



CASS LAKE AREA CHAMBER

2026 Visitors Guide



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Welcome to the Cass Lake Area



Cass Lake is a place that is one of those secret getaways, somewhere where families keep coming back to summer after summer. Some families make this their destination for family reunions, weddings and just any other excuse to get together and have fun while making more memories.

The area is known for its superb fishing on multiple lakes, and anglers don't even have to leave their boat to travel to any of the nine lakes in pursuit of a wide variety of species of fish. That includes the elusive walleye, the trophy muskie, scrappy northern pike and even mighty bass. All these lakes on the chain also offer a wide variety of panfish.

Hiking and biking opportunities are abundant in the area. Cass Lake is home to the Mi-Gi-Zi Trail, which is a 19-mile paved loop through the big red pines of the original Ten Section of the Chippewa National Forest and connects with the Paul Bunyan Trail and the Heartland Trail; together they offer a total of 133 miles of paved trail for your recreational endeavor.

If you run out of time to experience all the variety Cass Lake has to offer in the summer, we encourage you to come back for more great fun during the other seasons. With the thousands of acres in the Chippewa National Forest to explore, there's bound to be something out there for the hunter lovers to go after.

If the outdoors isn't your thing, the three area Casinos, offer games, food and entertainment.

We welcome you to join us in this northern paradise to take part in our abundance of natural resources, relax by the campfire and share in our local festivities.

This area has a long tradition of being a four-season paradise, and we invite you to experience all the fun lakes and forest area has to offer.

While in the area don't forget to take part in the Cass Lake Summer Celebration in downtown Cass Lake with many new things planned this year and some amazing food vendors, this is an event you won't want to miss – Saturday, July 11 in Cass Lake!

To make the most of your Cass Lake experience, we invite you to take advantage of everything the area has to offer, including this guide. I know you'll have a wonderful time exploring! Let us know about your stay by tagging us on social media at What's up Cass Lake.

Make your reservations today. Visit the Cass Lake Chamber of Commerce at www.casslake.com for a list of many resorts and businesses and be sure to make plans now to join in the fun all year long. We hope to see you soon!

Come to Cass Lake – we have it all!

Allan Olson - Director
www.casslake.com
 218-308-1056

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Cass Lake Stats

Population.....	686
Elevation.....	1330 ft. above sea level
Avg. Rainfall.....	26.4in
Avg. Snowfall.....	41.1in
Summer High.....	79.4°F
Summer Low.....	60.5°F
Winter High.....	22.2°F

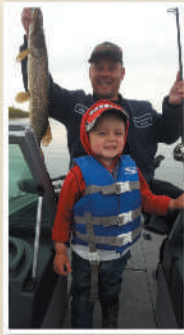
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY(Police, Fire, & Rescue) 911	Cass Lake City Hall 218-335-2238	Cass Lake Senior Citizen Center 218-335-6513
Poison Help 800-222-1222	330 2nd St NW, Cass Lake	219 Cedar Ave NW, Cass Lake
Fire Dept. (non-emergency) 218-335-6195	Cass Lake Community Library 218-335-8865	Chippewa Nat'l Forest 218-335-8600
213 Cedar Ave, Cass Lake	223 Cedar Ave, Cass Lake	200 Ash Ave., Cass Lake
Cass Co Sheriff (non-emergency) 218-335-2351	Cass Lake Animal Control 218-335-8277	CNF Camping Reservations..... 877-444-6777
330 2nd St. NW, Cass Lake	Cass Lake Museum & Logging Camp.. 218-335-6723	Pike Bay or Norway Beach Campgrounds
Leech Lake Police (non-emergency).... 218-335-8277	325 Lyle Chisholm Dr., Cass Lake	Cass Lake Area Chamber of Commerce .. 218-308-1056
190 Sail Star Dr, 6242 Upper Cass Front Rd.	Cass Lake Post Office 218-335-6361	PO Box 877, Cass Lake
	322 2nd St NW, Cass Lake	

Area Lakes

Cass Lake

Cass Lake, just northeast of the City of Cass Lake, is the largest of the eight lakes that make up the Cass Lake Chain of Lakes and the eighth largest lake in Minnesota. The scenery is incredible on the 15,596-acre lake with 26.9 miles of forested shoreline, sandy beaches and depths down to 120 feet deep in areas. Cass Lake is known for its fine populations of walleye, muskie, and a variety of pan fish. Whether you are after that trophy muskie or a mess of perch, Cass Lake's maze of steep drop-offs, mid-lake bars, and sunken islands are sure to be holding just what you have been dreaming of.



