Restaurants

Buffalo Wild Wings
9221 Cedar Street, Monticello.....(763) 295-9464
www.buffalowildwings.com

Cornerstone Café & Catering Company
154 West Broadway, Monticello.....(763) 295-3888
www.cornerstonecafe.com

Culver's of Monticello
9395 State Hwy 25, Monticello.....(763) 295-9536
www.culvers.com

Perkin's
700 Pine Street, Monticello.....(763) 295-4400
www.perkins.com

River City Extreme
3875 School Blvd., Monticello..... (763) 295-3390
www.rivercityextreme.com

Russell's on the Lake
111 Jefferson Blvd., Big Lake.....(763) 263-6111
www.russellsonthelake.com

Von Hanson's Meats
9851 Hart Blvd., Monticello.....(763) 295-0310
www.vonhansons.com

Accommodations

Best Western Chelsea Inn & Suites
89 Chelsea Road, Monticello.....(763) 271-8880
www.bestwestern.com/chelseainnandsuites

Country Inn & Suites- Albertville
6554 Lamplight Drive, Albertville .....(763) 463-2600
www.countryinns.com/albertvillemn

Days Inn of Monticello
200 East Oakwood Drive, Monticello ..... (763) 295-1111
www.the.daysinn.com/11879

Super 8
1114 Cedar Street, Monticello.....(763) 295-5900
www.super8.com/motel/37018

The Historic Rand House Bed & Breakfast
506 Old Testimonial Road, Monticello .....(763) 295-6037
www.randhouse.com

Retail Businesses

Back 2 Health Chiropractic
1125 South Cedar Street Suite 109, Monticello .....(763) 295-9111
www.back2healthmn.com

EXIT Realty Nexus
2143 Northdale Blvd, Minneapolis.....(763) 548-1400
www.davidnelsonexit.com

Grand Casino Mille Lacs
777 Grand Ave, Onamia.....(320) 532-8240
www.grandcasinomn.com

Integrated Recycling Technologies
219 Dundas Road, Monticello.....(763) 295-6992
www.irtmn.com

Kjellberg's Business Center
4300 School Blvd, Monticello .....(763) 271-6525
www.kjellbergsmonticellobusinesscenter.com

Live, Laugh & Bloom
155 West Broadway, Monticello .....(763) 314-0552
www.livelaughandbloom.com

Lommel Photography
17540 Cty Road 50 SE, Big Lake .....(763) 263-6974
www.lommelphotography.com

Monticello Bait & Tackle
1213 Hwy 25 South, Monticello .....(763) 295-1187
www.montibait.com

Monticello Community Center
505 Walnut Street, Monticello .....(763) 295-2954
www.monticellocommunitycenter.com

Mosford, Barthel & Co., PLC.
305 Cedar Street Suite 201, Monticello .....(763) 295-4800
www.mbcocpa.com

New River Medical Center
1013 Hart Blvd., Monticello.....(763) 295-2945
www.newrivermedical.com

Preferred Title, Inc.
113 West Broadway, Monticello .....(763) 295-6140
www.preferredtitle.biz

Retail Businesses

Smith, Paulson, O'Donnell & Associates, PLC
201 West 7th Street, Monticello .....(763) 295-2107
www.www.spolawyers.com

St. Benedict's Senior Community
1301 E. 7th Street, Monticello.....(763) 295-4058
www.centracare.com

Twin City Staffing
1125 South Cedar Street, Monticello .....(763) 295-4063
www.twincitystaffing.com

Verizon Wireless Premium Retailer/ Select Communications
9261 Cedar Street South, Monticello .....(763) 295-4043
www.selectcommunicationsinc.com

West Metro Buick GMC
1001 Hwy 25 South, Monticello .....(763) 271-7800
www.westmetroauto.com

Wright Sherburne Realty
205 Walnut Street, Monticello .....(763) 295-5990
www.wrightsherburnerealty.com

This brochure was printed compliments of these businesses!

For more information on the Swans contact the Monticello Chamber of Commerce & Industry at (763) 295-2700 or info@monticellocci.com

MCCI monticello
Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Monticello's Swans

SEASONAL VIEWING PARK

Monticello, Minnesota

Viewing Season
December through March

www.monticellocci.com/pages/swans

Monticello Swans

Rapidly becoming known as "Swan City," Monticello is host to more than 2,000 Trumpeter Swans during the winter months. The banks of the Mississippi River within the city limits enjoy the open waters during the winter, compliments of the nuclear generating plant upstream, which provide the Swans an ideal wintering vacation spot. The protected viewing area for the public is located on Mississippi Drive, on the east end of the city (see map). Viewing season occurs from mid-November through the end of March each year.

A partnership for restoring Trumpeter Swans in the area emerged between the private sector, government agencies, and the public several years ago with a pair of Trumpeters that were released from Hennepin Parks. Additional pairs followed. Sheila, (also known as the "Swan Lady") was a local resident who lived on the banks of the Mississippi River and was kept very busy hauling buckets of shelled corn from her driveway to the gentle sloping river banks of her backyard. As the wintering Swan population grew, Sheila spent entire days hauling corn from a grain hopper in her driveway down to the river bank for the Swans. The installation of a custom-designed conveyor system now transports the corn from the gravity wagon in the driveway down to the river. This provided a more efficient use of her time and labor giving her additional hours to spend enjoying and observing the Swans herself.

