

Lake Wobegon Trails Seasons

Spring Snow slips away as the trails wake up for the new season...Streams, lakes and ponds open up and ...ducks, geese, loons and Sand Hill Cranes begin to return for summer. Marsh Marigolds are the first to bloom along with Wild Roses, Wild Geraniums, Goatsbeard, Jack in the Pulpit, Blue Flag Iris. Choke Cherries, raspberries, wild strawberries bloom hinting of summer sweets! Morel mushrooms pop up ... if you can find them!

Summer Everything's green and the wildflower colors are starting to show... Showy Pink & White Lady Slippers, Cow Parsnips, Queen Anne's Lace, sun flowers, Purple and White prairie flowers. Fruits are forming ... hazelnuts, raspberries, strawberries, cherries, black berries. Staghorn Sumac forms new flowers for a sweet pink lemonade!

Fall Staghorn Sumac leaves are the first to turn bright red hinting that fall is coming... Hazelnuts are ripe and ready to dry, apples, wild grapes, a few cherries are left to pick. The reds, yellows, oranges and burgundy color leaves warn of the coming winter. Hen of the Wood and Puffball Mushrooms begin to show and are ready to pick. Blackbirds, ducks, geese and loons flock up for their migration south and the deer's coat color turns from summer rust to winter tan.

Winter It's time for the trails to rest for the winter, hibernation and rejuvenation are the watch words now.

It's peaceful, quiet and white! Although Grand Central Station is open for business and the Tamarack bogs are frozen, snow storms on the trail are the best experience ever!

Lake Wobegon Trails Events and Activities

Lake Wobegon Trails Association Sponsored Events



Caramel Roll Ride
Annual bicycle ride 2nd
Saturday in June starts
in Albany MN



Spunk Day's Lady Slipper Nature Ride
Annual bicycle ride 3rd
Saturday in June starts
in Avon MN



Caramel Apple Ride
Annual bicycle ride
1st Saturday in October
starts alternate years in
Melrose and Sauk Centre MN

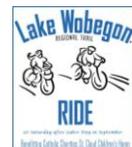
Other Lake Wobegon Trails Events



Lake Wobegon Trail Marathon
2nd Saturday
in May Holdingford to St Joseph

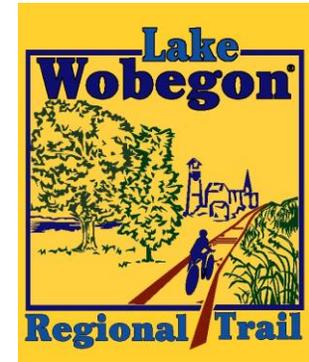


Lake Wobegon Trail Walking Marathon & Half Marathon
3rd Saturday of May Melrose to St Joseph



Lake Wobegon Trail Ride for Catholic Charities Children's Home
1st Saturday after Labor Day

Lake Wobegon Trails of Minnesota



"Where all our visitors are above average."

Cliff Borgerding
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www.Lakewobegontrails.com
Regular website

www.lwtrails.com
Mobile website
For Smart Phones



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History of the Trails

Red River Ox Carts were the first transportation options to bring furs to St Paul to sell to world markets in 16th and 17th century.

Railroads were the next to come with James J Hill being the most prolific railroad builder in Minnesota ... the Empire Builder. His companies laid the first track from Sauk Rapids to Melrose in 1872 and then on to Alexandria 1878, to Fergus Falls in 1879. The Soo Line was built in 1908-09 to bring grain to the twin ports of Duluth and Superior on Lake Superior.

Trails became the new transportation use when the railroads were abandoned in the 1980's and the steel rails were pulled up in the 1990's. MNDOT purchased the corridor from BNSF Railroad. The Albany Jaycees, local service clubs and snowmobile clubs pushed the Stearns County Board of Commissioners to use the corridor for the trails.

Lake Wobegon Trails Association (LWTA) 501(c)3 was formed in the 1990's by the Albany Jaycees to raise \$150,000 with help from many other groups to prove to the county board that the project was viable and had community support to build it. The trail opened September 30th, 1998 with Garrison Keillor coming up to celebrate the event in Albany MN. The Association's mission is to continue to expand the trails and connections to other trails and to promote and support our trail communities and their businesses.

Our goal to make the *Lake Wobegon Trails* the best trails system in Minnesota and known worldwide!

Unique Information

Lake Wobegon Trails owes its name to Garrison Keillor's "News From Lake Wobegon" monologue from Minnesota Public Radio's *The Prairie Home Companion* radio show. Keillor's stories are based on his experience living in small towns in central Minnesota in the 1960-1970's. He worked at St John's University for KNOW where Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) got its start under the direction of SJU President Colman Barry and Bill Kling who would become president of MPR until his retirement in 2012.

Clinton was the name of St Joseph when the railroad was built.

Collegeville Station was the train depot for many students who attended St John's.

Spunk Lakes was the name of Avon named for the Native American Chief whose community occupied the area before European settlement

Two Rivers was the original name of the Albany community

Oak Station was the name of Freeport it changed when the railroad freight kept getting mixed up with Osakis. The Postmaster in Freeport was from Freeport IL and that's where the name came from.

Gopher Prairie was the name of the town Sinclair Lewis used in his Pulitzer prize winning novel *Main Street* based on his experiences growing up in Sauk Centre.

Staggerford was the fictional town in Jon Hassler's novels based on life in small town Minnesota. It was based on Holdingford. He was the Writer-in-Residence at SJU from 1980-2004.

Future of Lake Wobegon Trails

The "Saintly Seven" mile connection to St Cloud is the most anticipated next step. This will bring easy access to the trails from the St Cloud Metro communities and provide a connection to the Mississippi River Trail, Beaver Island Trail and eventually other trails in the area.

The Dairyland Trail is being built from Brooten to Albany and will connect to the LWT just west of Albany.

The Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail (CRVST) is planned to connect the Paul Bunyan Trail to the Soo Line Trail just NE of Bowlus which accesses the LWT.

The ROCORI Trail between Rockville, Cold Spring and Richmond will eventually connect to the Lake Wobegon Trail by roads or if the trail can be extended from Rockville it could connect to the LWT in Waite Park.

The Glacial Lakes Trail between Roscoe and Willmar has a 15 mile stretch to complete the connection to the ROCORI Trail.

All these connected trails will eventually create 300 miles connected trail system in central Minnesota!

LWTA is looking to expand its membership and change its structure to help provide a broader base to achieve its goals.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Lake Wobegon Trails Association and helping make a difference in LWT system please contact:

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