

Why would I love living in this community?

Our community offers a strong sense of belonging – for those who are looking for a different way of life, leaving the pace of big-city living behind. This is a great place to raise your family – a very safe, small town where relationships are authentic, and quality of living is key. A vibrant, active community focused on great schools, small class sizes and excellent education and arts and theater opportunities.

Would I have easy access to shopping?

Absolutely! We are very conveniently located only 30 minutes from the Brainerd Lakes area – with access to major retailers, shopping and restaurants. Located only 2 hours from Minneapolis/St. Paul – we are close enough for an easy day trip to take in a major sporting event, shopping, theaters or a fun weekend get-away.

Our communities offer vibrant businesses – meet your friends uptown at your favorite coffee shop or internet café, get a pedicure, have a lunch date and spend the afternoon browsing the fun shops.

UPS drivers know the area and are great at delivering all your online purchases.

Large locally owned grocery stores offer a wide variety of produce and organic foods to meet most dietary needs. You may purchase fresh, locally grown produce at area Farmers Markets or at a local organic foods store. There's a local apple orchard in the area plus berry picking farms.

What would I find most challenging about living in a small town?

Small town living offers its own unique challenges – often sacrificing a small amount of convenience in exchange for more peaceful living – a higher quality of life.

While there are fewer restaurant and eating out options, there are plenty of festivals and social events offering great food and entertainment. The annual fish house parade and chili cook-off, Wild Rice Days with all-you-can-eat corn on the cob, and Hunters Suppers to name a few.

With fewer distractions it's easier to focus on more time with family and friends – dinner parties, home-cooked meals and cooking classes through community ed.

Our north woods area is home to several high quality arts and cultural venues. While you won't have access to concerts featuring superstars, local casinos feature some prominent musicians who tour

nationally. Live classical music is within an hour's drive at the Lakes Area Musical Festival in Brainerd or the Itasca Symphony at the Reif Center in Grand Rapids, which features some big name pop music stars through the year.

We invite you to visit and check this beautiful and vibrant area out. We love it here and hope you will too!

What are the seasons really like “up north”?

If you are an outdoor enthusiast, this is the place to be! Whatever the season, we live and play outdoors.

Summer – There is only one word for summers spent up north...magical! Summers are full of community festivals, hours spent swimming, fishing and boating. Evenings watching Little League, with an ice cream cone by the river. This is where our community shines.

Fall – There is nothing like a Friday night hometown football game, cuddled up under layers of fleece and flannel - stories told around campfires and afternoons spent hunting, bird watching, and taking long walks through a forest alive with color.

Winter – If you enjoy a genuine snow season and all of the fun that goes along with it, this is the place for you! Up north winters are defined by high school wrestling, dance and basketball games – snowmobiling, skiing and snowboarding trips – afternoons full of ice fishing, sledding and ice skating. We bundle up in down parkas and have fun. Do you need an SUV or 4-wheel drive to live here? Not required, but often a good idea!

Spring – Yes, we all get a little bit of cabin fever as spring approaches. On the first 40-degree day, windows are open and lunch breaks are spent outside walking and enjoying the sunshine! Or tapping trees for maple syrup. If you have never tasted fresh maple syrup, add this to your list when you move up north!