about each other. We offer a hidden gem on the edge of town which is Willow creek park: walking paths, picnic area, playground, shelter, and a stocked trout stream. We are lucky in our small community to have amazing schools with teachers and staff that do an **amazing** job supporting our children.”

- Mayor Karla Davis

Rice

Population (as of 2020): 1,391

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 30.6 years

Median Home Price: \$184,887

Median Household Income: \$79,083

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$1,870

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,143

District Information:

Rice, MN is part of School District 47.

More information [here](#).

The village of Rice became officially incorporated within Benton County, on July 18, 1890. In 1993, Rice was named a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation. Rice has also been awarded the “Minnesota Star City” designation for economic development. U.S. Highway 10 serves as a main route in the community. The Mississippi River is located west of Rice, and Little Rock Lake is located east.



South Haven

Population (as of 2020): 203

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 42.9 years

Median Home Price: \$135,134

Median Household Income: \$55,985

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$1,599

Housing units without mortgage: \$1,626

District Information:

South Haven, MN is part of School District 876. More information [here](#).

The City of South Haven is a small friendly community located in Central Minnesota along Minnesota State Highway 55, west of the Twin Cities, between the cities of Annandale and Kimball.



Richmond

Population (as of 2020): 4,684

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 46.5 years

Median Home Price: \$258,303

Median Household Income: \$72,718

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$2,487

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,685

District Information:

Richmond, MN is part of School District 750. More information [here](#).

Richmond is a beautiful city, with parks and trails throughout. The City of Richmond is conveniently located at the Heart of the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes, just 25 minutes west of St. Cloud, at the intersection of State Trunk Highway 23 and CSAH 22. This ideal city, with its small-town charm, is the perfect place to raise a family. The City is committed to its small-town amenities such as excellent schools, family-owned stores, and lower crime rates. Whether you're looking for a place to visit, live or do business you'll find that Richmond is the perfect place for you.



Gilman

Population (as of 2020): 219

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 32.3 years

Median Home Price: \$177,946

Median Household Income: \$49,129

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$1,365

Housing units without mortgage: \$2,515

District Information:

Gilman, MN is part of School District 51.

More information [here](#).

Gilman was incorporated on February 11, 1959, though its post office began in 1885. Gilman is known for its Gilman Co-Op & Creamery, nearly 100 years old.



Annandale

Population (as of 2020): 3,517

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 42.8 years

Median Home Price: \$191,727

Median Household Income: \$50,223

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$2,675

Housing units without mortgage: \$1,296

District Information:

Annandale, MN is part of School District 876. More information [here](#).

Located in the “Heart of the Lakes”, the City of Annandale is known for its abundance of lakes, great shopping and dining opportunities, top-rated schools, viable business environment, and a strong sense of community amongst area residents. With a strong local business environment and volunteer base, the Community hosts a number of events throughout the year.



“Annandale is a special place because of our lakes (26 in a 10 miles radius), strong schools, and our many, unique businesses. Currently, our business community is working on the **revitalization** of our downtown. Volunteerism is also a strong part of our community with **active** participation in our Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Lions Club, and Annandale Improvement Club - among others!”

- Mayor Shelly Jonas

Watkins

Population (as of 2020): 953

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 33.1 years

Median Home Price: \$109,853

Median Household Income: \$43,238

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$1,811

Housing units without mortgage: \$1,504

District Information:

Watkins, MN is part of School District

464. More information [here](#).

Watkins is a growing community, rich in its German-Catholic heritage with a history dating back to 1886 with the building of the railroad and was established on May 2, 1893. Located in Meeker County, 60 miles west of the Twin Cities area and 25 miles southwest of St. Cloud. MN State Highway #55 runs east and west through Watkins while CSAH #2 runs north and south through the City. The City of Watkins was named after a railroad employee for the Sault Ste. Marie Railroad and is also the birthplace of Eugene J. McCarthy, a former United States Senator and 1968 Presidential Candidate.



Holdingsford

Population (as of 2020): 721

0% urban | 100% rural

Median Age of Residents: 39.9 years

Median Home Price: \$137,236

Median Household Income: \$62,497

Median Real Estate Property Tax:

Housing units with mortgages: \$1,650


Housing units without mortgage: \$1,386

District Information:

Holdingsford, MN is part of School

District 464. More information [here](#).

Holdingsford may be a small town, but we have a lot to offer. From our Lake Wobegon Trailhead Park, you can bike south across the longest covered bridge in Minnesota, which is located just off main street in Holdingsford. Biking north, you'll see more beautiful countryside that will take you on to Morrison County. You can't miss Veterans Park, with a city campground for tents and motorhomes, playground equipment, skateboard ramps, lighted volleyball courts, and a softball field. In the center of town is the Soldier's Shrine, a memorial built in 1942. Holdingsford is also proud to have many strong civic organizations that help the city and surrounding communities. Our Main Street commerce is growing. New buildings and exciting new businesses complement existing trade. We boast an excellent K-12 school system, outstanding churches, restaurants, assisted living facilities, retail shops, and businesses. It's a little off the beaten path, but a nice place to be.



“Holdingsford is a community of friendly residents and growing families that keep local businesses thriving. We have wonderful churches and an awesome school system. The Wobegon Trail with its **unique covered bridge brings many visitors to enjoy our views of the local countryside.”**

- Mayor Sue Marstein

We are St. Cloud Shines.

St. Cloud Shines started in 2019 in an effort to highlight the good happening in our region every day—the people, places, and events that make living in Central Minnesota special. It's a call to action to share positivity and invites everyone in the Greater St. Cloud area to play a part in creating a strong, vibrant community.

To see more of our content and collaborate with us, find us one of the many platforms we're active:

stcloudshines.com

[Submit Your Story](#)

[Monthly Email](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



Discover more about the individual communities that make up Greater St. Cloud. And then join us, because the *good life* is right here.

st cloud
shines

stcloudshines.com