

## Long Meadow Lake Trails

### Hillside Trail 0.4 mile loop

This trail drops steeply from the Visitor Center to an observation platform overlooking Peterson Pond. A free self-guided Family Activity Pack can be checked out at the Visitor Center desk. A spur trail leads to the Long Meadow Lake Trail at the bottom of the stairs.

### Long Meadow Lake Trail 3.5 miles one way

Begins at gate on American Blvd., or from the Hillside Trail. Trail enters forest and crosses a bridge, then continues through marsh and forest. It ends at a "T" intersection at the paved Old Cedar Bridge trail. The minimally maintained Long Meadow Lake Service Road continues to the west. A pedestrian walkway just off the Old Cedar Bridge Trail rises to cross the river to Jens Caspersen Landing (DNR).

### Bass Ponds 0.7 mile loop

Two short loop trails lead from the paved area east past a spring-fed stream and around a pond and marsh. This is also the east trailhead for the Hogback Ridge Trail.

### Hogback Ridge Trail 1.3 miles one way

Access either from Bass Ponds or Old Cedar Avenue. From Bass Ponds paved area, this trail goes south and then west along an old service road. It passes a series of ponds and Long Meadow Lake and continues as a steep and narrow trail under Hwy. 77. It then passes between Cedar Pond and Kidder Marsh and ends at the Old Cedar Ave. parking area.

### Bluff Trail 3.4 miles one way

Note: bicycles are not allowed on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service owned part of the Bluff Trail from Old Cedar Ave. to the Mound Spring Park spur trail.

This trail can be accessed either from Old Cedar or Lyndale/Russell Sorensen Landing. About 100 yards from the Old Cedar Ave parking area, a boardwalk leads to views of Long Meadow Lake and the wildlife that call it home. The rest of the narrow dirt trail winds through forest as it rises and falls over drainages leading to the wetland below.

Three spur trails lead to access points at the top of the bluff. From east to west they are: Mound Spring Park, Parker Picnic Area, and Pond-Dakota. The trail ends at Lyndale/Russell Sorensen Landing.

**State Corridor Trail (Fort Snelling State Park, MNDNR)** - Access from Jens Casperson Landing (*State permit required*) or from Fort Snelling State park. This unmaintained trail follows the Minnesota River and wetlands from Jens Casperson Landing north to the I-494 bridge and beyond. Near I-494, walk 1/4 miles east to locate access to the walkway up to the trail along I-494. The trail also continues north into state park lands on the north side of the freeway.

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.

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

**Visitor Center:** 3815 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, 55425

**Bass Ponds:** 2501 86th St. East, Bloomington, 55425.

**Old Cedar Ave.:** 9500 Old Cedar Ave. South, Bloomington, 55425

**Parker Picnic Area (City of Bloomington):** 10401 Columbus Road, Bloomington, 55420

**Russell A. Sorensen Landing:** 11135 Lyndale Ave. South, Bloomington, 55420

**Jens Casperson Landing (MNDNR):** (*No Street Address*) In Eagan, take Hwy. 13 north/east to Silver Bell Rd., then north to Nichols Rd., then turn right and drive to the parking area under the Hwy. 77 bridge - State Park permit required to park here.

The trail to the pedestrian crossing of the river is east of the parking area. Look for the long ramp down from Hwy 77. Walk east of that to access trail to the walkway.

### About the Unit

### Getting There



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

Visit us online:

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota\\_valley](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley)  
<http://www.facebook.com/MNvalleyNWR/>

