



# Local Park Resources

Check out the local parks for excellent program ideas and meeting spaces for your Pack outings. Many locations are available and offer assisted program planning for your pack. Check out the many winter activities and remember these facilities when doing your annual pack planning!

## **Wright County Parks**

<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/department/parks/generalinfo.asp>

## **Three Rivers Park District**

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

<http://threeriversparks.org/events/Groups/holiday-cheer.aspx>

<http://www.threeriversparks.org/parks/baker-park/baker-near-wilderness.aspx>

## **Stearns County Parks**

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

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

## **Meeker County Parks**

[http://www.co.meeker.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B\\_LOC&SEC={F306AD16-C835-4592-8096-CB05F641A4E3}](http://www.co.meeker.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B_LOC&SEC={F306AD16-C835-4592-8096-CB05F641A4E3})

## **Pioneer Park**

<http://www.pioneerpark.org/calendar.html>

## Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement

[Overview](#)

[Groups](#)

[Rental Spaces](#)

**Hours:** Scheduled Visits Only

**Phone:** 763.694.7856

**Address:** 4001 County Road 24  
Maple Plain, MN 55359

[Directions](#)

### Settlement map

It's like getting out of town without actually leaving. Just 20 minutes from downtown Minneapolis is the Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement - Twin Cities Metro Environmental Center. This rustic learning center is situated within beautiful Baker Park Reserve. Here, guests can reconnect with nature and explore the outdoors.

Reservations for the Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement can be made up to one year in advance. *Note: returning groups have up to one week after their visit to confirm the same dates for the following year.* A deposit is required at the time of a reservation. Call or [email us](#) for more information and availability.

The Settlement features eight cabins, an expansive Lodge, miles of trails, many natural habitats, a rock climbing wall, nature and outdoor recreation classes, and hands-on activities for all ages. Each cabin has eight beds, a wood stove and a nearby cooking pad with a grill and seating area. The log lodge features a meeting and activity room that seats up to 120 people lecture-style and up to 80 for meals, a large stone fireplace, wrap-around porch, modern restrooms, and an institutional kitchen.

 [Find us on Facebook!](#)

### Good to Know

In addition to providing fun and educational programs for school and other groups, Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement is also host to **summer camps** and **birthday parties**.

### News

#### Event Volunteers Needed

Help with kids activities, face painting, hikes, planning, prep work, greeting/registration, refreshments, set-up, clean-up, etc.



### Upcoming Events within this Park

#### Family GPS \*

Hike into the woods to find hidden geocaches. Equi...

#### Family Snowshoeing - Ages 4+ \*

Explore the snowy banks of our parks, search for a...

#### Boy Scouts: Webelos Forester Badge

With a naturalist, investigate the forest and iden...

#### Winter Cabin Camping

Enjoy a rustic log cabin with up to seven other fa...

#### Boy Scouts: Webelos Naturalist Badge

Do birds have hollow bones? Are turtles amphibians...

[View Complete Event Listings](#)

## Upcoming Events



### 41st Annual Folkways of the Holidays

Discover the holiday traditions of 19th century Mi...  
 The Landing, Saturday, 12/7/2013 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 The Landing, Sunday, 12/8/2013 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 The Landing, Saturday, 12/14/2013 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 The Landing, Sunday, 12/15/2013 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 The Landing, Saturday, 12/21/2013 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 The Landing, Sunday, 12/22/2013 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Nature Hike With Santa \*

Help Santa look for the magic reindeer food. Decor...  
 Eastman Nature Center, Saturday, 12/7/2013 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Eastman Nature Center, Saturday, 12/7/2013 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
 Eastman Nature Center, Sunday, 12/8/2013 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



### Make a Gingerbread House \*

Make a sweet memory! Build and decorate a simple c...  
 Carl Kroening Interpretive Center, Saturday, 12/7/2013 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Lowry Nature Center, Sunday, 12/8/2013 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

### Natural Crafts \*

Unleash your creativity, select natural materials ...  
 Eastman Nature Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
 Eastman Nature Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
 Eastman Nature Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
 Eastman Nature Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

### Santa in the Holiday Forest \*

Do reindeer fly? Learn secrets of caribou and sear...  
 Carl Kroening Interpretive Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



### Candy Cane Hunt

Santa's elves have hidden candy canes around the p...  
 Silverwood Park, Saturday, 12/14/2013 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### Holiday Cards and Wrapping Paper \*

Bring your creativity to make your own holiday car...  
 Richardson Nature Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

### Swedish Christmas \*

Make Swedish cookies to snack on while creating a ...  
 Lowry Nature Center, Saturday, 12/14/2013 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

### Winter Solstice Celebration \*

Celebrate the longest night of the year with warmt...  
 Carl Kroening Interpretive Center, Saturday, 12/21/2013 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

### Winter Solstice Hike \*

The shortest day of the year! Enjoy the night sky ...  
 Cleary Lake Regional Park, Saturday, 12/21/2013 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

### Naturally Crafty With Ice \*

Decorate the New Year with ice! Investigate ice ou...  
 Richardson Nature Center, Sunday, 12/29/2013 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

### Snowman Making Contest

Get creative and build a snowman, snow-woman, or s...  
 Silverwood Park, Monday, 1/20/2014 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

### Candlelight & Chocolate

Enjoy a quiet retreat before or after your Valenti...  
 Richardson Nature Center, Friday, 2/14/2014 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Richardson Nature Center, Friday, 2/14/2014 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Richardson Nature Center, Friday, 2/14/2014 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Richardson Nature Center, Friday, 2/14/2014 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Richardson Nature Center, Friday, 2/14/2014 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM



# WRIGHT COUNTY PARKS



1901 Highway 25 North  
Buffalo Minnesota 55313

## Winter Activities 2014

- 1) **Friday, January 3, 2014**  
**Program: Lantern- Cross-Country Ski**  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** No Charge  
Join us at Ney Park for a great night of cross-country skiing. Lanterns will help provide light to the groomed trail. (Head lamps are handy!) The Nature Center will be open for refreshments, and a fire outside will help warm your toes! Ski Rentals Available. (Limited Quantities.)
  
