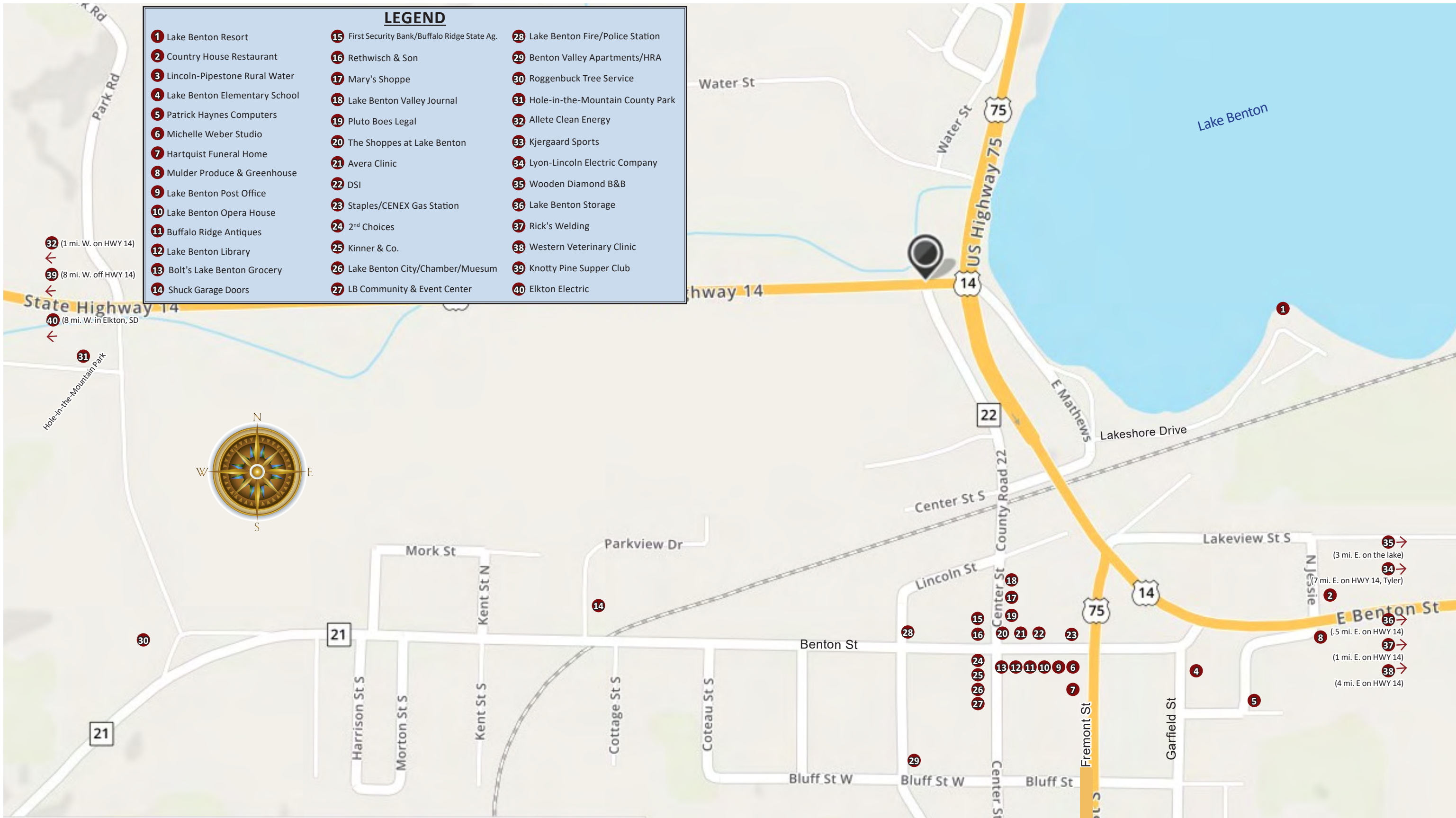


LAKE BENTON 56149

(4 mi. N. off HWY 75) **33** ↑ **3** (1 mi. N. off HWY 75)



