

# 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, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing the ungroomed trails. 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- Potential MN State Corridor Trail 1.8 miles, one way (Refuge portion only)**

NOTE: This is not a USFWS maintained trail. From the parking area at Bloomington Ferry, a trail begins next to the kiosk heading southeast. It follows the river for most of its route, passing Opus Marsh at 0.6 mi. For more than a half mile, the trail winds through very large cottonwoods, then crosses a small stream, before exiting Refuge lands. Note: A 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 mostly floodplain forest and wetland habitat. Large areas of marsh are nesting and resting places for all kinds of 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

##### **Minnesota River Trail 2.75 miles, loop**

Walk 0.3 miles west from the parking area near Blue Lake to an old farm road. The trail passes between Blue Lake (west) and Fisher Lake (east), continuing to a junction with the loop trail. Proceed straight ahead to the MN River or head west to follow the loop trail.

#### Contact information:

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge**  
**3815 American Blvd E. Bloomington, MN 55425-1600**  
**952/854 5900**

Visit us online:

[www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota\\_valley](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley)

[www.facebook.com/MNvalleyNWR/](https://www.facebook.com/MNvalleyNWR/)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

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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#### 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 alignment 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. See River Bottoms Trail description for the rest of the trail heading east. The paved trail heading west from the parking area at Stagecoach Rd continues on to Shakopee.

#### Parking

Bloomington Ferry Trailhead:

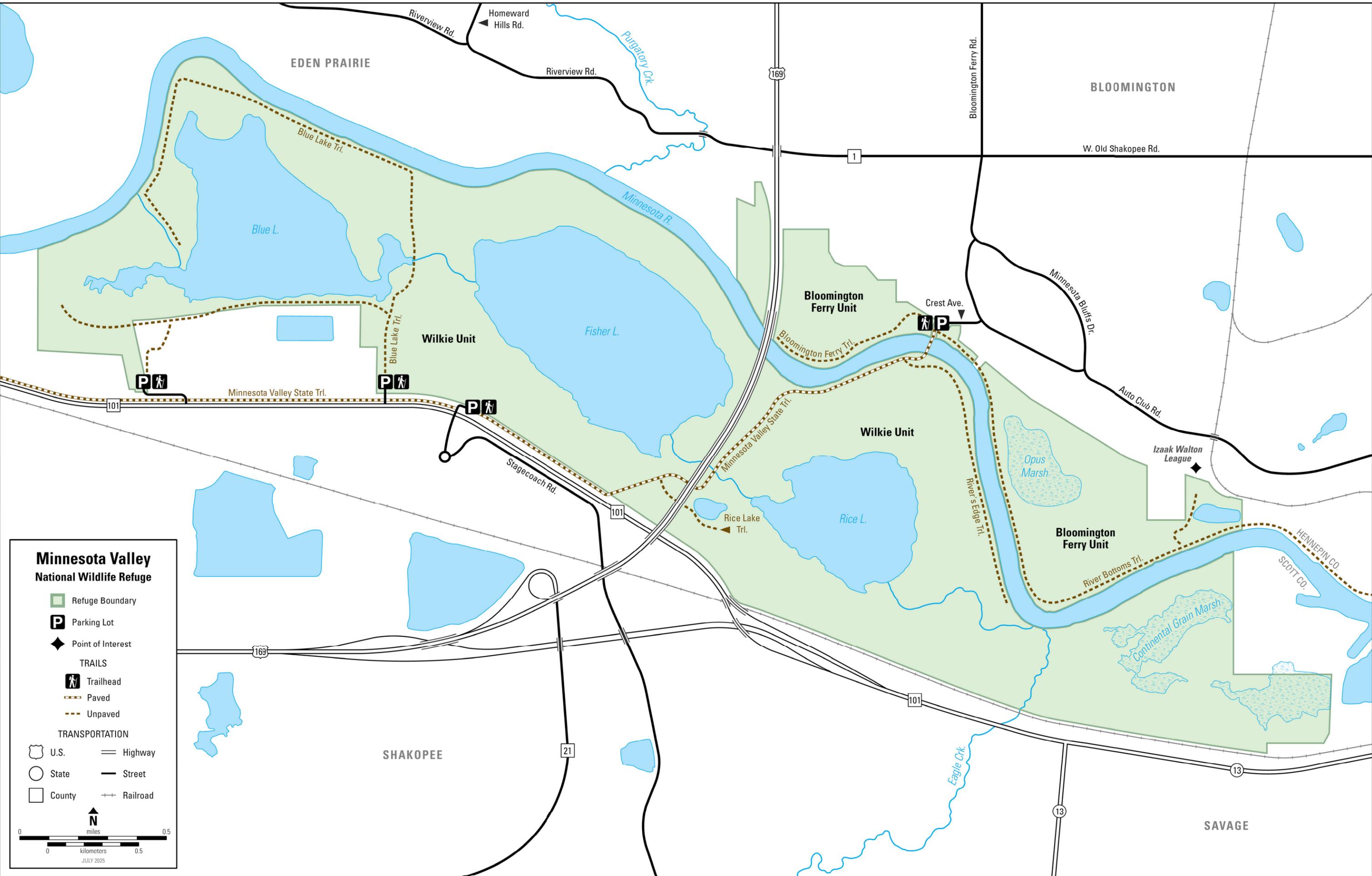
11255 Bloomington Ferry Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438

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.



### Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge Boundary
- P Parking Lot
- Point of Interest

**TRAILS**

- P Trailhead
- Paved
- Unpaved

**TRANSPORTATION**

- U.S.
- State
- County
- Highway
- Street
- Railroad

N  
 0 0.5 miles  
 0 0.5 kilometers  
 JULY 2025