

ALBERT LEA AREA MUST-SEES

- **Fountain Lake/Fountain Lake Park:** This park offers gorgeous green spaces, beautifully landscaped gardens, a gazebo for special events and fabulous views of Fountain Lake. Fountain Lake Park has been transformed into the heart of the community and plays host to some of the city's most popular events, including the weekly music showcase, "Thursdays on Fountain."
 - **The Fountains:** Three fountains flow throughout the warmer months of the year and are lit at night, creating a favorite spot for area photographers.
 - **Blue Zones Walkway:** Fountain Lake's running path is a community favorite that showcases Albert Lea's year-round scenery. Enjoy lake views as you run, walk or bike through neighborhoods, parks and downtown.
- **Edgewater Park:** The largest of Albert Lea's parks, Edgewater Park has an abundance of green space and overlooks Edgewater Bay of Fountain Lake. It has two pavilions and a cottage available for use, all with fireplaces. It also has a public boat landing, a band shell, horseshoe courts, play apparatus, a baseball/softball diamond and a volleyball net.
 - The official Governor's Fishing Opener launch will take place at **Park Pavilion at South Edgewater Park** on Saturday, May 11 at 8 a.m., followed by a shore lunch at 11 a.m.
- **Katherine Island & The Mermaid:** This beautiful island is a favorite Fountain Lake fishing spot. Nearby, don't miss the nod to the city's Danish heritage, a loose replica of Copenhagen's Little Mermaid, made famous by Hans Christian Andersen, and perched on a small rock offshore.
- **Historic Downtown Albert Lea:** Albert Lea has been experiencing a decade-long renaissance, which includes the city's historic downtown district. Bask in the beautiful architecture, take in a local show, or grab a cup of coffee and relax with friends. Downtown Albert Lea is home to charming stores and restaurants, from elegant fine dining to classic dive bars. The city boasts one of the largest intact historic districts in Minnesota.
 - The official Governor's Fishing Opener community event, "Hooked on Broadway," will take place downtown Albert Lea on Friday, May 10, from 4:30 to 10 p.m. (Broadway Ave. between Fountain St. and Main St.).

MORNING HOTSPOTS:

- **B&B Cafe:** A popular destination for breakfast and lunch, B&B Cafe is one of Albert Lea's must-try restaurants for both visitors and locals. The cafe has a strong client base and gets customers from all over the state and country for its pancakes.
- **The Interchange Coffee & Wine Bistro:** Known for their handcrafted coffee, the Interchange Wine & Coffee Bistro is located in downtown Albert Lea. Don't like coffee? There's also fresh-brewed teas, made-from-scratch pastries, sandwiches, local wines and craft beer.
- **Myre-Big Island State Park:** Located just outside of Albert Lea, this park spans 1,578 acres with 8 miles of shoreline on Albert Lea Lake. The park draws thousands of waterfowl during migration. Oak savanna and prairie landscapes, including wetlands, dominate most of the park, while the 116-acre Big Island is covered with maple/basswood forest. This park is one of the most visited state parks in southern Minnesota and features camping, hiking, canoeing and biking opportunities.

- **Blazing Star State Trail:** This paved trail, perfect for running, walking and biking, runs 6 miles from Albert Lea Lake to Myre-Big Island State Park. When completed, the Blazing Star State Trail will be approximately 20-miles long and connect Albert Lea and Austin via Myre-Big Island State Park and Hayward.
- **Three Oak Winery:** Open Friday 5-9 p.m. and Saturday 3-9 p.m. This Southern Minnesota vineyard has been producing award winning wines since 2013. Three Oak Winery will also host the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener live broadcast media event on Friday, May 10 from 5 to 10 a.m.
- **Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library & Village:** Located in Albert Lea, this museum includes a library and village of professionally designed exhibits that define the history of Freeborn County, including Eddie Cochran and Marion Ross exhibits. The village is home to 18 buildings, including a church, log cabin, train depot and more, for visitors to tour. Researchers and history enthusiasts can spend countless hours tracing family history and other historical subjects in the museum's extensive research library.
- **Marion Ross Performing Arts Center:** This historic venue is home to the Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT), one of the longest-running community theaters in Minnesota for nearly 55 years. In 2008, the building was named after Albert Lea native Marion Ross, a notable actress from the TV show "Happy Days." The Marion Ross Performing Arts Center features many plays, musicals and concerts throughout the year.

2019 MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

- **Join dozens of Minnesota media outlets from all over the state for a live broadcast** event on Friday, May 10, from 5 to 10 a.m., to promote the Minnesota fishing season, Albert Lea area and statewide travel and recreational opportunities.
- **Kids teaching kids to fish:** Join the local high school fishing team, Albert Lea Anglers, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local volunteers as they provide outdoor skills and education to 5th grade students from Albert Lea area schools on **Friday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Edgewater Park.** Fishing is fun and educational. It instills patience, teaches youth and adults to live in the moment, to appreciate nature and conservation in our state.
- **Conservation Officer Julie Siems and K-9 Officer Brady:** The pair will be available for interviews and demonstrations on Friday, May 10, from 6 to 9 a.m. K-9 Officer Brady is trained to alert his handler when he detects zebra mussels, ammunition or venison, among other items. The use of specially trained dogs increases the state's abilities to detect violations, find trespassers and catch poachers.
- **Celebrate the Albert Lea area with thousands of residents and visitors during the free Hooked on Broadway Community Picnic and Dance that is open to the public on Friday, May 10, from 4:30 to 10 p.m.** The picnic will be located downtown Albert Lea on Broadway Ave. between Fountain St. and Main St. and will feature an array of activities, exhibitors, live music, scheduled remarks by Gov. Tim Walz and more.
- **Drop a line with Gov. Walz, Lt. Gov. Flanagan and hundreds of area anglers on opening day (Saturday, May 11)** as they cast their fishing luck on Fountain Lake during their inaugural Governor's Fishing Opener. Fishing will kick off with a send-off ceremony at 8 a.m. followed by a shore lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All Saturday activities will be located at Edgewater Park.
- Albert Lea area residents will participate in the **Blue Zone Walk/Run Event at Fountain Lake on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.**

For more information and a complete schedule of events and locations, visit mngovernorsopener.com.