

LAKE BENTON

ORIGINAL WIND POWER CAPITAL OF THE MIDWEST

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Welcome to Lake Benton

Historic Lake Benton has a colorful past and this history — combined with the beautiful natural surroundings — makes for a delightful setting in which to live and work . . . or to visit. The "valley" of Lake Benton and the surrounding hills, lake and prairie provide for the most scenic area anywhere in southwestern Minnesota. How the town originated and its many attributes are listed throughout this site.

[Hole-in-the-Mountain Park](#)

We need your input! Lincoln County is interested in hearing your feedback as we plan for future improvements at Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. Please follow the link below to complete the survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JY7NDXQ>

PRESS RELEASE: - SWHHS Press Release 3-27-20

Local Weather

 **60.8 °F** 67 °F 82 °F
Breezy
Lake Benton Weather 

Wind Power Capital

You are invited to visit our new Museum and Wind Power Learning Center.

Tour groups: Please make arrangements by calling the Heritage Center at 507-368-4480.

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Where The Wind Blows

As one of the windiest spots in the nation, southwest Minnesota is the ideal location to build facilities that provide wind-generated power. To harness this enormous potential, Northern States Power, today known as Xcel Energy, worked cooperatively with Zond Corporation, today known as Enron Wind, to establish two of the first wind power facilities in excess of 100 megawatts (MW), which remain two of the world's largest single wind power projects.

These world-class renewable energy facilities, located along the Buffalo Ridge corridor and known as Lake Benton I and Lake Benton II, consist of 281 state-of-the-art wind turbines and comprise 210 megawatts of capacity. Together the projects generate approximately 682,000 megawatts hours per year - enough electricity to serve approximately 90,000 average Midwestern homes. [Learn more . . .](#)

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In News & Notices:

Where The Wind Blows



People have harnessed the wind throughout history to convert wind energy into useable energy. Today, a new form of wind machine is appearing on the landscape as windy rural areas have a unique opportunity to benefit from a return to wind power. The Upper Midwest, like no other region of the country, is blessed with a wind resource capable of producing vast amounts of clean, cost-effective energy.

Wind development is being fueled by the declining costs of wind generated electricity, the increasing concern and restrictions on pollution from fossil fuels, the desire for the environmental benefits associated with a cleaner alternative, favorable state energy policies, and the economic development that wind energy can bring to the region. To achieve these goals, a diverse coalition of interested parties are joining efforts. Land owners, rural communities [such as Lake Benton!], conservationists, and policy makers are

working to accelerate the development of wind energy. In doing to, we chart a cleaner, renewable energy path that fosters economic opportunities for the region.