



Irish Fair Social Narrative

What is the Irish Fair?

This FREE, three-day event will take place from Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11, 2019. The Irish Fair is a celebration of Irish heritage, with live music & dancing, food & drink, family activities, and more!

The 2019 Irish Fair of Minnesota will run:

Friday, August 9th: 3 pm – 11 pm

Saturday, August 10th: 10 am – 11 pm
(Full Spectrum Ceili at 9 am)

Sunday, August 11th: 10 am – 7 pm
(Mass at 9 am)

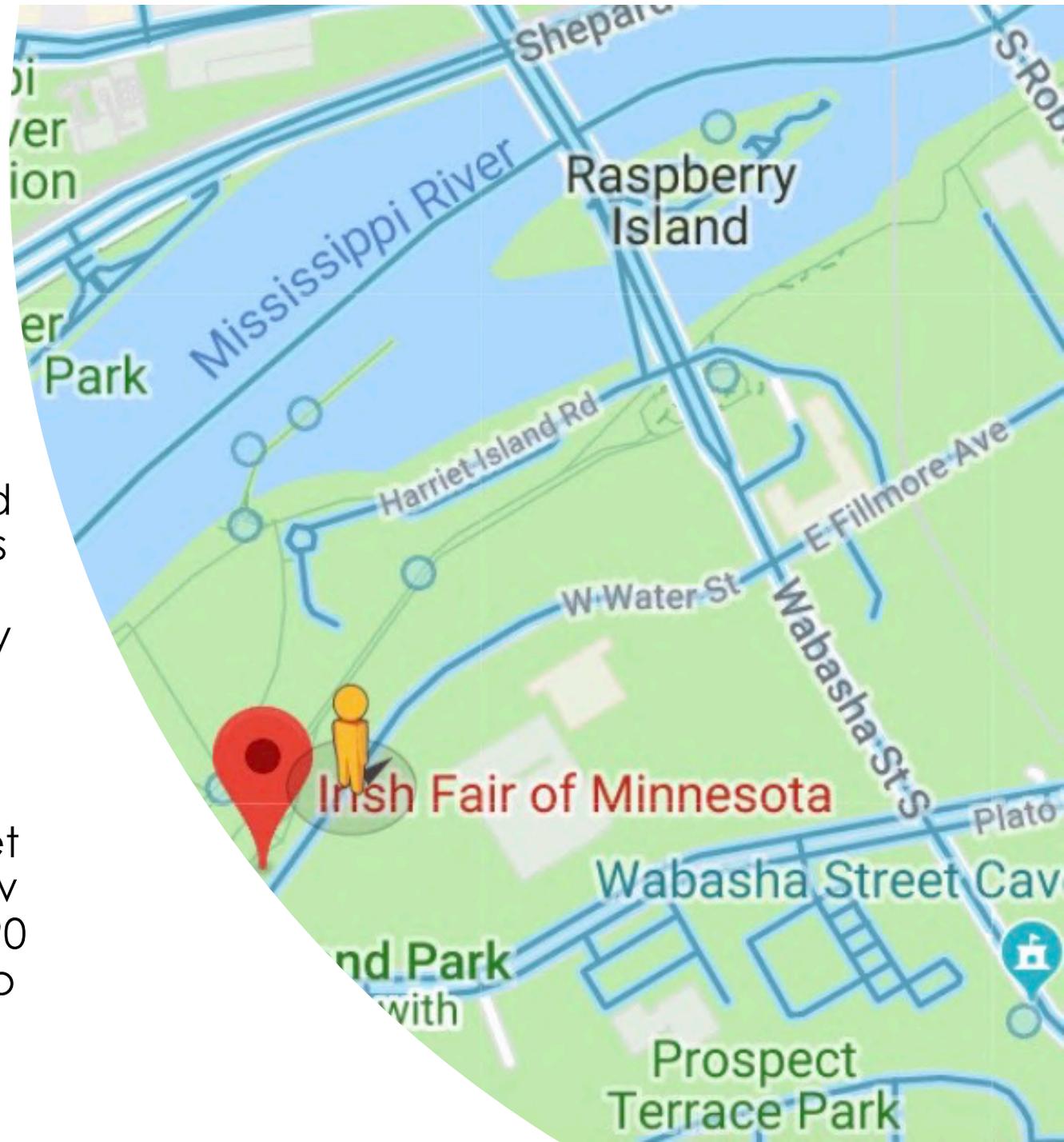
The Irish Fair is held at Harriet Island Regional Park in St. Paul, MN. Many people attend the Irish Fair. It will be helpful to plan out how I will travel to and from the event ahead of time.



