



Traverse des Sioux

Near St. Peter • 507-934-2160

www.mnhs.org/traversedessioux

A shallow river crossing, Traverse des Sioux was a gathering place for thousands of years. When European settlers first came to Minnesota, they traded information and ideas here with Dakota hunters. It was also the site of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux where the upper bands of the Dakota nation ceded about half of present-day Minnesota to the U.S. government in exchange for promises of cash, goods, education and a reservation. Today, visitors can walk trails along the 10,000-year-old Minnesota River Valley and learn about Dakota culture. The nearby Treaty Site History Center provides information about treaties, the fur trade and Dakota culture.

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the Nicollet County Historical Society, which manages this site.

“The Indians wanted to live as they did before the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux—go where they pleased...hunt game wherever they could find it, sell their furs to the traders and live as they could.”

Wanbditanka (Big Eagle), Mdewakanton, 1894



Call: 888-601-3010 Stop #02

Listen to perspectives on the treaty signings of 1851 and 1858 and their lasting impact.