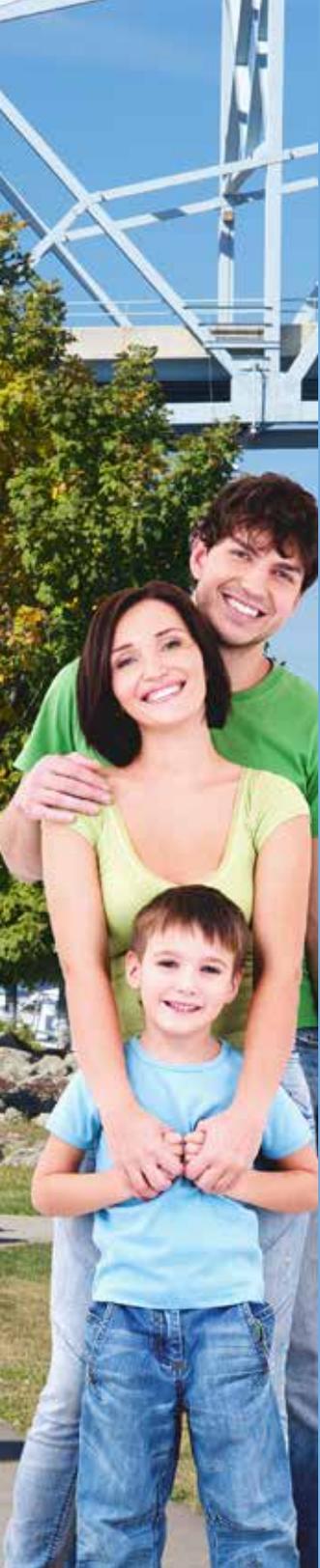


Wabasha: *Home Naturally...*





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Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live where you play and play where you work? If so, then Wabasha is the ideal place to call home. Known for its extraordinary natural beauty, Wabasha is nestled between the soaring limestone bluffs of southeastern Minnesota and the majestic Mississippi River. More than a picturesque historic river town, Wabasha offers unmatched recreational opportunities, affordable housing, excellent schools, world-class medical care, and high-speed digital connectivity. It is a family-oriented community with small town friendliness and security. Business owners still call their customers by name and children still play in backyards. If you value outdoor activities and the natural environment, no place is a better place to call home than Wabasha. Located at the nexus of the Mississippi, Chippewa, and Zumbro Rivers, there are unlimited opportunities for boating, canoeing, and kayaking while enjoying wildlife in the protected Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge. A golf course with stunning views, bike trails through unspoiled woodlands, ski and snow boarding venues, and "secret" fishing holes provide world-class recreation just outside your door. And high-speed digital connectivity means you can bring your job with you. Wabasha is home to many home-based and teleworkers. If urban sprawl and road-rage are not your style, come home to Wabasha.

"Long time residents thank us for moving here with our young family. We know that in a small community we are valued and that our work and volunteer efforts make a difference. What a beautiful town! Even by Minnesota standards it is a special place."

—Scott and Emily

Work and Professional Life

Wabasha has many opportunities to begin or further work and professional pursuits. Although the city itself has all of the advantages of a small town, it also has employers of significant size. Wabasha is home to the Wabasha Clinic, a Mayo Health System Facility, and to Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center, a part of Ministry Health Care. These organizations employ people with a wide variety of skills from administration to direct patient care. Wabasha is the seat of county government for Wabasha County which employs staff with skill sets from law enforcement to social services to administration. In addition, Wabasha also has employers in the areas of medical manufacturing and software/hardware design.

If you have ever had a desire to open a small business, Wabasha can be an ideal place for you. As a vibrant tourist community, abundant opportunities exist for boutique businesses and the cost to begin is affordable. Many heritage buildings in the downtown commercial district are suitable for small retail businesses.

"I was looking for a place to create the business I always dreamed of in fine art and graphic design. Wabasha provided the opportunity to experiment, take risks and grow while having a real connection to the community."