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6



JULY
18



AUG
21



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22



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4



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Area Lakes

Kitchi Lake

Kitchi Lake's 1,758 acres are easily accessible by boat from Cass Lake. The Turtle River and Kitchi Creek flow through Kitchi with access to Big and Little Rice Lakes. Kitchi Lake holds northern pike, bluegills, black crappies, perch, walleye, muskie and large mouth bass.

Leech Lake

Leech Lake is the third largest of Minnesota. It is 102,947.83 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 150 feet. The lake is known for its trophy muskie and walleye, as well as jumbo perch, crappie, northern pike, and largemouth bass.

Lake Winnibigoshish/Little Winnie

Lake Winnibigoshish or Big Winnie, as it more commonly known, is the fifth largest lake in Minnesota, covering more than 67,000 acres. It has an average depth of 15 feet, and a maximum depth of 78 feet. It was created in 1884, when the Lake Winnie Dam was built on the Mississippi River. Two other lakes were created in the area as well, Cut Foot Sioux and Little Winnie. Scenic unspoiled shoreline with many convenient boat accesses, and abundant walleye, northern, perch & bass await you. Lake Winnie is also host to a walleye fish hatchery. The Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources encourages people to visit the hatchery. To schedule a tour, call 218-327-4430

Little Winnibigoshish, known as "Little Winnie" is 945.29 acres in size and has the maximum depth of 28 feet. The wooded habitat of the Chippewa National Forest surrounding the lakes has the largest bald eagle population in the lower 48 states, & offers ample opportunities for hikers, photographers & naturalists alike.

Pike Bay

Pike Bay is connected directly to Cass Lake and is the southernmost lake of the Cass Lake Chain. Pike Bay is famous for its trophy walleye, muskie, and jumbo perch.



Star Island

Star Island is one of the most unique features of the Chippewa National Forest. Named for its star shape by the Ojibwe Indians, "Star Island" is the largest of four islands in Cass Lake. Star Island has over eight miles of shoreline and encompasses 980 acres of both public land and private homes. The Chippewa National Forest is responsible for managing more than three-fourths of the island for public, scenic, and recreational use. Unique to Star Island is the "Ten Section Area", which was one of the earliest designated portions of the national forest. The old growth trees are a favorite with the bald eagles. The earliest residents of Star Island are believed to be the Woodland people about 1,500 years ago.

Lake Windigo, sitting inside Star Island, is the only spring fed lake within a river fed lake in the northern hemisphere. Lake Windigo's unique location earned it a notation with "Ripley's Believe It or Not" in 1958. The lake covers 199 acres with a maximum depth of 25 feet.

