



[CLICK HERE](#) to view current Renville County job postings.

### SAVE THE DATE:

Learn more about Health Care Savings Plans (HCSP) with the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS). This is for anyone who has an HCSP, or is interested in starting an HCSP.

**WHEN:**

May 29 at Noon

**WHERE:**

Room 313, Board Room

### Update to HR Connection

New documents have been added to the HR Connection, found on the Benefits page of the Employee Website. Information includes detailed medical coverage information for each plan level. If you have any questions about what your medical plan covers, [CLICK HERE to check it out!](#) (Look for the "Renville County HR Connection" heading with "To Log-In Click Here" text below it.)

### Labor Management Committee (LMC): Training Document Available on Staff Website

The document will give you an overview of what LMC is intended for, what the committee can/should address, and what the committee shouldn't address. [CLICK HERE to check it out.](#)

### Misplaced or Lost County Staff ID/Door Fobs

If you lose your staff ID/door fob, remember to let IT know **immediately** by calling extension 3803. After hours you can email [IT@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:IT@renvillecountymn.gov).

Your fob will be deactivated and you will receive a temp fob while you look for the missing one. If you find it, IT will turn it back on. If you can't find it, IT will issue a new one. If you receive a new ID/fob and you find the old one, please return the lost ID/fob to the IT office.

Treat this like your house key. We would hate to have an unauthorized person access the building, county car keys, and your office with you linked to that fob. The ID/fob lets them know exactly where you work.

## New Employees



**Mike Davis**

**Park Maintenance Worker**  
Parks Department

After 25 years in retail operations and management Mike was ready for a high “quality of life” job. This position allows his love of the outdoors and deep appreciation for the beautiful nearby parks to be fully utilized. His wife Emily, and their 2 kids Mason and Delaney, live close to Beaver Falls so they’re no strangers to the area. Mike feels grateful for the opportunity to care for the Renville County Parks that are treasures to rural Minnesota.

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## 15-Minute Chair Massages

**Location:** GSC Room 121B | **Cost:** \$20.00



### 2024 Massage Dates:

Tuesday, May 14

Wednesday, June 12

**[CLICK HERE](#) to register for your chair massage.**

***This event DOES NOT qualify for a Wellness Incentive.***

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view the spreadsheet listing what time(s) you signed up for.** Registrants will be added monthly to the massage calendar items on the [staff calendar](#).

## Service Awards



**Jeremy Mettling**

**15 Years**

**Highway Maintenance Worker**  
Public Works



**Andrew Hussman**

**5 Years**

**Investigator-Patrol Deputy**  
Sheriff’s Office

## New to Health Savings Accounts (HSA) or Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)?

Unsure about what items are considered eligible under these accounts? [CLICK HERE](#) to check out the eligible expense list!



