



DAY TRIP TO OLD CROW WING

From Brainerd · Crow Wing County, Minnesota



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TOWNSITE IN A STATE PARK

An open field, a boardwalk, cellar holes and one restored 1849 house in a state park, per a hiking video posted in August 2026 and a visitor's photos of the trail signs from June 28, 2025.

Old Crow Wing is an easy half day from Brainerd. Walk the Main Street trail through the townsite to the Beaulieu House, then the riverbank where the Crow Wing meets the Mississippi. Crow Wing State Park, run by the Minnesota DNR, also has a campground, picnic areas and river overlooks.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive south from Brainerd on MN 371 and stop at the park office for a permit and a townsite map. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk the Main Street trail from the north picnic area along the boardwalk to the Beaulieu House. |
| ☐ Noon | Picnic by the river where the Crow Wing flows into the Mississippi. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Visit the Warren home site, the chapel and the Chippewa Lookout, then head back to Brainerd. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Beaulieu House from the boardwalk.** The white house on its rise over the open townsite field is the classic view.
- **The rivers' meeting.** From the lower picnic area you look across the Mississippi to Crow Wing Island.
- **Chippewa Lookout.** The view runs more than a mile upriver.



USGS topographic map, 1916 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	11 mi, about 19 min each way from downtown Brainerd. From Minneapolis: 119 mi, about 2 h 28 min.
PERMIT	A vehicle permit is \$7 for one day or \$35 for a year, per the DNR's permit page on October 28, 2026. Buy it online or at the park office on the main entrance road.
HOURS	Not confirmed. The DNR's Crow Wing park page failed to load its park data on October 28, 2026. Check it before you go, or ask at the park office.
WALKING	The Main Street, Crow Wing trail is about a third of a mile, on a boardwalk and grass paths.
RESTROOMS	Indoor restrooms at the picnic shelter, per the DNR.
FOOD AND WATER	Picnic tables at the picnic areas. Buy food in Brainerd.
ADDRESS	3124 State Park Road, Brainerd, MN 56401.
NOTE	The Father Pierz chapel and its grounds belong to the Diocese of St. Cloud.
WEBSITE	dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00139

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 46.27722, -94.33750 · 46°16'38"N
94°20'15"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/minnesota/old-crow-wing/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.