

Barn Quilt Tour Preparation

These barn quilts offer a free, open-air art gallery for all who pass by! Enjoy!

Barn Quilt Tour – Great Family Adventure

- **The Trail** – A collection of barn quilts in relative proximity is called a Barn Quilt Trail. This is a trend started in Ohio 2002. Trails are throughout the country, called a Barn Quilt Movement.
 - Gas is cheap.
 - Download the barn quilt map from the website below.
 - Locate a few barn quilts you'd like to visit, or, explore the whole County and find them all!
 - Load up the car & have fun!
- **Etiquette** - Barn quilt owners agreed in writing at the beginning to welcome the public on their properties.
 - Walk around, you're welcome to be on the grass.
 - Take photographs – the barn quilt, barn, other buildings or animals, the whole farmstead.
 - Conversation – Owners are generally eager to share information about the farm and themselves, but considering distancing, please, don't knock at the door.

Tour Preparation –

- Consider looking at the Barn Quilt Curriculum for Independent Study available on the website to absorb the many different aspects of barn quilts.
- Pack a camera.
- Take a sketch book/pencil

History - January, 2011, a Waconia lady, Naomi Russel, arrived at the *Arts Consortium of Carver County* monthly Board meeting with this idea. She had recently driven through Iowa and discovered their barns quilts. She asked, "Why not here?" and asked if the *Consortium*, a 501c(3), would be her fiscal sponsored. Agreeing, she applied for a \$5,000 public art grant from MRAC (*Metropolitan Regional Art Council*). The request was granted. The Chaska Area Quilt Club helped coordinate the project and *Minnesota Valley Electric Co-op* donated the equipment and manpower to install all 24 of the original barn quilts, the ones on your map.

Gift Shop – Check out the array of gifts highlighting barn quilt images: Mugs, t-shirts, pendants, greeting cards, playing cards, cutting boards and more. Two books are also available: *Barn Quilts Carver County, Minnesota*, detailing images and stories of the trail, and *Barn Quilt Coloring Book*, offering graphics of each barn quilt and a prompt page for one's own creativity.