

Wildlife Viewing Tips

When:

Dawn and dusk are the best times to see wildlife.

Where:

Look in a variety of habitats and along “edges” between habitats. Scan from the ground to the sky.

How:

Move slowly and quietly.

- Cars make good observation blinds.
- Sitting in one good location allows animals to think you have moved on and reappear.

Observe from the sidelines.

- Please keep your distance from any wildlife for both your and the animal’s safety.
- Adult animals often can see their young and are watching over them.

Look for animal signs.

- Tracks, scat, feathers, and nests left behind often tell interesting stories.

Please be respectful.

- Leave animal signs where you find them for other observers.

Just for Kids!

- Engage all members of your group with wildlife bingo, journals, eye-spy, or photo scavenger hunts.

What:

Things to have along.

- Binoculars, ID books, camera, journal, water, etc.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

NECEDAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HIKING



BOGHAUNTER TRAIL



Welcome to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge’s Boghaunter Trail

Trail Wildlife & Habitats:

The **Boghaunter Trail** consists of three separate loops, each showcasing a variety of wildlife and habitats.

The **Meadow Beauty Loop** is **0.8** mile hike that offers mostly level hiking of mowed trail passing through flowering meadows.

The **Boardwalk Loop** winds through **1.75** miles of native sedge meadow and prairie across boardwalks and mowed grass.

The **Tamarack Loop** stretches over **3.6** miles of mowed trail. Some hills and a longer trail offer hikers more of a challenge winding through a wide variety of habitats including marshes and forests.

Named after the ringed boghaunter dragonfly, this trail system takes you through wet meadows and edges of patchy forests that this rare and beautiful dragonfly calls home.



Watch for boghaunters to emerge from wet areas with sedges from April to early June. The rest of summer will host a transitioning assortment of other dragonflies of all sizes and colors.



Wetter areas of the refuge support a number of other species including: sora rails, American bitterns, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, bank swallows, and common snipe. Rare species that need this type of habitat are Blanding’s turtles and whooping cranes.