—Sue

Wabasha is home to many people who work from home for distant employers. The community is served by state-of-the-art fiber-optic, digital infrastructure. Unlimited bandwidth and rapid upload and download speeds are available at competitive costs. Local providers of digital services work closely with regional employers, including Mayo Clinic, to ensure that their standards for data security, speed, and reliability are acceptable for even the most sensitive telework.

It is easier than ever to bring your job to Wabasha.

If you prefer volunteer work to paid employment, a small town like Wabasha will welcome you with open arms. Volunteers support all aspects of community life and individuals can truly make a visible and lasting impact here.

Wabasha Arts & Culture

Wabasha is home to a wide variety of cultural activities, many of them organized by the Rivers Junction Arts Council. Among the most popular is the summer music series held every Friday evening under the bridge in Heritage Park. Regional musicians fill the air with both traditional favorites and contemporary works, hundreds of people fill the park with lawn chairs and picnic baskets, and children dance around the stage. The Arts Council also sponsors regular art exhibits including painting, glass and ceramic, and textile works. If reading is your passion, a number of book clubs provide the opportunity to share books, including the Back Door Book Club which is open to all and often combines books with companion movie screenings at the local Broadway Theatre.

Wabasha has maintained most of its 19th century architecture and many of its business owners have restored their buildings to their original beauty. Especially attractive are the large arched windows and ornate painted tin ceilings. During the autumn season the entire community becomes a work of art with harvest themed decorations throughout the downtown district. Visitors come from around the region to view what has become a popular attraction.

Wabasha is located just minutes away from Stockholm, Wisconsin, a nationally known, art-centered community with numerous galleries and boutique shops. Each July the village hosts the Stockholm Art Festival, drawing thousands of art-lovers to its sophisticated exhibits. Stockholm also regularly welcomes regional performing artists at their Wide Spot Performing Art Center.

Our neighboring community of Winona has many cultural programs including the Great River Shakespeare Festival, the Beethoven Festival, the Page Series at St. Mary's University, the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, and the Frozen Film Festival.

The Wabasha-Kellogg School offers many artistic and cultural opportunities to their students. From an accomplished speech and drama program to an award-winning dance team, its small size allows students with all levels of ability to participate in its programs and to grow their talents. Winona State University, St. Mary's University, the University of Minnesota-Rochester Center, the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Eau Claire, and Viterbo College are all within an hour's drive of Wabasha.

"Wabasha is the ideal combination of small town community with great access to metropolitan cultural arts. As a musician, I am able to perform as a member of the Winona Symphony and the Sheldon Brass Band in Red Wing while living in the pristine beauty of rural Wabasha."

—John



GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL; WINONA, MN
STOCKHOLM ART FESTIVAL; STOCKHOLM, MN

COMMUNITY SCULPTURE ATTRACTIONS; WABASHA, MN
RJAC'S SUMMER MUSIC SERIES; WABASHA, MN



Housing

The city of Wabasha and its immediate surroundings offer a wide range of options for family housing. Whether you are looking for an existing home, a heritage home, or want to build your own, Wabasha provides multiple opportunities. Neighborhoods within the city are clean and well-kept and many are within walking distance of local retail shops. Neighbors know neighbors and new residents are warmly welcomed. If you are looking for a larger plot of land that takes advantage of the area's natural assets, these are also available with either an existing home or ready-to-build options. And if a historical property is more your style, homes of Victorian vintage await.

If Wabasha's recreational opportunities are important to you, housing and recreation are easily linked. Existing homes and building sites are available adjacent to The Bluffs @ Coffee Mill, our local golf course, and Coffee Mill Ski and Snow Board Resort. A variety of housing options exist within walking distance of the city's two marinas and river-adjacent homes provide ever-changing views of the Mississippi River.

The housing market in the Wabasha area is historically healthy and stable and has not been subject to excessive swings in value found in some communities. Property costs start below \$100,000 and range upward to \$500,000. Two local banks are prepared to work with prospective homeowners to provide appropriate financing.