Parking at Irish Fair

I can drive or ride with others to the Irish Fair. However, there are limited parking opportunities available. Some street parking spaces may be available along Plato Boulevard from Wabasha Street West toward Harriet Island Regional Park. Local businesses near the event may offer parking on their property for a fee. These businesses may only accept cash to park on their property.

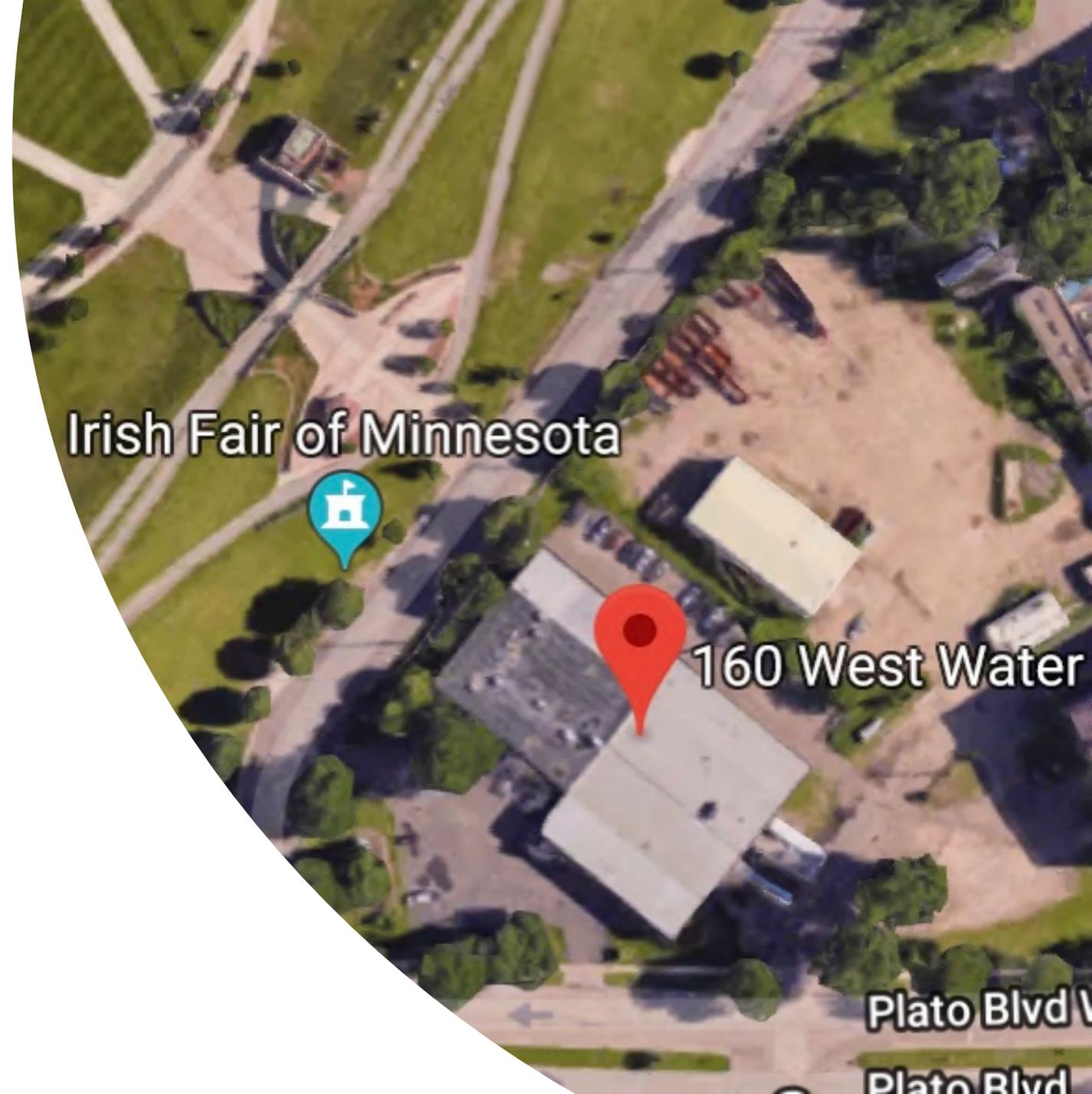
Handicap parking is available on the north side of Water Street between Wabasha Street West and Plato Boulevard (until full). Overflow handicap and transportation is available at 90 West Plato Boulevard. Look for the Handicap Parking Sign.