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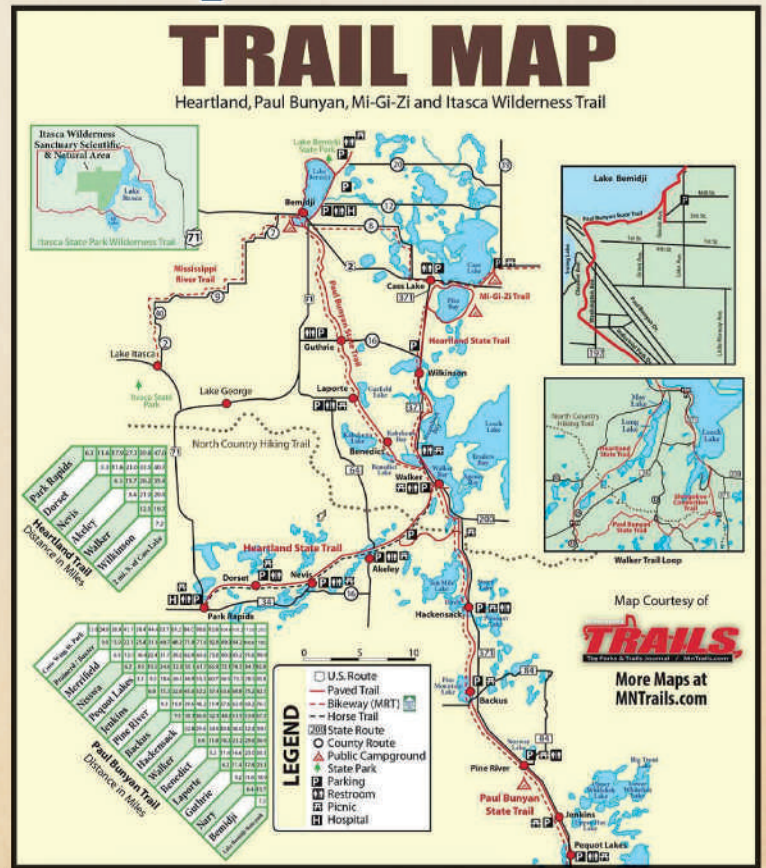
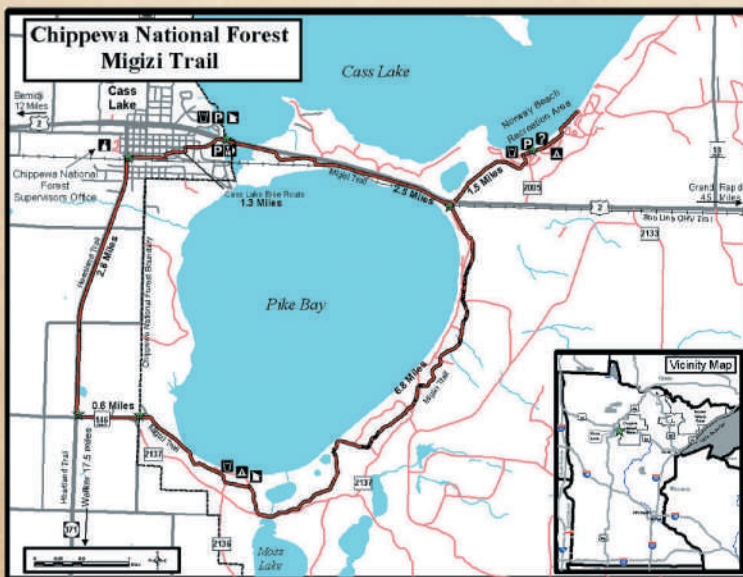
City of Cass Lake

Biking & Hiking

There is no better way to see the Chippewa National Forest than on a trail. Forty-one miles of paved bike trails line the west side of the forest and mountain bikers can travel over 43 miles of unpaved trails on the east side between Deer River and Marcell. The Migizi Trail circles Pike Bay in Cass Lake on a 19-mile paved loop. The Paul Bunyan Trail is 120 miles long that runs from Bemidji State Park to Crow Wing State Park by Brainerd with 112 miles currently paved. The Heartland Trail runs from Cass Lake to Park Rapids and is 47 miles of paved trail.

Include the kids when you hit the trail. Most Minnesota state trails are paved and constructed on former railroads, so they are generally level and kid-friendly.

For more information on Minnesota State Trails, go to: mndnr.gov/trails or call the MN Department of Natural Resources at 888-646-6367



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Attractions

Lady Slipper Scenic Byway

Lady Slipper Scenic Byway goes "over the river and through the woods," just like the song says. The river is the Mississippi River, where it passes out of Cass Lake as a wilderness stream, close to the beginning of its long journey. The woods are the pines, aspen, and birches of the Chippewa National Forest, which covers a wide expanse of north central Minnesota.

The byway itself is a 28-mile drive that follows County Road 39 between the small, northwoods town of Blackduck and Highway 2, east of the City of Cass Lake.

Along with scenic views of the Forest, the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway brings you to beaches, trails and an interesting piece of our country's history. This byway was recently renamed in honor of the state flower, the showy lady slipper. These lovely orchids, with pink pouches and white petals, grow in abundance along the byway's roadsides in late June, especially just north of Pennington.



© Explore Minnesota Tourism 2004. Artwork by Mike Wolnourka



Itasca State Park

In 1832, the Anishinaabe (meaning, "Original People") leader & guide, Ozawindib, from Star Island, led explorer Henry Schoolcraft to the source of the Mississippi River. Schoolcraft and a missionary companion, created the name, "Itasca" from the Latin words for "truth" and "head" (veritas caput). In the late 19th century, Jacob Brower, historian, anthropologist & land surveyor, came to the area to settle the dispute of the actual location of the Mississippi's headwaters. He saw how the region was being quickly transformed by logging, and was determined to protect some of the beautiful pine forests for future generations. His efforts led the State Legislature to establish Itasca as Minnesota's First State Park on April 20, 1891. (by a margin of only one vote!) Thankfully, the park now totals more than 32,000 acres and includes more than 100 lakes. Here you can walk across the mighty Mississippi as it starts its winding journey 2,552 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1965 it was named as a National Natural Landmark, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Explore, bike or hike the park's many scenic trails. Camp under the stars or stay at the historic Douglas Lodge or cabins. You don't want to miss visiting this historic park! For more information call 218-266-2100 or visit www.dnr.state.mn.us

Webster Bog

Travel the boardwalk, located near Webster Lake to see and learn about carnivorous bog plants from the interpretive signs along this half-mile trail.

