

About the Unit

Black Dog Preserve is located on the south side of the Minnesota River in Burnsville. The land is owned by Xcel Energy and managed as a refuge unit under a cooperative agreement. It comprises two large lakes and areas of marsh and fen. Unique species of both plants and birds occur here. Due to water input by the power company, large areas of the lake remain unfrozen during the winter, attracting hundreds of ducks and other waterfowl.

Getting There

Trail access is from Cliff Fen Park, at **120 East Cliff Road, Burnsville 55337**. From I-35W, proceed east on Cliff Road approximately 3/4-mile to Cliff Fen Park. The trailhead is east of the playground area at the back of the soccer field.



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

The Observation Deck on Black Dog Lake is located at **677 Black Dog Road, Burnsville 55337**. From I-35W, proceed east on Black Dog Road approximately 1-1/4 miles to the parking area on the right. From the east, proceed east on Hwy 13 from Cedar Avenue to Nichols Road and turn left. Proceed approximately 3-1/4 miles to the parking area on the left.

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

Black Dog Preserve Trail Map



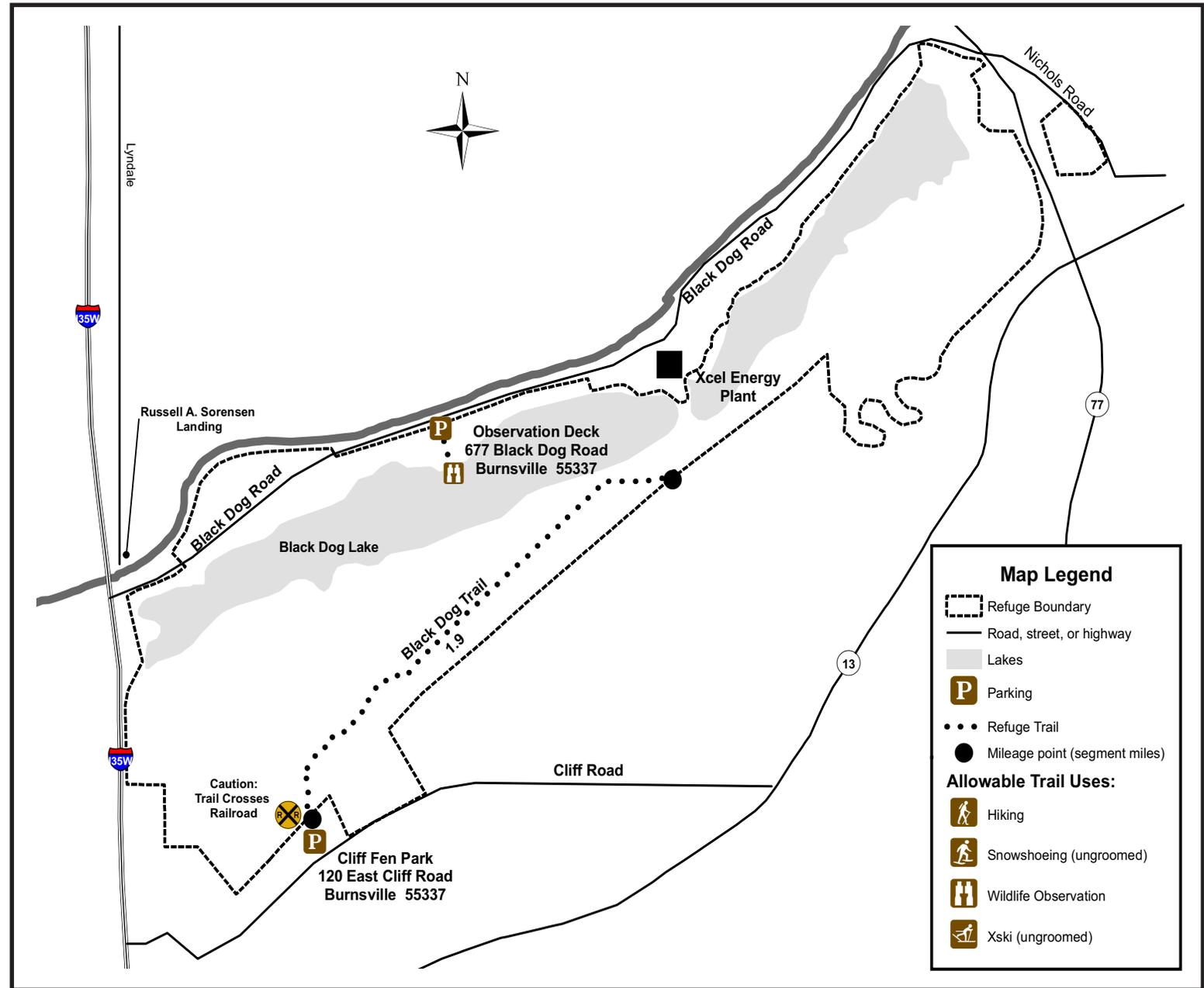
Black Dog Preserve - Trail Map

Black Dog Trails

Black Dog Trail (1.9 mi., linear) - From Cliff Fen Park (on Cliff Road), the trail enters at an information kiosk, crosses the tracks, and winds through wet prairie and scattered groves of willows and cottonwoods. After about a mile, the trail follows a service road, and passes several areas of marsh and ponds, before ending at the railroad tracks near the power plant. Return to Cliff Fen Park via the same route.

Overlook Trail (0.1 mi., linear) - This short trail leads from a parking area along Black Dog Road to the Observation Deck overlooking Black Dog Lake.

Note: Due to the delicate environment of the grasslands and fen, please remain on marked trails while in Black Dog Preserve.



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