



## High school girls basketball: Meet the best players in South Dakota

SPORTS, 1D

# Argus Leader **WEEKEND**

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Sun shines at Falls Park in Sioux Falls. ERIN BORMETT/ARGUS LEADER

## How to enjoy the history and recreation of Falls Park

**Angela George**  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Sioux Falls' namesake, Falls Park is known as "the heart of the city" along the Big Sioux River. Folks stop by for family photos, first dates and picnics by the waterfall. It's as romantic as it is nostalgic and has brought a huge bump in tourism for the east side of the state.

As part of a USA Today Network project exploring places across America with historical and cultural significance, and a celebration of the nation's 250th birthday, here's a look at an ideal day trip or staycation pit stop.

### Location

131 East Falls Park Drive in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

### Why it matters

Before it was 120 acres of rest, recreation and one of the best photo-ops in South Dakota, Falls Park was a trading hub for Dakota and Lakota tribes as late as the 1800s until it drew in settlers as an industrial site.

It failed as a grain milling powerhouse due to short water supply then transformed into a hydroelectric power plant for a short while. Now as a city-park for over a century now, it is



Argus Leader Photographer Sam Caravana captures Falls Park from the visitor's tower. PROVIDED BY SAM CARAVANA

historically preserved to welcome over one million visitors a year.

### What to see today

Take it all in atop the park's five-story viewing tower, providing a picturesque, panoramic view of Sioux Falls, especially nice at dusk. The former power plant also has been transformed into the quaint Falls Overlook Café for

sandwiches, drinks and ice cream.

For travelers, the visitor center has all the Sioux Falls kitsch, and for local families and visitors alike, the Stockyard Ag Experience is an interactive ag museum that celebrates the history of Sioux Falls and our robust agricultural roots.

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## City shares updates on art projects, contests and programs

**Angela George**  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
USA TODAY NETWORK

During their weekly media briefing on April 1, officials with the City of Sioux Falls had a lot of updates for the arts community.

Arts coordinator Maren Engel talked about downtown murals, art contests and gallery showings, all as part of their 10-year Arts and Cultural Plan to "establish clear priorities and inclusive growth strategies for the next decade."

The plan, which is currently in its "action-planning" phase with Keen Development and expects a final report for the Sioux Falls Arts Commission in May, includes themes of a larger arts and cultural ecosystem city-wide – not just downtown – sustained funding, affordability and inclusive representation.

"Sioux Falls has a dynamic arts and cultural system with strong roots that inspire and unite people," Engel said, adding that this is the first time the city has led such a growth effort. "Now is the time to build upon that foundation and create a shared vision for the future of arts in Sioux Falls."

Here's a look at updates for several initiatives that will continue to celebrate arts in our community.

### Carver Art Gallery

Calls are now open for local artists to show their two-dimensional work inside the Carver Art Gallery at City Hall.

Chosen artists will have a featured piece on display for six months. Then, as part of a People's Choice competition, one winning artist will receive a solo exhibition for the rest of the year (15 to 20 pieces).

The City will also purchase one piece to display in a public space beyond the Carver Gallery.

Engel said the hope is to feature contemporary, regional and emerging talent and "highlight the depth, creativity and vibrancy of the Sioux Falls regional arts community."

Applications are open through April, with selections announced May 7. Pieces will be on display through October, with the solo exhibition running November through April of next year.

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