

**VINEGAR RIDGE RECREATION AREA
MONEY CREEK
FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT**



TRAILS AND DESIGNATIONS

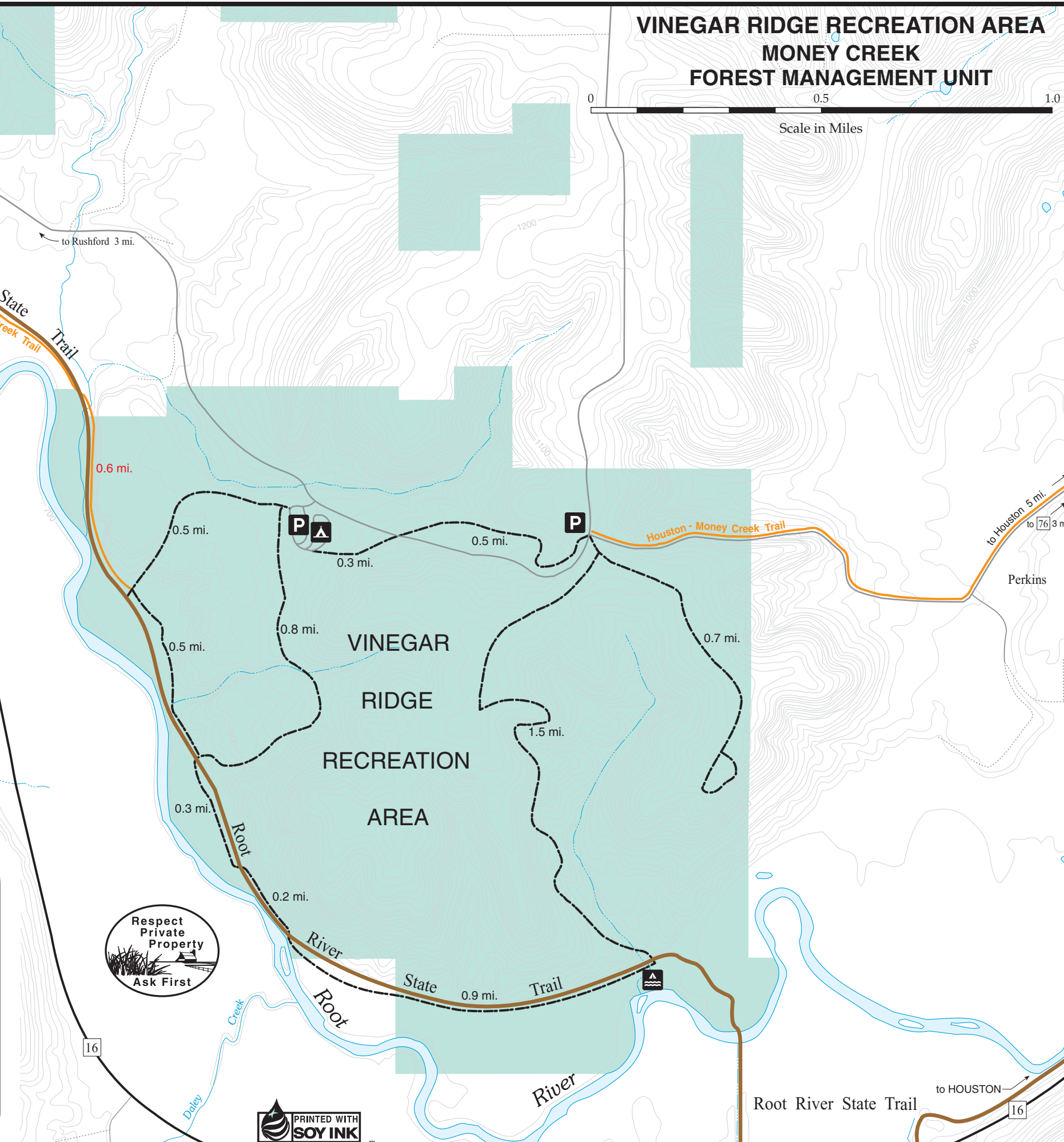
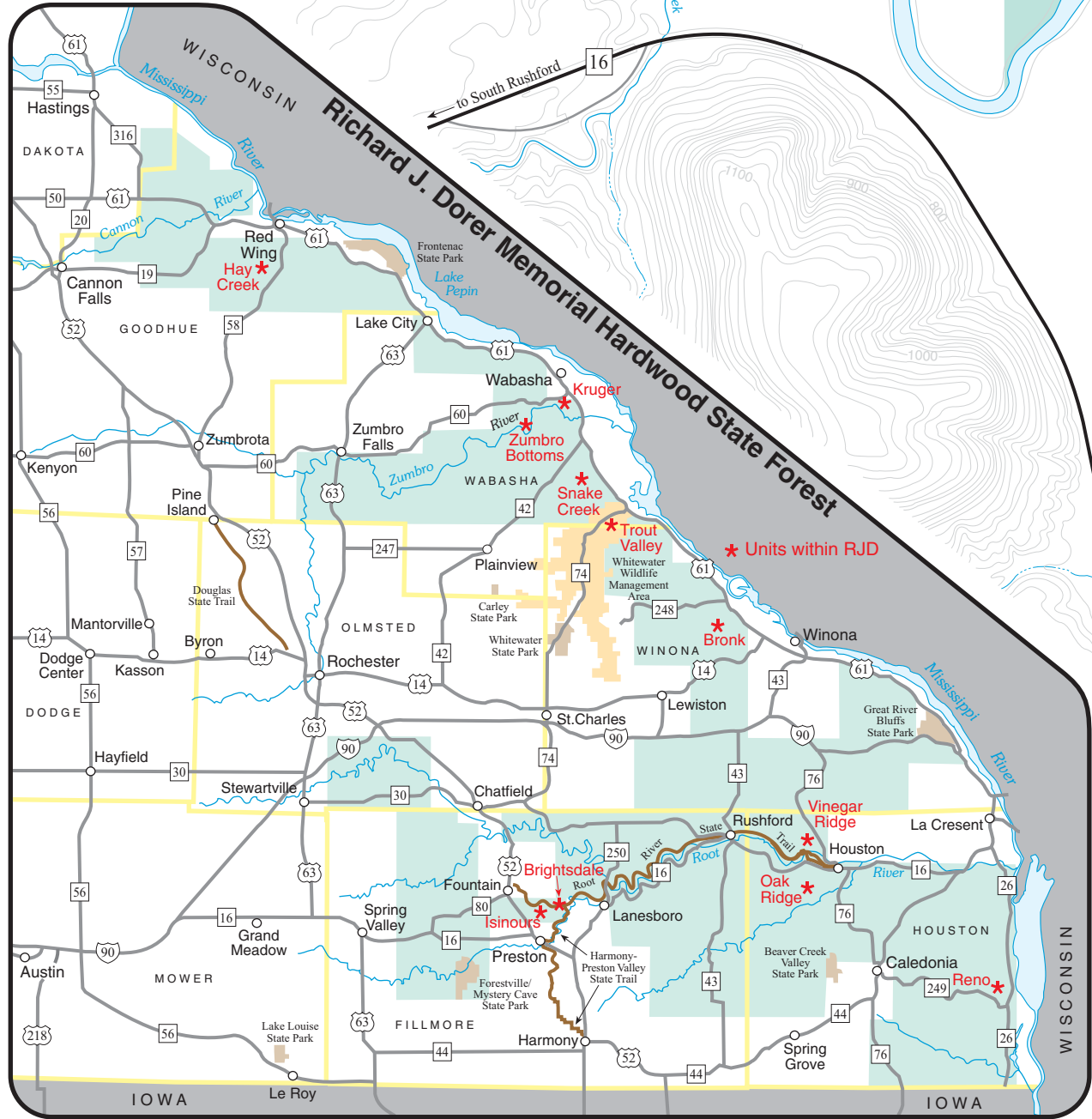
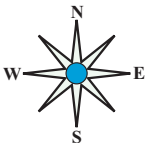
- Multi-Use Trail
(Hiking, Horseback Riding
and Snowmobiling)
- Snowmobile Only Trail
- State Trail (paved)

