



## THE WASECA COMMUNITY

The Waseca area offers a culturally rich, economically diverse, and hassle-free environment to enjoy life, work productively, and raise families.

Derived from an Indian name meaning "fertile lands," Waseca has indeed been fertile ground not only for agricultural production, but also for its major industries of printing, communications, electronics, food processing, and metal fabrication. First settled in the 1850s, Waseca has grown from a crossroads village of farming, trade, and county government to a community of 9,738. Waseca has built an economy strong in technology, manufacturing, industry support, local services, and specialty retail.

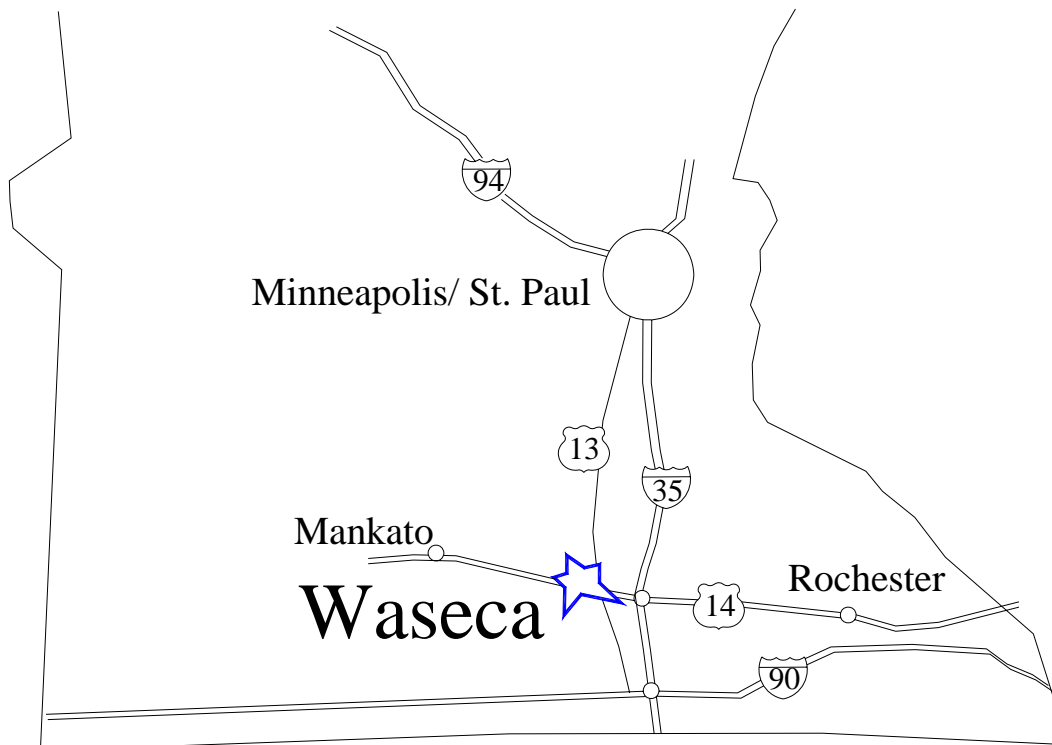
Qualities that have earned the Waseca area high marks as a place to live and work include:

- A very low crime rate. Waseca has the lowest crime rate of the larger cities in the area.
- A climate for entrepreneurial growth and specialty shops. The City of Waseca, the City of Waseca Economic Development Authority, the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, and Waseca County will collaborate to provide information and technical assistance for the furtherance of entrepreneurs, as well as for continued development of established firms.

- Virtually no commuting time. For many Wasecans, distance between home and work can be measured in less than 10 minutes.
- Commitment to Community betterment. Major organizations include the Waseca Area Foundation, building a community endowment to assist worthwhile educational, social, cultural, recreational, and community beautification projects; Waseca Arts Council; United Way; and area churches and civic clubs.
- Moderate cost of living. A median family income of \$50,105, an average home value of \$126,500, and proximity to work-places, goods and services help to produce an environment where residents can live well, but at a much lower cost than what might be found in a large metropolitan area.

## LOCATION

Waseca is located 13 miles west of highway I-35, 30 miles north of I-90, and 60 miles south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.





## AREA TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Waseca has a calendar full of exciting events throughout the year. Firefighters' Fish Fry & Street Dance. Fourth of July fireworks. Annual band festival parade and field competition. Sleigh & Cutter parade and festivities. Fishing and boating on area lakes. Snowmobiling on groomed trails. Golf and mini-golf. Cross country skiing, hiking, and walking. Quiet relaxation. County Historical Museum. County Fair. Nature reserves. Hunting, swimming and camping. Farmamerica, the agricultural interpretive center. Waseca Arts Center. A unique selection of antique and specialty shops.