- 2) **Saturday, January 4, 2014**  
**Program: Birds of Prey**  
**Speaker: University of Minnesota Raptor Center**  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** No Charge  
What are birds of prey? What is their role in the environment? This informative program will provide answers to these and other questions. The presentation will feature three raptors.
  
- 3) **Thursday, January 16, 2014 (Full Moon)**  
**Program: Moonlit Snowshoe Adventure**  
**Speaker:** David Grack Local Naturalist  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$5/Person **Ages 5+**  
**Pre-Registration Deadline: 1/10/2014, minimum class size 10, maximum 20**  
**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)  
It's time to discover winter's wonders off the beaten path as we venture to and through areas accessible only by snowshoe in winter. Join local naturalist David Grack on this snowshoe trek through Ney County Park. Either bring your own snowshoes or reserve a pair when you register.

- 4) **Friday, January 17, 2014**  
**Program: (Moonlit) Dog Sledding**  
**Speaker:** “Dutch” Stoffel Reitsma  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Times:** (4:00-6:00) (6:30-8:30)  
**Cost:** \$15/person  
**Pre-Registration Deadline: 1/10/2014, maximum 25 participants per session.**  
**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)  
Learn about the exciting sport of dog sledding then head to the trails to experience the thrill of being pulled on a sled by a team of Siberian huskies through the moonlit woods. End your outing with a cup of hot cocoa or cider.  
**It is very important everyone come dressed for the weather!**
- 5) **Saturday, January 18, 2014**  
**Program: Dog Sledding**  
**Speaker:** “Dutch” Stoffel Reitsma  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Times:** (8:30-10:30) (11:00-1:00) (2:00-4:00)  
**Cost:** \$15/person  
**Pre-Registration Deadline: 1/10/2014, maximum 25 participants per session.**  
**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)  
Learn about the exciting sport of dog sledding then head to the trails to experience the thrill of being pulled on a sled by a team of Siberian huskies through the woods. End your outing with a cup of hot cocoa or cider. **It is very important everyone come dressed for the weather!**
- 6) **Sunday, February 2, 2014**  
**Program: Family Snowshoe Hike**  
**Speaker:** David Grack  
**Time:** 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$5/Person  
**Maximum class size 20. (Pre-Registration Required)**  
**Pre-Registration Deadline: 1/24/2014**  
**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)  
It’s time to discover winter’s wonders off the beaten path as we venture to and through areas accessible only by snowshoe in winter. Join local naturalist David Grack on this snowshoe trek through Ney County Park. Either bring your own snowshoes or reserve a pair from the nature center.



- 7) **Saturday, February 8, 2014**  
**Program: Lantern Cross-Country Ski**  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
Join us at Ney Park for a great night of cross-country skiing. Lanterns will help provide light to the groomed trail. The Nature Center will be open for refreshments, and a fire outside will help warm your toes!  
Ski Rentals Available. (Limited Quantities.)
- 8) **Sunday, February 9, 2014**  
**Program: Woodworking for Wildlife**  
**Speaker:** Kurt Eich, Wright County Parks Naturalist  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$5/ birdfeeder (Limit- two feeders per family)  
**Pre-Registration Deadline: 1/31/2014, minimum class size 10, maximum 30**  
**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)  
A great program for the whole family! You will have the opportunity to build your own **Birdfeeder** and learn how to install and maintain it. Bring your own drill and a hammer or we'll provide one.
- 9) **Friday, February 14, 2014**  
**Program: Valentines Day Snowshoe/Boot Hike (Full Moon)**  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** No Charge  
Bring your sweetheart out for a romantic stroll through the woods around Ney pond. Lanterns will help provide light to the trail. The Nature Center will be open for refreshments, and a fire outside will help warm your toes!
- 10) **Saturday, March 1, 2014**  
**Program: Flyway Taxidermy**  
**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake  
**Time:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
**Pre-Registration Deadline: 2/21/2014**  
**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)  
What's inside of that stuffed duck? Are those the ducks real eyes?  
Flyway Taxidermys Two Time **Best in the World Taxidermist** (Jerry Froelich) will provide answers to these and other questions. An exciting program for the whole family to learn about the wonderful art of taxidermy.

11) **Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**Program: Buckthorn Hiking Sticks**

**Speaker:** Kurt Eich, Wright County Parks Naturalist

**Location:** Robert Ney Regional Park, Maple Lake

**Time:** 2:00-3:30 p.m.

**Ages 5 + (Class minimum 10, maximum 20)**

**Pre-Registration Deadline: 3/1/2014**

**Registration:** Contact the Wright County Parks Office at (763) 682-7693 or [marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us)

Select, cut, and create a buckthorn hiking stick. Learn about invasive species, how to identify buckthorn shrubs, and why it's important to remove them from the Park District.