Long Meadow Lake Trails

(see map for permitted uses on these trails)

Hillside Trail (0.4 mi., loop) - From the Visitor Center, this trail drops steeply to a observation platform overlooking Peterson Pond. A free, self-guided Songbird Trail Pack can be checked out at the Visitor Center. A spur trail leads to the Long Meadow Lake Trail.

Long Meadow Lake Trail (3.5 mi., linear) - Begins at the gate on American Blvd., or from the Hillside Trail. The trail enters hillside forest and crosses a water control structure (0.6 mi.), then continues past marsh, a Minnesota River viewpoint (1.1 mi.), bottomland forest, along a river oxbow (1.9 mi.), and ends at the Cedar Ave./Hwy. 77 bridge. A walkway crosses the river to the Jens Casperson Landing (DNR), where the State Corridor Trail heads east along the river to Fort Snelling State Park.

Bass Ponds (0.7 mi., loop) - Two short loop trails lead from the shelter area, past a spring-fed stream, and around a pond and marsh. An interpretive brochure is available at the Visitor Center. This area also serves as the east trailhead for the Hogback Ridge Trail.

Hogback Ridge Trail (1.3 mi., linear) - Accessible either from Bass Ponds or Old Cedar Avenue, this trail heads west from the Bass Ponds shelter. It passes a series of ponds (on right) and Long Meadow Lake (on left). Continuing under Hwy. 77, it passes Cedar Pond platform and ends at Old Cedar Ave. parking area.

Bluff Trail (3.4 mi., linear) - Accessible either from Old Cedar or Russell Sorensen Landing (Lyndale Ave.), the east end heads west from Old Cedar Ave. After about 100 yards it passes a spur trail to the left that leads to a marsh boardwalk and platform. Through forest its entire length, the east half of the trail is fairly level and passes along the shore of Long Meadow Lake. After passing a spur (0.9 mi.) to Mound Spring Park, the trail occasionally rises in elevation, particularly at "Cardiac Hill", where a spur leads to the Parker Picnic Area (1.75 mi.). Another spur trail (2.2 mi.) leads to the Pond-Dakota mansion. The trail ends at Russell Sorensen Landing. Please note: bicycles are not allowed from Old Cedar Ave. to the spur trail.

State Corridor Trail - Access either from Jens Casperson Landing, or from the I-494 walkway, this trail is part of the Fort Snelling State Park trail system (DNR). The portion across the river from Long Meadow Lake follows the river from the I-494 bridge (north) to Jens Casperson Landing. It is a gravel road for the northern-most mile, and for the southern-most half mile.

I-494 Walkway - From the Visitor Center, American Blvd. E continues as a hiking/biking walkway across the I-494 bridge. This trail links to Fort Snelling State Park.

About the Unit

The Long Meadow Lake Unit features large areas of marshes and lakes, as well as bluff and river bottom forest. Over 9 miles of trails and the main refuge Visitor Center are located in the Unit.

Getting There

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

There are six parking areas to access the Long Meadow Lake Unit:

1. *Visitor Center area:* East of the Mall of America, it is located on the east end of American Boulevard (**3815 American Blvd. East, 55425**).
2. *Bass Ponds:* **2501 86th St. East, 55425**. Just south of the Mall of America; follow 24th Street/Old Shakopee Rd. south past the Mall, turn east on 86th Street, and turn left at the Bass Ponds sign.
3. *Old Cedar Ave.:* **9500 Old Cedar Ave. South, 55425**. From Hwy. 77/ Cedar Ave., exit on Old Shakopee Rd. and head west to the first stoplight. Turn left (south) on Old Cedar Ave. and drive to the parking area at the bottom of the hill.
4. *Parker Picnic Area:* **10401 Columbus Road, 55420**. In south-central Bloomington, head south on Portland Ave., then right on 104th St., then left on 5th Ave. S., then left on Columbus St. to parking area.
5. *Russell A. Sorensen Landing:* **11135 Lyndale Ave. South, 55420**. In Bloomington, take Lyndale Ave. south until it ends at the parking area.
6. *Jens Casperson Landing:* In Burnsville, take Hwy. 77 south to Hwy. 13, then north/east to Silver Bell, then north to Nichols, then turn right and drive to the parking area under the Hwy. 77 bridge.

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.

Trails on this unit will be impacted by construction projects during 2015.

-The Long Meadow Lake Trail will be impacted by construction vehicles moving along the trail this summer. Be prepared to step aside to allow them to pass.
-The pedestrian bridge at Highway 77 crossing the Minnesota River will be closed through July for bridge repair.

