

# discover ST. JAMES

GUIDE TO VISITING AND LIVING IN ST. JAMES

EXPERIENCE NATURE

EXPERIENCE HISTORY

EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY

EXPERIENCE ST. JAMES



There's something  
for everyone  
for every season!

**m**  
EXPLORE  
MINNESOTA<sup>SM</sup>

#ONLYINMN

Contenido de la guía disponible en español en  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)





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*to new possibilities*

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# contents

## WELCOME TO SAINT JAMES

Thank you for picking up our Guide to Visiting & Living in St. James. On behalf of our neighbors, local businesses, and organizations, we'd like to welcome you to our community.

St. James is a close-knit community located just 38 miles from Mankato on Highway 60. We are the Watonwan County Seat, with a population of nearly 5,000 people. We are a community of rich **cultural diversity**, with over 40% of our residents having Hispanic or Latinx ethnicity.

If you're looking for a charming community that has great **outdoor recreation** opportunities, we are the place to be. St. James has a variety of options for the outdoor enthusiast. Check out our unique parks, paved bike trails, tournament golf course, and fun activities at the lake.

St. James continues to celebrate its **rich history**, while also embracing the arts and culture of today. Step into the past at one of our museums, or attend Railroad Days to discover the community's railroad heritage. You can't visit downtown St. James without noticing the **fine arts**— from sculptures and colorful utility boxes, to a meditative plaza space and a community mural that reflects on the many cultures of our residents.

St. James offers truly **unique shopping, dining, and entertainment** experiences. Our quaint, historic downtown offers a variety of dining and retail shops. Some options for entertainment include watching movies at the historic Princess Theater and catching baseball games at the renovated Veterans Field.

To top it all off, St. James has recently benefited from a significant **rise in public and private investments**, from healthcare and public infrastructure, to business expansions and a successful school district referendum.

Whether you are planning a getaway or looking for a new place to call home, we hope you choose St. James. Call Discover St. James at 1-507-375-3333.

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# welcome



**Tammy Stevens**  
CVB President



**Brianna Sanders**  
EDA Director



**Beth Schwanz**  
Executive Director







MEADOWLARK PRAIRES OUTDOOR LAB

# AREA PARKS...

## MEADOWLARK PRAIRIES OUTDOOR LAB

Meadowlark Prairies Outdoor Lab is an 18 acre area of land with prairie, ponds, and woods ecosystems within its boundaries. It is located on the northeast side of St. James. Visitors that come for their physical health will find marked trails that are groomed, level and 80 inches wide. Visitors interested in enhancing their mental health will find comfortable benches that overlook three beautiful ponds at which they can view, observe and relax in a natural setting. Visitors that come with education in mind will find that the trails, ponds, wooded areas and prairies will offer many opportunities to explore, discover, learn and understand nature at its best.



There is no entrance fee, and all are welcome! Pets must be leashed for the protection of upland game birds and native songbirds that are ground nesters. There are no drinking fountains or bathroom facilities at Meadowlark so visitors should plan their visits accordingly.

## UNLEASHED DOG PARK

Bring your dog and make a day of it at the Unleashed Dog Park. This park is located on the northeast edge of town and is not your average dog park.

This spacious park has over two acres of wooded and grassy play area, perfect for enjoying a game of fetch or use the dog agility equipment.



## EAGLE'S NEST PARK

Eagle's Nest Park lies along the south fork of the Watonwan River, in one of the most wooded and scenic areas within Watonwan County. This 80-acre park features 1.25 miles of hiking trails which double as horseback riding trails. Amenities include an open air picnic shelter, charcoal grills, picnic tables, and a comfort station with showers. Pitch a tent at one of the four electrical service camping sites and stay for the weekend.







SERTOMA PLAYGROUND  
Located in Memorial Park

# FUN AT THE PARK

## MEMORIAL PARK

If you are looking to have fun in the park, Memorial Park on St. James Lake is the place to be. There is truly something for everyone. With the scenic backdrop of St. James Lake, the park features endless recreational opportunities including multiple play areas, picnicking areas, and a paved path along the lakeshore. Bring your sports gear and play at our skateboard park, horseshoe court, disc golf course, sand volleyball court, basketball court, or gaga ball pit. You can make a day of it and rent a park shelter to host your next celebration.

## SKATEBOARDING

Test your skating skills at the outdoor skate park located in

### **Memorial Park.**

This park is equipped with ½ pipe, ¼ pipe, and a grind rail.



## HORSESHOES & BEAN BAGS

Play a fun game of horseshoes or bean bags at any of the four lit horseshoe & bean bag courts. These courts are open to the public and are located in **Memorial Park** between the south shelter and the skate park.

## SAND VOLLEYBALL

Bump, Set, Spike! Play some volleyball in St. James. You can play in sand volleyball courts at **Memorial Park**.

## SHELTER

There are two park shelters for rent at Memorial Park and one at the Southside Park Complex. The newest shelter located near the band shelter in North Memorial

Park is a spacious 30'x 60' with capacity for 90 that includes a kitchen sink, 15 tables, electrical outlets, serving counter, and nearby restrooms. Go to [www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us) for more information.

## AREA PARKS

Playgrounds include adult and child swings, jungle gyms/climbers, merry-go-round, miracle playground, sand digger, slide, and teeter-totters. St. James has several more parks to explore.



SCAN ME



For Park Information





ST. JAMES LAKE

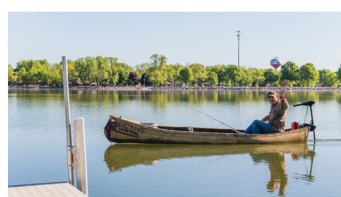
# RECREATION

## TIELL CAMPGROUND



Nestled between St. James Lake and the Outdoor Pool with beautiful surroundings, Tiell Campground is a camper's dream. Enjoy the lakeside view from one of the 21 RV camping sites. If you don't have a camper, no problem! There is one tent site available for your use. The campground is in walking distance to our historical Railroad themed museums and is located on the paved 4 mile St. James Area Bike Trail.

## FISHING



Cast a line into St. James Lake off one of the three T-shaped fishing docks in Memorial Park. Boaters are welcome on the lake and can access the lake from the public boat landing near Tiell

Campground. Once you've caught your limit, journey over to the state-of-the-art fish cleaning station.

## OUTDOOR SWIMMING



If you and your family like to swim then St. James is the place to be. The **City of St. James** Outdoor Pool is located on Tiell Drive featuring a large pool, diving boards, 150-foot water slide, and toddler splash pool.

## WATERSPORTS FOR RENT



St. James Lake offers adventure with a splash! Rent single kayaks, tandem kayaks, or paddle boards and enjoy the scenery the lake has to offer. Equipment rental is available from the Outdoor Pool during business hours.

## GOLFING



**St. James Golf Course/Rivers Edge Grill** is an 18-hole tournament golf course located just off of Highway 60, east of St. James. This beautiful, newly designed course is set amidst wooded hills and a winding creek. This course is both challenging and fun for all ages. After a round of golf, grab a drink and eat some great food in the new 7,000 square foot clubhouse.

