

A Tribute to My Perfect Place

Everyone has had a bad day. Maybe you lost your job, maybe you got into a car accident, or maybe your boyfriend/girlfriend broke up with you. Whatever the case may be, perhaps somehow you needed to get the bad thoughts out of your head. Everyone has their own way of getting rid of the bad thoughts. My way is by thinking about my perfect place, the place that makes me smile just by thinking about it. That place is Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Fergus Falls is a small, country town in the northwestern corner of Minnesota. To most people, it is a town they have never heard of. To most people, it is a town too small to be exciting in any way. To most people, it is just another country town with “nothing to do”. But I am not most people, and I am here to pay tribute to this small, country town.

My mother grew up in Fergus Falls. After college she moved to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, for work, leaving behind her two sisters and her dad. This meant that she would travel back to Fergus Falls for holidays bringing along my father, my brother and myself. To my mother, going back to Fergus Falls was horrible. She has never been happier than the day she left that town and moved to WI. To my father, visiting the relatives was something we had to do, regardless of whether we wanted to or not. To my brother, going to Fergus Falls was just another 6 hours drive of “pure boringness”. But to me, going to Fergus Falls was the greatest treat in the world.

Fergus Falls has a population of 13,471 people. But this town is not just about its population; it's about the people. The people, who without ever meeting you, smile and wave when you walk past; the people, who without knowing anything about you, greet you like they have known you for years; the people, who without any judgement at all, welcome you into their town and into their lives.

Fergus Falls is a town that is split into two sections: the city area and the country area. While the town is mainly country, the city is like any other city. It has a mall, movie theater, bowling alleys, and a roller skating rink. So this town with “nothing to do”, is just like any other town that has “nothing to do”. There is always something to do; you just have to be creative when thinking of things.

Fergus Falls is surrounded by lakes and farms. But this town is not about its geography; it's about making the best of what is around. Lakes that are perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day. Lakes with a ton of fish to catch and a ton of rope swings to try out. Lakes perfect for ice fishing or ice skating in the wintertime. Farms that provide endless hours of work to do and endless numbers of cows or horses to play with. Farms with haylofts perfect for a basketball court, or for a get together with your friends. Farms with fields of corn and wheat just waiting to be made into a maze.

So this small, country town with “nothing to do” may not have big city thrills, or tons of people everywhere you look, but it does have plenty of things to do. Races happen every weekend of the summer. The circus and county fair happen every July. And there are always people around looking to have a party. Any reason to get crazy and rowdy is a good enough reason to do so.

So to those people who say Fergus Falls is boring and has “nothing to do”, I say they need to open their eyes and get a little more creative. To those people who say Fergus Falls is too small to have any excitement, I say look around and be grateful for the wonderful town you live in. And to those people, who couldn't wait to get out of that town, I say I can't wait to be there.

For those people who have never heard of Fergus Falls, MN, now you have. Sometimes the small, country towns are the best places to be. So remember, it's not just the population; it's the people. It's not just the geography; it's about making the best of what is around. It's all about the way you look at things.

And when I look at Fergus Falls, I see a perfect paradise. And I hope you do too now. So if you ever feel like going on a road trip, take one to Fergus Falls and experience life there for yourself. Who knows, you may be like me and never want to leave.

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