

I'm not a bot



Lower sioux indian community

MPCA Reports - The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recently released a series of reports, studies and plans addressing water contamination in the Minnesota River, the biggest tributary to the Mississippi in our state. All the studies will be open for public comment until 4:30pm Friday, September 20, 2019. Learn more Water Storage Forum - April 4, 2019 If you would like to learn about upcoming events across the basin, sign up for the Minnesota River Weekly Update by emailing: mnrweeklyupdate@gmail.com BASIN INITIATIVES Learn more about the Minnesota River Congress LEARN ABOUT THE BASIN Targeted Watershed Storage Presentation by Patrick Belmont Sediment, science, and stakeholders – clearing the muddy waters of the Minnesota River by Peter Wilcock Protecting Waters in Agricultural Watersheds by Bill Stowe Featured Videos Voices of the River Video oral history project by Anne Queenan River Revival- Working Together to Save the Minnesota River Documentary. Featured Virtual Tours Take a 360 panoramic virtual tour of sites across the Minnesota River Basin. The Cansayapi Cultural Department (CCD) was established in 2017 through Tribal resolution No. 17-137 to enhance the capacity of cultural preservation work at Lower Sioux Indian Community. Our Vision: Cansa'yapi is a vibrant gathering place where all generations and relatives come together to share and sustain our connections to our traditions and to one another, and together, we promote the well-being of our Dakota Oyate and the Oceti Sakowin. To gather, protect, nurture, and share our everchanging vibrant Dakota traditions with the Oceti Sakowin. 1 Cultural Survey 2 Oral Story 3 Preservation of Cultural Resources and Historic Material 4 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) We are committed to improving the health and well-being of our community members. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact us. © 2025 Native Ministries International | Site by GrowthZone Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. The people grow, adapt, and innovate together, through opportunities that span the generations and seek continuous success. Located near Morton, Minnesota, the Lower Sioux Indian Community is a healthy, safe, and happy community — grounded and guided by Dakota culture, traditions, and language — where every person contributes to a diversified social and economic life. Join us for our annual Wacipi, a three-day Dakota event with traditional dancing, singing, drums, ceremonies, vendors, flag raising, golf tournament, 2K/5K fun run, and much more! The Lower Sioux Indian Community strives to make reservation lands livable and permanent homelands for tribal citizens through programs and services that promote the general welfare of the tribal community, including economic and social programs, which are necessary to raise the standard of living and the social well-being of its membership. Both process and product are valuable in community planning. The Lower Sioux Indian Community Comprehensive Plan (LSICCP) is a living document, intended to be reviewed and updated on an on-going basis. Since conducting community planning is a significant undertaking, the planning department identified needed phases and benchmarks in the development of a comprehensive community plan. The primary outcomes of Phase I were to establish a vision for the community; conduct asset mapping; and develop exploratory community strategies. The primary outcome of Phase II was to develop 10-year community goals. Phase III is to provide an educational framework in strengthening tribal governance and nation building. Phase IV is for each department to begin Strategic Development in 3 to 5 year increments that align with the previous phases. Phase III and IV will be conducted concurrently as resources allow. Comprehensive Community Planning is a long-term investment that supports sustainable initiatives, working towards realizing a broader vision. As a living document, the LSICCP is intended to be reviewed, implemented, and subsequently updated on a cyclical basis. The US government established the Lower Sioux Agency in 1853 as an administrative center for the newly created Dakota reservation. It was the site of the outbreak of the US-Dakota War of 1862, just nine years after it was created.The Lower Sioux Agency was one of two US government Indian agencies established in 1853 to be the administrative centers of the newly created Dakota reservations for the Mdewakanton and Wahpekute bands of Dakota. The agencies functioned mainly to provide government oversight of the Dakota and to implement federal Indian policy of the period. It had a school, blacksmith shop, stables, carpenter shop, church, boarding house, and homes for agency employees. That same year, the government established