## DISC GOLF



This 9-hole disc golf course at **Memorial Park** features beautiful lake views! Every hole is a Par 3, which makes it a fun course for all ages. Disc golf is also a great winter activity, and can be played year-round. Pick up your score cards at the South Shelter at Memorial Park.

## GOLF-MOR LLC



**Golf-Mor LLC** is an indoor golf simulator. There are 21 courses to choose from! Golf-Mor also has a shooting simulator, where players can try their hand in a wild west shootout or hunting. Open by appointment only – call and book your time! 507-621-4636 or check out their Facebook page.

For more information, visit our Kiosk located on Tiell Drive or online at [www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)



# THE CARE YOU NEED. CLOSE TO HOME.



**The care you and your family use most often is available close to home — right in St. James .**

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Hospital Medicine
- Community Health Worker
- Radiology/Imaging
- Laboratory
- Physical Therapy
- Behavioral Health
- Visiting Specialties
  - Cardiology
  - General Surgery

Visit [mayoclinichealthsystem.org](https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org) for more information about health care services available near you.

Mayo Clinic Health System in St. James  
Call 507-375-3261 to schedule an appointment



**MAYO CLINIC**  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**





WATLINE TRAIL

# HIT THE TRAILS

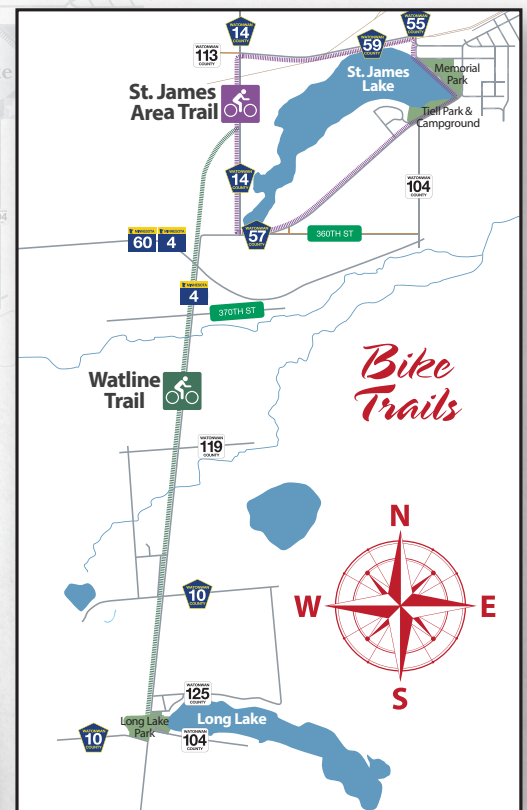
## ST. JAMES AREA BIKE TRAIL & WATLINE TRAIL

St. James offers four miles of paved trail around beautiful St. James Lake. All season long take in the picturesque views of the lake, and enjoy being surrounded by nature and wildlife. You can use the trail to test your exercise endurance while enjoying the scenery, and even stop for an extra workout at an exercise station along the way. At the connection of St. James Area Bike Trail and Watline Trail, there is a gazebo that offers shade, picnic tables, benches, adult monkey bars and parallel bars. Watline Trail extends south for five miles along Highway 4, and ends at Long Lake Park. The paved trails in St. James are a great activity for all ages, with trail users enjoying the safety and location that they offer.

**Expert Tip:** A good starting point for your adventure is at Memorial Park where there is ample parking, picnic tables, and other outdoor activities.

## THE HAMMOND HIGHWAY DESIGNATED TRAIL

For the more experienced riders you can take the 11 mile trip on the Hammond Highway from St. James to Madelia. This county highway has wide shoulders that are designated for bike riding. This route is quite flat with the exception of a hill after crossing the South Fork of the Watonwan River. These trails are a part of the Watline Trail system, which the county is hoping to expand in the future. It's great to see community members and visitors alike utilizing the trails for biking, running, walking and enjoying a fun outdoor experience.







## Expert Tip

If you are lucky you can catch sight of Bald Eagles nesting throughout Watonwan County. They are easier to spot from late fall to early spring when there are no leaves on the trees

ICE FISHING ON ST. JAMES LAKE

# SNOW ADVENTURE

## ICE RINK

Skate for fun or compete in a friendly game of hockey at our outdoor ice rink at Southside Complex. If you get cold, head in to the cozy warming house which is conveniently located right on site.

## SNOWSHOEING

Snowshoeing reveals a whole new experience in our parks and trails during the winter season. Grab your snowshoes and head to Memorial Park, Meadowlark Prairies Outdoor Lab or Eagle's Nest Park for a day of fun in the snow. Don't have snowshoes? No problem.

Free snowshoe rental is available at the Super 8 Hotel in St. James!

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

For the cross country skiing enthusiast, there are many options. Skiers can explore scenic paths at Meadowlark Prairies Outdoor Lab, Eagle's Nest and St. James Golf Course.



## AREA ICE FISHING

Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in the winter season, and there are plenty of options around St. James. Cut a hole and drop a line at any of the following lakes in the St. James area: St. James Lake, Long Lake, Lake Hanska, Wood Lake, or Kansas Lake.

## SNOWMOBILING

If horsepower is more your style, check out the 217 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in Watonwan County maintained by the Watonwan Co. Snohawks Snowmobile Association.





# ANNUAL AREA EVENTS



## MAY HOT DOG DAY

[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)



## JUNE / JULY MUSIC IN THE PARK

Free concert series featuring a wide variety of music.  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)



## JUNE RAILROAD DAYS

Railroad Days is held annually in June. Lots of events throughout the week.  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)



## JUNE RAIL RUN/WALK

The run/walk is held every year in conjunction with St. James Railroad Days.  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)



## JULY WATONWAN COUNTY FAIR

Join us every July for the Watonwan County Fair.



## SEPTEMBER "LA FIESTA"

[www.stjunitingcultures.org](http://www.stjunitingcultures.org)  
Facebook - Convivencia Hispana - Watonwan



## SEPTEMBER GODAHL DAY

Facebook - Godahl Recreation



## SEPTEMBER HALL OF FAME

Homecoming Weekend  
Enjoy sporting events, a parade, and a Hall of Fame induction banquet.  
[www.stjames.k12.mn.us](http://www.stjames.k12.mn.us)



## DECEMBER WINTER CARNIVAL

Celebrate the holidays in St. James.  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)

## ROAM FREE

Wherever your spirit takes you, just follow the signs to Super 8.

