Choosing a school district is one of the most important decisions parents will ever make. We believe, and so do many of our families, the decision to enroll in Big Lake Schools is one that will benefit your children for a lifetime.

- Comprised of one high school (9-12), one middle school (6-8), one intermediate school (3-5), and one primary school (early childhood-2).
- Has a total student population that averages around 3,200
- Has a campus feel with three of the four buildings located within walking distance from each other
- Student activities compete in the Mississippi 8 Conference
- School song is, “It’s a Grand Old Flag”
- Was founded in 1900
- Pride colors are blue and gold
- Mascot is Buzz, the hornet

Big Lake is also known for its annual summer festival- Spud Fest and has been a long popular destination for quick escapes from the city for summer recreation. That same proximity now allows residents to commute to the Minneapolis/St. Paul urban area for work while enjoying the natural beauty of a “beyond the suburbs” community. Big Lake’s population is an ideal workforce—prosperous, family-oriented, and highly educated.

Big Lake is populated primarily by young families with a median age of 31 years. Big Lake values the quality of life that its residents have come to love. Big Lake ensures quality of life by actively enhancing community cohesiveness, cultural events, parks and natural resources, technology advancements, and financial transparency. It also supports a robust partnership with the Big Lake School District.

City Hall Meetings

City Council
Consists of a Mayor and four (4) Council members that meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission (acts in a purely advisory manner to the City Council in all zoning issues and applications except for administrative permits)
Consists of seven (7) members that meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month, and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the months of May through September at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Big Lake Economic Development Authority (BLEDA)—advises the City Council on matters related to Economic Development within the city and township
Consists of nine (9) members that meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Parks Advisory Committee
Consists of seven (7) members that meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Building.
Pet License
- The City of Big Lake no longer requires dog licenses.

Lakeside Park and Wright's Crossing Park Facility Rental
Are you looking for a place to hold your next upcoming graduation, birthday party, family reunion, etc.? There are City Park Shelters available for rent. Contact Corrie Scott at 763-463-9320 or visit the City website for more information and availability.

Peddlers—Solicitors
- Door-to-door sales in the City of Big Lake require a permit from the City. Transient Merchants, Peddlers who sell merchandise, and solicitors selling services door-to-door all require a permit or a registration from City Hall. If you are visited by a door-to-door salesperson, ask to see their City of Big Lake issued permit. If the salesperson does not have the required permit, call 911 to report the incident. Any information you can provide to the police will be helpful (vehicle license plate number, make and color of vehicle, etc.). The police will attempt to contact the seller and inform him/her of the permit requirements.
- All citizens have a right to prohibit a salesperson from approaching their door. Post a “No Peddler/Solicitation” sign at your door. It is illegal for a salesperson to Solicit or Peddlar at a premise where this sign is posted.
- Remember—A solicitor may not remain on your property after you have asked him/her to leave.

Big Lake Compost Facility
According to MN State Statues, it is illegal to put yard or tree waste in the garbage. Caring for your lawn and or garden doesn't have to produce expensive waste; therefore, Sherburne County residents are encouraged to bring their unwanted grass clippings, leaves, and other small brush to the local compost site. Yes, Big Lake has a compost site located off of County Road 43 and 198th Ave (behind the Public Works building). A key card is required to enter the compost site.
- You can obtain a key card at any City Hall located in Sherburne County (Big Lake, Becker, Zimmerman, Elk River, Clear Lake). Each city has their own compost site. The key card works for all sites.
- Your first key card is free. Any additional or replacement cards will cost $5.00 each.

Community Garden
Do you love gardening, but don’t have a space to grow at home? Community Garden plots can be leased for $25 from May to October. Plots are 10’ x 20’. The Community Gardens are located by Public Works at 18041—198th Avenue, Big Lake, MN.

If you have questions about the garden, please contact Recreation Coordinator Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or cscott@biglakemn.org.

Visit the City website at www.biglakemn.org for the application and agreement.

Serving Hours:
- Mondays & Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- 2nd Saturday of each month: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Visit www.blcfs.org for more information on news and events such as: food assistance, Project H.E.A.L., Cooking Matters, MN, seasonal extras, local resources and volunteering positions and donating.

