

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District is located in 14 counties and spans 70 miles along the Minnesota River from rural to urban. The Minneapolis-St. Paul (Twin Cities) metro provides great opportunities with major green spaces with parks, trails and waterways throughout even the most urban areas. The metro offers great schools and opportunities for big city culture and entertainment events including theaters, malls (including the Mall of America), a variety of museums, as well as five major-league sport teams. Minnesota, The Land of 10,000 Lakes, provides easy access to fishing, hunting, canoeing/kayaking, hiking, backpacking and more.

Opportunities this position provides includes:

Opportunity to patrol in both high visitation urban refuge environment and rural wetland management districts. Patrol for common refuge recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, bicycle trail use (summer and winter fat-bikes), developing paddling program (canoe-kayak), recreational boating on Minnesota River, snowshoeing, xc-skiing, snowmobiling.

Great opportunities to participate in urban outreach program with local youth including an annual one day "Game Warden Camp" put on by region FWOs and often hosted at the refuge.

Opportunity to continue to foster numerous partnerships with State, County, and City law enforcement agency partners throughout the patrol area.

There is a very active hunting program on the refuge and most refuge units are open to some type of hunting opportunity to include small game, migratory birds, upland game, Big Game (whitetail deer - archery and firearm), Turkey, and furbearers.

Common Violations / Law Enforcement Issues:

- Hunting / Fishing compliance violations
- Trespass- land use from neighboring landowners both residential and agricultural
- Recreational violations - Non-Designated trail bike use, dogs off-leash, littering, campfires.

- Dumping
 - Motorized vehicle trespass / resource damage.
 - Marijuana cultivation on refuge.
 - Many infrastructure projects occurring across refuge - violations of Special Use Permits by contractors - damage to refuge resources.
 - Search and Rescues / death investigations - often assist local partner law enforcement / rescue agencies who take lead in investigations and operations.
- Urban metropolitan issues: drug use, vandalism, homelessness, theft, burglary.

For more information on Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge visit:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/