Lost Forty

The Lost Forty area consists of virgin red and white pines that were untouched by the early loggers due to an error that incorrectly mapped the area as a lake. A one-mile self guided interpretive trail and picnic area are at the site. See the Lost Forty and see what northern Minnesota looked like before loggers came to the area in the late 1800's.

Cass Lake City Hall and License Center

Renewing Motor Vehicle and DNR

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

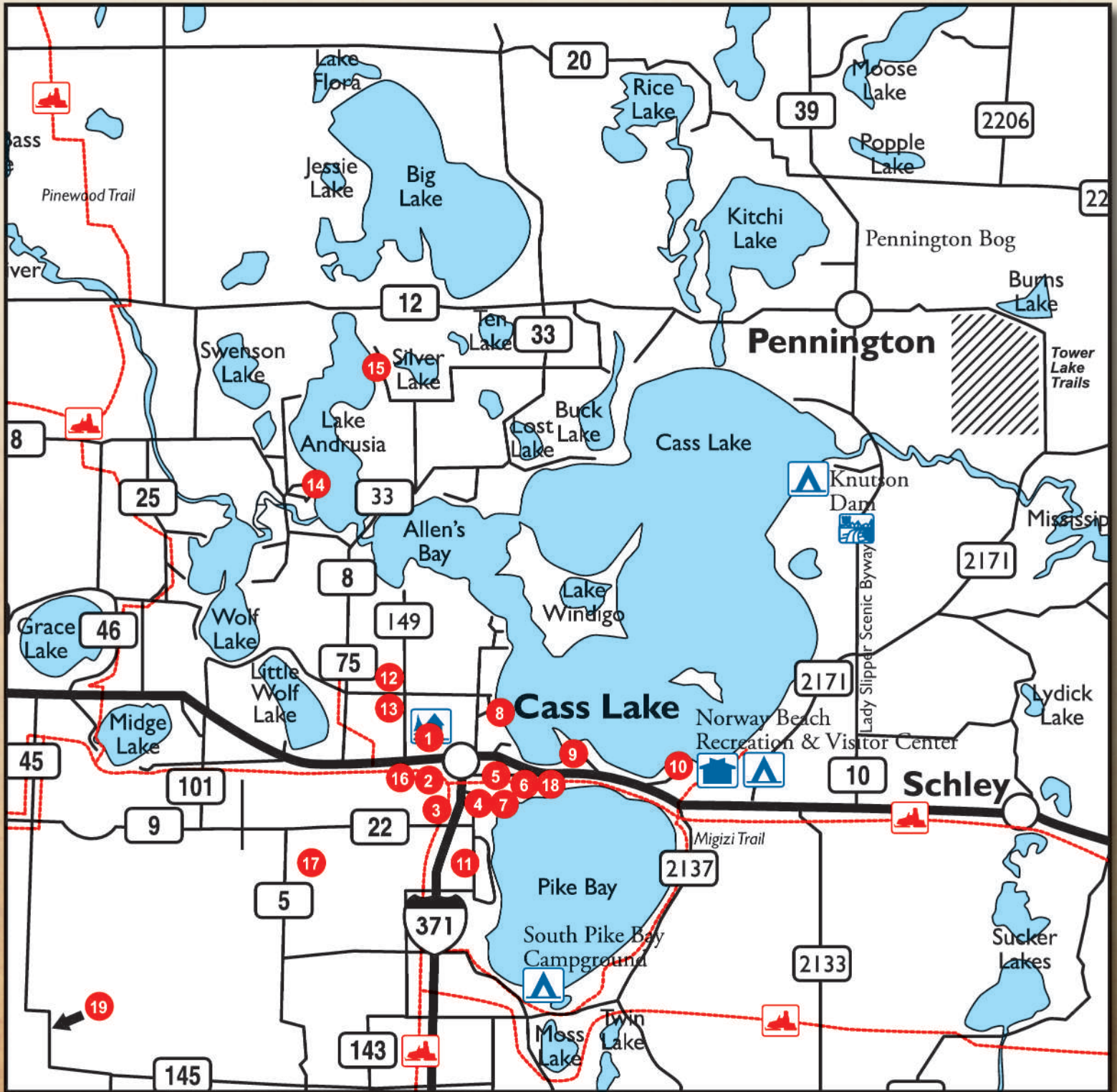
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| 7. Northern Dreams Gymnastics/Blender Box Cafe | 14. Joe's Lodge | |

