

Quarry Park – A Travel Channel “Top 10 Swimming Hole”

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/travel-channel-names-the-top-10-swimming-holes-in-the-united-states-300285132.html#continue-jump>

<http://wjon.com/quarry-park-named-top-swimming-hole-by-travel-channel/>

Travel Channel voted Quarry Park and Nature Preserve, located just outside of St. Cloud, MN a top 10 swimming hole in the US in 2016. Visitors to the Quarries can hike the trails, relax on the granite ledges, or dive into the 116+ feed deep quarries.

Contact Info: Peter Theismann 320.255.6172 pete.theismann@co.stearns.mn.us

Love Blooms at Munsinger Clemens Gardens

<http://www.munsingerclemens.com/the-gardens/clemens-gardens>

<http://www.munsingerclemens.com/the-gardens/munsinger-gardens>

<http://ci.stcloud.mn.us/161/Munsinger-Clemens-Gardens>

Munsinger Gardens was built on the site of an old sawmill after the city purchased the area in 1915. Through the Works Progress Administration and the dedication of Joseph Munsinger, the park grew and expanded to what it is today – including Riverside Park. Clemens Gardens came about through a true love story, when Bill Clemens purchased the land for his late wife Virginia Clemens, who battled multiple sclerosis for years and who really loved roses. The garden boasts thousands of roses and other flowers, uniquely shaped shrubs and bushes, statues, trellises, fountains and more.

The Home of the Pontoon Boat: Richmond, MN

<http://www.weeres.com/why/history.php?nav=3>

<http://wjon.com/the-inventor-of-the-pontoon-was-born-in-richmond-on-this-date-in-central-minnesota-history/>

Not far from the Mississippi on a chain of lakes in Richmond, Minnesota, lies the birthplace of the pontoon boat. Invented in 1952 by Ambrose Weeres, the original prototype consisted of a wooden platform on two columns of steel barrels. As their popularity increased and demand skyrocketed, Ambrose started Weeres Pontoons, and was given the nickname “Mr. Pontoon.”

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Beaver Island Brewing Company – Taste the Mississippi

<http://beaverislandbrew.com/site/>

With roots in St. Cloud from the name to the ingredients, Beaver Island Brewing Company is truly local beer, with roots in the Mississippi River at every turn. Beaver Island Brewing is named after the famous local Beaver Islands, an area along the Mississippi River made up of islands and the well-known Beaver Island Trail. The water used to brew Beaver Island beer is Mississippi River water. Discover for yourself the local beer experience, and taste the Mississippi in every drop.

Contact Info: 30-253-5907, info@beaverislandbrew.com

All About that Trout

Not well-known to non-locals, Central MN is actually home to a successful trout fishing lake: Watab Lake in Avon Mn. Trout fishing is good on this body of water and anglers can employ many different techniques to tackle trout on this lake. It's recommended that anglers go shallow, because the top 15' of the water is best this time of year, and as the season wears on fish will drop down lower. Also, go slow, as opening day will provide cooler water so trolling speeds should be slow to match the fish's metabolism during this period. Give trout a try!

Contact info: Garrett Svir, <http://www.slabseekerfishing.com/contact.php>

An Island of Memories – Sportsman's Island

On a small island in the Mississippi River just south of St. Cloud lay the memories of a previous time, abandoned and overgrown, but still present. Sportsman's Island was formerly a buzzing city park, with walking paths, ball fields, playgrounds and even well-known smelt fries. The 19 acres, owned by the St. Cloud Country Club, now sits vacant and untouchable a mysterious piece of St. Cloud history just begging for exploration.

Contact info: Tom Olson, St. Cloud Country Club, tomo@stcloudcountryclub.com, 320-253-1331 x. 101

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Casting in the City - Lake George

Located right downtown St. Cloud and surrounded by a beautiful walking paths and multiple fun features, Lake George is the gem of the city. Plus, a little-known fact, if you're just looking to have some casual fishing fun, Lake George offers urban fishing right in town. Stocked with channel catfish each year and full of native black crappies, bluegills, and largemouth bass, anglers can fish from the shorelines – a great opportunity for kids and adults alike!

Contact info: Scott Zlotnik, St. Cloud Parks & Rec, scott.zlotnik@ci.stcloud.mn.us,

St. Johns University - The Bible

<http://www.saintjohnsbible.org/>

The first hand-written illuminated in 500 years, the St. John's Bible was completed in 2011 after 13 years of hard work and dedication by the St. John's Monastery, master calligrapher Donald Jackson, and many others. It has since traveled thousands of miles and has even been graced by the presence of Pope Francis.