Sheila Lawrence, "The Swan Lady," passed away this past April, 2011 and will forever be feeding all God's feathered and furry creatures in heaven. Her husband Jim will continue the winter feeding of the swans that Sheila began 25 years ago.

Sheila Lawrence "The Swan Lady" 1945-2011

Why do the Trumpeter Swans visit Monticello during the winter months?

Sheila believed it was because she and some of her neighbors began feeding them. This stretch of the Mississippi River is typically shallow enough during the winter to provide an area easily accessible to the Swans where they can eat, wade and play in the open waters without having to deal with the fast river current.

Where do the Trumpeter Swans go after they leave Monticello?

After spending the winter season here, the breeding pairs leave in the spring to find nesting spots throughout the state. Nest building begins in mid-April and nests can be as large as six feet in diameter. Often times, a nest is built on top of a muskrat or beaver lodge. When hatched, a Cygnet (baby swan) may gain up to 20% of their body weight on a daily basis. Although fully feathered by seven to eight weeks, they are unable to fly until fifteen weeks. Daily practice of their flight begins in mid-September, and they remain with their parents throughout the winter. The young are abandoned by the parents following their first winter, and may stay with their siblings for up to two years. Trumpeter swans usually reach reproductive maturity, pair up and become breeders somewhere between their 4th through 7th years. The swans looking for mates are provided with a multitude of potential possibilities due to the volume of swans on the river below Swan Park. You may notice various colored tags which represent the different states that track these birds.

Trumpeter Swan Facts:

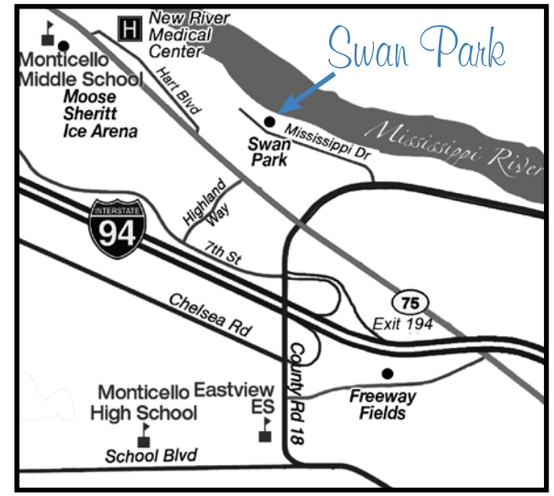
- Trumpeters were once fairly common throughout the U.S. and Canada. During the 19th Century, near extinction was caused by market hunting and mass market use of feathers for hats, pens and writing quills. Swan eggs were also harvested for eating. By the late 1880's, it was believed they were extinct, until 1919 when two nests were found in Yellowstone National Park. Minnesota Swans restoration began in 1966, pioneered by the efforts of Hennepin Parks followed by the Minnesota Department of National Resources recovery program in 1982. By 1994, the project had raised and released 215 Trumpeters and estimated a free-flying flock of 250 in Minnesota. Today, Monticello continues to play a key role in rebuilding the Swan population, by providing a safe haven for them in the open river waters during the winter months.
- Trumpeters weigh between 21 and 35 pounds and can live up to 25 years. They form a pair and bond with their mate for life.
- Nesting occurs on or near water between four to seven years of age in remote areas up to fifty acres. Nests are approximately six feet around. In late April; 3 to 8 eggs are laid with incubation at 33 days with only 30% success ratio. Cygnets are gray colored for the first year and gradually turn snow white.
- Trumpeter Swans do not maneuver very well due to their size and need significant space for a runway for take off to become airborne. Lead poisoning, illegal shooting, air collisions with power lines, predators, and loss of wetland habitat are the main threats to the Trumpeter Swan population.
- March usually marks the end of the swan season here in Monticello and the trumpeters move from the river to find nesting spots throughout Minnesota and surrounding states. Non breeding swans also search out lakes, ponds and marsh areas to spend their summer until they return to Monticello in the fall.

Donations

The funding for purchase and delivery of corn to feed the waterfowl viewed at Swan Park for the past 25 years was paid in its entirety by Sheila Lawrence with the generous help of a few of her close friends and countless Swan Park visitors. Contrary to what you may believe, no financial support is provided by any municipal or state agencies. Since Sheila's passing, a foundation has been created to continue her legacy and to promote and grow this Monticello winter treasure. If you would like to help continue the growth of this flock of Trumpeter Swans you may do so my making a donation to the Swan City Heritage Foundation. (A 501(C)(3) Non-profit status is pending.) Send your payments to:

Swan City Heritage Foundation
C/O Monticello Chamber
P.O. Box 192
Monticello, MN 55362

Directions



117 Mississippi Drive, Monticello MN 55362

From St. Cloud: Take the second Monticello exit #194 off I-94 East which brings you to County Rd. 18 take a right onto County Rd. 18.

From Minneapolis: Take the first Monticello exit #194 off I-94, which brings you to Co. Rd. 18. Take a right onto County Road 18.

Continue straight ahead, and go approximately half a mile to Mississippi Drive and take a left. Follow residential housing until you see a little sliver of a park located on the right hand side of the street near the end of Mississippi Drive. Here is where you may view the swans in a park-like setting.