## Public Works Updates

### Crack Filling on County Road 3



### Washout Repair



### Excavator Work

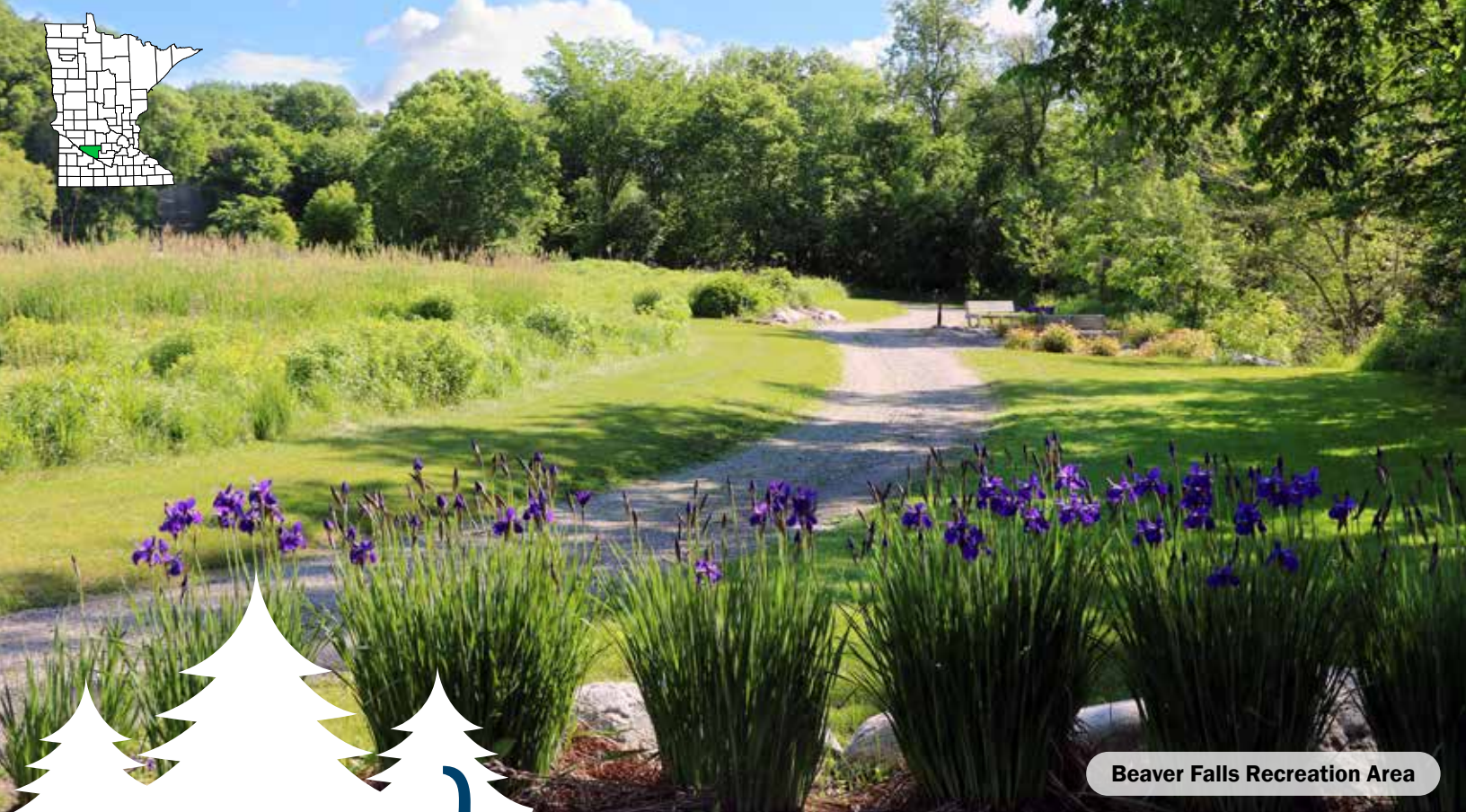


## 2023 Annual Reports

Interested in learning more about what other departments did last year?

[CLICK HERE](#) to view annual reports for the following departments:  
(as of April 2024)

Environmental Services | Human Resources  
Human Services | Parks | Public Health



Beaver Falls Recreation Area

More than just  
*Camping*

# Renville County Parks

Join us for unexpected adventures!

In **Renville County Parks**, camping and outdoor adventure trips are filled with simple pleasures and timeless wonders; sleeping under the stars, waking to the sounds of nature, hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, canoeing, snowshoeing, and more.

**HIKING AND BIKING:** Miles of trails give hikers and bikers of all ages and skill levels the chance to explore the road less traveled. Ranging from

“beginner” to “difficult,” the trails meander through the pristine woodlands of the Renville County Parks and along the beautiful Minnesota River. Many trails offer trail name and directional signage, with printed trail maps available on park kiosks and online.

**HORSEBACK RIDING:** Fun for the whole family! Saddle up and ride the beautiful trails and roads in Beaver Falls and Skalbekken.

**CAMPING:** From intimate valleys deep in the woods to a public campground with parking and water, we’ve got your ideal spot under the stars.

**FISHING:** Multiple public locations provide beginners and experts alike material for their next whopper of a fish tale! The river contains over 70 species of fish.

Make your camping reservations online at [www.renvillecountymn.gov](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov) or call 320-523-3747



Horseback Riding at Beaver Falls



Camping at Vicksburg



Hiking at Skalbekken

## ANDERSON LAKE

Anderson Lake County Park is a day use only park, and its principle feature is shoreline fishing. During times of high water, the park is subject to flooding.



Anderson Lake

## BEAVER FALLS

Beaver Falls County Park is divided into two parts: the horse camp and the recreation area.