PRIDE OF  
SUPER 8

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Pride of Super 8 Award Winner

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[wyndhamhotels.com](http://wyndhamhotels.com)



# AREA ATTRACTIONS



**ST JAMES ARTWALK**  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)



**UNLEASHED DOG PARK**  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)  
 33890 733rd Avenue



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Facebook - St James Historical Society  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)  
 602 3rd Avenue S



**GRAND OPERA HOUSE/  
 ENCORE CAFE**  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)  
 500 1st Avenue S



**MEADOWLARK PRAIRIES  
 OUTDOOR LAB**  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)  
 33672 733rd Avenue



**MODEL RAIL CLUB  
 MUSEUM**  
[www.roundhouseinc.org](http://www.roundhouseinc.org)  
 307 Tiell Drive



**ST JAMES AREA VETERANS  
 MEMORIAL**  
[www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com)  
 1st Street S



**PRINCESS THEATER**  
 Facebook - Princess Theater  
 St. James, MN  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)  
 505 1st Avenue S



**WATERSPORTS/  
 OUTDOOR POOL**  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)  
 111 Tiell Drive

[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)

**OPEN MAY – MID OCTOBER**

*21 camper sites each with excellent electric service (50 amp), city sanitary sewer, city water service, free Wi-Fi, private concrete pad, and a fire ring.*

## TIELL PARK CAMPGROUND

205 Tiell Dr, St. James MN



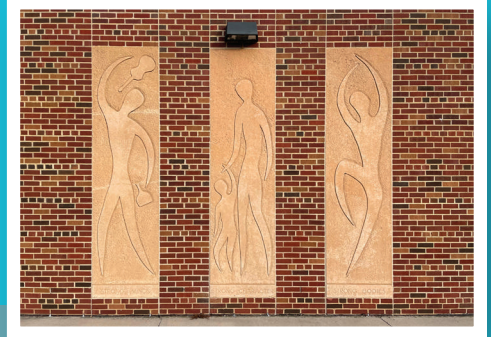




*We hope  
you enjoy !*



MAYO HEALTH SYSTEMS - ST. JAMES  
FRONT LOBBY  
1101 MOULTON & PARSONS DRIVE



ST. JAMES NORTHSIDE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
10TH AVENUE

# ARTWALK ST. JAMES

## ARTWALK PATH



## Experience St. James Through Art!

Artwalk St. James is a permanent walking tour that highlights the assets of our community through art. This tour is an opportunity to enjoy beautiful works of art while exploring town. Each unique piece, from granite and bronze sculptures to graphic art wraps, highlights a distinctive feature or person from our community.



# ARTWORK DESCRIPTIONS & ARTISTS

1

## PLAZA DE ST. JAMES 2018

INTEGRALLY COLORED CONCRETE, BRONZE INLAYS, LANDSCAPING, LOCAL FIELDSTONES, AND STAINED CEDAR

SARA K. UDVIG, ST. PAUL, MN

Funded through Partnership Art. Special thanks to Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. Plaza de St. James is a meditative park space that encourages reflection on the paths of migration that our residents took to St. James. Colored concrete paths form the shape of a compass star with community member footprints cast in bronze merging together on the northern point. Field stones gathered from local fields fill the cages of unique gabion benches at the North, South, East and West points of the compass.

WWW.SKUDVIG.COM



2

## POST OFFICE 1940

"Indian Hunters and Rice Gatherers"

OIL ON CANVAS

ARTWALK ST. JAMES COMMITTEE

Margaret Martin painted this oil-on-canvas mural, entitled "Indian Hunters and Rice Gatherers," in 1940 with funds provided by the federal government. It shows Indians gathering wild rice, hunting fowl, and fishing, emphasizing the harmony between the Land of 10,000 lakes and its earliest inhabitants.



3

## MAKE TRACKS TO ST. JAMES 2017

STEEL

GREG LINGBEEK, ST. JAMES, MN

Artwalk St. James had this piece designed to reflect the rich railroad history of the St. James community. St. James was founded and created by the expansion of the railroad in the 1800's and the railroad is still operating today.



4

## EYECARE CENTER MURAL 2021

"Honoring St. James residents past and present"

PAINT

ARTWALK ST. JAMES COMMITTEE

COMUNIDAD - A Legacy from Generation to Generation Located at the Eye Care Center. Painting by Yehimi Cabron - Commissioned by Laura Murvartian in honor of her parents and dedicated to the community of St. James.



5

## GARDEN OF GOOD PEOPLE MURAL 2018

ACRYLIC PAINT ON POLY TAB FABRIC WITH PAINTED ALUMINUM PHRASES

SARA K. UDVIG, ST. PAUL, MN

Funded through Partnership Art. The Garden of Good People Mural project was designed and created through a heavy community engagement process. The flower images were taken from pictures that children drew at a community event. Saint James residents of all ages came together to paint portions of the Mural on community painting days.

WWW.SKUDVIG.COM



6

## SUMMER STUDIES 2017

BRONZE

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

This timeless and adorable bronze statue features three children sitting on a bench. The children are laughing and reading books. I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.



7

## ART ON THE BOX 2017

"PRINCESS THEATER"

VINYL WRAP

ARTWALK ST. JAMES COMMITTEE

The artistic wrap showcases historic photos of the Princess Theater. The building is in view while standing next to box, which provides comparison of the past and present. The Princess Theater still operates as a one-room cinema today.



8

## OPEN APPLE 2019

STEEL, COPPER, KASOTA STONE, BRICK

JEREMY HALL, ST. JAMES, MN

The Open Apple sculpture encompasses the 1872 school bell, signifying the continued excellence of Education in St. James. The sculpture itself is made of steel and copper which will weather appropriate colors. The base and granite pillar are made of Kasota stone and granite recovered from a historic 1899 building that burned down in 1996.



9

## HELPING HANDS 2017

CONCRETE

JASON JASPERSEN, NEW ULM, MN

Artwalk St. James had this piece designed to reflect the helpful nature of our community. The artist took the idea and came up with a way to show how we "soar" when we come together. The sculpture of two hands casts a puppet shadow of a soaring bird at certain times of the day and/or year. "Together we soar".

WWW.JJJASPERSEN.COM



10

## VETERAN'S MEMORIAL 2014

GRANITE

ST. JAMES AREA VETERAN'S FOUNDATION

The St. James Area Veterans Foundation was formed in 2013 with the sole purpose of establishing a permanent memorial. The memorial honors local men and women that served in the military, and gives family and friends a place to gather and reflect.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ARTWALKSTJAMES@GMAIL.COM

WWW.DISCOVERSTJAMESMN.COM/ARTWALK



# WE'VE GOT GAME... AND THEN SOME



## SOCCER FIELDS

Soccer fields are located at Northside Elementary School and are open to the public if not used by the school. See **G2** on map pages 14-15.



## FOOTBALL & TRACKFIELD

Our football and track & field park is located just east of Memorial Park. See **F7** on map pages 14-15.



## PICKLEBALL COURTS

Join in the fastest growing sport of Pickleball. Rent a court at Next Level, 806 Weston Ave. See **G4** on map pages 14-15.



## TENNIS COURTS

Tennis courts are located at the St. James High School. See **G2** on map pages 14-15.



