

Why should I live in the Aitkin area?

The Aitkin area offers a strong sense of community and 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. Aitkin is located only 2 hours from Minneapolis/St. Paul – close enough for an easy day trip to take in a major sporting, shopping, theaters or a fun weekend get-away.

Aitkin offers vibrant downtown 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 store with a wide variety of produce, organic foods to meet most dietary needs.

Summer Farmer's Market in downtown Aitkin.

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.

There are fewer restaurant and eating out options – life focuses more at home with family and friends – dinner parties, home-cooked meals and cooking classes through community ed.

The only way to know for sure is to come and check us 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! We live outdoors – whatever the season – we know how to have fun!

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 – we can admit, 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!