

Minnesota Valley

National Wildlife Refuge

Bloomington Ferry & Wilkie Units

Trail Map



About the Bloomington Ferry Unit

The 358 acre Bloomington Ferry Unit features wetlands and floodplain forest along the MN River. Within the unit, Opus Marsh provides habitat for waterfowl and other water birds, as well as views of otter, turtles, and dragonflies. Enjoy hiking, cycling, mountain biking, and snowshoeing in the winter. Or, try fishing the river from the pedestrian bridge at the Bloomington Ferry Trailhead. The trails in this unit are mostly flat and flood seasonally.

Trail Descriptions

Bloomington Ferry Trail 0.5 miles one way

From the parking area, go through the gate on the west side of the parking lot. This trail travels west through forest its entire length, ending at the Hwy 169 bridge, though it may appear to continue. Return by the same route. Going farther ahead leads to trespass on privately owned lands.

River Bottoms Trail 1.8 miles one way

This trail begins next to the kiosk and heads southeast from the parking area. It follows the river for most of its route, passing Opus Marsh at 0.6 mi. The trail winds through large cottonwoods, then crosses a small stream, before exiting refuge lands. Note: the trail continues to Lyndale/Sorensen Landing in the

Long Meadow Lake Unit, crossing privately owned and City of Bloomington property for an additional distance of about 4 miles. The refuge does not promote entering private property.

About the Wilkie Unit

The 2,023 acre Wilkie Unit protects floodplain forest and wetland habitat. Large areas of marsh are nesting and resting places for waterfowl. Both deciduous and coniferous trees provide perches for songbirds, as well as food and shelter for other wildlife. Enjoy hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing the ungroomed trails. Or, try bank fishing the refuge lakes. The trails in this unit are mostly flat and flood seasonally.

Trail Descriptions

Blue Lake Trail 2.75 miles one way

Walk 0.3 miles west from the parking area near Blue Lake to an old farm road. The trail forks; proceed straight ahead to the MN River or head west to follow the southern segment along Blue Lake.

Minnesota Valley State Trail (DNR) 1.9 miles one way

Access the paved trail at the Wilkie or Bloomington Ferry parking lots. From the parking area near Stagecoach Rd. head east along the old road for 0.9 miles to the boat ramp (under Hwy 169), then continue northeast, between Rice and Fisher Lakes. The trail eventually meets and follows the river for the rest of the route, crossing a pedestrian bridge and ending at the Bloomington Ferry parking lot. The paved trail heading west from the parking area at Stagecoach Rd. continues on to Shakopee.

Rice Lake Trail .3 miles one way

Follow the Rice Lake Trail from the Minnesota Valley State Trail under the Hwy 169 bridge to reach Rice Lake.

During waterfowl season, the gate is open to allow hunters access to Rice Lake with nonmotorized boats.

River's Edge Trail 1.6 miles one way

Head east from the Minnesota Valley State Trail along the south side of the MN River. This former service road ends at a scenic overlook along the river's bend.

Parking

Bloomington Ferry Trailhead:
11255 Bloomington Ferry Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438

Wilkie Unit Trailhead:
7701 County Road 101 E, Shakopee, MN 55379

NOTE: There are no restrooms at these trailheads.

During waterfowl hunting season (fall) the trail from the Wilkie parking lot at Stagecoach Rd is open for hunter access only.

Contact information:

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
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1 800/344 WILD (9453)

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

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