

Louisville Swamp Trails

State Trail Access Trail (1.0 mi., linear) - From the main parking area, this trail is straight and level. After 0.75 mile, it reaches a junction with the Jabs Farm trail. Turn right, and the State Trail is 1/4 mile further.

Mazomani Trail (4.5 mi., loop) - Start at main parking area. The trail heads for a bluff (0.25 mi.), then a junction with the loop portion (0.5). Stay left, passing the Ehmler home site, bottomland forest, then a crossing at Sand Creek (0.8 mi.). The trail winds through upland forest, crosses a small creek, and then passes low wetlands until it meets Middle Road. Turn right, then right again, passing a large glacial boulder, then along bluff forest to Jabs Farm. Joining Flood's Road, turn right, go across the levee (with a nice view of the west end of Louisville Swamp), then up a short hill to a junction. Turn right again, coursing along the bluff-top savannah back to the loop junction.

Flood's Road (0.7 mi., linear) - This connects the State Trail Access Trail to the Mazomani Trail. It courses mainly through woodland, then crosses a levee (as above). Continue uphill to Jab's Farm. Here, the Mazomani Trail heads south, or Flood's Road continues straight ahead (see more detail under Carver Rapids Unit).

Middle Road (1.5 mi., linear) - From the Middle Road parking area, this trail passes by extensive areas of marsh, crosses a large stream, and passes the junction with Mazomani Trail. It courses by old fields and small marsh, then passes a junction with a spur trail to Flood's Road, then veers slightly left through low forest until it meets the State Trail.

State Trail (5.0 mi., linear) - From the north refuge boundary, the trail shortly passes the Access Trail, then drops steeply down a slope to cross a bridge over Sand Creek. It veers west to meet and follow the river, shortly entering and remaining in bottomland forest. After passing a view of Johnson Slough, the trail passes a small canoe-in campground, then a junction with Flood's Road, then a junction with Middle Road. After about 1/4 mile, the trail follows the river for most of the rest of its course through the refuge.

About the Unit

The Louisville Swamp Unit is one of the largest and most diverse areas of the refuge. It includes marsh, lakes, streams, oak savannah, restored prairie, rock formations, bottomland forest, and upland forest. It is also one of the most isolated areas of the refuge, offering a setting more distant from urban influences. The Carver Rapids Unit, part of the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area (DNR), is located entirely within the Louisville Swamp Unit.

Getting There



Our parking lots have addresses, to assist you in locating them.

Visitors can access Louisville Swamp in the following ways:

- 1. Main parking area (3801 145th St. West, Shakopee 55379):** South of Shakopee, follow HWY 169 past HWY 41 (to Chaska) and turn right on 145th St. The parking area is just beyond the entrance to Renaissance Fair.
- 2. State Corridor Trail:** The trail follows a continuous route from near Jordan to Shakopee, passing through the refuge for about 3 miles.. Main access points are just east of the Minnesota River bridge along HWY 41 east of Chaska (watch for the signs), the main Louisville Swamp parking area (via the Access Trail), and the Thompson Ferry Landing, just north of Jordan on CR 9.
- 3. Middle Road (16210 Jordan Ave., Jordan 55352):** This hunter access links with several refuge trails. Head south on Hwy. 169 (towards Jordan), then right on Bluff Drive, then right on Jordan Road. Park next to the fence, walk past the house and turn left past the barn. Keep in mind that you will briefly be passing through private property, and be respectful. The entrance to the refuge is across the railroad tracks.
- 4. Hunter parking areas:** Two additional parking areas are maintained for hunting access (see map for addresses). Gates are open only seasonally, and there are no trails leading from these points.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1600
952/854 5900

Minnesota Valley's website address:
<http://midwest.fws.gov/minnesotavalley>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD (9453)
<http://www.fws.gov>

Deaf/hard of hearing individuals may reach Minnesota Valley NWR through the Federal Information Relay System at 1 800/877 8339

Available in alternative formats upon request.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