-The Bluff Trail will be impacted by construction activities due to CenterPoint Energy replacing a natural gas pipeline. The trail will not be accessible from the Lyndale Avenue Trailhead.

-Old Cedar Avenue Parking Lot and the Bluff Trail will be closed July 13-24 for repair.
-Hogback Trail from Old Cedar Parking Lot east to Highway 77 will be closed July 27-31 for repair.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

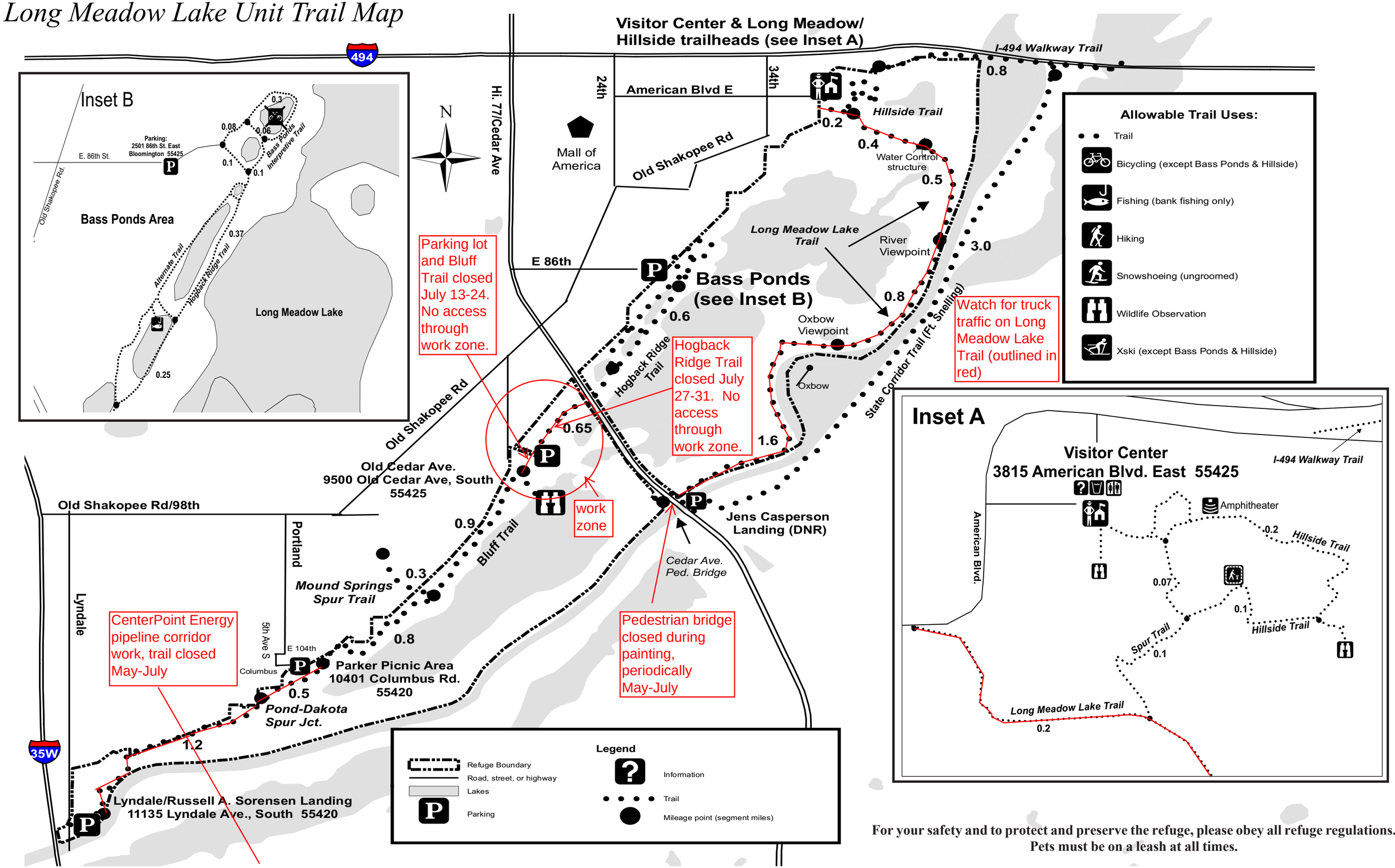
Minnesota Valley

National Wildlife Refuge

Long Meadow Lake Unit Trail Map

2015 trail work in red

Long Meadow Lake Unit Trail Map



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