LEGEND		
1 Lake Benton Resort	15 First Security Bank/Buffalo Ridge State Ag.	28 Lake Benton Fire/Police Station
2 Country House Restaurant	16 Rethwisch & Son	29 Benton Valley Apartments/HRA
3 Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water	17 Mary's Shoppe	30 Roggenbuck Tree Service
4 Lake Benton Elementary School	18 Lake Benton Valley Journal	31 Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park
5 Patrick Haynes Computers	19 Pluto Boes Legal	32 Allete Clean Energy
6 Michelle Weber Studio	20 The Shoppes at Lake Benton	33 Kjergaard Sports
7 Hartquist Funeral Home	21 Avera Clinic	34 Lyon-Lincoln Electric Company
8 Mulder Produce & Greenhouse	22 DSI	35 Wooden Diamond B&B
9 Lake Benton Post Office	23 Staples/CENEX Gas Station	36 Lake Benton Storage
10 Lake Benton Opera House	24 2 nd Choices	37 Rick's Welding
11 Buffalo Ridge Antiques	25 Kinner & Co.	38 Western Veterinary Clinic
12 Lake Benton Library	26 Lake Benton City/Chamber/Museum	39 Knotty Pine Supper Club
13 Bolt's Lake Benton Grocery	27 LB Community & Event Center	40 Elkton Electric
14 Shuck Garage Doors		



www.lakebenton.us | Chamber@LakeBenton.us
507-368-9577 Ext 2.

LAKE BENTON OPERA HOUSE

In December of 1895, a mere two weeks after fire had ravaged the original wooden opera house, a dedicated group of citizens rallied together to form an association aimed at financing the construction of "a fine new brick structure." Completed in late 1896, this new edifice stood out as one of the finest in its vicinity, featuring a spacious stage, a charming horseshoe-shaped balcony (still one of its most beloved attributes), private boxes for esteemed guests, and an advanced gas lighting system. It quickly became a central hub, hosting theatrical groups, traveling performers, school plays, concerts, church and political meetings, as well as events like July 4th and Decoration Day observations. The movable seats allowed for versatile use, accommodating dance, card parties, dinners, basketball games, and various community gatherings, including a few funerals for esteemed community leaders. From the 1920s to the early '50s, the Opera House even served as a regular venue for movie screenings.

However, the once-vibrant building succumbed to neglect and decay, exacerbated by a devastating hailstorm in 1963 that left it exposed to the elements. In 1970, a determined group of citizens joined forces to save the structure from impending demolition. Over the next five decades, ongoing restoration efforts focused on preserving the original ambiance of the beautiful old building. The maintenance initiatives ranged from roof repairs, tuckpointing, and heating and cooling system upgrades to periodic enhancements in lighting and sound.

In the early 2000s, a monumental task was achieved with the installation of new seats, accompanied by a thorough interior



repaint while the area was vacant. The exterior received attention, too, as the deterioration balcony was restored to its original form, and Victorian colors were applied to highlight previously overlooked decorative details.

In 1976, the Opera House was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization with the mission to restore the historical building and to promote and sponsor the arts. A significant milestone occurred on March 25, 1977, when it was added to The National Register of Historic Places. In 2002, the adjacent building, constructed in 1896, was acquired, and intensive restoration work began on its once-majestic facade. This building now serves as a storage space for costumes and sets, as well as a venue for dressing rooms, rehearsals, and board meetings.

Operating from March until mid-December, the Opera House offers a diverse program featuring plays, musicals, and sponsored talent. Much of its success is owed to the dedication of numerous volunteers who contribute to the ongoing preservation of the building, serve on the board of directors, participate as actors or in various technical roles, and assist with tasks such as ushering and reservations.

2025 Board Members

Alan Riedel - President
Dave Norgaard - Vice-President
Lisa Willert - Treasurer
Jodi Riedel - Secretary
Sabel Christensen - Director
Milo Downs - Director
Eric Fish - Director
Chesney Guetter - Director
Kathy Holck - Director
Jenna Kor - Director
Priscilla Osland - Director
Betsy Schmitt - Director
Tom Schmitt - Director
Sara Vogt - Director

For tickets visit us online at www.lakebentonoperahouse.org, email info@lboh.org or call 507-368-4620.