Drop-Off Location

It might be easier to get dropped off at the Irish Fair. I can be dropped off at the Gateway Entrance (main entrance). The drop-off address to use is 160 West Water Street, St. Paul, MN 55107.

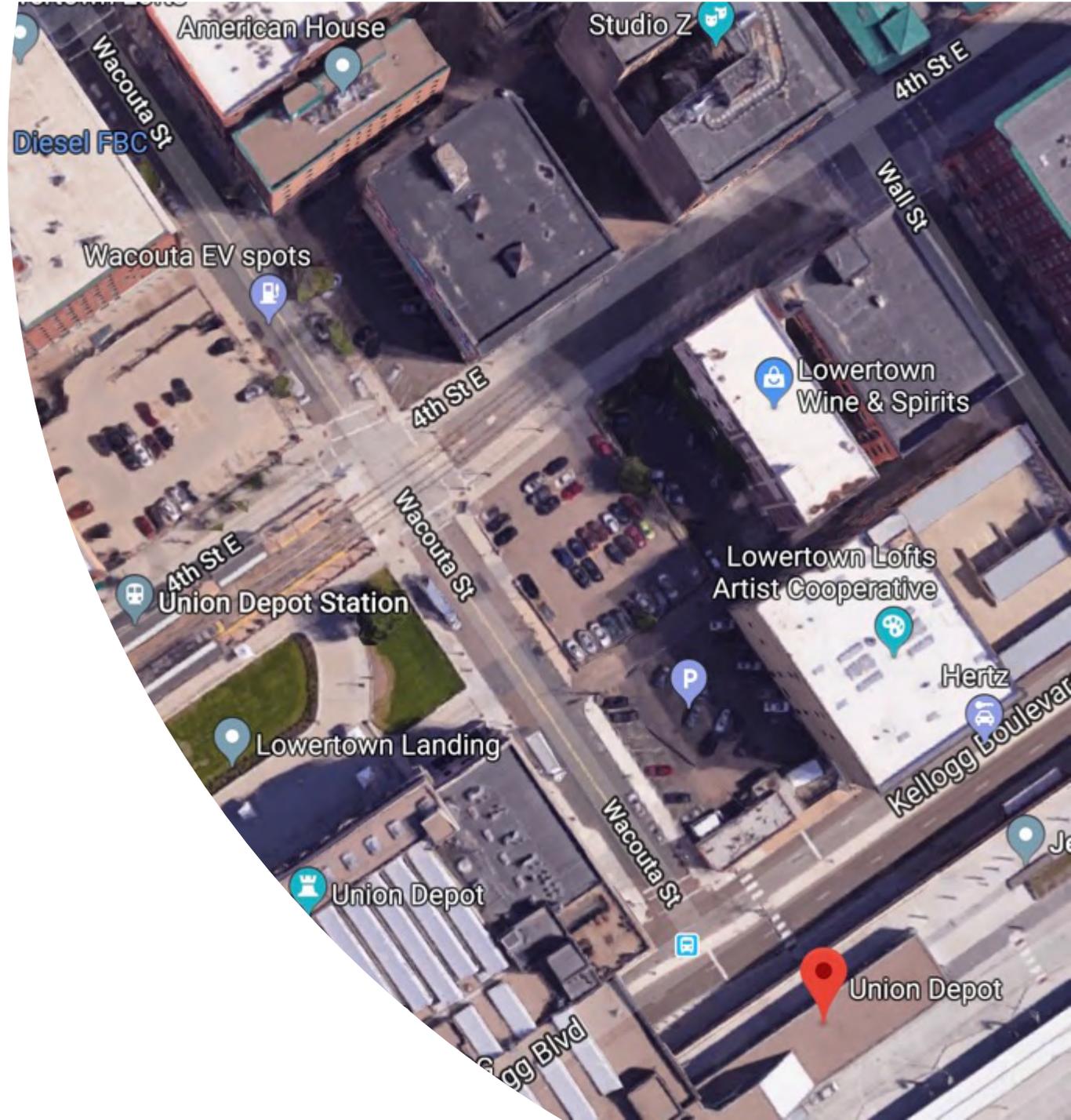
If I use Uber or Lyft services to get to the Irish Fair, I should use the address listed above.



