

■ **Lake Walk** *2 miles round trip* **ROUTE 2**

- 6 Villard** – Taken from Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Villard Bulletin Thursday, April 26, 1883. Published by Earl M. Woodward. “About five years ago John Williams, the original owner and proprietor of the town site, came here and purchased 500 acres of land, on a part of which now stands the town of Villard. The town was named after Henry Villard, the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Last year the site of the town was a wheat field, and although no building was commenced until late in September, there has sprung from the stubble, as by magic, a village that can now boast of 25 prosperous business houses, stores, market places, shop and hotel, church, schools and homes.
- 7 Knapp Park** – Knapp Park was presented to the village of Villard by Lois Pennie Knapp in 1963. Named in honor of her husband Dr. Knapp, the 33 acres composing the park have been extensively developed. Camping facilities with electric hookups, picnic shelters, group camping area, playgrounds and other developments occurred largely through the efforts of the Villard Improvement Committee.
- 8 Lake Villard Public Access** – Lake Villard lies just to the north of Lake Amelia, this nearly round lake has an area of 536 acres, a median depth of 11 feet and maximum depth of 16 feet, a diameter of somewhat over one mile and a total shore line of about 3 ½ miles.
- 9 Canary Beach** – Originated by August Schauer in 1920, Canary Beach was named for the many gold finches that can be found in the area during the spring and summer.

■ **Depot** *3.44 miles round trip* **ROUTE 3**

- 10 Villard Depot** – Villard was named after Henry Villard, president of the Northern Pacific. He pushed the building of the railroad through North Dakota and Minnesota. The railroad was completed during the summer of 1882. The first passenger train came through on Oct. 27, 1882 and the first freight train on Nov. 1, 1882.
- 11 Lake Street** – Lake Street is one of the original streets at the towns beginning. In 1883, board sidewalks were constructed along Lake Street connecting the town to Lake Villard.
- 12 Lake Amelia** – Lake Amelia is the largest lake in the region, having an area of 932 acres, an average depth of 21 feet, a maximum depth of 71 feet, a length of almost 3 miles and a shore line extending over 7 miles. It was named in honor of Amelia Brayman, a daughter of a pioneer who settled on the east shore. This lake has the most shoreline development of any lakes in the area.

Walk, Bike and EXPLORE



CITY OF VILLARD

This walking route was created to encourage walking and exploring throughout the beautiful area of Villard, MN. Pope County Community Members assembled it as part of SHIP, our statewide health improvement efforts, creating communities that support healthy choices.



For Additional Routes Check Online at

www.westcentralwellness.org
www.glenwoodlakesarea.org
www.starbuckmn.org

This walking map is brought to you by:





City Center .8 miles ROUTE 1

- 1 Villard School** – Villard Consolidated School District 615 was formed in 1913 by consolidating 7 rural school districts. That same year the original two-story brick building was constructed at a cost of \$35,000. At the time, it was the largest district in Minnesota.
- 2 Villard Post Office** – The first post offices in Villard were mail drop stations along the Wadsworth trail. In 1967, the Villard Post Office was moved to its present location. Previously the land held the old school house which was used for dances and had a theater on the ground floor.
- 3 Villard Community Center** – Villard Community Center was made possible by the donations and dedication of many in the community. Grand opening was held in 1982 and since then, the community center has held many town meetings, celebrations and is used as a polling place. The cannon in the front of the center dates back to the civil war and was given to the Villard School District. The cannon was a fixture in front of the Villard school in pictures that date back as early as 1910.
- 4 Stockyard** – This site held the Villard Stockyard in the late 1880's to early 1900's. Livestock were being bought and shipped here making Villard the largest shipper in the branch railroad.
- 5 Gospel Hall** – The Gospel Hall was purchased by members of the Plymouth Brethren Assembly from an Advent Congregation in 1896. Early leaders of the Assembly were E.A. Booth who walked around the area teaching and preaching and later John Allen drove a horse and buggy between Villard and Lowry.