Find pictures, videos and upcoming events on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lakebentonoperahouse/about

"The SpongeBob Musical" -
2025



Children's
Theater - 2024



LAKE BENTON OPERA HOUSE



2026 Opera House Schedule

April 17-19, 24-26
June TBD
July 22-26, 29-Aug. 2
October 2-4, 9-11
November 17
December 5

"The Last Five Years"
Broadway Meets Lake Benton
"Into The Woods"
"Boing Boing"
Children's Theater
Christmas in Lake Benton

"Love Letters" - 2025



WWW.LAKEBENTONOPERAHOUSE.ORG
or email: info@lboh.org

For more information call: 507-368-4620

"Academia Nuts" - 2025



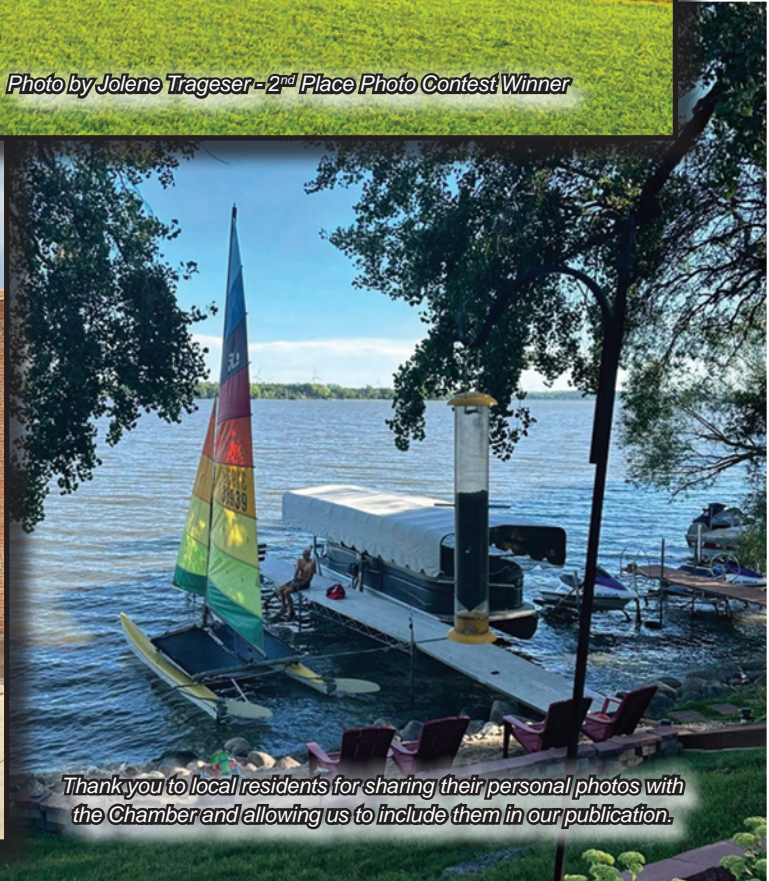
"Rent" - 2025



Vacationer's Paradise



Photo by Jolene Trageser - 2nd Place Photo Contest Winner



Thank you to local residents for sharing their personal photos with the Chamber and allowing us to include them in our publication.

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SADDLE HORSE HOLIDAY



The organizational meeting of the Dakota-Minnesota Saddle Horse Holiday was held at the Lorenzen Cafe in Lake Benton on March 23, 1947. Over the past years, the event has grown to include as many as eight hundred horses and a two-ring horse show that is held annually on the third Sunday of June. The Chamber and local businesses host various activities for families and children throughout the weekend celebration.

The weekend events begin with fireworks at dusk on Friday, family events starting Saturday including a parade at noon and the firemen's street dance. There is also a trail ride on Saturday, followed by the annual horse show located at Horse Hill at the Hole-in-the-Mountain Park in Lake Benton. There are numerous classes and games/contests that take place with trophies and ribbons awarded. Please join us for a weekend of fun! There is something for everyone.

Please contact the Tom Yockey at 507-820-0698 regarding the trail ride, horse show and parade.



SADDLE HORSE HOLIDAY

June 19-21, 2026 and
June 18-20, 2027

Fireworks - Family Fun Day - Hot Dog Day
- Cornhole Tournament - Car Show - Disc
Golf - Citizen and Organization of the Year
presentation - Fireman's Dance - Parade -
Horse Show

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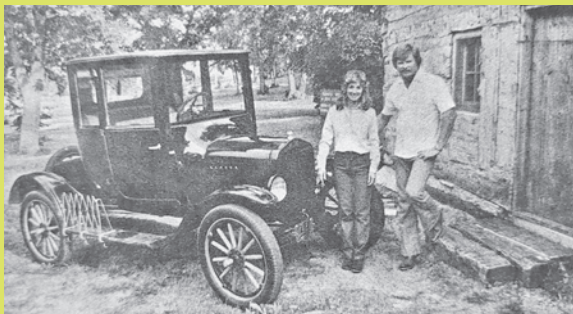
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www.lakebentonschools.org | Email: jeff.hansen@lb.k12.mn.us

THE HOLE-IN-THE-MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE

The Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie is an 1,157-acre prairie and oak savanna wildlife preserve located south of Lake Benton along Highway 75. The preserve is part of a larger glacial escarpment that runs from southwest Minnesota through northeast South Dakota. Locally, this hilly region is known as Buffalo Ridge.