Public Transportation

I can also take public transit to the Irish Fair. I can visit www.metrotransit.org to determine my route. There are Metro Transit passes available for me to print at <https://www.irishfair.com/getting-fair> - my entire group can ride Metro Transit for FREE to and from the Irish Fair with a printed pass!

My destination will be Union Depot, located off Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul. There will be a FREE shuttle providing rides to the Irish Fair from Union Depot! Anyone can take the shuttle, so I could drive/ride with others and park at or near Union Depot instead of trying to park at the Fair.



Shuttle

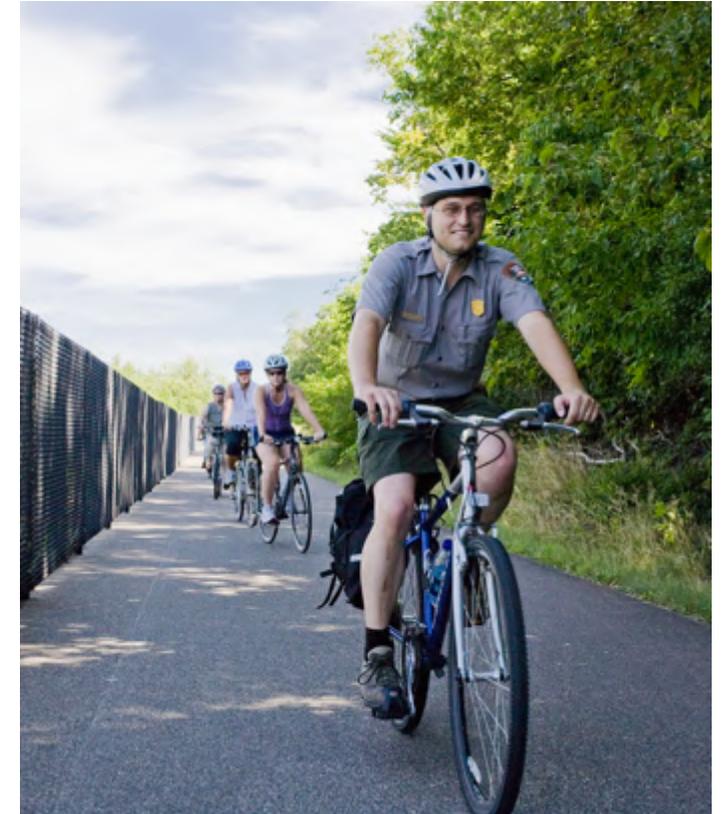
The shuttle will pick up passengers on Kellogg Boulevard between Wacouta Street and Wall Street. There will be signs posted to help me find where to go.

Shuttles will run approximately every 30 minutes (on the hour and half-hour) between Union Depot and Harriet Island's main entrance. The shuttle schedule is posted at <https://www.irishfair.com/getting-fair>.



Bike

I can also bike to the Irish Fair. Bicycles are not allowed on the fairgrounds, so I will need to park my bike near the Gateway Entrance (main entrance) on Water Street. Bike parking will not be monitored, so I should lock my bike where allowed.



Irish Fair Map

This is a map of the fairground. Copies are also available on-site and at:

www.irishfair.com

There is a printable program available at:

<https://www.irishfair.com/2019-program>



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Shuttle Buses | 9 Eóin McKiernan Speaker's Tent | 17 Kilbeggan Irish Whiskey Tent |
| 2 Welcome/Information Booth | 10 Triscéil Tea Room | 18 FINNEGANS Tent |
| 3 Angry Orchard Picnic Area | 11 Celtic Kitchen | 19 IFM/Band Merchandise |
| 4 CIM Children's Area | 12 River Stage | 20 Lyft/Uber Pickup/Dropoff * |
| 5 Miniature Golf | 13 Crossroads Social Dance & Session | 21 Quiet Space |
| 6 Native Dogs | 14 IMDA Workshop Tent | 22 Zero K Check In |
| 7 Performance Dance Tent | 15 Irish on Grand Celtic Marketplace | 23 Hospitality |
| 8 Community Organizations Tent | 16 Pub Tent | 24 Main Stage |



Toilets



First Aid



Food & Beverage



ATM



Food & Beverage Tickets/Wristbands

*Address For Lyft/Uber: 160 W Water St., St. Paul, 55107

Entering Irish Fair

When I arrive at the Irish Fair, I will enter through the Gateway Entrance on Water Street. This can be a busy area, as there may be shuttles arriving/departing and people may be getting dropped off or parking their bikes.