"We found a house with a wonderful local history and good bones and enjoyed bringing it back to its former glory. We are on a lovely, wide, tree-lined street just two blocks from the Mississippi River. We can walk downtown in minutes."

—David and Catherine

Schools and Education

The Wabasha community takes great pride in its schools which include both public and private options. Wabasha-Kellogg Public School provides services to children from age three through high school. A half-day, everyday pre-school program is available to three-year-olds and full-day, everyday pre-school is available for children beginning at age four. Pre-school programs include kindergarten readiness as well as guided play.

W-K School has enviable pupil-to-teacher ratios which average only fifteen students to each teacher, allowing for ample individual attention and customized learning options. Teachers are highly trained with half of instructional staff having advanced degrees. Technology-based learning tools are well integrated into the classroom and all freshmen students receive an i-Pad for their personal learning use. Currently, W-K School offers seven college-level courses including several in the science and math areas.

Parents are valued as partners in their child's education and active parent advisory groups support learning at both the elementary and secondary levels.

W-K students perform well on state standardized tests. They also volunteer and intern in the community at high rates as well as participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, speech and drama, and music. The majority of W-K graduates go on to post-secondary education and are prepared to pursue a wide variety of career paths.

For families that prefer religious education for their children, St. Felix School provides services to children from pre-school through the sixth grade under the sponsorship of the Catholic Diocese of Winona.

"After raising our older children overseas we were concerned about the transition to public high school for our son. Thanks to caring teachers and students in the W-K system he felt welcomed and quickly became involved in theatre, music and athletics. We were thrilled and have high regard for everyone at Wabasha-Kellogg Schools."

—Amy



Healthcare

In spite of its small size, Wabasha residents have local access to world-class medical and dental care. The Wabasha Clinic, part of Mayo Clinic Health System, is home to well-trained and experienced primary care and family practice physicians as well as advanced practice nurses and a certified nurse-midwife. Experienced triage nurses are available to answer your questions over the phone and if an appointment is needed, often it can be scheduled the same day. Clinic staff provides a broad range of holistic and preventative services as well as diagnostic and acute care. Continuity of care from an individual provider of your choice ensures that you know your provider and they know you and your unique needs.

In collaboration with the Wabasha Clinic, Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center-Ministry Health Care provides a full scope of health services that meet the varying needs of residents of all ages. The broad continuum includes inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitation, outreach and senior services, including home care, assisted living and long-term care services. Twenty-four hour emergency care in a Level 4 Trauma Center ensures residents have local access to critical care. If specialty services are needed, local providers coordinate timely access to Mayo Clinic Rochester or other area medical centers.

Patients regularly rate their satisfaction with the services and practitioners at Wabasha Clinic and Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center as excellent according to third-party research firms. In addition, healthcare quality and safety are ranked at high levels by Medicare, the Minnesota Hospital Association, and other reporting agencies.

Excellent dental care is available in the community from three dental offices. Services include preventative care, routine intervention, dental surgery, and cosmetic dentistry.

Wabasha received noteworthy recognition when it was named the first Fit City in the State of Minnesota based upon its commitment to community health, wellness, and active living. Adding to this distinction, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranks Wabasha in the top tier of Minnesota counties for overall health including both clinical care and its social, economic and physical environment.

"The staff at Saint Elizabeth's provided exceptional care during the birth of our son. We appreciate the extra attention they gave to our four year old daughter which eased the transition of having a new sibling. Everyone was so caring, patient, professional and compassionate and made our hospital experience the best it could have been."

