



**Lace up your shoes and get ready to explore Carver County—one step at a time!**

## LIST DATES HERE

**Join us for a 4-week walking adventure where we'll virtually trek through eight of our county's most beautiful parks, trails, and hidden gems. Along the way, you'll get to know these scenic spots and maybe even discover a new favorite!**

This step-based challenge is all about getting active—however you like to move. Whether you're walking, jogging, dancing, gardening, or chasing your kids around the yard, it all counts! Use your Fitbit, Garmin, Apple Watch, smartphone, pedometer, or any other tracking device to tally your steps. No device? No problem! Our handy Step Conversion Chart helps you turn all kinds of activities into steps.

**So grab your sneakers, gather your team (or go solo), and let's step our way through Carver County!**

**REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM HERE.**

## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- Once the program kicks off, make sure to put on your tracking device first thing in the morning and wear throughout the day (in the case of certain devices, such as a Fitbit, you might be wearing it all the time).
- Find ways throughout the day to increase your activity (i.e. park your car in the furthest spot, take the stairs, find the long way to the restroom, hold a "walking meeting" at work, walk over your breaks, walk the dog, etc.).
- Record your daily steps on the tracking log provided.
- You will receive an email each Monday with information about that week's destinations, plus an educational handout on topics to help keep you motivated throughout the challenge.
- **PRIZES!** All participants who reach the walking goal of at least **50,000 steps per week** and submit their tracking log to XXX by XXX will receive XXX!
- Questions? Contact XXX at XXX (this is usually your organization's wellness coordinator).



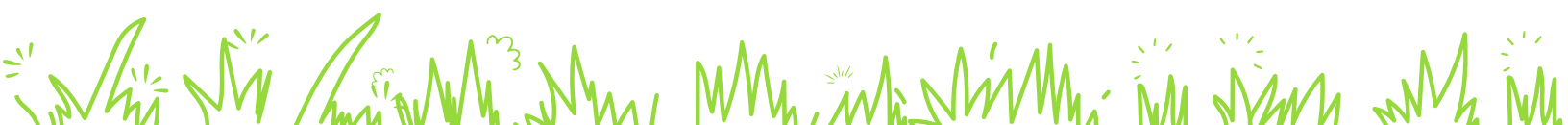
# STEP TRACKER

Record how many steps you did each day.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				
Weekly Total				





## WEEK 1

### Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail & Southwest Regional Trail

#### MINNESOTA RIVER BLUFFS REGIONAL TRAIL

We start our journey on the **Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail**, with scenic views of the MN River/River Valley and abundant shaded areas. Much of the trail is located within a former railroad corridor and is parallel to the Minnesota River along the southern border of the county. The trail extends from the western limits in the City of Carver extending through the City of Chaska to the county line at the Chanhassen/ Eden Prairie border. However, the trail extends further into Hennepin County and reaching the City of Hopkins. In total, the trail is approximately 18 miles long from the City of Carver to the City of Hopkins.

#### Approved Uses

This trail is designated as a multi-use corridor for walking/hiking, biking, running, dog walking (on 6' leash), inline skating, and roller skiing.



## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

#### Points of Interest

- Historic Downtown Carver
- Historic Downtown Chaska
- Seminary Fen Scientific & Natural Area (Chanhassen)
- Riverside Park (Carver)
- Depot Park (Carver)
- Athletic Park (Chaska)



#### Connections

- Minnesota Valley State Trail
- City of Carver Local Trail System
- City of Chaska Local Trail System



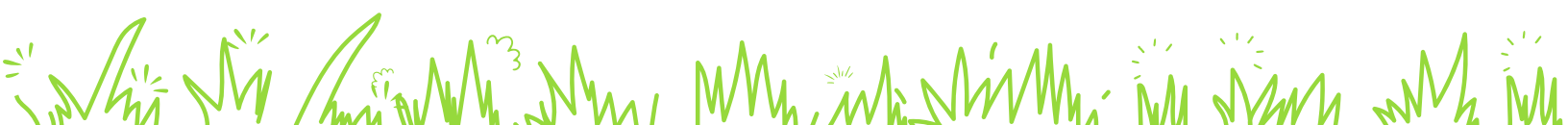
#### Winter Trail Conditions

The Cities of Carver, Chaska, and Chanhassen provide snow plowing on their respective trail segments December to March.



