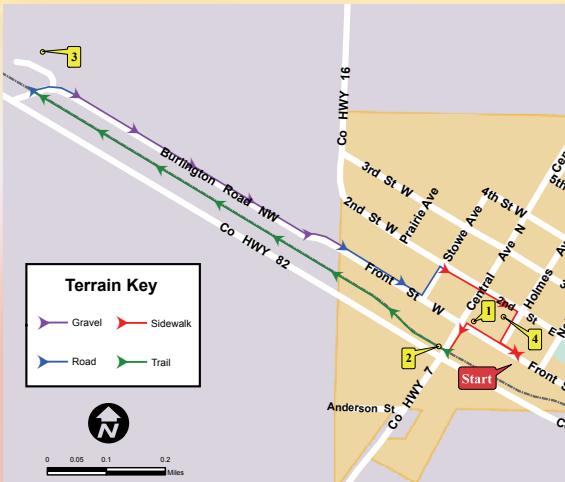


BRANDON
MINNESOTA

Walk & Explore

MAPS

This walking route was created to encourage walking and exploring throughout the beautiful area of Brandon, MN. The map was designed by Active Living Douglas County as part of a series in hopes that each walker may discover more about our great city.



MAP 3 *Post Office*

This walking map is brought to you by:

DOUGLAS COUNTY



2.0 miles

Post Office

MAP 3 2.0 miles

1 Post Office – Henry Gager, the first settler in the area, handled the mail at the J.C. Burbank and Company stage station. He was officially appointed postmaster at what was called Chippewa Lake in February of 1861. The postal site was discontinued in October of 1863. The post office reopened in February of 1867, with George Freudenreich serving as postmaster. All mail coming in and out of Brandon was handled by the railroad. Two trains each day would pick up and deliver the mail. The agent would hang a heavy canvas mailbag on a tall pole alongside the track. When the train came through town, a big steel arm would reach out of the train and snatch the mailbag from the pole. To deliver mail, the brakeman would simply throw a mail sack out of the window of the train. In 1959, a new post office was built and dedicated on April 22, 1960.

2 Central Lakes Trail – This is a 14 foot wide, 55 mile long nearly level, paved trail. It passes through the communities of Dalton, Ashby, Melby, Evansville, Brandon, Garfield, Alexandria, and Nelson. The Central Lakes Trail is connected to the Lake Wobegon Trail; which extends from Osakis to St. Joseph (48 miles) and also to Holdingford, and from the Lake Wobegon Trail to the Morrison County trail. This results in a total paved trail length of approximately 130 miles.

3 Brandon Cemetery – From 1889 to 1912 the Brandon Community Cemetery was managed by the Village Council. In 1912, the decision was made to form an independent corporation with its own board and officers. August Swanson was the donor of the cemetery grounds, and early in 1889, August approached the Brandon Village Council with a proposal to donate three acres of his land. Fred Mathison served as a member of the Brandon Cemetery Association. Both August and his wife, Thea, and Fred and his wife, Elvina are buried at the Brandon Cemetery.

4 Brandon Auditorium – The original Brandon Hall was built in 1890 for \$1,200. It was 24-feet wide by 60 feet long and had 22-foot high walls. In 1893, the building was extended with an eight-foot addition in the rear. The structure served the community until 1934, was demolished, and a new building was built in its place. Architect F. Boes Pfeifer created the new structure. It featured a stone foundation with concrete and stone walls. It was 46.5 feet by 143 feet, with a 20-foot high ceiling and a partial basement. The cost for the structure was \$37,791.60. The Brandon Auditorium was completed in 1936 and was formally dedicated on October 22 of that year with 5,000 people in attendance. The Brandon Auditorium was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. In 1991, the Otto Bremer Foundation granted \$25,000 to support the restoration and remodeling of the hall, which is still used for many community events.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.activelivingdc.com

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