Fort Ridgely at the southeastern edge of the reservation.The Minnesota River was an important highway for the Dakota, government employees, the military, settlers, and travelers. In the 1850s and 1860s, steamboats delivered people and goods to the agency by landing at the foot of the bluffs near the eastern end of the River Trail. The agency blacksmith shop stood nearby, and downstream were the agency saw and grist (corn/wheat grinding) mills. Located next to the landing was the ferry crossing to the north river bank and the road to Fort Ridgely. It was from here that agency workers fled the morning of August 18, 1862, in an effort to reach the fort after the war erupted.At the time of the US-Dakota War in 1862, the settlement at the lower agency included between 15 and 20 government buildings, as well as sleeping quarters and homes for government employees and their families. Dakota families adopting a European American farming lifestyle occupied approximately 130 brick, frame, and log homes nearby. An Episcopal and Presbyterian missionary complex of homes, churches, and other buildings lay several hundred yards to the east of the agency grounds. Traders' stores and homes lined the road just northwest of the agency.The 1861 agency warehouseA stone warehouse built in 1861 provided storage for food and goods intended for the Dakota. The building replaced several less substantial log buildings located below the bluffs, precariously close to the river. Agency carpenter John Nairn likely planned and supervised the project, possibly contracting with one or more masons to oversee the stone work. Judging from agency reports, plows and farm tools, seeds, food, nails, windows and doors, clothing, candles, dishes, and many other supplies were among the goods stored here. Although the wooden interior was burned out, the stone walls survived the war relatively intact. It is the only agency-era structure left standing at the site today.After the war, the Knuettel family acquired the building and by the 1870s converted it to a farmhouse. The building served as a farmhouse and private residence for the next 100 years. Subsequent owners enlarged the narrow, original windows, cut in new doors and windows, and added an enclosed front porch. Restoration of the warehouse to its 1861 appearance began in 1997.Home on the Minnesota RiverAfter the war, the US government eliminated the reservations and sold the land to settler-colonists. However, in the 1880s, Dakota exiles started returning to their Minnesota River homes. Federal legislation provided for the establishment of a new Lower Sioux community. Today, the Lower Sioux Indian Community borders the northwest edge of the original site. The Bdewakantunwan Dakota (Sioux) is one of the seven bands of the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires). The Lower Sioux Indian Community, home of the Minnesota Bdewakantunwan band of Dakota, is located in south central Minnesota, bounded by Redwood County, and the Minnesota River. The Lower Sioux Indian Community, traditionally called Cansayapi (where they paint the trees red), offers a rare combination of scenic beauty and Minnesota heritage. The Lower Sioux Indian Community established a constitution and bylaws under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. This sovereign nation has a land base that consists of 1,759 acres held in trust status. The land was never allotted to individual Bdewakantunwan Dakotas, but home sites were assigned to the tribal citizens. There are about 1,100 acres classified as agricultural land, grassland, and cultivated land, 570 acres of forest. However, due to the historical background of the Bdewakantunwan band of Dakota, the Lower Sioux Indian Community does place historical claim to other sites outside of its current land base in the State of Minnesota encompassing an area of over 24 million acres in the Minnesota River Valley alone. Since 2007, the Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site has been managed by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society. The Lower Sioux Agency was established in 1853 by the U.S. government to serve as administrative center for government efforts to remove the Bdewakantunwan and Wahpekute bands of Dakota to its reservation lands and to colonize them to become self-sufficient farmers. This reservation was just four percent of the land the Dakota previously inhabited. As the United States drifted toward civil war, promises to the Dakota tribes were all but forgotten amidst the graft and corruption in the Indian service. Frustrated and provoked by a series of broken promises and by reservation policies that forced cultural change, Dakota warriors decided to go to war with the United States on a hot August Sunday in 1862. The fighting lasted six weeks and took the lives of nearly five hundred whites, mostly