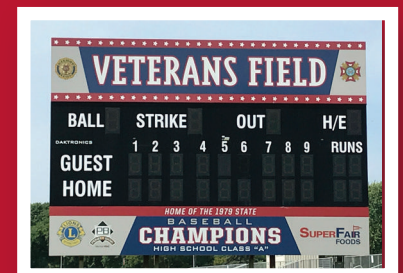
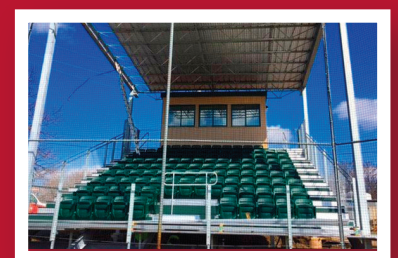
## BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS

St. James offers baseball fields at Veterans Field, Memorial Park and at the high school. See **F7, E7 and G2** on map pages 14-15.

St. James offers softball fields at Dennis Johnson Fields and Memorial Park. See **H7 and E7** on map pages 14-15.

### VETERANS FIELD

Take me out to the ball game! Enjoy watching these teams from the new grandstand at Veterans Field: Express Baseball, St. James A's Amateur Baseball Team, St. James Saints Baseball Team, Legion Post #33, and VFW Post 1912. Take it all in from the 1st Base Viewing Deck, or from the stadium-style grandstand. Try a pork chop on a stick or a Dairy Queen treat from the concession stand. For a schedule of games at Veterans Field, visit [www.stjamesbaseball.com](http://www.stjamesbaseball.com).





# A Day in St. James

DOWNTOWN ST. JAMES

## ENTERTAINMENT

St. James offers truly unique shopping, dining, and entertainment experiences. Start your day off with a hot latte or mocha at **Encore Coffee Café** in the historic opera house building. Relax and enjoy the architectural features of this beautiful space. Housed within the opera house building is also a boutique, **Collage Saint James**, which offers unique gifts, specialty home décor, and a wide variety of other items that will keep you browsing for hours. After shopping, head over to **Schmidt's Bakery**, which is a third-generation family-owned business. Indulge your taste buds with a delicious variety of donuts, pastries, and other tasty treats.

St. James is home to several unique retail stores. Whether you are looking for antiques or a deal on a previously-owned item, **Collectibles and Thrift** has it all.

**Gem Den , LLC** jewelry store offers a distinctive blend of fine jewelry. If you're hungry for a snack, or planning on grilling, you won't regret making a stop at **Johnson's Meat Market**. Johnson's has only the finest cuts of meat and mouth-watering smoked snacks including: sticks, jerky, and summer sausage.

After a day of shopping, discover home cooked food at **Hometown Family Restaurant** or authentic Mexican food at **Plaza Jalisco** where you can experience great food with a fun ambience. St. James has many dining options, which you can

find in the directory in the back of this guide book. Don't miss the show at the historic **Princess Movie Theater**. This one-screen theater offers showings Friday through Sunday.

End your night with a glass of wine or a cold brew. If you feel like staying in, browse the aisles at **St. James Liquor**, which features many local wines and brews from Minnesota. Or, enjoy St. James downtown nightlife at one of the three clubs, **The Eagles**, **The VFW**, and **The American Legion**. Check out the community calendar at [www.discoverstjamesmn.com](http://www.discoverstjamesmn.com) for a schedule of events happening in the city.



St. James has a strong education system, from preschool to high school. St. James is fortunate to have a community that prides itself on education, with innovative educators ensuring students are well prepared for their future.

## EDUCATION



### ST. JAMES SCHOOL DISTRICT 840

**District Office**  
500 3rd Ave S  
507-375-5974  
[www.stjames.k12.mn.us](http://www.stjames.k12.mn.us)

**Armstrong**  
500 3rd Ave S  
507-375-3321

**Community Education**  
500 3rd Ave S  
507-375-4517

**Northside Elementary**  
1273 10th Ave N  
507-375-3325

**St. James High School**  
1001 10th Ave N  
507-375-3381

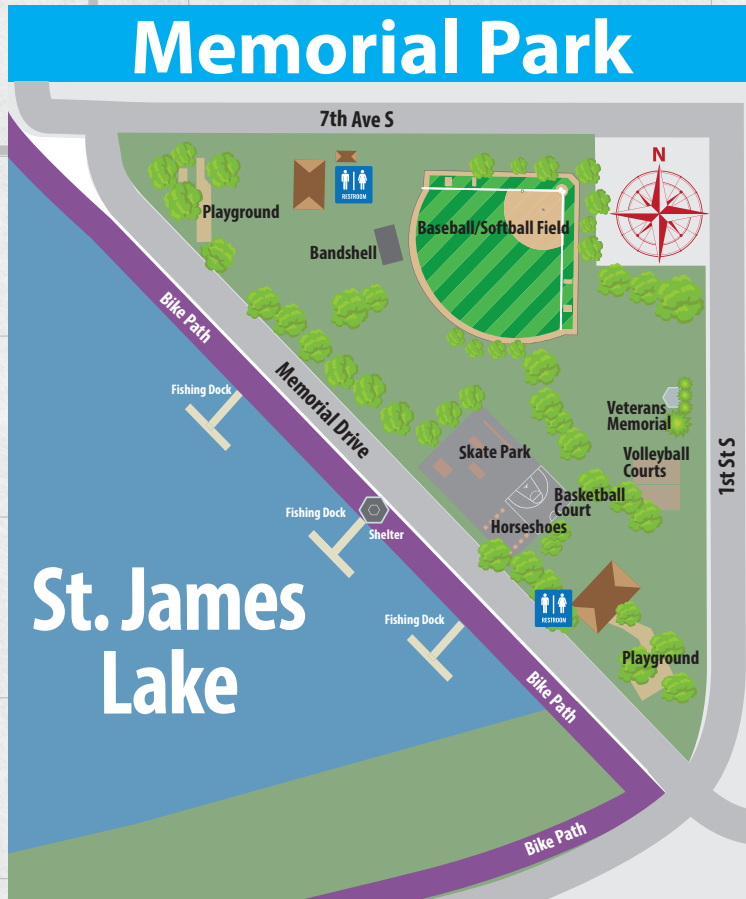
### PRIVATE EDUCATION

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School**  
315 9th St S  
507-375-3809

[www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com)

**St. James Head Start**  
MVAC 705 2nd Ave S  
507-380-8354









## Points of Interest

### PARKS & RECREATION

- G,6 Deer Park
- F,5 Jaycee Park
- G,4 Malmrose Park
- E,7 Memorial Park
- F,5 Plaza de St. James
- H,6 Southside Park
- E,8 Tiell Park, Campground & Pool
- F,6 Toddler Town
- I,1 Unleashed Dog Park
- E,4 Westside Park
- F,7 Veteran's Field
- F,7 Football/ Track Field
- H,2 Soccer Fields

### MUSEUMS & HISTORIC BUILDINGS

- G,6 Watonwan County Courthouse
- F,6 Princess Theater
- F,6 Grand Opera House
- G,6 Historical Society Museum
- D,8 Model Railroad Club & Museum

### ST. JAMES SCHOOLS

- G,6 Armstrong School
- G,2 Northside Elementary
- G,2 High School
- G,6 St Paul Lutheran School

### GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

- H,6 City Hall
- F,6 Watonwan County Library
- G,6 Watonwan County Courthouse, Police Dept.
- H,7 Watonwan County Fairgrounds







HISTORICAL RAILROAD MUSEUM

# A RICH HISTORY

## Exploring The Heritage of St. James

### HISTORICAL FIGURES OF ST. JAMES

#### Evelyn J. Wenstrom

Evelyn J. Wenstrom (1901-2002) was born and raised in St. James. She led an adventurous life and was the first female pilot in Idaho. Amelia Earhart enlisted her assistance in organizing a woman pilot's organization in the 1930's.

