



Polk County Wisconsin is nestled along the dividing line of Minnesota and Wisconsin with the St. Croix National Riverway serving as the natural border between the two states. Only an hour drive from Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. It offers an urban-to-rural experience that will keep you coming back for more, season after season. A scenic and beautiful place to live, work and play. The county is dotted with 438 lakes and rivers for fishing, boating and swimming.

Outdoor Adventures

The natural beauty of the area is breath taking. The County boasts of having two State Parks; the oldest Interstate State Park south of St. Croix Falls is the start of the Ice Age Trail at the Pothole Trail in the park. The route of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is part of 1,200 miles through the entire state of Wisconsin traveling through places of glacial beauty and remote parts of the state. The Ice Age ended 10,000 years ago and this last great ice sheet named the Wisconsinan, radically altered the landscape in Wisconsin. The Straight Lake State Park, the newest of Wisconsin's state parks is located between Luck and Frederic. This 1,888-acre park is open to the public for foot traffic only, lake views and glacial features provide great vistas on the Ice Age Trail within the park.

Get off the Road

The County is sprinkled with biking, hiking and ATV trails throughout the County for both silent and motorized sports. The popular Gandy Dancer and Stower Seven Lakes trails are both converted rail-road beds for the biking, hiking and cross country skiing. These trails travel through woods, farmlands and beside lakes for a beautiful relaxing experience. Gandy Dancer trail end starts in St. Croix Falls and travels through many communities on the way to Danbury in Burnett County. Stower Seven Lakes begins at Lotus Lake County Park traveling 14 miles past 7 lakes ending in Amery.

Explore Historic Roads

Polk County has 6 Rustic Roads spanning the county. These are designated roads that encourage people to explore off the beaten path. Rustic Road program began in 1973 to help citizens and local units of government preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled county roads. Unique brown and yellow signs mark the routes of all officially- designated Rustic Roads. These routes provide bikers, hikers and motorist an opportunity to leisurely travel on some of the most scenic countryside.

The Magic of Waterfalls

Waterfalls are found throughout the county. Make time to see four breathtaking waterfalls: Buttermilk Falls, Cascade Falls, Geiger Falls and Silverbrook Falls in Interstate Park. Buttermilk Falls, a lesser-known one, is truly a hidden gem! Cascade Falls in the heart of Osceola is a popular tourist attraction and must see. Interstate State Parks Silverbrook Falls is a wonderful surprise at the end of one of the parks popular hiking trails.

Ride the Rails

Train rides are available at the Osceola/ St. Croix Valley Railway in quaint Osceola. You can ride the rails May through October. As a special treat take advantage of one of the with seasonal specials including Mother's Day and Father's Day brunches and dinners, Fourth of July Fireworks Excursion, Pumpkin Express and beautiful Fall leaf tours. The train travels between Dresser, WI and Osceola or Marine on the St. Croix, MN and Osceola.

Enjoy history?

Stop in at one of the county's museums. The Clear Lake museum is one devoted to US Senator and former Governor Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day and Burleigh Grimes, the last legal spitballer and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Frederic's museum is housed in a renovated 1901 Soo Line Depot. The former county courthouse and now Polk County Historical Museum in Balsam Lake offers an amazing three stories of historic exhibits and displays. Luck Historical Museum is located in a shared building with the public library. The museum has 2000 square feet of display space which houses artifacts that have been donated including Duncan Yo-Yo memorabilia, local Indian artifacts and much more.

State Fish Hatchery

There are two fish hatcheries located in St. Croix Falls and north of Osceola. The year around hatcheries are open to the public Monday- Friday. The trout found here are the Erwin strain Rainbow trout. These trout provide us with certified disease free fish and they are an early spawn. The age of the fish at the hatchery ranges from eggs to adults and all sizes between. These trout stock the trout streams in our area.

Discover Where Art meets Nature

The Arts and Theater are alive and well in Polk County offering a wide variety of venues for visitors. St. Croix Festival Theater located in St. Croix Falls, celebrating 20 years of offering "world class theater in a small town package." The yearlong schedule includes live theater, children productions, concerts and other events. Wisconsin's Northwest Heritage Passage celebrates our heritage and highlights regional handmade and homegrown products. Polk County Earth Arts is an organization of local artists from throughout the Upper St. Croix Valley. Members include painters, photographers, potters, glass blowers, writers, bookmakers, musicians, basket makers, sculptors, chainsaw carvers, jewelers and crafters! The Fall Salon opens the third weekend in October featuring many of these same artists. The artists can display their crafts just before the holidays. Northern Lakes Center for the Art. The center is where musicians practice, Community Theater performs, writers gather and visual arts are displayed. More than 150 students study theater, music, writing and art at Northern Lakes Center for the Art. St. Croix ArtBarn in Osceola offers intergenerational theatrical opportunities April through October and a month-long summer art camp for children. Other annual events include concert series, blue grass festival, and garden tour and art classes. Frederic Arts an area-based organization supports artistic opportunities for people of all ages and enhances and preserves the cultural fabric of the community through education events and programs. Other artsy places include ArtZ Fine arts Gallery in Amery and Café Wren in Luck. Both Galleries feature a wide variety mixed media, pastels, watercolors and oils to photography, pottery, fabrics and much more.

Calendar of Events for August- September

- ♦August 11-13 Charles Lewis Days in Lewis ♦August 19-20 Turtle Lake Moon Lake Threshing Bee ♦August 26 St. Croix Falls – Rib Fest
- ♦August 26 Cushing Adult Soap Box Derby
- ♦September 2-3 Balsam Lake Corn on the Curb and water ski shows ♦September 2 Clayton Fire Department Truck Tractor Pull
- ♦September 8-10 Wheels and Wings- Osceola with the community fair ♦September 9-10 Grape Stomp Festival @ Chateau St. Croix Winery
- ♦September 14-17 Amery Fall Festival ♦September 23- Cushing- River Road Ramble
- ♦September 29-30 Baker Orchard fall Festival

For a complete listing of the calendar of events contact the Polk County Information Center at 1-800-222-POLK ,

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We look forward to your visit in our county!**