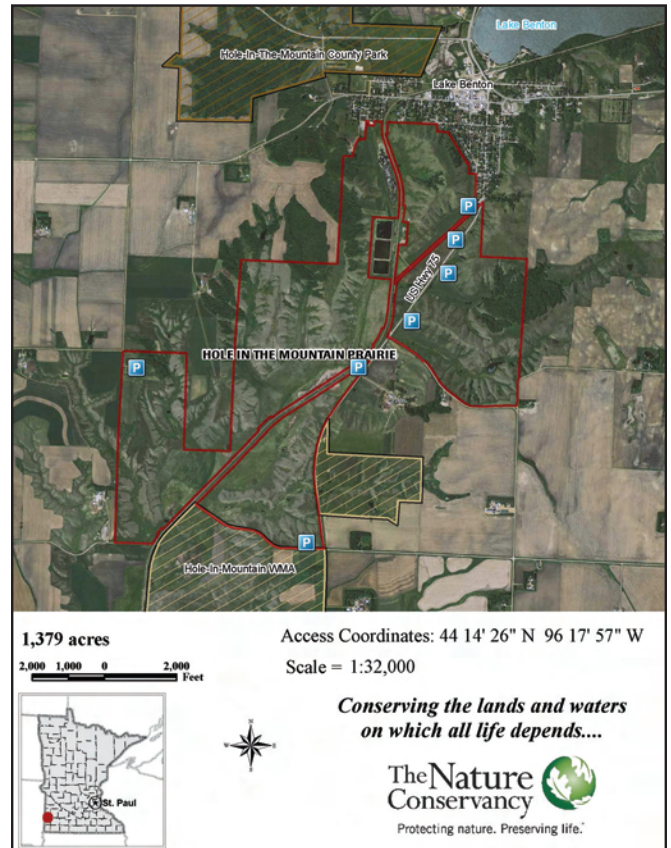
Its undulating terrain is carpeted in wildflowers and alive with birds and butterflies during summer. The preserve provides excellent habitat for rare prairie-dependent insects (including 25 species of butterflies), nesting waterfowl, passerines, raptors, and other grassland birds.

The Nature Conservancy encourages you to visit the preserve. We also strive to maintain as natural a setting as possible while minimizing wildlife disturbance. The preserve is open during daylight hours for hiking, birdwatching, photography, and any other non-consumptive uses. We remind you that access is walk-in only (no horses, mountain bikes, ATVs, or pets) from the roads around the preserve. Vehicles can be parked near the main sign near the railroad, one mile south of Lake Benton along Highway 75 or on the edge of the gravel road on the south side of the preserve. Removal of plants, animals, or any natural materials is prohibited. If you pack it in, please pack it out!

The preserve harbors more than 60 species of grasses, sedges, and rushes, 10 species of trees and shrubs and 200 species of wildflowers. Native plants include six of special concern: prairie moonwort, small-leaved pussytoes, small white lady's slipper, red threeawn, soft goldenrod, and slender milk-vetch.

Most unique to Hole-in-the Mountain are its butterflies, thriving on the native grasses and forbs protected here: The Dakota skipper and Ottoe skipper, both threatened species; and the Uncas skipper (*Hesperia uncas*), an endangered species. Visitors may also catch glimpses of a suite of prairie birds, mammals, and other insects including badger, coyote, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, red-tailed hawk, meadowlark, and bobolink.

The prairie valley is the headwaters of Flandreau Creek, which runs in a southwesterly direction toward the



Big Sioux River. Indians called the half-mile-wide valley “Mountain Pass” or “Hole-in-the-Mountain.” This preserve is owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy as part of a larger project that strives to enhance habitat across the Prairie Coteau region of Minnesota and South Dakota by working to protect native rangelands and wildlife through sound habitat management while working in partnership with the farmers, ranchers, and public agencies who share our interest in preserving this incredible landscape. Hole-In-The-Mountain Preserve represents in full beauty what the southern end of the larger 2.4-million-acre Prairie Coteau region might have looked like prior to European settlement.