#### Winfield Scott Hammond

Winfield Scott Hammond (1863-1915) was most notably the governor of Minnesota.

Hammond was governor while he lived in St. James in the year 1915. During his life he also served as the county attorney, school principal, and state congressman.

#### Moses Kimball Armstrong

Moses Kimball Armstrong (1832-1906) was instrumental in bringing the railroad to St. James, providing property for schools, establishing churches, and enlisting support for other men to invest in the community.

#### Alfred Robert Voss

A.R. Voss (1860-1952) was instrumental in the development of farming in Watonwan County. At one point he even convinced 150 farmers to locate to the "richly endowed" county. Over the span of his life, Voss not only contributed to farming, but donated land to communities and even started the first hospital in St. James.

**1867** St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company named their division point St. James, three years before town existed.

**1870** Railroad reached St. James. First passenger train arrived November 22 with guests dining at St. James Hotel.

**1871** Two-story schoolhouse built. School bell added in 1872.

**1873** Grass-hoppers arrived in July devastating crops, trees and grass. Continued into 1877.

**1878** County seat moved from Madelia to St. James. 1890 Omaha Railroad erected 25 stall roundhouse.

**1891** Construction began on Opera House. Current St. James newspaper, The Plaindealer, published first issue.



# Getting to Know St. James



## HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

### Model Railroad Club & Historical Railroad Museum

Stop by to get a tour during Railroad Days or call 507-375-3241 to schedule a tour in advance! The Model Railroad Club is a train lover's dream, with model trains running through various villages and scenes. The kids will enjoy the interactive section where they get to see a village come to life at the touch of a button.

The Historical Railroad Museum contains a historical depot building, a caboose, a signal tower, and a sand tower. Even if you do not have time to schedule a tour, stop by for some great photo ops!

[www.roundhouseinc.org](http://www.roundhouseinc.org)

### Historical Society Museum

Step back in time at the St. James Chapter of the Watonwan County Historical Society Museum. The museum has a variety of collections and displays for your viewing pleasure. Open the 1st Sunday of each month from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, April through October.

## HISTORICAL BUILDINGS DOWNTOWN

### Grand Opera House St. James

The Grand Opera House, also known as St. James Opera House, is a historic theatre building on Main Street. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 for its local significance in the theme of entertainment/recreation. It was nominated for being the city's principal performance venue from 1892 to 1921, bringing fine performing arts like theatre, music and comedy to a modest agricultural center, as well as hosting local events. St. James Opera House contains its auditorium on the upper floor, with retail space on the ground floor.

### Watonwan County Court House

The Watonwan County Court House is the seat of government for Watonwan County, which has been in continual use since it was completed in 1896. It was listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1987 for having State-level significance in the themes of agricultural and political/government. It was nominated for its exemplary Romanesque Revival architecture, its status as one of Minnesota's monumental Victorian

courthouses and as a local landmark, and its long-standing service as a County Seat.

### Princess Theater

The Princess Theater building in St. James was built between 1913 and 1915 by Harry Nelson, to show silent movies. The theater was built as a 600 seat theater with a full balcony. In 1973 the building was purchased by the City of St. James to be used as a Community Center. The floor was made level, and the building was remodeled to include a full kitchen, bathrooms, meeting room and office space. For about 10 years the movie theater portion of the historic building was closed. In the winter of 1983 the City reopened the Princess Theater, using the restored balcony as the theater with a seating capacity of 186 people. A "Save the Princess" committee was formed in the spring of 2012, and it raised the needed funds to purchase digital equipment and surround sound to keep the theater operational. The marquee was repainted and again lit with beautiful neon lights and the lobby was recently restored. The City also built an outdoor handicap accessible ramp to the theater in the fall of 2014.

**1898** Park Hotel, "the leading hotel in southern Minnesota", was built by Moses Armstrong.

**1934** Fire destroyed the Glass Block, a three-story building, at corner of Armstrong Blvd and 1st Ave S.

**1976** First Railroad Days celebration.

**1990** St. James Chapter of the Watonwan County Historical Society formed.

**2007** Mayo Clinic Health Systems- St. James opened doors to a brand new facility, replacing the Watonwan Memorial Hospital.





VET CLINIC RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Location & Population

### A DIVERSE “MICRO” REGIONAL CENTER

St. James is a close-knit community located just **38 miles from Mankato on Highway 60**. We are the Watonwan County Seat, with a population of nearly 5,000 people. Our community is **culturally diverse**, with over 40% of our residents having Hispanic or Latinx ethnicity.

Living in St. James, you feel a sense of **security and safety** that comes from living in a small town. Our residents “watch out for each other” and we are known for our **philanthropy** and giving nature. Each year there are new community projects that are only made possible by fundraising efforts of community members. The community also gives an outstanding amount of money in scholarships to graduating seniors, and there are benefits, luncheons and chicken or steak fries almost every

weekend supporting various causes. We like to refer to St. James as a **“micro” regional center**. We are the largest community in a wide radius, offering a little bit of everything. If you make St. James your home, you can find nearly any service you need right in town, with the convenience of additional retail stores, entertainment, and outdoor recreation opportunities within 40 miles.

St. James **celebrates its cultural diversity** with a widely attended, annual event called the Multicultural Fiesta. Additionally, the City of St. James is implementing inclusive housing programs that remove barriers to success for recent immigrants. The City’s progressive work has been **discussed on a national level** and is being looked at as a model for other communities experiencing high rates of immigration.

## Investments in Our Community

### BUILDING OUR ASSETS

St. James has seen a significant rise in large-scale investments over recent years.

**INDUSTRIAL PARK** – St. James has invested in land and infrastructure into the St. James Industrial Park to spur growth in industrial and commercial development. The community has seen many successes in the Industrial Park with the expansions of Great River Energy, Doda, and ICS. The St. James EDA continues to work with companies and organizations on the additional sites that are needed for future industrial and commercial expansion.

**BUSINESS EXPANSIONS** – The St. James business community has made major investment into the St. James area. Notable projects in recent years are Smithfield Foods, Central Farm Service (CFS), St. James Veterinary Clinic, St. James VA Clinic, and Madelia Health.