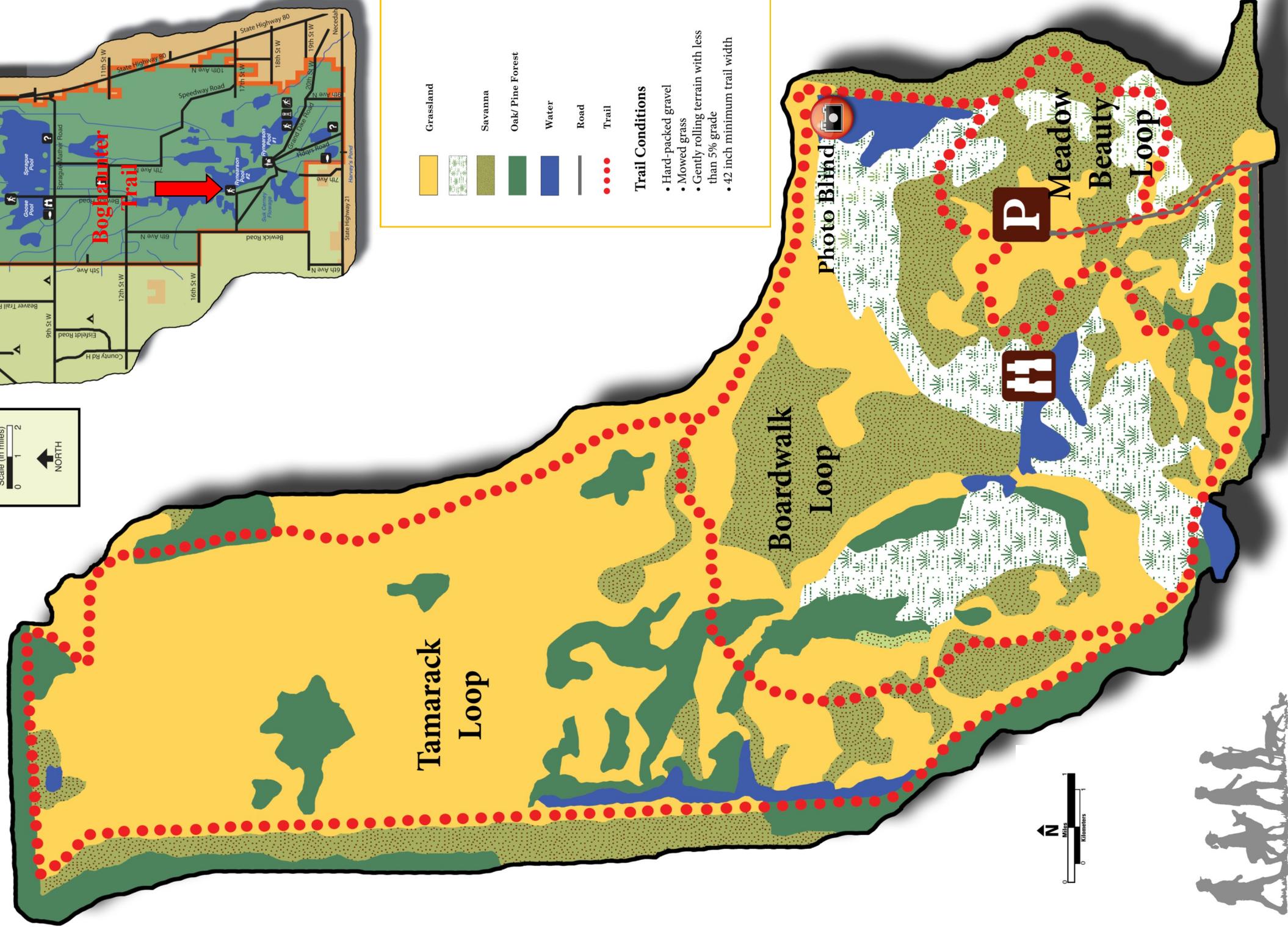
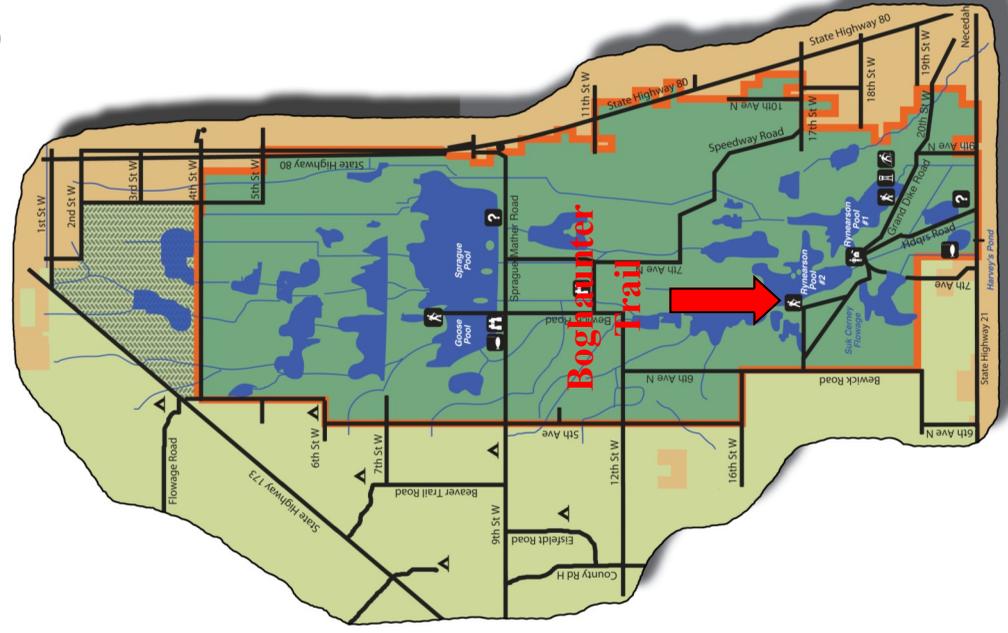
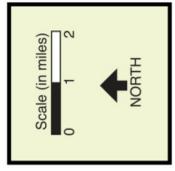
Upland savanna habitat hosts a variety of plants, birds and mammals. Patches of trees, in all stages of life, provide great habitat for red-headed woodpeckers, eastern kingbirds, tree swallows, yellow warblers, and eastern bluebirds. Mammals include white-tail deer, porcupine, and even gray wolves.



Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

- Legend**
- Refuge Boundary
 - State Managed Lands
 - Co-op Managed Unit
 - Township Roads
 - Refuge Headquarters
 - Trail Access
 - Visitor Information
 - Observation Area
 - Observation Tower
 - Fishing
 - Cross-Country Ski

Boghaunter Trail



Tamarack Loop

Boardwalk Loop



- Grassland
 - Savanna
 - Oak/Pine Forest
 - Water
 - Road
 - Trail
- Trail Conditions**
- Hard-packed gravel
 - Mowed grass
 - Gently rolling terrain with less than 5% grade
 - .42 inch minimum trail width

Photo Blind

H

P

Meadow Beauty Loop