FACILITIES

- Parking
- Campground
- Canoe Camping

OWNERSHIP

- State Forest Land



Root River State Trail to HOUSTON 16

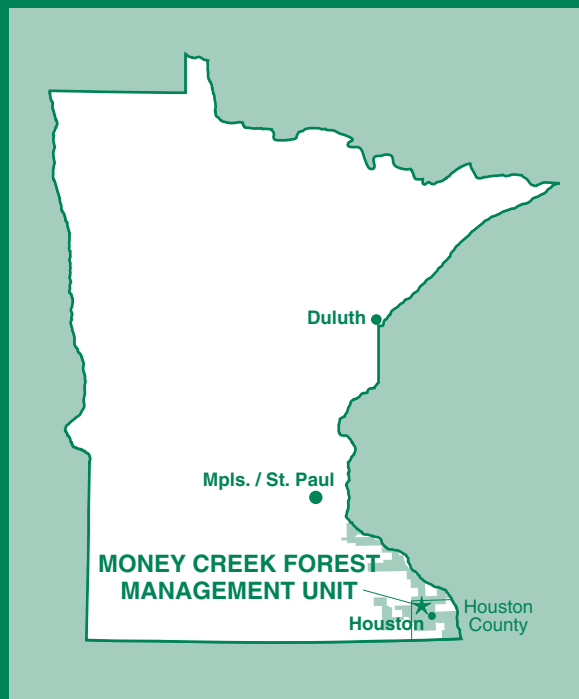
RICHARD J. DORER MEMORIAL HARDWOOD STATE FOREST

TRAIL MAP

Vinegar Ridge Recreational Area MONEY CREEK FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