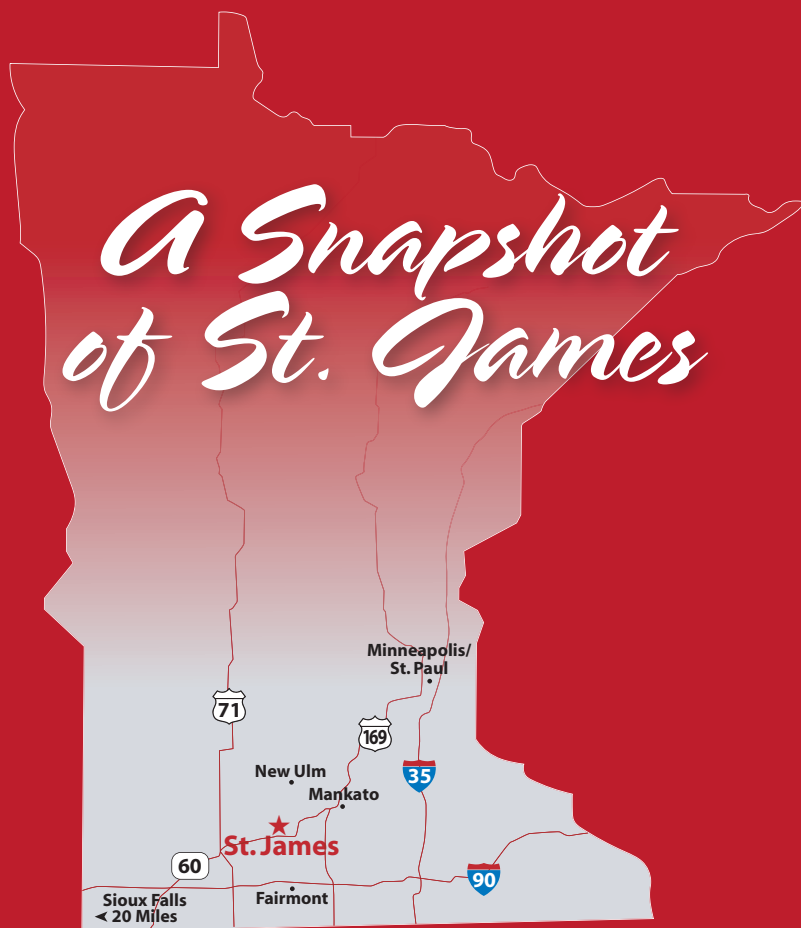
**Smithfield Foods** had an expansion in St. James by adding three production lines and constructing a parking lot in October 2022. **Central Farm Service (CFS)** has completed construction on a new 350,000-ton Feed Mill in St. James. The **St. James Veterinary Clinic** relocated and expanded their services to both small and large animals. In this move, they made an investment of over \$1,800,000 in renovations and equipment costs. **St. James VA Clinic** constructed a new facility in St. James in 2022 and opened their doors at their new location in January 2023. **Madelia Health** has expanded their services to the St. James community. By converting a downtown building from a bank to a clinic, Madelia Health opened a new family medicine clinic in the St. James community.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT** – The St. James School District 840 passed a \$24.9 million referendum for the expansion and remodeling of their buildings. With this referendum the school system was able to make renovations to their gym facilities, media centers, security, technology, theaters, office, and pool, and expanded with additional classroom space.

**COMMUNITY SURVEY** – The City of St. James conducted a community survey in November and December of 2022. In this survey, the majority of respondents recommended St. James as a place to live because of **SMALL TOWN CHARACTER**. The respondents also felt that **housing, and commercial and industrial development were priorities for growth in St. James.**



Smithfield parking lot expansion



## Population

4,793

City of St. James

11,253

Watonwan County

St. James is the County Seat of Watonwan County

## Distance to Major Cities

|                       | DISTANCE  | POPULATION |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| New Ulm               | 30 miles  | 13,522     |
| Fairmont              | 30 miles  | 10,666     |
| Mankato (MSA)         | 38 miles  | 100,939    |
| Sioux Falls           | 119 miles | 153,888    |
| Mpls - St. Paul (MSA) | 120 miles | 3,077,416  |

## For More Information

Economic Development Authority

507.375.1289

[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)



Populations Source: American Community Survey

## Climate

30.5"

Average annual rainfall,  
national average is 37"

47"

Average annual snowfall





HIGHWAY 60 EXIT TO ST. JAMES

# ST. JAMES IN THE NUMBERS

## Local Highlight

The St. James airport is a busy place, with 15 based aircraft and over 6,000 annual operations. The Airport features a 4,000 foot paved and lighted runway, an automated weather system that reports current conditions and RNAV approach procedures, a non-directional beacon, REILs and PAPIs which offer visual guidance, a parallel taxiway, a generous apron, self-service fueling, and a 24/7 arrival/departure building.



ST. JAMES AIRPORT

### DEMOGRAPHICS



#### AGE

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Under 5 years     | 5.0%  |
| 5 to 19 years     | 19.7% |
| 20 to 34 years    | 16.1% |
| 35 to 54 years    | 22.0% |
| 55 to 64 years    | 13.5% |
| 65 to 84 years    | 11.2% |
| 85 years and over | 5.9%  |

#### RACE

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| White/caucasian | 69.9% |
| Other race      | 30.1% |

#### ETHNICITY

Hispanic/Latinx of any race

**40.5%**

#### LANGUAGES

Major languages spoken

**English and Spanish**

American Community Survey (Source)

### TRANSPORTATION



Public Transportation  
**Take me There (TMT) Bus**



9 Miles of Paved Bike Trails  
**St. James Area Bike Trail & WatLine Trail**



Highway Access  
**Adjacent to Hwy 60 - 3 Exits**



Railroad  
**Union Pacific Rail with Depot**

#### AIRPORTS

**St. James Municipal Airport**  
(4,000 ft runway) 3.5 miles

**Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport**  
114 miles

**Sioux Falls Regional Airport**  
116 miles



### REAL ESTATE

Housing units

**1,859**



Owner-occupied housing units  
**68.80%**

Renter-occupied housing units  
**31.30%**





## Community & Economic Profile

Dedication June 20, 2021  
 Donor (Wall) – Dr. Steve Jeppson  
 Artist - Yehimi Cambron  
 Honorees - Socorro and Juan Murvartian  
 Patron - Laura Murvartian  
 © 2021, Yehimi Cambron

Median value of owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage

**81,400.00**

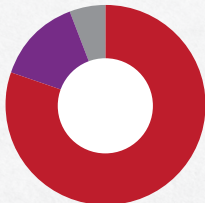
Median monthly owner costs, with a mortgage

**\$789.00**

Average household size

**2.3**

### WORKFORCE



|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| High school graduate or higher | 80.4% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher    | 15.1% |

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Total number employed | 2,272 |
| Unemployment rate     | 2.20% |