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

### Long Meadow Lake Unit Trail Map



### Closure Notes:

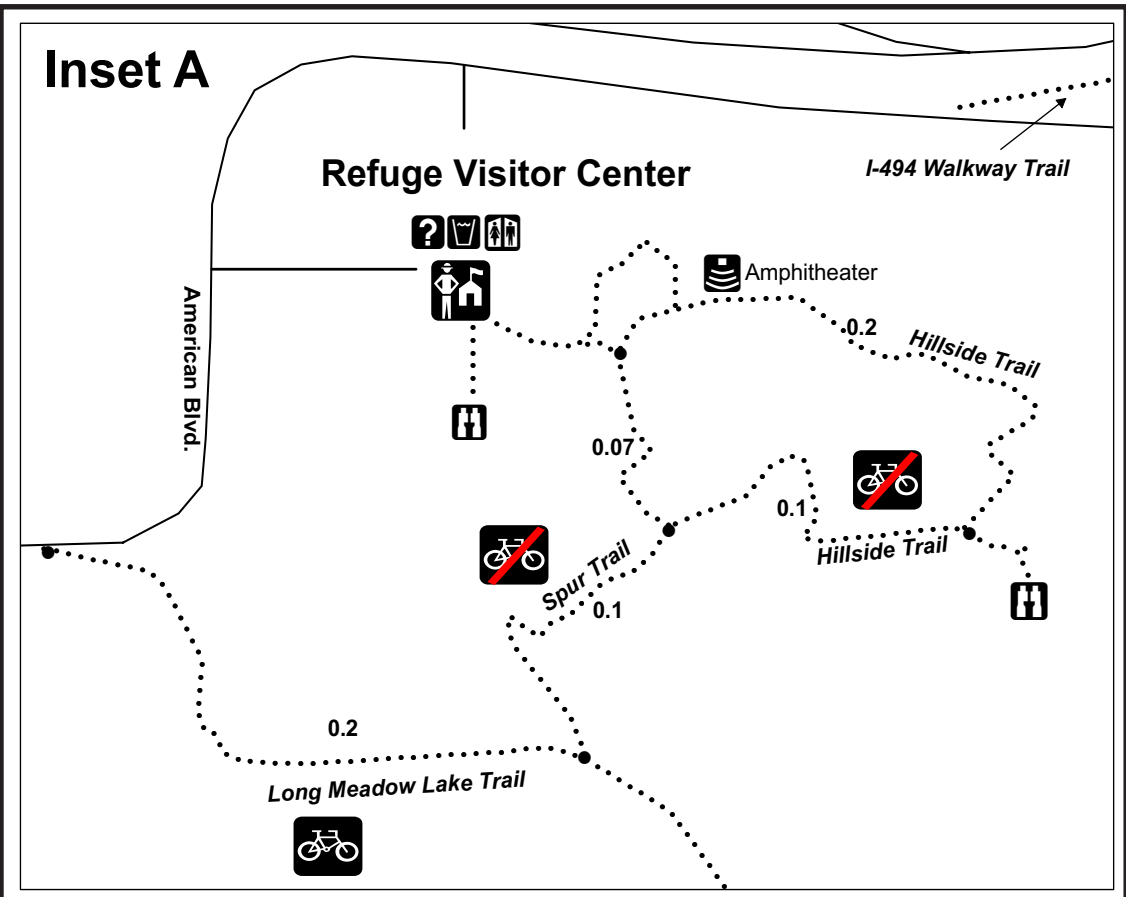
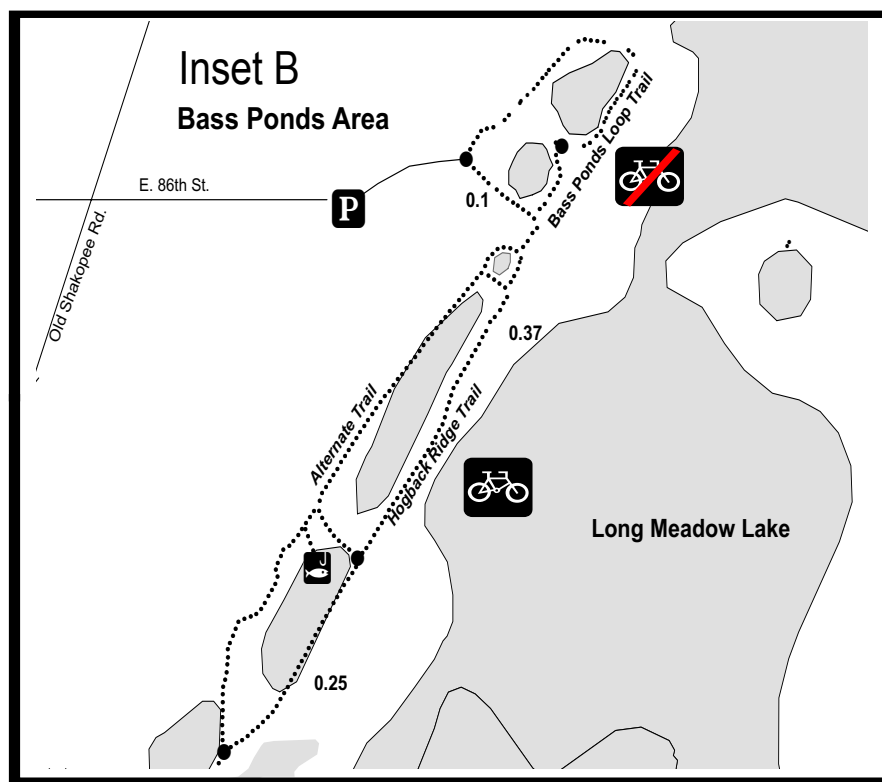
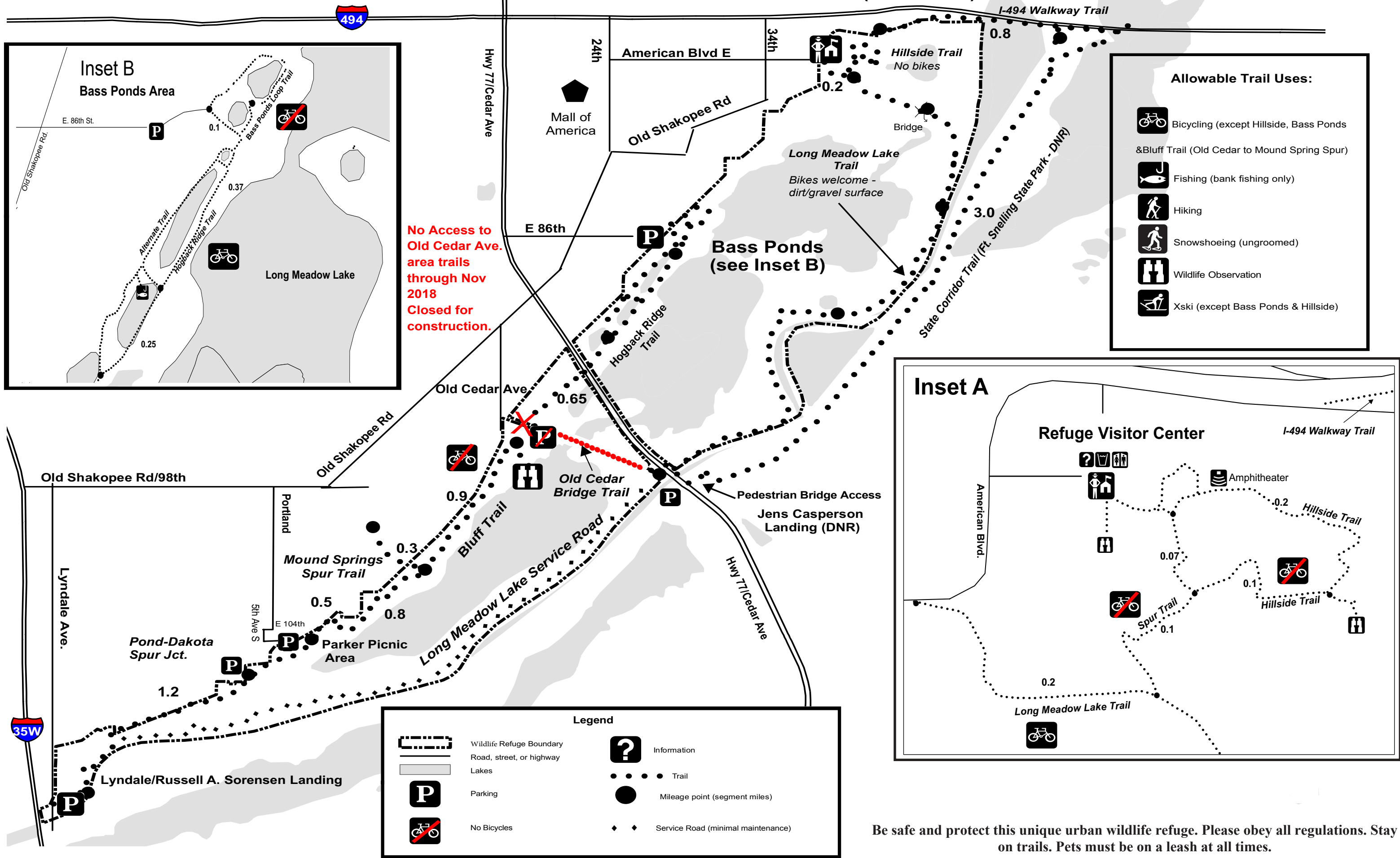
**Old Cedar Ave. bridge, parking area, and through trail connections will be closed for construction through fall 2018.** Parking, road, restroom and trail projects by the City of Bloomington and the refuge will disrupt use throughout this time period.

Visit <https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/eng/old-cedar-avenue-area-project> for more information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work together with the city to make improvements to this area.

While frustrating now, these projects will improve public access and enjoyment, biologic diversity, and wildlife habitat for the future.

# Long Meadow Lake Unit Trail Map



**Allowable Trail Uses:**

- Bicycling (except Hillside, Bass Ponds & Bluff Trail (Old Cedar to Mound Spring Spur))
- Fishing (bank fishing only)
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing (ungroomed)
- Wildlife Observation
- Xski (except Bass Ponds & Hillside)

**Legend**

- Wildlife Refuge Boundary
- Road, street, or highway
- Lakes
- Parking
- No Bicycles
- Information
- Trail
- Mileage point (segment miles)
- Service Road (minimal maintenance)

**No Access to Old Cedar Ave. area trails through Nov 2018. Closed for construction.**

**Be safe and protect this unique urban wildlife refuge. Please obey all regulations. Stay on trails. Pets must be on a leash at all times.**