#### Trail Access & Parking

- Depot Park (downtown) – City of Carver
- Athletic Park & Ball Field (west side of town) – Chaska
- Chaska Levy Trailhead adjacent to Old Audubon Street & Engler Blvd (east side of town) – Chaska



## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRAIL

We make our way north up to the **Southwest Regional Trail**, which is a developing 13-mile trail corridor between the cities of Chaska and Victoria. The trail, when completed, will connect the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail (Southwest Light Rail Transit Corridor) to the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail (Northwest Light Rail Transit Corridor) creating a looping trail network between the three trails. Implementation of this regional trail will occur over time as new development occurs, and with the construction of new roads or as reconstruction of roadways takes place. Currently there are approximately 7 miles of trail that wind through developed portions of the City of Chaska and Victoria.



## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

### General Trail Information:

- Winter Trail Conditions: Carver County Parks Department does not maintain the trail corridor during the winter months (December – March).
- This trail is designated as a multi-use corridor. Approved uses for the trail include walking/hiking, biking, running, dog walking (on 6' leash) inline skating, and roller skiing.
- Cross traffic DOES NOT STOP at trail/roadway intersections. Trail users must obey all signage, stopping at each trail/road intersection. Trail patrol officers will cite offenders.
- Motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, are not permitted on trail.

### Trail Access & Parking:

The best access to the trail is via the trailhead in Victoria. Adjacent to the City Hall, Victoria Library, and Charlson Thun Community Bandstand. City parking can be found in this area.





## WEEK 2

### Lake Minnewashta Regional Park & the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

#### LAKE MINNEWASHTA REGIONAL PARK

6900 Hazeltine Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55331 (Located off of TH 41 west of Chanhassen between Highway 5 & Hwy 7.

**Park hours:** 6:00am - 10:00pm (during the fishing season, the park will open at 5:00am)

**Lake Minnewashta Regional Park** is a 340-acre park on the shores of Lake Minnewashta. Facilities include a swimming beach, bathhouse, off-leash dog area, reservable picnic shelters, sand/turf volleyball courts, creative playground, paved boat access, paved bike trail, turf trails for walking and skiing, ski/snowshoe rental, and vending machines.

## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!



- **Off Leash Dog Area:** Check out the popular fenced-in off-leash dog area at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. This 18-acre site includes a separate area for small dogs and approximately one mile of trails. For additional information about the off-leash dog area, including maps, visit the Off-leash dog area webpage.
- **Trails:** Enjoy a leisurely stroll along five miles of turf and natural surface trails that meander along the edge of Lake Minnewashta and through forested and prairie area of the park. In the winter, separate trails are groomed for skiing and walking.



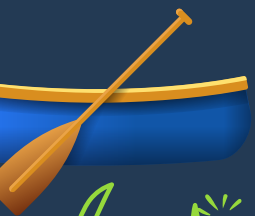
- **Lake Minnewashta Public Boat Access:** There is one paved boat access within the park. The City of Chanhassen has permitted a limit of 35 truck/trailers in the boat access parking area. If boat trailer parking is full, no additional watercraft launching is allowed until a parking site has become available.

- **Shelters:** There are 4 shelters available for rent. Visit the Reservable Shelters and Facilities webpage for more information.



- **Fishing Pier:** A fishing pier has been installed to provide accessibility to all Park visitors out and onto the lake. It is located west of the beach area on the point. In addition to facilitating anglers, the pier offers a scenic view of Lake Minnewashta.

- **Little Free Library:** Visiting the beach and forget your book? Picnicking and want to enjoy a shady, cozy spot with a novel? You will find a [Little Free Library](#) at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park located near the beach! The honor system policy is take a book, leave a book, or take a book for the day and return it. Check out a book next time you are in the Park!



- **Canoe Storage:** There are three canoe storage rack with a capacity of 6 canoes or kayaks per rack for a total of 18 spaces. These racks are located at the Old Boat Access #2 within the park. These storage slots are available for the public to rent for \$70.00 per space from May 1 - Oct 31.

## THE MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

The **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** is a 1,200-acre horticultural garden and arboretum located about 4 miles west of Chanhassen. It is part of the Department of Horticultural Science in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota, and open to the public every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas. An admission fee is charged, and annual memberships are available. It is the Upper Midwest's largest public garden.