### TOP EMPLOYERS # OF EMPLOYEES

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Smithfield Foods           | 581 |
| ISD# 840                   | 190 |
| Watonswan County           | 150 |
| Mayo Clinic Health Systems | 80  |
| Good Samaritan Society     | 46  |
| UPS                        | 45  |
| Superfair                  | 41  |
| McDonalds                  | 40  |
| City of St. James          | 39  |
| Pioneer Bank               | 32  |

### TAXES

**6.875%**

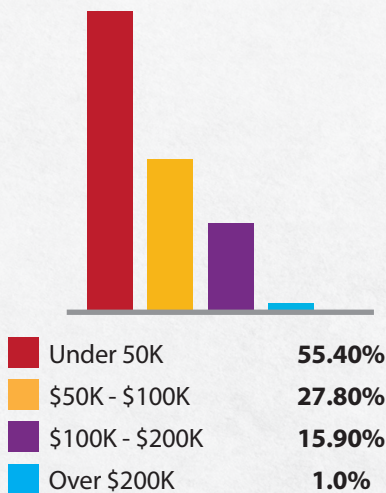
State Sales Tax

**2.0%**

Lodging Tax

St. James does not have any additional sales or food/beverage taxes.

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Median household income

**38,662**

Per capita income

**\$24,890**

## St. James EDA:

The St. James Economic Development Authority (SJEDA) is your first stop when considering St. James as your place to do business. Our staff can connect you to the right resources and guide you through any processes.

- Hub of information
- Tax deals, and alternative
- Financing
- Permit approvals
- Arrange site tours
- Free business planning through Small Business Development Center (SBDC)



ST. JAMES INDUSTRIAL PARK



### American Legion Post #33

507-375-5990  
620 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.legion.org

### Casey's General Store

507-646-2890  
1102 Heckman Court  
St. James MN 56081  
www.caseys.com

### Casey's General Store

507-550-0660  
107 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.caseys.com

### Casey's General Store

507-550-0640  
620 2nd Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.caseys.com

### China Restaurant

507-375-5998  
606 12th Street S  
St. James MN 56081

### Dairy Queen

507-375-4820  
1312 7th Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.dairyqueen.com

### Ellingsburg-Zettle Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1914

507-375-5992  
4 7th Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.vfw.org

### Encore Coffee Cafe

507-375-7375  
500 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Fraternal Order of Eagles

507-375-3255  
701 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.foe.com

### Hometown Family Restaurant

507-375-4955  
403 1st Avenue S.  
St. James MN 56081

### Jake's Pizza

507-375-5939  
408 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.jakespizzastjames.com

### McDonald's of St. James

507-407-0080  
313 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.mcdonalds.com

### Pizza Hut Wingstreet

507-375-7199  
1316 Heckman Court  
St. James MN 56081  
www.pizzahut.com

### Plaza Jalisco

507-375-3122  
608 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Resilient Nutrition

507-766-9458  
600 First Ave South  
St. James MN 56081

### Rivers Edge Bar & Grill

507-924-7484  
77818 Hwy 60 East  
St. James MN 56081  
www.stjamesgolfcourse.com

### Schmidt's Bakery

507-375-4241  
422 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Subway of St. James

507-375-7456  
600 1st Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.subway.com

### SuperFair Foods Deli & Bakery

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### Tiell Park Campground

507-375-3241  
301 Tiell Drive  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)

### BT Powersports

507-375-1389  
424 Armstrong Blvd N  
St. James MN 56081

### C & B Operations, LLC

507-375-3144  
71330 Tiell Drive  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.deerequipment.com](http://www.deerequipment.com)

### Collage Saint James

507-375-5212  
502 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Collectibles and Thrift Store

507-621-8295  
606 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Creative Touch Floral

507-375-3551  
71934 350th Street  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.creativetouchfloralgreenhouse.com](http://www.creativetouchfloralgreenhouse.com)

### Dollar General

507-407-2701  
301 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.dollargeneral.com](http://www.dollargeneral.com)

### Dot's Studio of Candles and Flowers

507-375-5167  
15 7th Street S  
St. James MN 56081

### Family Dollar

507-513-6067  
7 Armstrong Blvd S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.familydollar.com](http://www.familydollar.com)

### Fleet and Farm

507-375-4041  
1175 11th Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.fleetandfarmmn.com](http://www.fleetandfarmmn.com)

### Gem Den, LLC

507-375-4755  
508 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### HidDen Trade & Play

507-942-8160  
1303 7th Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Sharpline Corporation

507-405-2500  
301 Armstrong Boulevard N  
St. James MN 56081

### St. James Liquor

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119 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
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### True Value/Radio Shack/Verizon

507-375-4151  
423 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.truevalue.com](http://www.truevalue.com)

### Creative Touch Floral & Greenhouse



71934 350th Street  
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507-375-3551

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412 1st Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081

**Latinas Oreos**

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324 1st Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081

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518 Armstrong Blvd N  
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507-375-3241  
City Hall, 1205 6th Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081  
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**Community Education Programs**

507-375-4517  
Armstrong School  
500 3rd Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081  
[www.stjames.k12.mn.us](http://www.stjames.k12.mn.us)

**Golf-Mor LLC**

507-621-4636  
35 6th Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081

**Library Programs**

507-375-1278  
Watonwan County Library  
125 5th St S  
St. James, MN 56081  
[www.co.watonwan.mn.us/calendar.aspx](http://www.co.watonwan.mn.us/calendar.aspx)

**Princess Theater &  
Community Building**

507-375-4370  
505 1st Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081  
[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)

**Round House Model Rail Club  
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To schedule a tour in advance:  
507-375-3241  
307 Tiell Drive  
St. James, MN 56081

**St. James Golf Course**

507-942-7484  
77818 MN-60  
St. James, MN 56081  
[www.stjamesgolfcourse.com](http://www.stjamesgolfcourse.com)

**St. James Historical Society  
Museum**

A Chapter of the Watonwan County  
Historical Society  
507-380-7024  
602 3rd Ave S  
St. James, MN 56081  
Facebook: St. James Historical Society

**Watonwan County Parks  
& Recreation**

507-375-3393  
Public Works, 1304 7th Ave S  
St. James, MN 56081  
• Eagle's Nest Park  
• WatLine Trail



**First Realty of St. James**

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510 1st Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081  
[www.firstrealtyofstj.com](http://www.firstrealtyofstj.com)

**Mayberry Realty**

507-375-3171  
119 7th Street S  
St. James, MN 56081  
[www.mayberryrealty.net](http://www.mayberryrealty.net)

**Colonial Apartments**

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919 11th Avenue N  
St. James, MN 56081

**EDA Apartments**

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City of St. James Economic  
Development Authority  
City Hall  
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[www.ci.stjames.mn.us](http://www.ci.stjames.mn.us)

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St. James MN 56081

#### Cross Combat Martial Arts

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#### Eye Care Center of St. James

507-375-3737  
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St. James MN 56081

