Great Northern Depot

The Wayzata Depot was built in 1901 at the Great Northern Railway. Designed by Samuel Bieritz in the picturesque Italianate style, it was said to be the “handsomest” depot on the entire line when it was completed. The depot was modern with indoor休息室s and a water fountain, vines swirled the depot, with scheduled stops until 1905, when it became a “flag stop” serviced by request only. The railway finally closed the depot at an official stop in 1971 and donated it to the City of Wayzata in 1972. The depot was named for the Minneapolis St. Louis Road of historic interest. It is home to the Great Northern Wayzata Depot Museum.

Moore | Ramseyton | Minnetonka Boat Works

One of the earliest local boatbuilders was Moore-Orundal. Arriving in Wayzata in the late 1870s, he started boatworks at the site. The boatworks included a building, including Five Swans gifts. The bank was demolished in 2019, but the front façade was saved books from the library. The site was eventually redeveloped as a lakeside education center.

Wayzata State Bank | Five Swans

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Village Hall

Wayzata Village Hall was built at the corner of Lake Street and Broadway Avenue in 1901. The building housed the council chambers, library, post office, and equipment for the council for most purposes (originally, it housed the village jail). In 1915, but not before local residents noticed the building to be in need of repair. The building eventually evolvedcover as a commercial property. Today, it is home to Five Swans gifts.

Tibbetts Home | Minnetonka Hospital

Founded in 1853 by E.W. Tibbetts’ father, a member of the Minnesota Committee of Safety, the hospital was located in the heart of downtown Wayzata. The hospital was later renamed after the Tibbetts family. The hospital was a well-known hospital that provided care to the local community. The hospital was eventually closed in 1967.

Wayzata History Museum

The Wayzata History Museum is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to discover, collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of the greater Wayzata area. The Society promotes local history by operating the Wayzata Depot Museum (April through December), publishing a quarterly newsletter called the Telegraph, and hosting community events.

To learn more about events, membership, and volunteering opportunities, visit www.wayzatathamistoricalsociety.org.

Wayzata Consolidated School | Widtmen Elementary School

The first school was at the intersection of Blue Street and Wayzata Avenue. It was later moved to its present site. The present building was completed in December of that year. It was a one-room schoolhouse with a central classroom and small rooms for additional students. The school was eventually reorganized as the Twin Lakes School.

Saint Bartholomew’s Catholic Church

The church was established in 1857 by the Franciscan Father Pierre-Jean De Smet. The church was later replaced by a new building in 1895. The current church was built in 1908 and is considered one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the United States.

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Wayside Park 

Wayside Park was originally named Wayzata Park and was opened in 1908. It was later renamed Charles L. Hargreaves Park in honor of Charles L. Hargreaves, a local businessman and philanthropist. The park was later renamed to its current name in 1979.

Minnetonka’s first church was built in 1853 at the corner of Lake Street and Broadway Avenue. A small church was built at the site and was later replaced by a larger church in 1881. The current church was built in 1908 and is considered one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the United States.

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the eastern tip of Big Island. This is where the streetcar steamboat Minnehaha was lost to the sea in 1919.

More than 100 shipwrecks and other submerged objects lie at the bottom of Lake Minnetonka, protected by law from being looted or disturbed. They cannot be raised from the bottom of Lake Minnetonka for more than five decades. In 1988, a salvage team discovered the wreck of Minnehaha and raised her back to the surface. After a complete restoration, Minnehaha returned to passenger service in 1996 and operated as a steamship until 2019. Minnehaha's loss is a stark reminder of what can happen when we fail to protect our marine heritage.

Ferndale
In 1896, a small hotel called the Harrington Inn opened on the southwestern shore of Wayzata Bay in the area of Ferndale. The Harrington Inn was the first hotel built within the limits of Wayzata and continued to operate until 1949. Because of its beautiful location and relatively close proximity to Lake Minnetonka, many prominent businessmen and their families chose to build grand country estates along this stretch of shoreline in the 1890s and early 1900s. Most of these large estates were situated on the eastern tip of Big Island. This is where the streetcar steamboat Minnehaha is believed to have been lost to the sea in 1919.

Shipwreck Graveyard
More than 100 shipwrecks and other submerged objects lie at the bottom of Lake Minnetonka, protected by law from being looted or disturbed. They cannot be raised from the bottom of Lake Minnetonka for more than five decades. In 1988, a salvage team discovered the wreck of Minnehaha and raised her back to the surface. After a complete restoration, Minnehaha returned to passenger service in 1996 and operated as a steamship until 2019. Minnehaha's loss is a stark reminder of what can happen when we fail to protect our marine heritage.

Big Island Park
Big Island Park was an amusement park built by the Twin City Rapid Transit Company in 1906. The 65-acre park was lit with electric lights and housed buildings designed to showcase the latest in architecture. The centerpiece of the park was a 185-foot-tall water tower and light beacon modeled after the Tower of Seville in Spain. Attractions included a roller coaster, a carousel, and a flume ride modeled after the Tower of Seville in Spain. Attractions included a roller coaster, a carousel, and a flume ride.

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Jamestown Park
The Museum of Lake Minnetonka is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and operate the streetcar steamboat Minnehaha as an authentic, living museum and community icon. Minnehaha has been out of service since 2019 due to a loss of lake access. She now needs a new ramp where she can be launched into the water. To learn more about the effort to find Minnehaha a new launch site and return her to passenger service, visit www.streetcarsteamboat.org.

Rail Meets Water
The first train arrived in Wayzata on August 24, 1867, when the Saint Cloud #7 steam locomotive pulled two passenger cars into town on the new Saint Paul & Pacific Railroad. The Saint Paul & Pacific made two trains per day to Wayzata, the end of the line at the time, and the train was turned around by hand on a turntable for the return trip to Saint Paul. The Saint Paul & Pacific made two trains per day to Wayzata, the end of the line at the time, and the train was turned around by hand on a turntable for the return trip.

3 Arlington Hotel
The Arlington Hotel was once one of several resort hotels built on Lake Minnetonka during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From its foundation in 1879, it hosted celebrities and hosted events for the rich and famous. In 1980, the Arlington Hotel closed its doors and was purchased by a salvage team to be restored as a museum.

4 Spirit Knob | Breezy Point
Spirit Knob was a place of spiritual significance for the Native people who lived on this land for thousands of years. According to the Dakota language, Dakota people referred to this place as “Breezy Point.” The Dakota name was later translated to “Spirit Knob” by the Euro-American settlers.

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