*For more information on area tourism, call Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at 507-835-3260.*

## PARKS & RECREATION

An outstanding range and abundance of recreational opportunities are yours in Waseca. A 100 plus acre park system, a trail system (with planned expansions), and beautiful Waseca area lakes provide the setting for recreational enjoyment by Wasecans and visitors alike. Highlights include the Waseca Water Park, Clear Lake Park & Swimming Beach, Waseca Lakeside Golf & Country Club and Kiesler's Clear Lake Campground.

Waseca Community Education/Recreation Department offers an extensive year-round youth and adult recreation program, attracting hundreds of participants annually. This program is funded by the City of Waseca and operated under a joint powers agreement with the School District.

## ARTS & CULTURE

**The Waseca Arts Council, Inc.** provides diverse and frequent cultural opportunities, including Picture Person Art Appreciation series in the schools; Architecture Tour; children's and adults' art, photography, and writing classes; theatre and music productions and, the annual *Sights and Sounds of Christmas House Walk*. **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council** in Waseca serves a nine-county area as a major source of grants and arts funding information.

*Waseca Art Center features monthly exhibits, as well as a permanent art collection.*

The **Waseca County Historical Society** has an estimated collection size of over 30,000 items housed its three buildings. The museum, 315 2nd Avenue NE, is in an historic church building. Hodgson Agricultural Hall and an original one-room school house are located at the Waseca County Fair Grounds. The Bailey House is a research center located across 4<sup>th</sup> Street from the museum. The Historical Society, with one of the best genealogical libraries in the area, specializes in the history of the county and its people.

**Farmamerica** - the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center - a living history farm, depicts American family farm and rural life from the 1850s through today. The Center provides an attractive, historic setting for special events, as well as for seasonal festivals and tours.

**Minneapolis/Saint Paul cultural and entertainment opportunities** lie within 75 minutes' drive from Waseca — Minnesota Zoo, Vikings, Twins, Timberwolves, Guthrie Theatre, Orchestra Hall, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Science Museum, and, of course, the Mall of America.



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Waseca Community Education programs attest to the value of lifelong learning experiences with a diverse array of opportunities serving thousands of area residents annually. Some of the programs offered through Community Education include:

- Adult/Student Enrichment Classes
- Adult Diploma and Credit Recovery Classes
- Early Childhood Family Education
- Extended Day Classes
- Adult Handicapped Opportunities
- Youth and Adult Recreation Program (indoor and outdoor sports programs)
- Youth Service Learning (YSL)
- English as a Second Language Classes
- GED Certificate classes
- Theatre, including Children's Theatre.

## CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

Waseca County has approximately 100 family day care homes and one day care center, ELM Care Daycare Center. There are also a number of religious based day cares in the community. Each day care home has an average capacity per home of 10.

In addition to licensed day care homes and facilities, other alternatives selected by working parents include in-home care and placement of a child or children with a home-based parent.

Before- & after-school care (Extended Day Program) is offered by the Waseca School District, through its Community Education Department, at Hartley Elementary School. A bus transports students from other elementary schools.

**Early Childhood Family Education** offered through the Community Education Program provides a wide range of opportunities for early childhood classes for children ages 0-6 and their parents, including age 3-6 pre-school opportunities.

**Pre-Schools** offering programs for children ages 3-6 are Hansel & Gretel Pre-School, Children's House Montessori, and Waseca County Head Start. ELM Care Daycare Center also provides pre-school learning.

**Waseca County Collaborative for Families** is a one-stop place for accessing resources available to expectant parents and families with children up to age 18. The Collaborative provides outreach to expectant parents, early pre-natal care, and support for families' efforts to raise their children to be successful and contributing members of the community.

## POST SECONDARY TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The **University of St. Thomas (St. Paul)**, through its **Owatonna Campus** at the Gainey Conference Center (15 minutes from Waseca) offers an MBA Saturday program for the working student (weekday evenings in summer). Many Waseca executives, managers, and professionals are currently in the Program.

**Mankato State University, State Technical College Campuses, and three private colleges** lie within 40 miles of Waseca. Degrees available include accounting, business administration, chemistry, computer science, electrical engineering, industrial and technical studies, mass communications, mathematics, medical technology, and physics. The **technical colleges** cover vocational training for every occupational category utilized by area businesses.

Technical colleges offer **customized training for** employees, developed in cooperation with the employer. For more information on customized training services available in the Waseca area, call the Customized Training office at any of the following campuses: 1-800-722-9359 (Mankato); 1-800-333-2584 (Albert Lea); 1-800-422-0391 (Faribault).