Contact the Big Lake Community Food Shelf with any questions at 763-263-2432 or director@blcfs.org

Police Department - The members of the Big Lake Police Department display Pride in the community we are entrusted to protect, provide Service with compassion and dignity, and exhibit highest level of Integrity in all aspects of our lives.

Hours of Operation: Address: Phone Number:
Monday - Friday 790 Minnesota Ave, 763-251-2996
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Big Lake, MN 55309
After hours non-emergency: (Sherburne County Dispatch) 763-765-3500

Prescription Drug Drop Box Location
We will not accept syringes, fluids, drug paraphernalia, or medications being disposed of by commercial medical facilities.

Fire Department
Hours of Operation: Address: Phone Number:
Vary—On Call 20243 County Road 43, 763-263-3456 (Leave a voicemail and Big Lake, MN 55309 department staff will return your phone call at their earliest convenience)

Community Education - www.biglakeschools.org: 763-262-2523
Registration is required for all community education classes. See registration page on the Big Lake Schools website for ways to register. By registering, you are confirming your seat in a class - on a first come, first service basis. You do not have to be a Big Lake resident to participate in classes.
Big Lake Community Annual Recycling Day Event
Every spring Metro West Appliance Recycling will coordinate and operate the Big Lake Recycling Day event. Questions about the event can be directed to the vendor at 763-241-8787, to Big Lake Township at 763-263-8111, or to the City of Big Lake at 763-263-2107.
Check the website for current information. www.biglakemn.org

Big Lake Farmers Market

Summer Farmers Market:
- June through September at Lakeside Park
- Every Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Winter Farmers Market:
- November through April at Saron Lutheran Church
- Second Friday of each month, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Music in the Park
⇒ June through August at Lakeside Park
⇒ Every Thursday
⇒ 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Movie in the Park
⇒ Located at Lakeside Park
⇒ Usually in June & August*
⇒ Movies begin at dusk
⇒ Free admission
*Note: dates may change every year. Check out the City website at www.biglakemn.org for updated information each year.

Spud Fest
The Big Lake Spud Fest was born here in 1972. The founders of the festival were looking for a means to provide funds for summer youth recreation programs and an event for Big Lake and surrounding areas that promoted a strong sense of community and sharing.
- Always the last weekend in June (Thursday to Sunday).
- Some events at the festival are carnival rides, games, bingo, pork chop dinner by the Big Lake Knights of Columbus, potato pancake breakfast by the Big Lake Lions Club, Softball tournament, lakes run, Fireworks, parade, fiddlers contest, kid power pedal pull, and so much more!
- Would you like to help with this community event by volunteering or have questions regarding the festival? Visit www.b iglakespudfest.com

City Ordinances

510.02 A Nuisance. Any weeds or grass growing upon any lot or parcel of land, including the lands between the curb line of the street or alley and the property line of private properties to a height greater than one foot, or which are about to go to seed, are hereby declared to be a nuisance and dangerous to the health, safety and good order of the City; excluding storm sewer holding ponds, storm sewer drainage areas, surface water drainage areas, wet lands, shoreline vegetation, nature preserve and other unplatted property.

Snow Season Reminders:
- Please keep in mind that property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes only if the snowplow equipment physically hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to City Ordinance installation requirements. Contact Big Lake Public Works Department at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
- To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will be buried under the snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
- It is illegal to deposit snow on any City street.
- If you have a fire hydrant on/by your property, help the local Fire Department by shoveling a clear path and 3 feet around the hydrant.

Recreational Fires:
Section 540—Opening Burning. The burning of dried leaves and other yard waste is hereby prohibited within the City. Recreational fires shall be permitted without a permit but must follow the guidelines set forth by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
⇒ Burn only natural wood
⇒ Shall not exceed 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height

Winter Parking Restrictions:
Parking is not allowed on any City street or roadway between November 1 and April 1 of every year, during the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
After a snowfall of two (2) inches or more, all street in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for the purpose of snowplowing and/or removal.
If you vehicle should have mechanical failure and cannot be removed from the street during the required dates/times, please contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-251-2996 and advise the officer on duty. This may be in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.

