



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

BECKER COUNTY Detroit Lakes

An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Detroit Lakes (Minn.).
- Series Title:** Detroit Lakes city records,
- Dates:** 1881-1997.
- Abstract:** A variety of records documenting the history and governance of the city of Detroit Lakes in Becker County.
- Quantity:** 10.5 cu. ft. (10 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Minutes (1881-1921, scattered) and agenda packets (1989-1997) for city council meetings, city charters, resolutions and ordinances, historical data compiled in ca. 1937 from council minutes, building permits (1922-1932, 1938), election records (1911-1988, incomplete), financial and tax records, Fire Department Relief Association reports (1909-1989), petitions, and a variety of subject files documenting the history and administration of the city of Detroit Lakes. Also present are financial and operating records and correspondence of the city Water and Light Commission (1891-1941).

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

These records are organized alphabetically by topic or type of material.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Building permits--Minnesota--Becker County.
Chattel mortgages--Minnesota--Becker County.
City councils--Minnesota.
Electric utilities--Minnesota--Becker County.
Finance, Public--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.
Fire departments--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.
Local elections--Minnesota.
Municipal government--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.
Municipal officials and employees--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.
Ordinances, Municipal--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.
Power-plants—Minnesota.
Public health--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.
Public utilities--Minnesota--Becker County.
Streets--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes--Maintenance and repair.
Taxation--Minnesota--Detroit Lakes.

Places:

Detroit Lakes (Minn.)--Politics and government.
Lake Pavilion (Detroit Lakes, Minn.).

Organizations:

Detroit Lakes (Minn.). Fire Department Relief Association.
Detroit Lakes (Minn.). Water and Light Commission.

Types of Documents:

Election records--Minnesota--Becker County.
Petitions.
Resolutions.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Detroit Lakes (Minn.).
City Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): 980-8; 991-91; 996-112; 998-102

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Appraisal note: The records of the Water and Light Commission/municipal power plant were retained as an example of the structure and operations of a municipal utilities service, due to their unusual degree of completeness. The decision to retain them is not intended as a precedent for the retention of other daily records of municipal public utilities.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location

- 101.D.18.9B Agenda Packets:
 August 1989-September 1995.
- 101.D.19.6F October 1995-December 1997.
 [partial box]
- 101.D.18.10F Aliens Registered, 1918.
 List of names.
- Annual Reports, (city), 1911-1914.
 Becker County Census Figures, 1900, 1910, 1920.
 Tabulation giving the population of each civil subdivision of the
 county in each of the three census years.
- Becker-Mahnomen Telephone Company, 1916-1920.
 Miscellaneous franchise and rate data.
- Board of Equalization Minutes, June 27, 1921.
- Building Permits:
 1922: Nos. 1-43.
 1923: Nos. 44 - 80.
 1924: Nos. 81 - 123.
 1925: Nos. 124 - 174.
 1926: Nos. 175 - 209.
 1927: Nos. 210 - 241.
 1928: Nos. 242 - 281.
 1929: Nos. 282 - 320.
 1930: Nos. 322 - 360.
 1931: Nos. 361 - 397.
 1932: Nos. 398 - 432.
 1938: Nos. 705 - 752.
- Campsite, 1926-1932.
 City-run tourist campsite area.
- Cannon, Acquisition of, 1917.
 Chattel Mortgage Record, 1881-1894. 1 volume.
 Chattel Mortgage Record, 1891-1903. 1 volume.
 City Attorney, 1910-1931.
 City Charter Amendments, 1902, 1908, 1917-1921.
 City Council Minutes, March 1881-April 1885, and Ordinances 1881-
 1889. 1 volume.
 City Council Minutes (scattered), 1913-1921.

Location

- 101.D.18.10F City Election Results:
 With lists of qualified electors.
 February 21, 1911; April 18, 1916 (ballot and notice).
 December 28, 1920.
 August 30, 1927.
 December 18, 1928; February 19, 1929.
 September 12, 1933; June 18, 1934.
 November 6, 1934.
- 101.D.19.6F Election Summary Statements, 1925-1988. 5 folders.
 Election summary statements for city, state, national, and special
 elections.
- 101.D.18.10F City Wide Clean-up (annual reports), 1983-1988.
 Committee Reports:
 1911-1915.
 1916-1937.
 Detroit to Detroit Lakes name change, 1926.
 Detroit Lakes Gas Company statement, December 31, 1931.
 Finances:
 Financial Statements, 1881-1907.
 Financial Report to Public Examiner, 1913.
 Financial: State Loan, 1915.
 Financial Statements, 1914-1918, 1932.
 Financial Committee, 1911-1914.
- 126.E.4.1 Treasurer's Cashbook [Register of Orders] 1, March 1903-
 September 1918. 1 volume.
- 114.E.12.4F Clerk's Register of Warrants Issued:
 Volume 2, February 1926-January 1934.
 Volume 3, February 1934-January 1938.
 Journal B, February 1910-June 1930.
- 101.D.19.1B Trial Balances:
 1911-1914.
 1915-1918.
 1919-1923.
 1924-1927, 1931-1932.
 Fire Department:
 1902-1931.
 Reports of fires, 1916-1928. 2 folders.
 Officer lists, 1911-1935.