The horse camp features wooded ravines, horse ties, manure bunkers and Beaver Creek. The upper half features the Beaver Creek Recreational Area. Both areas consist of shelters, restrooms, water (hand pump), fire pits and ample multi-use trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

*Beaver Creek was formed with the Minnesota River Valley and carved into the landscape by the massive Glacial River Warren. This glacial river occurred with the collapse of Lake Agassiz somewhere between 11,700 and 9,400 BC. The old town of Beaver Falls once boasted a population of 500 people. It was the seat of Renville County from 1860-1900. Remnants of some of the buildings remain next to the creek.*










Swimming at Beaver Falls



Horseback Riding at Beaver Falls

## Renville County Park Locations

-  **Anderson Lake County Park**  
63339 County Road 5,  
Franklin, MN 55333
-  **Beaver Falls County Park**  
31599 County Road 2,  
Morton, MN 56270
-  **Birch Coulee County Park**  
68638 County Road 18,  
Morton, MN 56270
-  **Lake Allie County Park**  
84068 County Road 24,  
Buffalo Lake, MN 55314
-  **Mack Lake County Park**  
60757 County Road 5,  
Fairfax, MN 55332
-  **Skalbekken County Park**  
79257 County Road 10,  
Sacred Heart, MN 56285
-  **Vicksburg County Park**  
73715 County Road 6,  
Renville, MN 56284

# Renville COUNTY PARKS

### RENVILLE COUNTY PARKS OFFICE


105 - 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 319  
Olivia, Minnesota 56277

320-523-3747

[ParksDept@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:ParksDept@renvillecountymn.gov)

[www.renvillecountymn.gov](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov)

 Like "Renville County Parks" on Facebook

 Subscribe to "rencoparks" on Snapchat



PARK FACILITY  
AMENITIES KEY:

 BOAT LANDING

 CAMPING

 FISHING

 HORSE CAMPS

 SHELTER/RESTROOMS

 WATER



Lake Allie Fishing Pier

### BIRCH COULEE



Birch Coulee County Park features a shelter, restrooms, water, picnic areas, a stone bridge, and trails. Both rustic camping and camping with water and electrical hook-ups are available. There is also a waste dump station.

*Birch Coulee, named after its paper birch trees, is better known for the neighboring Birch Coulee Battlefield where the Battle of Birch Coulee took place in 1862.*



Birch Coulee Bridge



Birch Coulee Shelter



Hiking at Birch Coulee



Lake Allie Aerial View



Lake Allie

### LAKE ALLIE



Lake Allie County Park amenities include a shelter, restrooms, picnic areas, and a fishing pier. Camping is available with 16 RV sites that include water and electrical hookups and a waste dump station. Lake Allie offers two public boat landings.

*Oakdale Golf Club is located less than a mile down the road.*



Lake Allie Shelter

### MACK LAKE



Mack Lake County Park offers a shelter that is great for hosting get-togethers. A restroom, water (hand pump), and boat landing on the Minnesota River are available. Rustic camping and fishing are the main draws to the park. Fish species that have been pulled from the waters include bass, bullhead, catfish, crappie, northern pike, sunfish, and walleye. During times of high water, the park is subject to flooding.



Rustic Camping at Mack Lake



Fishing at Mack Lake



Minnesota River View at Mack Lake



**Historic Log Cabin at Skalbekken**

**SKALBEKKEN**      

Skalbekken County Park offers scenic water views with rushing waters of Limbo Creek, Hawk Creek, and the Minnesota River.

This 400-acre park offers panoramic overlooks, a thick canopy of hardwood forest, and abundant wildlife viewing opportunities. Park amenities include shelters, restrooms, water (hand pump),

picnic areas, rustic camping areas, plus horse trails and camps with horse ties and manure bunkers.

*Skalbekken became Renville County's first park in 1967. The original deed belonged to Ole Skalbeck. Skalbeck's dovetail log cabin, originally built in 1868, was moved to the park in 1974.*



**Minnesota River View at Skalbekken**



**Hiking on Outcrops at Vicksburg**



**Horse Ties at Skalbekken**



**Snowshoeing at Skalbekken**



**Fishing at Vicksburg**

**VICKSBURG**      

Vicksburg County Park offers a shelter, water (hand pump), restrooms, rustic camping and picnic areas. The river is great for fishing, as well as canoeing and playing on the sandbar. The park features ancient granite and gneiss outcrops, a large sandbar, and oxbow ponds.

Thanks to the outcrops, Vicksburg is home to the Five Lined Skink, many

other reptiles, and Juniper Hairstreak Butterflies.