Many people attend the Irish Fair, so there may be times that I am in a crowd or have to stand in a line. Other people may be noisy, and may smell like sunscreen, bug spray, and/or body odor. I can bring headphones or ear plugs to wear to block out some of the sounds. I can also move to a different area if I need a break from people.



If I have any questions or concerns while I'm at the Irish Fair, I can visit the Information Booth near the Gateway Entrance for assistance.

Food and Drink

There will be many vendors selling food and drink at the Irish Fair. Some vendors provide gluten-free and/or vegetarian/vegan options. Food and drink must be purchased using tickets.



I can review the Food & Beverage Menu ahead of time to help me plan where to eat.

The Menu is available at:
<https://www.irishfair.com/sites/default/files/2019%20%20Food%20and%20Beverage%20Menu.pdf>

Vendors

There are many vendors selling merchandise at the Irish Fair. I can look at the items for sale, and make a purchase if I choose. All vendors will take cash; some will accept cards or checks.



Music



There will be three stages that will have live music. The main stage is where most of the international musicians will be. It is also the loudest and has the most space to move around if you don't like where you're standing.

The Pub Tent will also have speakers amplifying sounds and can be loud. It's often very crowded and offers less open space. If it's a hot day, the inside of the tent can be hot even though it's shaded.



The River Stage will also have speakers amplifying sounds but in an open space, so it will be easier to move around. There will also be live music happening in the Crossroads Social Dance & Session Tent at various times as well as in the Tea Room.

Dance

Dance is an important part of the Irish Fair. There will be a Dance Stage which features performances by local Irish dancers. Many dancers will perform, and many of them wear curly wigs and white socks. The costumes can be very sparkly!



At the Crossroads Social Dance & Session Tent, I can dance! There will be various opportunities throughout the Fair to learn social dancing.

There will also be an opportunity Saturday morning called Full Spectrum Ceili, where Beth Pitchford will be teaching Irish social dancing specifically for folks with sensory sensitivities or different learning styles.

Fun and Games



There are many opportunities at the Irish Fair to watch and/or engage in fun and games. You can watch Irish sports in person on Croke Park! These sports may include rugby, Gaelic football, hurling, and Camogie!

Near the dance tent, there will be mini golf and face painting!

Explore the Irish Fair and see what other fun and games you can find!



Animals

There are different types of animals that I can see at the Irish Fair, including sheep, Border Collies, Irish Wolfhounds, and Irish Setters. I do not need to be near the animals unless I chose to do so.



More information can be found at:
<https://www.irishfair.com/native-irish-dogs>

Accessibility

The Irish Fair welcomes individuals of all ages and abilities! If I have specific questions or concerns about accessibility, I can call 651-645-0221 or email info@irishfair.com.

Handicap parking is available on the north side of Water Street between Wabasha Street West and Plato Boulevard (until full). Overflow handicap and transportation is available at 90 West Plato Boulevard. Look for the Handicap Parking Sign. Attendees can also be dropped off in front of the Gateway Entrance (main entrance).

Harriet Island has paved, level surfaces so wheelchair users and strollers can easily travel on the sidewalks. The grass in the park is also level to provide easy access to tents and activities.

I can bring sensory tools or other items from home to help make me comfortable while I'm at the Irish Fair. Service animals are welcome, but pets should stay at home.

Quiet Space Tent

If I need a retreat from the action, I can visit the Quiet Space! The Quiet Space is a large, air-conditioned tent located next to the Celtic Marketplace, just past the Hospitality tent and bathrooms.

I can use the Irish Fair Map to help me find my way. The Map is available at <https://www.irishfair.com/2019-irish-fair-map>; hard copies will be available at the Fair. The Quiet Space is location #21 on the Map.

The Quiet Space will have a variety of tools I can use to help calm, regulate, and de-stress myself. These items may include fidgets, headphones/ear plugs, alternate seating, and more! A volunteer will be there to help me and answer any questions I may have. One corner of the Quiet Space will be walled off for nursing mothers and will have its own, separate entrance.

Quiet Space Tent Hours

Friday: 3 - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Additional Information

Thank you for visiting the Irish Fair of Minnesota!

More information can be found online:

www.irishfair.com

www.ausm.org