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Activities

Amusement/Entertainment

The Cass Lake area features something for everyone. Be sure to visit one of the Casino's in the area. Bingo or other casino games may interest you. Stop in at one of the local restaurants/bars and get a sampling of live local music and entertainment. For big name acts and events try the Northern Lights Entertainment Center.

Canoeing & Kayaking

Travel the route of the Anishinabe Indians and the early explorers. The Chippewa National Forest offers several canoe & kayak routes, ranging from the mighty Mississippi and the unpredictable Leech Lake to the slow-moving Rice River and other small creeks. The "headwaters" of the Mississippi River is the third longest river in the world, and only a 45-minute drive away. It is one of those sites you must see.

Fishing

Fishing opener kicks off in May. With eight lakes on the Cass Lake Chain, Lake Winnie, Leech Lake, and the many surrounding lakes, we have some of the best fishing for walleye, northern pike, muskie, bass, perch, and pan fish. Whether you're after a fish dinner or a trophy for your wall, we have it all. For information on fish consumption for area lakes go to www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Four Wheeling / ATV

If trail riding on ATV's is your idea of a good time, then Cass Lake should be your destination. Cass Lake is home to the trailhead of the Soo Line North ATV Trail. The 148 mile trail is made up of three sections. The Trail is open to Class 2 ATV's from April 1 to November 30 with camping, lodging, and food available in the various towns along the trail.

Golfing

For all you golfers, we have a variety of courses, from amateur to professional, to suit your needs.

Hunting

Our area residents are very fortunate to live and work where they do. Many area sportsmen's, travel and hunt in many states, but some of the best all around hunting is right here in the Cass Lake area. We have a wide variety of hunting, from deer and bear to small game, and waterfowl. We are home to the Chippewa National Forest, which has over 400,000 acres, and is open to the public for hunting.



Ice Fishing

As soon as the lakes freeze over, the villages start to appear, and the angling and spearing begins. With many ice houses for rent, you can enjoy the peacefulness of ice fishing too.

The Cass Lake Community Library

The Library's unique stone building was built in the early 1940's by the local Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Commerce & Civic Association for use as a museum. The Library opened in June 1947 in the old City Hall, but moved across the street in November 1957 to occupy the basement of the museum. In 1969 the library joined the KRLS, and in June 1974 moved to the upstairs of the building, where it remains today. The library provides free wireless Internet access & public Internet computers & printing. Phone 218-335-8865 or email at: casslake@kris.org.



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Activities



Norway Beach Recreation Area

Norway Beach is located four miles east of Cass Lake, on Hwy 2. There are a variety of family activities available here, such as camping, interpretive trails, public swimming beaches, paved bike trails, boat ramps & reserveable picnic shelter. You can also visit the Norway Beach Visitor Center. For more information phone 218-335-8600.

Swimming / Snorkeling / Sailing

Our sandy beaches and lakes are perfect for relaxing in the sun, taking a dip in the lake, or snorkeling and discovering all the lakes wonderful life forms. Cass Lake is also great for sailing. With the right wind you can race around the islands or just set your sails on a slower pace ride to enjoy the sites.

Snowmobiling

Under a blanket of snow, the Chippewa National Forest becomes a land of unexplored adventures. Over 315 miles of motorized trails provide access for snowmobilers to 1,300 lakes, scenic woodlands, and frozen wetlands. Trails connect to nearly 200 miles of routes beyond the Forest. Snowmobilers may also travel on unplowed National Forest roads unless posted closed to recreational motor vehicle use.