*Vicksburg was named after a town that was nearby from 1860 until 1905. The park was home to the county's first businesses: a trading post by French fur traders back in 1783, a fur trading post in 1833 run by Joseph Renville, and a freight-line company from the mid-1800s.*

**PARK FACILITY AMENITIES KEY:**

 **BOAT LANDING**

 **CAMPING**

 **FISHING**

 **HORSE CAMPS**

 **SHELTER/RESTROOMS**

 **WATER**



# Wellness Update

*Creating a worksite environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice for employees and their families.*

## Staff Circles with Andrew Peltz

Thursday, May 30  
Thursday, June 27  
Thursday, July 25

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
in GSC Room 121a

**Lunch and Learn**  
Thursday, May 9 • 12 p.m.

## Meal Planning 411

Class will focus on creating meals that utilize the time you have (and using leftovers to create delicious leftovers, that don't feel like leftovers). Recipes will be shared for the instant pot, crockpot, grill and more! [CLICK HERE](#) to sign-up!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Upcoming Blood Drives:

- Thursday, May 23 [CLICK HERE](#)
- Friday, July 26 [TO SIGN UP!](#)



**American  
Red Cross**

## CONVENE Monthly Webinars

**May 16** - *The First Minute: How to Start Conversations that Get Results*, with Chris Fenning

**June 13** - *The Mountain is You: Transforming Self-Sabotage to Self Mastery*, with Brianna Wiest

**July 18** - *How to Work with (Almost) Anyone*, with Michael Bungay Stanier

All Convene webinars are recorded. Past recordings can be found [HERE](#).



# Around Renville County:

Run  
Walk  
Bike  
Paddle



Swim  
Hike  
Row  
Skate

## 104 MILE CHALLENGE

Complete 104 miles between May 1 & October 31

Join the Fun!



Move the Body!



Beginning May 1, track your measurable physical activity distance on paper or digitally on an app. Reach 104 miles by 10/31/24 and submit your activity log to be entered in a drawing to win a (to be determined)

**AWESOME PRIZE!**

\*Participation with a minimum of half the miles (52) may count toward your Wellness Incentive in the Physical Tier.

**WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Lunch and Learns with Julie Remer
- Hydration Challenge
- Employee Summer Grill Out

# The Mental Health Benefits of Exercise

Incorporating exercise into your daily routine can help improve your mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, and a negative mood.



### Reduced Stress:

Physical activity reduces stress hormones and helps you cope



### More Energy:

Exercising can raise your heart rate, energy levels, and give you the vitality you need to get through the day



### Improved Memory:

Sharpen your focus and mental clarity at work or during any task with the power of endorphins



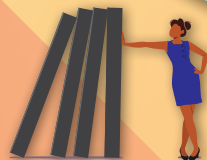
### Mood Boost:

Exercise increases the production of mood-boosting chemicals in the brain, promoting feelings of happiness



### Higher Self-Esteem:

Exercise has the ability to improve your confidence and make you feel more powerful



### Stronger Resilience:

Exercise is a healthy way to cope with mental and emotional challenges and redirect negative thoughts



### Better Sleep:

Exercise can regulate sleep patterns, reduce the time it takes to fall asleep, and promote better sleep quality

Source: Zywave, Inc.

# County Government Month Dress Up Days

Thank you to all staff who participated in County Government Month dress up days! Dress up days included hat day, dress your best day, Renville County color/logo day, sports day, and crazy day.



Above: Darci and Landon, Administration



Above: Jenny, Facilities and Elida, Human Services



Above: Tyler, Candy, Julissa, Kristen, Elida, and Lotti, Human Services



Right: Kjersti, Administration and Renee, Public Works



Above: Lotti, Ally, and Elida, Human Services



Left: Landon and Stefanie, Administration

Below: Matt, IT and Kjersti, Administration



Left: Kristen and Elida, Human Services

Right: Lisa H., Landon, Darci, and Steph, Administration



Right: Steph and Kjersti, Administration

Below: Jeff, Sheriff's Office



Right: Commissioners Robinson, Snow, Kramer, Hamre, and Erickson





# Hail Size Chart



While the National Weather Service encourages the actual measurement of hail size, oftentimes, an object-to-size conversion can provide important information about hail that fall from thunderstorms. Below you will find a list of common objects used to describe the diameter of observed hail.



0.25 inches		2.00 inches	
Pea		Lime	
0.75 inches		2.50 inches	
Penny		Tennis Ball	
1.00 inches		2.75 inches	
Quarter		Baseball	
1.50 inches		4.00 inches	
Ping Pong Ball		Softball	
1.75 inches		4.50 inches	
Golf Ball		Grapefruit	