#### Madelia Health

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St. James MN 56081

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507-327-2502  
120 7th Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
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#### Mayo Clinic Health Systems St. James

507-375-3391  
1101 Moulton & Parsons Drive  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org](http://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org)

#### Next Level STJ

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#### Olson Optical

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St. James MN 56081  
[www.olsonoptical.com](http://www.olsonoptical.com)

#### Progressive Chiropractic

507-375-7600  
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St. James MN 56081

#### Regenerative Health Clinic

507-942-2002  
502 2nd Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.rhealthclinic.com](http://www.rhealthclinic.com)

#### St. James Area Rehabilitation Services

507-375-3261  
1101 Moulton and Parsons Drive  
St. James MN 56081

#### St. James Family Chiropractic, LTD

507-375-4690  
800 Weston Avenue  
St. James MN 56081

#### St. James Family Dentistry, P.C.

507-375-4611  
504 2nd Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.stjamesfamilydentistry.net](http://www.stjamesfamilydentistry.net)

#### St. James Veterinary Clinic

507-260-8100  
211 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.stjamesvetclinic.com](http://www.stjamesvetclinic.com)

#### Steve Pitcher, DDS

507-375-7272  
506 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

#### Veterans Administration Clinic

507-375-9670  
1103 13th Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081



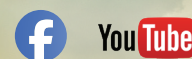
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WORSHIP SERVICES 10:15 AM (9:30 AM DURING THE SUMMER)

First Presbyterian Church  
706 Third Avenue South  
St. James, Minnesota

Ph: 507-375-3432  
[www.fpcstjames.com](http://www.fpcstjames.com)

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT 840

### St James Community Child Care

507-375-4517 ext. 5  
500 3rd Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.stjames.k12.mn.us](http://www.stjames.k12.mn.us)

### Saved by the Bell

507-375-4517 ext. 15  
500 3rd Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.stjames.k12.mn.us](http://www.stjames.k12.mn.us)

### St. Paul's Youth Care

507-621-8940  
307 9th Street S.  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.stpauls.stjames.com](http://www.stpauls.stjames.com)

## OTHER LICENSED DAYCARES IN ST. JAMES

### Social Services, Watonwan County

507-375-7841  
Contact the Social Services  
Department to receive a list of  
Child Care providers who are  
licensed through the County.

### Augustana Lutheran Church

507-375-4792  
603 Armstrong Blvd N  
St. James MN 56081

### Crecimiento Espiritual

323-412-1760  
600 1/2 Armstrong Blvd N  
St. James MN 56081

### Crossroads Church

507-721-3139  
721 Weston Avenue  
St. James MN 56081

### El Aposento Alto Inglesia Pentecostal Unida Internacional

112 7th Street S  
St. James MN 56081

### First Lutheran Church ELCA

507-375-3472  
719 6th Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### First Presbyterian Church

507-375-3432  
706 3rd Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081

### Highland Park Baptist Church

507-375-4025  
1300 10th Avenue N  
St. James MN 56081

### Hosanna Free Lutheran Church

507-375-4009  
1176 11th Street S  
St. James MN 56081

### Igelisa Pentecostes "LaRoca"

507-375-5520  
921 9th Street N  
St. James MN 56081

### Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall

507-375-3163  
121 7th Avenue N  
St. James MN 56081

### South Central Youth for Christ

507-381-6425  
400 Armstrong Blvd N  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.scmfyc.org](http://www.scmfyc.org)

### St. James Catholic Church

507-375-3542  
707 4th Street S  
St. James MN 56081

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church

507-375-3636  
315 9th Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
[www.stpauls.stjames.com](http://www.stpauls.stjames.com)

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[WWW.FLCSTJAMES.ORG](http://WWW.FLCSTJAMES.ORG)

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**507-375-3809**

Principal@stpaulsstjames.com  
Secretary@stpaulsstjames.com

[www.stpaulsstjames.com](http://www.stpaulsstjames.com)

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www.ameripriseadvisors.com

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507-375-3374  
209 Armstrong Blvd S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.birkholzlaw.com

### Edward Jones Investments

507-375-5074  
101 7th Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.edwardjones.com

### First National Bank

507-375-3376  
202 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.fnbstjames.com

### H&R Block

507-375-8299  
601 1st Street S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.hrblock.com

### Keith Boeve - State Farm Insurance

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615 2nd Avenue S  
St. James, MN 56081  
www.keithboeve.com

### Kelsey, Arndt & Tweit PLLC

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520 1st Avenue S Suite #1  
St. James, MN 56081  
www.kat.cpa

### LPL Financial

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504 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.lpl.com

### Ness Agency

507-375-5661  
718 1st Avenue S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.allstate.com

### Pioneer Bank

507-375-3201  
123 Armstrong Blvd S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.bankwithpioneer.com

### Robert Yurcek Jr. CPA

507-375-5375  
106 Armstrong Blvd S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.robertyurcekcpa.com

### Steinle Law

507-942-2276  
520 1st Avenue S Suite 3  
St. James MN 56081  
www.steinlelawpllc.com

### Sunde, Olson, Kircher & Zender

507-375-3352  
108 Armstrong Blvd S  
St. James MN 56081  
www.sundeolson.com

### Thrivent Financial

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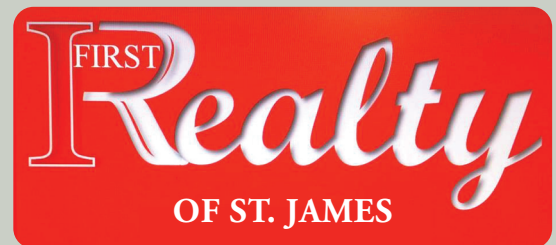


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*"A lifetime of learning, growing, and succeeding together"*

Serving the St. James Community

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

Community Education

Infant to School Age Daycare

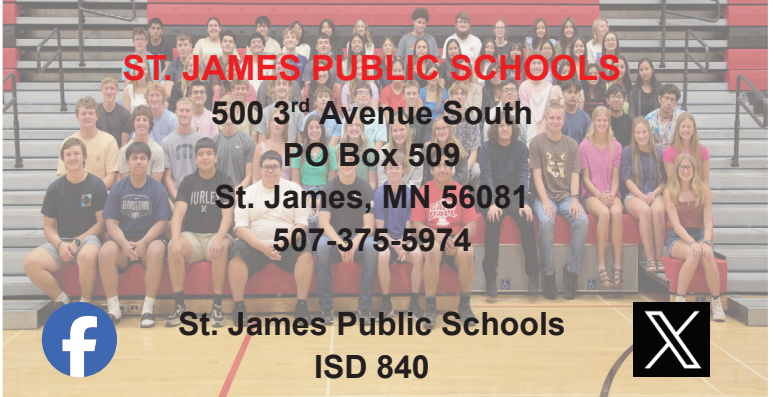
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Adult Basic Education

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fostering respect for all**



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St. James, MN 56081

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St. James Public Schools  
ISD 840



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