Sidewalk Ordinance: Section 550

550.01 Clean Wells Required. The owner or occupant of any premises in the City shall clear the sidewalk in front of or beside the premises, of snow and loose or melting ice within twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of any snowfall.
You can learn more about the ordinance and you can sign up to receive text or email notifications the day before the City’s authorized contractor is going to perform a sweep by visiting this webpage: http://www.biglakemn.org/486/Sidewalk-Snow-Removal
If you have any additional questions regarding the ordinance, please call City Planner Michael Healy at 763-251-2977.
Building Department Facts

In general, a permit is required for most construction projects where something is being built, repaired, replaced or remodeled. You do not need a permit for projects where only painting, wallpapering, and/or carpeting are being done. If you are not sure if you should obtain a permit, please call the inspection line at 763-

Permit applications are available at City Hall or by visiting our website at www.biglakemn.org

General Building Permits:
The following building permits are required (residential/commercial):
- Addition/Porch
- Basement Finish
- Deck
- Demolition
- Excavation/Filling
- Garage
- Mechanical (HVAC)
- New Construction
- Plumbing
- Remodel
- Shed (over 200 square feet)

Zoning Permits:
The following zoning permits are required:
- Shed (200 square feet or under)
- Fence
- Driveway
- Parking Pad
- pergola
- Swimming Pools/Hot Tubs
- Land Alteration (Engineering Permit)

Rental Housing License

The City of Big Lake requires multi-family and single/two-family rental housing to be licensed. Licenses are issued every one to two years. The purpose of the rental licensing program is to protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Big Lake.

Multi-Family
Registration is every year and inspections are every two (2) years. If you have any questions regarding the multifamily housing registration, contact Sandy Petrowski at 763-251-2980.

Single & Two-Family
Registration is every two (2) years. There are no inspections required at this time. If you have any questions regarding the single & two-family housing registration, contact Trisha Lindahl at 763-251-2971.

Utility Providers

Water / Sewer - The Big Lake City Hall provides water and sewer.
⇒ Setting up new service - Contact Julie Rathmanner at 763-251-2969
⇒ Change of ownership - Contact Julie Rathmanner at 763-251-2969
⇒ Billing / Customer Service - Contact City Hall at 763-263-2107
⇒ Over the phone payment - PSN 877-885-7968
⇒ Pay monthly bill online at www.biglakemn.org
⇒ If you do not receive your bill by the end of the month, contact the City Hall office at 763-263-2107
⇒ Due date is always the 10th of every month.
⇒ There are many options to pay your utility bill: phone, online, mail, drop box or walk into City Hall.
⇒ Your City of Big Lake will pass on the cost savings of .50¢ to customers who sign up for e-bill. You can sign up by creating an account online with PSN at www.biglakemn.org

Electric
⇒ Connexus Energy - 763-323-2600
⇒ Xcel Energy - 800-895-4999
⇒ Ace Solid Waste, Inc. - 763-427-3110
⇒ Advanced Disposal Services - 320-251-8919
⇒ www.acesolidwaste.com
⇒ www.advanceddisposal.com
⇒ www.connexusenergy.com
⇒ www.xcelenergy.com
⇒ www.connexusenergy.com
⇒ www.xcelenergy.com
⇒ www.connexusenergy.com
⇒ www.xcelenergy.com
⇒ Birchem Sanitation - 763-441-3572
⇒ Curbside Waste, Inc. - 763-504-2872
⇒ www.curbsidewasteinc.com
⇒ Randy’s Environmental Services - 763-972-3335
⇒ www.randysanitation.com
⇒ www.curbsidewasteinc.com
⇒ Republic Service - 763-784-2104
⇒ www.republicservices.com
⇒ Waste Management - 320-253-6491
⇒ www.wm.com

Call before you Dig!
The State of Minnesota and the Big Lake city offices encourage residents to call before you dig. Metro call: 651-454-0002 or 800-252-1166 www.gopherstateonecall.org
Call two (2) business days before you dig—Have the following information ready when you call: Your Name, Phone Number, Street Address, Dig Location, Nearest Intersection, Type of Work, Start Date, Time, “Use the phone before you Dig”.