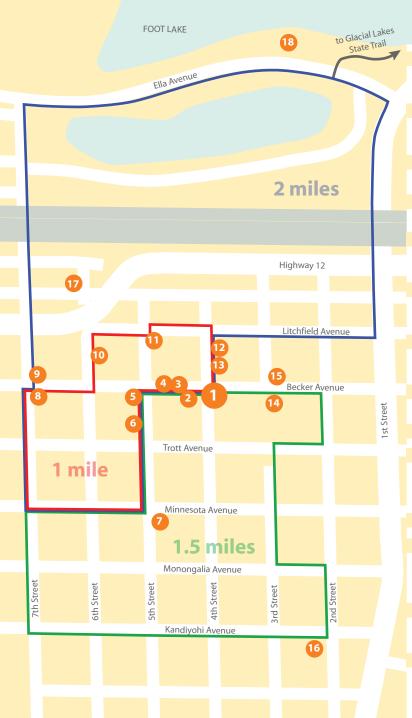




As you follow the Willmar Walks around town, take a look at these 18 points of interest.

The dots tell you which routes go past each site.



Willmar is the county seat of Kandiyohi County. It was incorporated in 1874 and is the economic hub of west central Minnesota.

Willmar Walks includes three routes that wind through downtown. Along the way they pass some of Willmar's many points of interest.

Red • 1 mile

Green • 1.5 miles

Blue • 2 miles

Willmar Walks is brought to you by:









- 2. The first Bethel Church dates from 1891, but the cornerstone of the present building was laid in 1927. Local art is displayed in the church and can be viewed by the public. • • •
- 3. Becker Market (Thursdays, June to September) is a place where growers, producers, and artisans sell their products directly to the public. • • •
- 4. 414 Becker was built in 1952 by Vinje Church as an education wing. It is in the art deco style and has poured concrete walls and floors. • • •
- 5. The first Kandiyohi County Courthouse was built in 1890. In 1966 a new two story building was completed (the third floor was added later). Standing in front is the Chief Kandiyohi Statue. • • •
- 6. The Willmar Public Library was also built in 1966. In 1972 the library joined others to form the Crow River Regional Library, and in 1983 joined the Pioneerland Library System . The building was expanded in 1999. • • •
- 7. Willmar Education and Arts Center, built in 1919 and expanded in 1940, was originally a school. This performing arts center is also home to the Willmar Area Art Council's offices and gallery. • • •
- 8. The Corner Cottage is a bed and breakfast in a 1914 house. The A'Venue is an event space in a remodeled 1920 house. • •
- 9. The Frost House, from the 1870s, is the oldest house in Willmar.
- 10. The Willmar War Memorial Auditorium features engraved stones from each state to honor Minnesota veterans. It was built between 1935 and 1938. The sculpture over the entrance was commissioned as part of the Depression-era Federal Art Project. •
- 11. The unusual glazed brick Mikkelson building dates from 1913. •
- 12. The Tribune/Engan Building (1920) was originally a modern printing house that wrote a special interest journal for Swedish-Americans all over the country. Engan Associates Architects restored the building for their offices in 2004. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. ••
- 13. The Barn Theatre actually did start out by putting on plays in a barn. In 1988 it moved to this location -- a former JC Penney -- where it stages multiple plays each year. • •
- 14. Rice Memorial Hospital is a regional center of health and wellness. It was built on the site of the home of A.E. and Sophia Rice, whose son, "Soldier of Fortune" Cushman Rice, left funds and land to the city for a hospital in honor of his parents. It opened in 1937. •
- 15. Accounting firm Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing was founded in 1985. Local art is displayed in the lobby and can be viewed during business hours. •
- 16. Rice Park has two lighted tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a shelter, grills, a playground, horseshoe courts, and a basketball area. •
- 17. 310 3rd Street SW was built in 1865 and is the heart of "old town." It is the oldest commercial building in downtown Willmar. •
- 18. Thompson Park, on the shore of Foot Lake, features Flags of Honor, a picnic area, fireplaces, and a bike path connecting to Robbins Island Park and the Glacial Lakes State Trail.