— Erik and Amber



SAINT ELIZABETHS MEDICAL CENTER
MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM-WABASHA
WABASHA SUPPORTS A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



Recreation

Tourists come from all over the globe to experience the scenic beauty and recreational abundance that the Wabasha area offers. Tucked between rugged limestone bluffs and the convergence of the Chippewa, Zumbro, and Mississippi Rivers, Wabasha is unique in its wide variety of opportunities for outdoor living. Home to two marinas and a well-maintained municipal boat launch, boating has been synonymous with Wabasha since William and Charles Mayo moored their pleasure boats here in the early 1900's. Boaters enjoy the ever-changing river with its wide channel and quiet backwaters. Water ski, jet ski, or intertube if you're adventurous. Or put down anchor on one of the numerous sand bars in the area and enjoy a picnic or overnight stay. Near-by Lake Pepin is a favorite for sailing. If paddling is more your style, incredible opportunities abound for canoeing and kayaking. The winding channels of the Mississippi River backwaters, the Chippewa and the Zumbro Rivers are particularly beautiful when experienced in this way and routes accommodate both experienced and novice alike. Guided tours are also available. Or leave all equipment aside and enjoy Wabasha's Beach Park with its sandy access to the Mississippi River itself.

If you prefer rocks and trails to rivers, the soaring bluffs in the Wabasha area are unmatched for hiking, mountain biking, and cross country skiing. Kruger Forest, just 3 miles outside of Wabasha, offers seven miles of hiking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding trails through forested back country. Mountain bikers find great biking on the nearby Snake Creek Trail and Trout Valley Trail.

If pedaling is your passion, Wabasha is well known for its numerous bicycling opportunities. It is located at the center of the Mississippi River Trail, a State of Minnesota supported biking venue. Wabasha also has a large and active local biking club that organizes everything from weekly rides to vacation biking trips. Wabasha is a center-piece of both the Annual Tour de Pepin, a multi-stage ride circling Lake Pepin and the Lake Pepin 3-Speed Tour, a more leisurely themed event. Wabasha itself is bike friendly for both adults and children.

The Wabasha area is a mecca for hunting and fishing. Habitat is ideal for hunting deer, wild turkey, duck, and grouse. And the Wabasha area has been known for generations for its fishing. From Camp Lacupolis on the north to Bass Camp on the south, fishing resorts bring skilled anglers from around the country. Wabasha is home to several national fishing contests each year as well as a regional ice-fishing contest every winter. During the summer months children walk to Malone Park to hone their fishing skills in its adjacent stream.

Wabasha is also home to The Bluffs @ Coffee Mill, rated as the second best golf course in all of Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Affordable and accessible, the course has panoramic views of the Mississippi River valley for miles to the north and east. The golf team at Wabasha-Kellogg High School calls this course home, and summer golf camps are available for young golfers.

Recreational activities don't stop when the snow flies. Wabasha boasts the Coffee Mill Ski and Snow Board Resort, a unique bowl-shaped venue sheltered from cold winds, with a 425 foot vertical drop, short lift lines, and affordable fees. Home to its own race team, Coffee Mill is an ideal place for both young skiers and their parents. The Wabasha area also has numerous groomed trails for snowmobilers and opportunities for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing abound.

Wabasha is known around the world as the home to the National Eagle Center, a landmark museum and interpretive center dedicated to the eagle and other wildlife indigenous to the Upper Mississippi River watershed. Nearly half of all water fowl and many song birds use the Mississippi River flyway for migration and the National Eagle Center offers unmatched opportunities for viewing them as well as exhibits, field-trips, and programming.

No matter what your outdoor recreation passion, Wabasha provides opportunities to pursue it.



Prime Location

Wabasha's prime location offers easy driving access to the resources of other regional cities.

Drive Time (approximate):

FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 1 hour, 45 minutes

FROM ROCHESTER, MN – 45 minutes

FROM WINONA, MN – 30 minutes

FROM LA CROSSE, WI – 60 minutes

FROM EAU CLAIRE, WI – 60 minutes

TWIN CITIES

EAU CLAIRE, WI

MINNESOTA

WABASHA

WISCONSIN



WINONA

ROCHESTER

LA CROSSE, WI

Learn more about Wabasha at: www.wabasha.org

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