



THE POND DAKOTA QUARTERLY



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Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Shakopee Riverfront Cultural Trail | 1 |
| Calendar of Events | 2-3 |
| Map to Pond Dakota Mission Park | 3 |
| The Pond Dakota Heritage Society | 3 |
| Connect with the Historic Pond House | 4 |



Shakopee Riverfront Cultural Trail

From the Scott County Historical Society’s website:

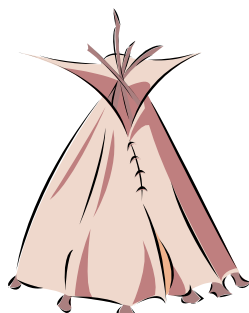
A new project is underway to add new experiences along the trail that runs from the Holmes Street Bridge to The Landing through downtown Shakopee. These experiences—still in development—will carry visitors through thousands of years of history and allow them to explore the many ways different cultures have connected with the Minnesota River.

This project is a partnership between the City of Shakopee, Scott County, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Scott County Historical Society and Three Rivers Parks District. This project was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. This grant is Phase 1 of a multi-phase project.

This phase will result in creation of a Visitor Experience Plan, which will guide all future phases including design of interpretive elements, construction, and implementation along the riverfront. Details of this trail, including design and content, will be decided on in a later phase of the project. Right now we’re determining what stories, themes and messages will be shared on the riverfront trail.

Input is sought from community members to help design this riverfront experience. More info at <https://www.scottcountyhistory.org/trail>.

The trail’s theme is “Many People, Many Paths, One River” and will include nine “experiential zones”. One of the zones will give information about Samuel and Gideon Pond, and Samuel’s mission and gristmill along the river.



Events at Pond Dakota Mission Park

Pond House programs are held year round on Saturdays from 1 – 4 pm. **Currently all programs are outdoors** and will occur weather permitting and with proper physical distancing and other safety measures in place. In the event of weather cancellation, notice will be provided on the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facebook Page.

Admission to programs and tours is free. Donations are welcome.

JANUARY

Prairie Birds & Feeders

Saturday January 8, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Go on a scavenger hunt through the native prairie that surrounds the Pond House. Learn about Minnesota birds and make a pine cone bird feeder to take home. Our fine-feathered friends will thank you for it! Free.

Sledding is open!

Saturday, January 15, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

The Pond House is closed today but the park's hills are open and ready for sledding. Bring a sled or try out a wooden toboggan on one of the Park's snowy slopes. Warm yourself around the campfire! Free.



Mystery House Tours

Saturday, January 22, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Examine the Pond House from the outside-in as a history detective! What are the mysterious markings on the bricks, why is the window glass wavy, and why a door on every side of the house? Answer these and other curious questions to win a detective gadget. Free.

Winter History Fest

Saturday, January 29, Drop-in 10 am-2 pm

Play outdoor winter games like Fox and Geese and Native American Snow Snakes. Explore beautiful Pond Dakota Mission Park on snowshoes! A guide will demonstrate how to use snowshoes and lead tours throughout the afternoon. Snowshoes will be provided. Warm up by the campfire and hear true tales of the Pond brothers enduring harsh frontier winters! Free.



FEBRUARY

Puzzling Pieces From the Past

Saturday, February 5, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Inspect a wooden egg and other curious items from the Pond House. Can you identify them and how they were used? Around a campfire, reflect on souvenirs people collect, and show or tell about one of yours. Receive a Pond House photo souvenir to take home! Free.

Tracks & Furs

Saturday, February 12, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Learn to pair up woodland animals with their tracks while playing a rousing game of Animal Track Bingo, and win a prize! Handle a variety of real furs and try to identify the animals they came from. Go animal track sleuthing along the Minnesota River Valley that you can easily access from the park. Free.



Fun & Frightful Frontier Winters

Saturday, February 19, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Bring a sled or try out a wooden toboggan on one of the Park's snowy slopes. Warm yourself by the campfire and hear true tales of the Pond brothers falling through the ice on Lake Harriet and the Minnesota River! Free.

Discover Snowshoeing!

Saturday, February 26, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Explore beautiful Pond Dakota Mission Park on snowshoes! A guide will demonstrate how to use snowshoes and lead tours throughout the afternoon. Meet at the Pond House. Snowshoes will be provided, or you can bring your own. Warm yourself around the campfire! Free.

MARCH

The snowy slopes of the park are open for sledding!

**Crafty Camping**

Saturday, March 5, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Make starters for your future campfires using egg cartons, sawdust, and paraffin. Learn why the Pond family would have loved to have them when heating their home and guess what they used instead. Free outdoor program.

Maple Sugaring

Saturday, March 12, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Native Americans produced maple sugar for centuries and passed on their knowledge to frontier settlers. Now you can experience maple sugaring for yourself! Learn about choosing trees to tap, collecting the sap, and boiling it down to make syrup. Then watch syrup transform into maple sugar and make a paper makuk to take home. Free.



Boiling
Maple Sap

Mystery House Tours

Saturday, March 19, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

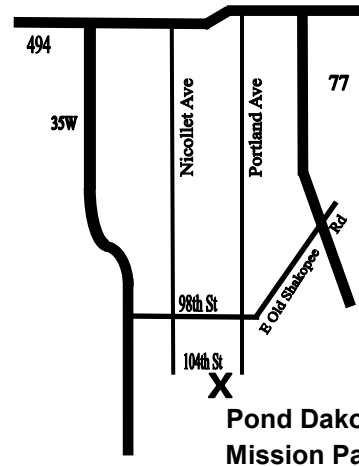
Examine the Pond House from the outside-in as a history detective! What are the mysterious markings on the bricks, why is the window glass wavy, and why a door on every side of the house? Correctly answer these and other curious questions to win a detective gadget. Free.

Rope Making

Saturday, March 26, Drop-in program 1-4 pm

Use a simple rope-making tool to fabricate a section of rope to take home and finish off the ends with a whip knot. Learn all about rope – a very important item on the frontier. Free.

Pond Dakota Mission Park
401 East 104th Street
Bloomington, MN 55420



Interpretive signs describing the history of the Dakota in the Minnesota River Valley, and Gideon and Samuel Pond, missionaries who arrived in 1834, are located along the walking trails in the park. The 1856 Gideon and Agnes Pond House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park is open daily until 10 pm.

For more information about Pond Dakota Mission Park or private tours of the Gideon and Agnes Pond House, contact Mark Morrison, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, 952-563-8693, or mmorrison@BloomingtonMN.gov. More about the Pond House at www.BloomingtonMN.gov. Follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/GideonAgnesPondHouse

The Pond Dakota Heritage Society hosts speakers at the Pond House. The Society's mission is to preserve the rich history of the Dakota and their relationship with early Minnesota settlers and Christian Missionaries, and to explore contrasting cultural and religious viewpoints. Lifetime Individual Membership is \$20. Join today! Go to www.ponddakota.org or learn more at www.ponddakota.org. Email ponddakota@gmail.com or send mail to PDHS, P.O. Box 20511, Bloomington, MN 55420.

**City of Bloomington
Parks and Recreation
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Bloomington, MN 55431**

Return Service Requested

Connect with the Historic Pond House!

- Receive this newsletter in your home by mail or email
- Volunteer at Pond House programs
- Suggest a new hands-on history program
- Schedule a private tour with your group

To get started send an email to Jay Ludwig at
jludwig@bloomingtonmn.gov