civilians, and an unknown but substantial number of Dakota. President Department: Community Council Members Ext. 8632 robert.larsen@lowersioux.com Secretary Department: Community Council Members Ext. 8633 joey.obrien@lowersioux.com Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Department: Community Council Members, Tribal Council Ext. 2515 tyler.prescott@lowersioux.com Senior Executive Asst. Department: Administration Staff Ext. 8630 miranda.sam@lowersioux.com H.R. Coordinator Department: Administration Staff Ext. 8650 karen.swann@lowersioux.com Benefits Coord. Department: Administration Staff Ext. 8921 marilyn.hester@lowersioux.com Receptionist Department: Administration Staff Ext. 8610 Legal Counsel Department: Legal Counsel Ext. 8647 nizhoni.smith@lowersioux.com Court Clerk Department: Court Ext. 8625 rita.tellinghuisen@lowersioux.com Executive Assistant Department: Dakota Futures Ext. 8670 dakotafutures@lowersioux.com Director Department: Finance Ext. 2520 Fax: 697-8619 mitch.farmer@lowersioux.com Grants Manager Department: Finance Ext. 2522 loretta.dixon@lowersioux.com Per Capita Department: Finance Ext. 2526 melissa.chee@lowersioux.com Finance Clerk Department: Finance Ext. 2507 juan.hernandez@lowersioux.com Accounts Payable Department: Finance Ext. 2523 kathy.blackwell@lowersioux.com Assitant Grant Manager Department: Finance Ext. 8635 riley.oneil@lowersioux.com Director Department: Dakota Futures Ext. 2540 larry.swann@lowersioux.com Director of Housing Department: Housing Ext. 2538 sophie.lund@lowersioux.com Director Department: Maintenance Ext. 2534 (507)430-3627 butch.larsen@lowersioux.com Director Department: Office of Environment Ext. 8643 (507)430-1729 deb.drlam@lowersioux.com Department: People Service (507)206-9160 cdanielson@peopleservice.com Chief Department: Police Ext. 8660 (507)430-9030 Community Police Liaison, Evidence Technician Department: Police (507) 697-8666 sara.bidinger@lowersioux.com Director Department: Recreation Ext. 8350 (507) 697-8350 christian.nelson@lowersioux.com Director Department: Roads/Maintenance Ext. 8644 mike.watterson@lowersioux.com Administrative Assistant Department: Social Services Ext. 8680 lssreception@lowersioux.com Department: Social Services Ext. 8686 Case Aid/Office Support Department: Human Services (507) 697-8686 On-call Social Worker Department: Social Services THPO/CCD Director Department: Cansayapi Cultural Ext. 8672 507-697-8672 Cheyenne.stjohn@lowersioux.com Language Teacher Department: ryan.dixon@lowersioux.com Department: Early Head Start Health Coordinator Department: Early Head Start nikki.berry@lowersioux.com Department: Early Head Start Department: Early Head Start Department: Early Head Start Ext. 8256 Department: Veterans Services Officer Ext. 8641 (507)456-5067 Department: Other Numbers Ext. 8610 (507) 697-6185 Department: Other Numbers Ext. 8616 Department: Other Numbers (507)697-8700 Department: Other Numbers (320) 523-1161 Department: Other Numbers (320)564-385 Department: Other Numbers Ext. 8125 Administrator Department: Gaming Commission Ext. 8603 lindsey.arredondo@jackpotjunction.com Vice-President Department: Community Council Members (507)697-6185 bob.prescott@lowersioux.com Treasurer Department: Community Council Members, Tribal Council (507)697-6185 kristi.schoen@lowersioux.com Director Department: Human Services 507-697-8681 Mariah.wabasha@lowersioux.com Family Services Supervisor Department: Family Services Ext. 8688 507-430-9405 Adam.coulson@lowersioux.com Tribal Social Worker Department: Family Services Ext. 8642 Nicole.gable@lowersioux.com Intergenerational Trauma Worker Department: Woniya Kini (507) 430-3779 Brenda.andersonpowers@lowersioux.com Treatment Counselor Department: Woniya Kini Ext. 8678 (507) 430-2086 Corey.bill@lowersioux.com Recovery Peer Specialist Department: Woniya Kini Ext. 8693 (507) 637-7941 Dunes.wabasha@lowersioux.com Adult Mental Health Case Manager Department: Woniya Kini Ext. 8691 (507) 430-0017 Winona.goodthunder@lowersioux.com Tribal Planner/ Grant Writer Department: Grants & Planning Ext. 8638 (507) 697-8638 elliot.christensen@lowersioux.com Brownfields Coord. Department: Office of Environment Ext. 8651 Officer Department: Police Ext. 8664 TVetsouvanh@lowersiouxpd.com SHIP Coordinator Department: Recreation Ext. 8362 josette.jones@lowersioux.com Wawokiya Department: Recreation Ext. 8272 toni.oneil@lowersioux.com Wawokiya Department: Recreation Ext. 8364 Christian.nelson@lowersioux.com Rec Leader Department: Recreation Ext. 8612 Rec Leader Department: Recreation Ext. 8612 Wicozani Project Coordinator Department: Community Health Ext. 8357 lyz.lablanc@lowersioux.com Intergenerational Coordinator Department: Community Health Ext. 8351 andrea.okeefe@lowersioux.com Intergenerational Coordinator Department: Community Health Ext. 8352 josh.larsen@lowersioux.com Chef Department: Community Health Admin Coordinator Department: Cansayapi Wicoicage Oti 8354 Arts Coordinator Department: Cansayapi Wicoicage Oti Ext. 8353 misty.king@lowersioux.com Department: Other Numbers Ext. 2509 Department: Community Council Members Women's Victim's Services Department: Legal Counsel Ext. 8609 kim.hewitt@lowersioux.com Coordinator Department: Agriculture Ext. 8361 joseph.goodthunder@lowersioux.com Project Manager Department: Agriculture Ext. 8365 danny.desjarlais@lowersioux.com Department: Indian Health Services Ext. 8920 Education Coordinator Department: Education Ext. 2600 507-697-6185 jesse.kodet@lowersioux.com Finance Clerk Department: Finance Ext. 2524 Housing Maintenance Department: Housing Ext. 8653 kevin.okeefe@lowersioux.com Enrollment Clerk Department: Enrollment Ext. 2529 5076976185 johnathan.lucio@lowersioux.com Tribal Social Worker Department: Family Services Ext. 8944 (507) 430-7569 Danielle.kilgore@lowersioux.com Woniya Kini Supervisor Department: Woniya Kini Ext. 8683 507-430-7414 Heather.arneson@lowersioux.com Administrative Assistant Department: Human Services (507) 697-8680 Tamara.desjarlais@lowersioux.com Executive Administrator Department: Human Services (507) 697-8686 Alonna.baune@lowersioux.com Children Mental Health Case Manager Department: Woniya Kini Ext. 8677 (507)-430-2108 Mariah.heffner@lowersioux.com Recovery Peer Specialist Department: Woniya Kini Ext. 8676 Raelae.larsen@lowersioux.com Tribal Social Worker Department: Family Services Ext. 8699 (507) 430-0209 Nicollette.bronstad@lowersioux.com Foster Care Licensing Social Worker Department: Family Services Ext. 8675 (507) 430-7932 Land Recorder/ Housing Assistant Department: Housing Ext. 2539 507-697-6185 dawn.pendleton@lowersioux.com Preservation Coordinator Department: Cansayapi Cultural 507-697-8705 trish.leith@lowersioux.com Tribal Tourism Coordinator Department: THPO 507-697-8704 alice.cournoyer@lowersioux.com Site Manager Department: THPO 507-697-8674 Historic.site@lowersioux.com Lifelong Learning Coordinator Department: Education Ext. 8692 507-697-6185 rochelle.lamebull@lowersioux.com American Indian Communities For centuries, the Dakota has maintained strong connections to the Minnesota River and its many tributaries and all that time focusing on protecting the natural resource community. Today, there are three Dakota communities along the Minnesota River with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux located on the lower end in the Twin Cities. Both of the other communities - Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux - can be found near the middle of the river. Each of them supports an environmental office to monitor its natural resources like ground water, incorporate conservation practices to protect Tribal water, land and air along with other related duties. Lower Sioux Indian Community - Redwood Falls A federally recognized Indian tribe located in south central Minnesota in Redwood County, the Lower Sioux Indian Community focuses on pride in their history and culture as the heart and spirit of everything they do. Members of the Lower Sioux Indian Community are part of the Mdewakanton Band of Dakota. Today, the Lower Sioux Community has almost 930 enrolled members, more than half of who reside on Tribal lands. The Lower Sioux's Office of the Environment was created in 1992 to increase the environmental regulatory presence on their reservation and to develop environmental programs for the community. Contact: 507-697-6185 - Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community - Shakopee and Prior Lake From the original 250-acre reservation established in the 1880s, this Dakota community now owns over 3,000 acres of land located in Scott County. Direct descendants of the Mdewakanton Dakota people that once lived in villages near the lower Minnesota River, this community concentrates on a wide range of services including ones related to protecting and restoring the natural environment to conditions prior to European-American settlement. Some of this effort relates to prairie restoration, protecting drinking water sources, producing energy from natural materials and much more. Contact: 952-496-6158 (Land and Natural Resources) - Upper Sioux Community - Granite Falls The mission of the Upper Sioux Board of Trustees is to provide culturally-based programs and services that preserve the Dakota traditions, promote and support education, healthy families and a diversified and growing economy, leading to increased self-esteem and self-sufficiency for individual community members and the Upper Sioux Community. Pejuhutaziti Oyate. Today, the Upper Sioux Community consists of 1,440 acres and a population of close to 550 people. Contact: Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Ext. 2515 tyler.prescott@lowersioux.com Vice-President (507)697-6185 bob.prescott@lowersioux.com