


Sherburne

National Wildlife Refuge

General Information and Refuge Map






Recreation Opportunities


Accessibility

Refuge Headquarters, the Oak Savanna Learning Center, Oak Savanna Learning Center trails, Prairie’s Edge Wildlife Drive trails and all restrooms are considered accessible.



Prairie’s Edge Wildlife Drive

The 7.3 mile Prairie’s Edge Wildlife Drive is located 1.2 miles north of Orrock on Sherburne County Rd. 5. It is open to hiking and biking year-round and features four wildlife observation decks and three short hiking trails. The Wildlife Drive is open to vehicles April 1 to November 30 as winter weather and road conditions allow. During the state firearms deer season in November, it is closed to vehicle traffic.



Hiking

Trails can be accessed year-round only by foot, mobility device, cross country ski or snowshoe. From September 1 to February 28, the entire refuge, excluding closed areas, is open to hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Trail Information

Blue Hill Trail

5-mile loop, natural with moderate incline and bridges. Trailhead is off Sherburne County Road 9, 1.2 miles west of Refuge Headquarters.

Mahnomen Trail


3.1-mile loop, flat natural surface and a boardwalk. Trailhead is off Sherburne County Road 9, 0.2 miles east of Refuge Headquarters. May be groomed for cross-country skiing, depending on snow levels.

Oak Savanna Learning Center Trails

Accessible 1.6-mile system, crushed granite and natural surface with gentle incline and a bridge. These four trails are accessed from the Oak Savanna Learning Center building, Black Bear Loop Road or School House Road.


Prairie’s Edge Wildlife Drive Trails

Accessible 0.18 to 0.47-mile loops, flat crushed granite and a boardwalk. These three trailheads are located along the Wildlife Drive.




Photography

Personal and commercial still photography is allowed and does not require a special use permit. Refuge regulations must be followed. Sets and props are not permitted; tripods are not considered a prop. Please see website for full regulations.




Bicycling

Bicycles, including electric assisted bicycles as defined by state law, are permitted on the Wildlife Drive and on county roads crossing the refuge. Trails are closed to biking, and no off-road travel is permitted. All traffic and directional signs must be obeyed. From September 1 to February 28, refuge service roads, as portrayed on the map of the refuge public use brochure, are also open to bicycling.




Fishing

Fishing is allowed year-round within 300 ft. up and down stream of the fishing access points and from non-motorized boats on the designated canoe route, following state, federal and refuge regulations. The refuge prohibits seining or digging for bait as well as the possession of any turtle or frog. From September 1 to February 28, the entire refuge, excluding closed areas, is open to fishing.




Paddling

Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are permitted only on the designated canoe route year-round and on Long Pool from September 1 to winter closure. The designated canoe route starts at Battle Brook, south of Little Elk Lake, and continues on the St. Francis River, south of Battle Brook. Motorized watercraft are prohibited, including electric trolling motors.



Hunting

Small game, big game and waterfowl hunting are available on the refuge. Consult the refuge hunting brochure for regulations and a map.



Collecting

Mushroom, berry and nut collection is permitted within 100 ft. of designated trails or public rights of way, in compliance with all refuge regulations. Collection is for personal consumption only.

Regulations

The refuge is open to visitors 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

All property brought onto the refuge must be removed at the end of each day.



Parking is allowed on designated roads and parking areas only. No overnight parking. State and county regulations apply.



Dogs and other pets must be on a leash at all times. No dog training.

Prohibited

▪ OHVs & ATVs (including on the Wildlife Drive)	▪ Fires
▪ Camping	▪ Target Shooting
▪ Snowmobiles	▪ Motorized Boats
▪ Drones	▪ Use or possession of any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia.
▪ Horses	

▪ Parking in front of gates, blocking gates or restricting access to roads and gates.

▪ Plants and animals collected, taken or acquired elsewhere shall not be introduced, liberated or placed on any part of the refuge.

▪ All collection or disturbance of plant or animal life, including shed deer antlers, stones, plants and artifacts. See Collection section for exceptions.

▪ Unauthorized use of firearms, fireworks, air guns and all other weapons.

Federal Regulations Apply
(16 USC 668 dd & 50 CFR Part 25-32)
Emergencies.....911
For More Information
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398
763-389-3323

TTY users may access the Federal Information
Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339
www.fws.gov/refuge/sherburne
Sherburne@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800/344-WILD
www.fws.gov/



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*All previous versions
obsolete*



Welcome to Sherburne

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 to help protect and restore the habitats in the St. Francis River Valley for migratory birds and other wildlife. Today this 30,700 acre refuge encompasses wetland, oak savanna and prairie opening habitats that are home to an astounding array of wildlife. Recreation is encouraged where it is compatible with wildlife and the land.

Wildlife Sanctuary

The majority of the refuge is designated a wildlife sanctuary and closed to all public access from March 1 to August 31 to allow wildlife to breed and raise their young free from human disturbance. During this time the only areas available for public use are the Wildlife Drive, hiking trails, designated canoe route and fishing access points.

Signs to Know



Refuge Headquarters

Refuge Headquarters is located on Sherburne County Rd. 9 at 17076 293rd Ave NW. It is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. While staff are in the field, visitors may occasionally find the office closed for brief periods of time. Headquarters is closed on federal holidays.

Oak Savanna Learning Center

The Learning Center is located on Sherburne County Rd. 9 at 16797 289th Ave NW. It is open for refuge events or for conservation-related activities by appointment only.