Location

- 101.D.19.1B Fire Department Relief Association Reports. 2 folders.
1909-August 26, 1914 1 item.
August 26, 1914-July 1, 1917 1 item.
1917 (November 2 and December 31).
1918-1937.
1977-1989.
(Minnesota State) Fire Prevention Association Report, February 1928.
General Inspection Bureau, Report on Fire Protection in Detroit Lakes,
June 1927.
Health Officers Reports, 1911-1934.
Heating Appliances in Use, February 1914.
Heating Appliances in Use, 1936.
Historical Notes (compiled from council minutes), circa 1937:
Bonds and Finances, 1882-1916, and official bonds, 1881-1916.
Dump grounds, 1903-1915.
Fire department, 1881-1916.
Lakeside band, 1885-1898.
Liquor licenses, 1881-1916.
Municipal court, 1904-1916.
Officers and elections, 1881-1916.
Official paper, 1884-1916.
Ordinances and resolutions, 1881-1916, Nos. 1-129.
Public library, 1883-1915.
Public parks, 1883-1915.
Roads and streets, 1881-1916.
Salaries (officers), 1881-1916.
Sewer system, 1906-1916.
Sidewalks, 1883-1915.
Street lighting, 1890-1915.
Tax levies, 1882-1915.
Telephones, 1895-1915.
Vacation of streets, 1884-1914.
Water works, electric lights, and sewers, 1891-1916.
Miscellaneous, 1881-1916.
Insurance on city property, circa 1917.
- 101.D.19.2F Junior College application, circa 1966.
- 101.D.19.1B Lake Pavilion papers, 1915-1916.
Resolution to construct, specifications, costs, lease and use data.
League of Minnesota Municipalities, 1913-1917.
Includes newspapers and convention broadside from Virginia
convention, 1915.

Location

- 101.D.19.1B Library Annual Reports, 1909-1927, 1932.
Milk Ordinance, 1919, 1934.
Municipal Liquor Store, 1935-1938.
 Monthly statements of income and operating expense.
Ordinances 102, 110; 1912, 1917.
 [See also City Council Minutes, above]
Ordinances 138-159, 1918-1925.
Ordinances, 162-199, 1927-1939.
Park Board, 1914-1921, 1927.
 Miscellaneous correspondence, memoranda, and resolutions.
Petitions:
 For road construction and improvements, sidewalks, lighting,
 building demolition or renovation, other civic improvements,
 various changes in city government, Sunday closures, licenses for
 businesses and entertainments; a few nominations for city offices.
1885, 1898-1906.
1908-1915.
1916.
1917-1918.
1919-1921.
1922-1923.
- 101.D.19.2F 1924-1926.
1927-1936.
1937-1941.
 circa 1953 (water levels, Detroit Lake) and 1982 (limit public access
 across Long Lake Park).
 Regarding West Ave. Construction Project, 1984.
Police Reports (monthly), 1935-1938.
Poll Tax Lists, 1915-1916.
Poor Relief:
 1932-1933.
 1933.
 1934-1936.
Post Office Site Selection, 1933.
Radio License Applications, 1929.
Resolutions:
 1902-1914.
- 114.E.12.4F September 1910 - August 1915. 1 oversize folder.

Location

- 101.D.19.2F 1915.
 1916.
 1917.
 1918-1926.
 1927-1938.
- 101.D.19.2F Road Money Spent, 1914-1920.
 Septic Tank, 1908, 1918-1919.
 Sewer, 1906-1932. 2 folders.
 Sewer and Paving Committee, 1921.
 Sidewalks, 1899-1937.
 State Board of Health Reports, 1902, 1913-1925.
 Street Committee, 1905-1931.
 Tax Levy Board, 1903-1924.
 Tax Levy Board, 1925-1934.
 Reports giving total dollars levied by categories and other
 budgetary data.
 Taxi, 1925-1928.
 Works Progress Administration, Mayor's Report, 1938.
 Financial and status reports on various WPA projects conducted
 in the city.
 [box not quite full]
- 101.D.19.3B Water and Light Commission:
 Operating Statements/Comparative Statements (monthly)
 Monthly summaries of receipts and disbursements in various
 categories; comparative statements of power used by various
 customers during that month and in the same month the
 previous year; daily records of fuel burned and power
 generated; and a narrative summary. Often accompanied by
 trial balances.
 1910-1929. 17 folders.
- 101.D.19.4F 1930-1938. 9 folders.
 Comparative Operating Statements, 1914-1918.
 Compiled each January, comparing various categories of fuel
 consumption, electricity generation, water use, and costs with
 those of the previous January.
 Financial, Miscellaneous, 1903-1938.
 History of Light and Water Plant, 1891-1924.
 Correspondence, 1891-1940. 5 folders.
 Minutes, Dec. 1919-May 1925.
 Notices to Water Consumers, 1916.

