



# Our Town - North Branch - Public Sites Map



## 1 Chain Lake

**5200 412th St**

*Tucked in the northwest quadrant of the community this pristine 240 acre natural water body is a peaceful getaway that provides for beautiful sunsets.*



## 2 Northwoods Park

**39581 Sioux Trail**

*Established in the mid 1990's this 5 acre family park features a large playground, basketball court, tennis courts, horseshoe pits and a shelter. The park is a favorite for birthday parties and family reunions throughout the year.*



## 3 Tower Fields

**6211 Cougar Trail**

*The North Branch water tower is the predominate feature of the 8 acre park that shadows over 2 ball fields. Sounds from the adjacent St Croix Valley rail adorn the park. The park also is also bounded to the south by the North Branch of the Sunrise River and adjacent wetlands.*



## 4 Riverwalk Park

**39181 Harder Parkway**

*Nestled in the heart of the city, this 48 acre park protects approximately a 1 mile segment of the North Branch of the Sunrise River, where North Branch gets its namesake. Residents enjoy a park shelter and natural trails including a pedestrian bridge that straddle along and across the river. The Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail was recently constructed along old Hwy 61 (Co Rd 30), near the entrance of the park, that provides new views and vistas of the waterway. A wooden trestle and wagon bridge previously occupied this space back in the late 1880's.*



## 5 Old St Croix River Bluffline and Valley

**Northeast Quadrant of City**

*The St Croix River Bluffline and Valley is an old river terrace and "bottomland" back from the present day St Croix River. It is approximately 50 feet above the valley floor and is a predominate feature that is nearly continuously wooded. There area is comprised of maple-basswood forests and mixed hardwood wetland forests, fed by springs from the old river terraces. The woodlands contain a number of rare plants.*



## 6 Harder Park

**39260 Harder Parkway**

*Harder Park is the most intensively used park within the city. With its 4 ballfields there is a constant bustle around the park throughout the summer evenings. However, the 63 acre park has a very serene setting with its combination of majestic oaks, southern ash hardwood swamp and remnants of the old St Croix River bluffline dominating the landscape.*



## 7 Checkerboard Park

**38990 Keystone Ave**

*Checkerboard County Park is an excellent site for nature viewing. Swimming, picnicking, hiking, volleyball, and an off leash dog area are all found at this out-of-the-way park. You can avoid the crowds and enjoy the hiking trail that winds around the swimming ponds. The hiking trail is approximately 1 mile in length.*



## 8 Wildridge Park

**4840 382nd Dr**

*Wildridge Park is a 12 acre park that is located in the heart of the Wildridge Neighborhood. The park consists of a shelter, playground, basketball court, horseshoe pits, and a ice skating rink with a warming house. The playground was installed in 2007 after obtaining neighborhood input on the design through a community build consisting primarily of the local neighborhood.*



## 9 Central Park

**6250 Main St**

*The site was originally occupied by the Village calaboose in the 1880's to 1890's and has transformed today into the crown jewel of the city's park system. The site hosts over 25,000 visitors a year with a number of community events including Winterfest, MS150, Midsummer Fest, Concerts in the Park, Red Bull Day, Fall Harvest and Christmas Lighting Festival. The City recently received a grant from US Bank and the Minnesota Vikings to upgrade the Playground equipment in the park.*



## 10 Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail

**6311 Maple St**

*The Sunrise Prairie Regional trail provides 26 miles of paved multi-use trails through Chisago and Washington Counties. The trail is located along the US Bike Route 41 corridor (Northstar Route) that connects the Minnesota Capital building to Canada. The City recently received a grant through the MnDNR that extended the trail 2 miles to the north and connecting those neighborhoods to the downtown.*



## 11 Downtown

*The City of North Branch incorporated in 1881. The downtown area originally was developed with the majority of the buildings being constructed of fire prone wooden exteriors. Fire destroyed several of the buildings in the late 1800's and were replaced with buildings with brick exteriors. North Branch's first bank was an unusual brick exterior structure erected in 1891 and became the Merchants State Bank. The site is currently occupied as the Merchants Cafe.*

## 12 Main Skating Rink

**6773 Elm St**



*The iconic outdoor rink along with its skaters embodies the culture of Minnesota winters. The rink is located at the edge of the downtown along State Highway 95 and provides the motorists and passersby of the small town charm of the community. The warming house and rink have been enjoyed by the community since the 1930's and the warming house was recently renovated thanks to a local Eagle Scout project.*

## 13 Williams Park Community Gardens

**6400 379th St**



*The North Branch Community Gardens began in 2008 by the City of North Branch. In 2016, the Chisago County Master Gardeners (CCMG) partnererd with the City to establish a MOU for the CCMG to maintain and manage the gardens. The CCMG completely transformed the gardens through the renovation of the site along with providing edcuational opportunities on the site. Over 400 pounds of fresh produce is provided to the local food shelves from the demonstration plots. In 2017 the garden was expanded to add raised beds to accomodate hanidacp accessibility to the site. The CCMG has renamed the gardens as the Williams Park Community Garden and is planning an expansion of additional plots for the 2019 season.*

## 14 North Branch School Campus

**38705 Grand Ave**



*NBAPS serves all or parts of North Branch, Harris, Stacy, Almelund, Sunrise Twsp., Oxford Twsp., Lent Twsp., Fish Lake Twsp., Amador Twsp., and Chisago Lakes Twsp. NBAPS offers Early Childhood programming, one elementary school (Sunrise River School), a middle school (North Branch Area Middle School), high school (North Branch Area High School), and alternative programs such as the Chisago County Schools' Life Work Center (CCSLWC), School Age Care, Distance Learning, Area Learning Center, and more.*

*NBAPS, which serves a population of about 20,000 residents, serves about 3,000 students PreK-12. The school district also offers basic adult education, Community Education classes, and recreational offerings.*

## 15 Janet Johnson Wildlife Management Area

**36492 Hemingway Ave**



*Over 700 acres of natural wildlife habitat and access to hunters, wildlife watchers and countless others. Game species in the area includes deer, bear, small game, forest upland birds, pheasants, waterfowl, and turkey.*

## 16 North Star Solar

**9821 367th St**



*Located on 1,000 acres, 138 MW North Star Solar is the largest solar plant in the Midwest and will produce enough solar capacity to power 20,000 homes. NEXTracker and Swinerton Renewable Energy teamed up to develop a special design to conquer Minnesota's coldest winter months – yet still offer the customer the same higher energy yield single-axis trackers offer over fixed tilt systems. Completed in late 2016, North Star serves as a model for the region in both record breaking size and unique wired control system design.*