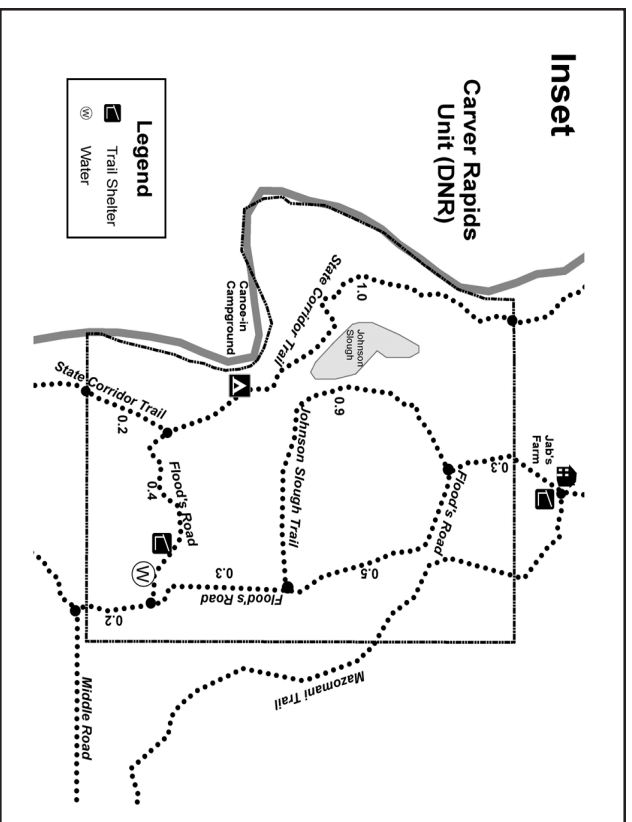
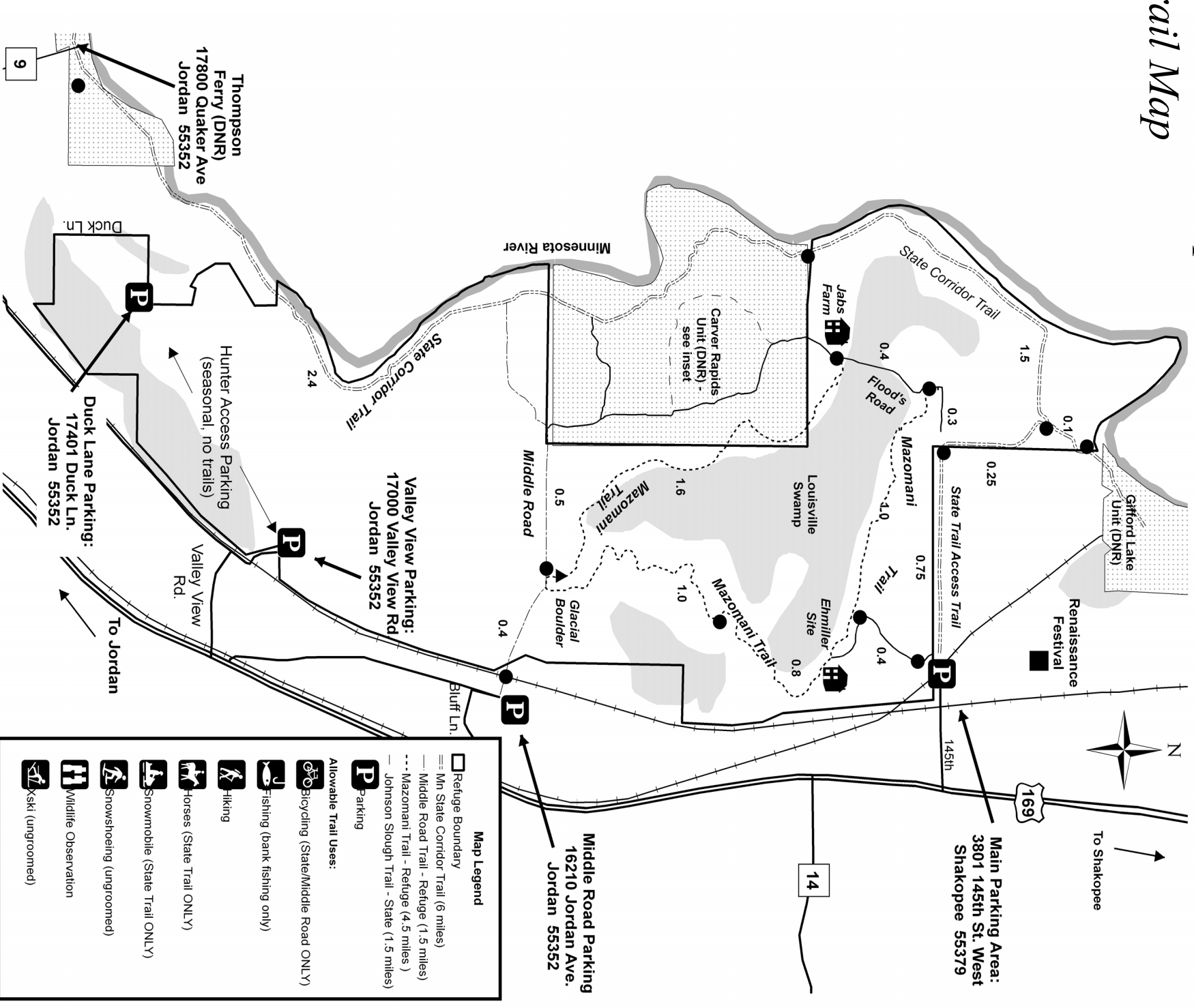
Minnesota Valley

National Wildlife Refuge

Louisville Swamp Unit Trail Map



Louisville Swamp Unit Trail Map



Map Legend

- ☐ Refuge Boundary
- == Mn State Corridor Trail (6 miles)
- Middle Road Trail - Refuge (1.5 miles)
- Mazomani Trail - Refuge (4.5 miles)
- Johnson Slough Trail - State (1.5 miles)

P Parking

Allowable Trail Uses:

- 🚲 Bicycling (State/Middle Road ONLY)
- 🎣 Fishing (bank fishing only)
- 🐾 Hiking
- 🐎 Horses (State Trail ONLY)
- 🚗 Snowmobile (State Trail ONLY)
- 👢 Snowshoeing (ungroomed)
- 👁️ Middle Observation
- 🏂 X-ski (ungroomed)

Carver Rapids Trails

Flood's Road (1.5 mi., linear) - From Jab's Farm, this trail heads south, passing a junction with Johnson Slough Trail (twice), then passes through savannah and down a slope, turning right. It then passes a water pump (for drinking) and a shelter before ending at the State Trail.

Johnson Slough (1.5 mi., linear) - This trail leaves Flood's Road from two junctions, and can be used in loop fashion in conjunction with that trail. It courses through upland oak forest, passing by an overlook of Johnson Slough.

**For your safety and to protect and preserve the refuge, please obey all regulations.
Pets must be on a leash at all times.**