The arboretum features annual and perennial display gardens, plants developed for northern climates, demonstration gardens, the Harrison Sculpture Garden, a Japanese garden, a Chinese garden, a maze garden and natural areas including woodlands, prairie, and marshes. Its collections include clematis, dahlias, ornamental grasses, hostas, iris, wildflowers, and cultivated and hardy shrub roses. Recent additions to the arboretum include the Farm at the Arb and the Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center. The arboretum also includes a horticultural library and conservatory and miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails.

The **Meyers-Deats Conservatory** features bromeliad, orchid, and cactus collections and tropical houseplants. The Andersen Horticultural Library houses 15,000 books covering botany, horticulture, natural history, children's literature, research materials, and nursery catalogs.

## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!



**Hike the Three-Mile Walk loop** (about 7,000 – 8,000 steps), beginning at the Sensory Garden and ending at the Ordway Picnic Shelter. This walk provides an excellent overview of the Arboretum grounds, allowing visitors to hike to the Arboretum's highest point and experience woods, wetlands and prairie as it meanders through a variety of the Arboretum's gardens and collections. You will travel mainly on paved paths and brick walkways, as well as short distances on gravel paths. Taken at a leisurely pace, the walk could take about an hour and a half.

Other options are to take a family-friendly walk to the **Maze Garden** on a stroller-friendly and wheelchair-friendly paved path from the Ordway Shelter. Or, take a shorter, family-friendly walk to Shade Tree Exhibit on a stroller-friendly and wheelchair-friendly paved path from Sensory Garden.

For more information about the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, click [HERE](#).





## WEEK 3

### Trunk Hwy 5 Regional Trail & Lake Waconia Regional Park

#### TRUNK HWY 5 REGIONAL TRAIL

The Trunk Hwy 5 Regional Trail in Carver County is an east-west linking trail operated cooperatively with the City of Chanhassen, U of M Landscape Arboretum, City of Victoria, and Carver County. The trail corridor extends from the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail in Victoria and extending to the eastern County line at the Chanhassen and Eden Prairie boundary at Dell Road, which is approximately 10 miles. The trail is paved and detached from the roadway paralleling a section of Rolling Acres Road, Hwy 5, includes portions of the U of M landscape Arboretum, and W 78th Street (Frontage Road).

**Approved Use:** This trail is designated as a multi-use corridor for walking/hiking, biking, running, dog walking (on 6' leash), inline skating, and roller skiing.



## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

#### Points of Interest

- U of M Landscape Arboretum
- Lifetime Corporate Headquarters and Fitness Center
- Bluff Creek Elementary School & Chanhassen Recreation Center
- Lake Ann Park
- Downtown Chanhassen



#### Connections

- [Carver Park Reserve](#)
- [Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail](#)
- [U of M Landscape Arboretum](#)
- [Lake Minnewashta Regional Park \(via local trails along Hwy 41\)](#)
- [Chanhassen local trail network](#)
- [Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail \(Eden Prairie\)](#)



#### Winter Trail Conditions

The City of Chanhassen and the U of M Landscape Arboretum provide snow plowing on their respective trail segments December to March.



#### Trail Access & Parking

- The trail can be accessed from intersecting public streets
- Parking is available at [Lake Ann Park](#) off Hwy 5 in Chanhassen





## LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK,

**Location:** 8170 Paradise Lane, Waconia, MN 55387 just east of the city of Waconia.

Access to the park is off of TH 5 at Paradise Lane.

**Park hours:** 6:00am – 10:00pm daily.

**Lake Waconia Regional Park**, including Coney Island of the West, is a 164-acre park situated on the southern shore of Lake Waconia. This shoreline park offers views to the lake and Coney Island.

The County is currently making plans for the next improvement to the park. State funding of \$2.5 M has been secured and is to be matched with an additional \$2.5 M of County funds for construction of a waterfront service center. This building will provide restrooms, covered outdoor seating space, an indoor social gathering and meeting room, along with space for rental operations.

The State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources watercraft access is open to the public. It contains two boarding docks, portable biffs, and a parking facility with capacity for 36 vehicles with trailers.



## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

### Trails & Facilities



#### Picnic Shelters

- At this time there are no reservable shelters. Coming soon in 2023!



#### Beach

- One of the main attractions at Lake Waconia Regional Park is the well-kept beach. In 2004, the beach was redeveloped and in 2008 greatly enhanced with the addition of five large umbrellas providing additional shade to patrons. In close proximity to the beach are picnic tables and grills ideal for summer barbecues!



#### Sledding Hill

- An 80-foot sledding hill is available, weather permitting, December – March.

For more information about Lake Waconia Regional Park, click [HERE](#).







## WEEK 4

### Dakota Rail Regional Trail & Baylor Regional Park

#### DAKOTA RAIL REGIONAL TRAIL

With scenic views of Lake Waconia, Coney Island of the West, and rural countryside, **Dakota Rail Regional Trail** in Carver County is a 12.4-mile trail that crosses the northern portion of the county in a former railroad corridor. It passes just to the north of scenic Lake Waconia and Coney Island of the West. The trail extends from the McLeod/Carver County line at the west to the Carver/Hennepin County line at the east. However, there are additional connected segments in McLeod County in the City of Lester Prairie at the western terminus and in Hennepin County in the City of Wayzata at its eastern terminus. In total, the trail is approximately 29 miles in length.

#### Approved Uses

- This trail is designated as a multi-use corridor for the trail include walking/ hiking, biking, running, dog walking (on 6' leash), inline skating, and roller skiing.

## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!



#### Points of Interest

- Crane Creek
- Crow River
- Goose Lake
- Lake Waconia
- City of New Germany
- City of Mayer



#### Connections

- Lester Prairie
- City of Waconia via County Roads 10 and 155 & 92
- Lake Waconia Regional Park via County Roads 155 & 92
- Lake Minnetonka
- City of St. Bonifacius
- City of Wayzata



#### Winter Trail Conditions

The Carver County Parks Department does not maintain the trail corridor during the winter months of December - March.



#### Trail Access & Parking

- The trail can be accessed from intersecting public streets.
- City of New Germany - County Rd 30 and County Rd 33 (east side) - Carver County
- City of Mayer - Hwy 25 and County Rd 30 (west side) - Carver County
- City of St. Bonifacius - Kennedy Memorial Dr. and Bell St - Hennepin County



## BAYLOR REGIONAL PARK

**Location:** 8170 Paradise Lane, Waconia, MN 55387 just east of the city of Waconia.

Access to the park is off of TH 5 at Paradise Lane.

**Park hours:** 6:00am – 10:00pm daily.

**Baylor Regional Park** is a 201-acre park situated in western Carver County on Eagle Lake. The park offers 50 camping sites. Thirty-five sites have water and electrical hookups and 15 sites are primitive.

Other facilities include: group camping area, picnic areas, showers, swimming beach, beach house, reservable picnic shelters, ball field, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and an 18 hole disc golf course.



## GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

### Trails & Facilities

Walk the nearly 1/4-mile-long boardwalk trail through the cattail marsh or tour almost 4 miles of walking trails through a maple/basswood forest and native prairie. Watch for wildlife or enjoy a scenic vista overlooking Eagle Lake. In the spring, join us on the Maple Trail for syrup demonstrations and sap collection!

A Community Room for seating up to 100 persons is available May – October in the 1935 remodeled barn with advance reservations. The Community Room has a food preparation area, heat, A/C and flush restrooms. For additional information see [Shelter and Banquet Facility Information](#).

**Summer camping & cookouts** are popular park activities.

The **Eagle Lake Observatory** within the park is owned and operated by the Minnesota Astronomical Society for the benefit of students, teachers, the public-at-large, and for members of the Society. Its primary mission is education and public outreach.

**The 18-hole disc golf course** is also a popular destination at the park.

During the winter season, **cross-country skis & snowshoes** can be rented on weekends at the Park Office. See [Winter Recreation](#).

There is no boat access to Eagle Lake via Baylor Regional Park. A public boat ramp is located on the southeast end of the lake off Cty Rd 135.

Baylor Regional Park address is 10775 County Rd. 33, Norwood Young America, MN 55397. Located on County Road 33, 2.5 miles north of Hwy 5 & Hwy 212, near Norwood Young America.

For more information about Baylor Regional Park, click [HERE](#).