Bible contact information: Tim Ternes, 320-363-3351, tternes@csbsju.edu

SJU General Info: Michael Hemmesch, 320-363-2595, mhemmesch@csbsju.edu

Kayak Fishing – A Mississippi Pleasure

<http://www.cwoutfitting.com/kayak-fishing/>

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/saukrapids/miss_river_access.html

The Mississippi River stretch in the St. Cloud area is home to some of the best smallmouth bass fishing in the state. The river offers prime opportunities for bank-angling as well as floating trips. Clear Waters Outfitting in Clearwater has the largest selection of fishing kayaks in the state and many resources on staff for equipping, training and guiding any level of angler.

Contact Information: Dan Meer, dan@cwoutfitting.com, 320-558-8123; 320-469-1590

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Let your Woes be Gone

<http://lakewobegontrail.com/>

The Wobegon trail offers some of the most quiet and serene biking paths in Minnesota. This biking, hiking and blading assets interacts with some of the most beautiful, serene destinations in our state – from the small-town feel of Collegeville to the photo-worthy covered bridge in Holdingford, biking enthusiasts will never want to leave. And given the history of the trail and its name sake created by Garrison Keillor, the trail is much more than a paved path.

Contact Information: Wobegon Trail – Cliff Borgerding, 320-293-9364, cliff@lwtrails.com

There's Granite in them Hills

<http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/Recreation/CountyParks/QuarryParkandNaturePreserve>

Spanning 220 acres and housing 20 former granite quarries, Quarry Park and Nature Preserve is a beautiful testament to the industry that put Central MN on the map. All year long visitors can go hiking, rock climbing, fishing, swimming, cross country skiing... there is something for everyone. And still standing today is the Liberty Derrick, which was used in the 1920's – 1940's to hoist heavy granite blocks. It was closed in the 1950's, restored around 2005, and today visitors can view it any time the park is open.

Contact Information: Pete Theismann, 320-255-6172 • Email: pete.theismann@co.stearns.mn.us

Minnesota 13

<http://mn13doc.com/the-story/>

<http://wjon.com/frozen-in-time-antons-restaurant/>

If moonshine had had any rating standards back in the prohibition era of the 20's and 30's, Minnesota 13 - brewed right in Stearns County, Minnesota with the help of people from church leaders to sheriffs - would have ranked highest. Minnesota 13 and the bootleggers that sold it left a legacy in Central MN that can trace back to St. Cloud's very own roots – including at Anton's Restaurant. Anton's is one of the only remaining speakeasy's famous for distributing Minnesota 13, and they proudly display one of the actual old stills used in the brewing process.

Contact information: Stearns History Museum, 320-253-8424, info@stearns-museum.org

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MN Fishing Museum

Freshwater fishing has a history that is deeply engrained in the roots of Minnesota – it's part of who we are. And in 1990, Al Baert and Morry Sauve sought out to capture that pastime as it's grown over the years, and to share it with other passionate anglers. Thus, the Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame came to be. This one-of-a-kind place needs to be seen to do it justice – so make a plan to stop in soon, curious minds are always welcome.

Contact: Brenda, Little Falls Fishing Museum, mnfm@mnfishingmuseum.com, 320.616.2011

Jailhouse Rocks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaaUhHTWUBg>

<http://www.startribune.com/st-cloud-prison-an-overlooked-historic-trove/371161541/>

Completed in 1922, the 1 ½ mile wall surrounding the St. Cloud Prison was built by the prisoners it enclosed. The granite quarry that provided the materials for building the wall is still inside its premises. It's the longest granite wall in the world, the second longest wall of any kind in the U.S., and it also holds the title of the longest wall in the world built entirely by prisoners.

Contact information: Stearns History Museum, 320-253-8424, info@stearns-museum.org

Pandolfo's Pantown

<http://www.pantowners.org/>

<http://www.stearns-museum.org/exhibits>

In 1918 until 1922, the Pan Motor Company would produce around 735 total automobiles, and thus ends St. Cloud's brief stint in the auto manufacturing. Along the short and bumpy road, the company built an entire neighborhood for its employees (which still remains today, known as Pantown), and founder Sam Pandolfo landed himself in prison on mail fraud charges.

Contact information: Stearns History Museum, 320-253-8424, info@stearns-museum.org