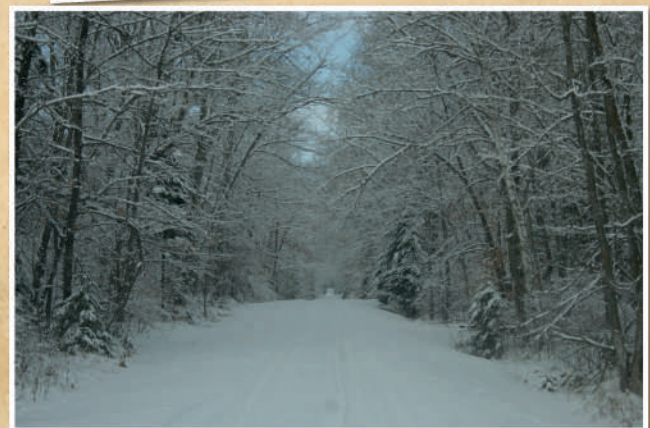


Pow Wow Celebrations

Pow Wow celebrations bring together traditional dancers from all over the United States and Canada, outfitted in historic dress and colors. Pow Wows are religious and social gatherings of the Indian people and visitors are invited to participate. The grand entry march that begins each Pow Wow is a spectacular display of colorful outfits and traditional meanings associated with the earth, birds, and wildlife; interpreted by the dancers. For more information, go to www.llojibwe.com or call 218-335-8200.

"Mino Bimaadiziwin"

(In Ojibway meaning, "A good Life")





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History & Culture



Cass Lake Museum

Experience some of Cass Lake's past in the historically accurate Lyle's Logging Camp. Replicas of equipment once used by loggers are on display and each building is furnished just as it was in the early days. The museum's six buildings were built virtually single handed by retired forester Lyle Chisholm. Adjacent to Lyle's Logging Camp is the Cass Lake Museum, formerly a railroad depot and one of the few remaining original Soo Line buildings in Minnesota.

Lyle's Logging Museum

Logging camps varied in size from accommodating just a few men, to up to 200 or more. For a number of years following the founding of Cass Lake, there were many men in camps of this type during the winter months in the surrounding area. The museum is open Memorial Weekend through Labor Day. Call for more information: 218-335-6723.



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

The Ojibwe Indians, later named Chippewa by the US Federal government, arrived in what is now Minnesota in the early 1700's. At the time of the white man's arrival into Minnesota, the Chippewa occupied over half of the state. Most of the occupied Indian lands in Minnesota were ceded to the Federal government in 1807 and through a series of legislative acts; several Indian Reservations were "reserved" for Native Americans. The Leech Lake Reservation is one of six reservations affiliated with the federally recognized Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; the fourth largest Tribe in the nation.

Chippewa National Forest

The Chippewa National Forest was the first National Forest established east of the Mississippi River in 1908. Originally known as the Minnesota National Forest, the name was changed in 1928 to honor the original inhabitants. The Forest has a rich history, ranging from prehistoric times to the early logging era and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) days.

The Forest boundary encompasses about 1.6 million acres. Water is abundant on the Chippewa, with over 1,300 lakes, 925 miles of streams, and 400,000 acres of wetlands. The Forest's landscape is a reminder of the glaciers, which blanketed northern Minnesota some 10,000 years ago.

As you visit the Chippewa National Forest you will observe a working forest. Recreation developments, wildlife habitat projects, and timber harvest are evident. Timber is harvested from about one percent of the Chippewa National Forest each year. Timber sales provide raw materials for the paper and wood industry, and improve wildlife habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and non-game species such as hawks, swallows, and sparrows. - CNF

History of the City of Cass Lake

In the Ojibway language, the lake was called "Gaa-Mi-Squa-Wah-Sko-Koo" meaning, "The place of the many red cedars". It was called "Lac du Cedre Rough" by the early fur traders, who in 1794, had built a post for the Northwest Fur Company at the entrance of the Red Cedar River.

The search for the source of the Mississippi River brought many explorers to the area. In 1820 the Cass Expedition, headed by Territorial Governor, Lewis Cass of Michigan, arrived, but was prevented from traveling further upstream due to the low water level that year. Not seeing the inflow of the river, Gov Cass designated the lake as the headwaters of the Mississippi. Upper Red Cedar Lake was renamed "Cass lake" in honor of this early explorer.



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Distance from Cass Lake

Bemidji*	17
Blackduck*	45
Brainerd*	82
Duluth*	135
Fargo*	134
Grand Forks*	129
International Falls.....	127
Minneapolis/St. Paul*	215
Walker	21

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