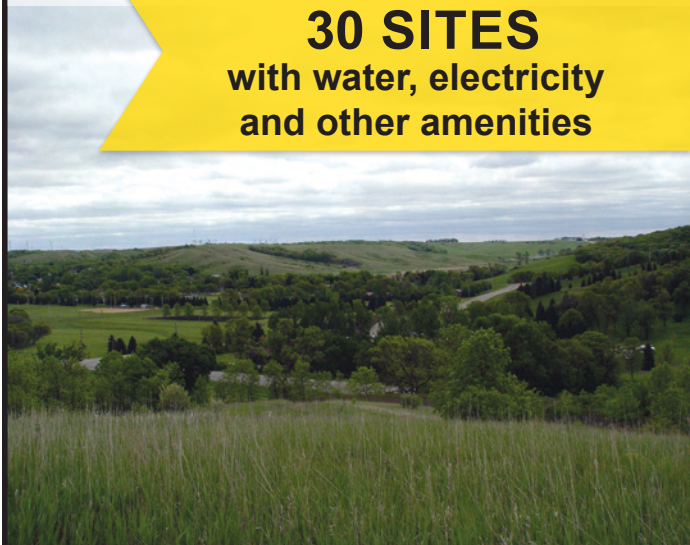


Hole-in-the-Mountain Park and Horse Camp

Hole in the Mountain Horse Camp features

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and other amenities

The view from the horse camp is spectacular. The camp has five to seven miles of trails, electrical hookups, showers and restrooms. Protected by trees, high atop the hills, this is a calm, relaxing atmosphere for both campers and animals.



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Located on East Highway 14, Lake Benton. Enjoy casual family dining, cocktails and a private party room. They also offer catering, take out and group packages. Open Thursday–Sunday evenings all year long. (507-368-4223) Facebook: CountryHouseSupperClub

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Located near Elkton, SD. The Knotty Pine offers a gourmet menu, specializing in their well-known prime rib and garlic mashed potatoes. Their sports bar is a great place to watch the games with your friends. They also offer a party room for special occasions. (507-548-3781 or 1-800-442-7977)

LAKE BENTON RESORT

Located on 325 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Benton. Delicious sit down and take-out food, including pizza, sandwiches, appetizers and more. Full bar in the restaurant area and off-sale liquors. (507-368-4399) Facebook: LakeBentonResort www.LakeBentonResort.com

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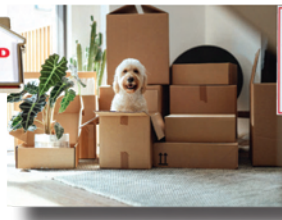
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2026

January 9
 January 31
 March 21
 March 28
 April 17-19, 24-26
 May 9
 May 22-23
 May 25
 June 6
 June 19-21
 June TBD
 July 11
 July TBD
 July 22-26, 29-August 2
 October 2-4, 9-11
 October 31
 November 11
 November 17
 December TBD
 December 5
 December 11
 December 12

2027

January 8 Sportsman's Club Annual Meeting - Fish Fry
 January 30 Sportsman's Club Ice Fishing Tournament
 March 20 Sportsman's Club Wild Game Feed
 March 27 LB Area Foundation Gala - LB Community & Event Center
 April TBD LB Opera House Spring Play - "The Last 5 Years" (2026)
 May 8 Minnesota Walleye Opener
 May 21-22 City Wide Rummage Sales
 May 31 Memorial Day Program
 June 5 Sportsmen's Club Annual Fishing Tournament
 June 18-20 Saddle Horse Holiday Weekend Celebration
 June TBD Lake Benton Opera House "Broadway Meets Lake Benton"
 July TBD Lake Benton Lake Association - Pork Sandwich Fundraiser/Member Drive
 July TBD Kjergaard Sports Buffalo Ridge Demo Shoot - Kjergaard Sports
 July TBD Lake Benton Opera House Summer Musical - "Into The Woods" (2026)
 October TBD Lake Benton Opera House Fall Production "Boing Boing" (2026)
 October 31 Lake Benton Chamber Halloween "Trick or Treat on Center Street"
 November 11 Veteran's Day Program - Lake Benton Elementary School
 November TBD Lake Benton Opera House Children's Theatre
 December TBD Lake Benton Businesses - Holiday Open House Events
 December TBD Lake Benton Opera House "Christmas in Lake Benton"
 December 10 Lake Benton Chamber Holiday Lighting Contest
 December 11 Santa Claus Day - Lake Benton Elementary School