The Vinegar Ridge Recreational Area is located within the Money Creek Forest Management Unit and located four miles east of Rushford, Minnesota on township road 270. The 2,042 acre Money Creek Forest Management Unit is part of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest that was established by the legislature in 1961 as a tribute to Minnesota pioneers and veterans.

The unit is located in the scenic blufflands landscape of southeastern Minnesota. Mixed hardwood forests of oak, hickory, basswood, cherry, maple and black walnut cover the steep hillsides and river bottoms. The soils of this unglaciated portion of the state are very fragile and highly erosive.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest was established to control some of the severe erosion problems in southeastern Minnesota, provide outdoor recreation, species diversity, improve wildlife habitat and produce timber. This multiple use philosophy applies to all state forest lands. The land's suitability and demand for various products or services are considered when deciding which uses will receive emphasis on a given unit. State forests are managed to provide sustained yields of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest environment.

Past management activities in the Vinegar Ridge Recreational Area have resulted in the reforestation of over 84 acres of eroded and depleted farmland with black walnut, Norway pine and white pine, and development of recreational facilities.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Outdoor recreation facilities on the Vinegar Ridge Recreational Area include a series of woodland trails that access the Root River Trail. The Vinegar Ridge Trail is for non-motorized use except snowmobiles. The trails are 6.2 miles in length and are open to hiking in the summer with no bicycle use allowed. The trails are marked and groomed for snowmobiling in the winter. There are two access parking lots. The western lot is adjacent to a campground with seven sites and outdoor toilets. The eastern parking lot is located on top of the ridge and offers better access to the upper ridge land. The Vinegar Ridge Recreational Area is open to public hunting and trapping during established seasons except the campground area.

STATE FOREST RULES

State forest lands are generally open for all types of outdoor recreation including, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and picking fruit and mushrooms. Rules and laws regulate some activities on forest lands. A partial list is included below. A complete list is available from the Department of Natural Resources.

- Firewood** -Dead wood may be gathered for campfires on site. Cutting or removing wood or forest products for home or commercial use requires a permit.
- Campfires** -Recreational fires of less than 3 ft. diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 ft. around the fire, do not require a permit. Other open burning is regulated by permit.
- Firearms** -Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands that are not posted closed. Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in and within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day use area, parking area, etc.) EXCEPT during seasons open for hunting, a person may carry an unloaded, uncased firearm or strung bow from a forest recreation area to hunt outside the area.
- Camping** -Camping on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is permitted with some conditions. See complete rules.
- Personal property** -Personal property may not be left or positioned so as to obstruct use of a road or trail. Personal property left unattended for 14 days shall be deemed abandoned.

Special rules apply in forest campgrounds and day use areas. They are not included here.

TRAILS -Motor vehicle and off road rules

Classified Forest Lands. State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

- State Forest Lands Classified as Managed:**
 - Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and forest trails **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.
- State Forest Lands Classified as Limited:**
 - Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads, **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**. Trails that are not posted open for motor vehicles may be designated as non-motorized. Watch for postings.

State Forest Lands Classified as Closed:

- Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are **not allowed** except:

- * Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.
- * Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.
- * Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

General Operating Restrictions - anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.
- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over the beds of lakes, rivers or streams except:
 - * when the water body is ice covered.
 - * on a bridge, culvert or designated low water crossing.
- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.
- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.
- Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.

- **Special Provision - Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest:** Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate only on forest roads that are not posted closed and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances. There are no designated OHV trails in the Money Creek Management Unit.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS- Trails are generally open to non-motorized uses, but may be limited by postings which must be observed. In the Richard J. Dorer, horses and bicycles may travel only on designated trails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry /
Trails and Waterways Unit
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

651-296-6157 (Metro Area)
1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)
651-296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)



Area Forest Supervisor
Suite 2, Ag. Service Center
603 North Sprague
Caledonia, MN 55921
(507) 724-5261 ext 5

FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES - Dial 911

Caledonia Clinic
701 Sprague Street
Caledonia, MN 55921
(507) 724-3353

Gunderson Clinic
1836 South Avenue
LaCrosse, WI 54601
(608) 782-7300

Houston County Sheriff
Caledonia, MN 55921
(507) 725-3379

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