



PWLC in June, Matt Conner, USFWS

Origins of the PWLC

In the mid-1970s, a local grassroots effort to establish a public use facility focusing on prairies and wetlands began to explore what opportunities may be available with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This group of conservationists formed the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in 1989. Local donations and successful lobbying led to the eventual funding of the center in 1994.

Environmental education programs have been conducted at the center since 1994. In 1998 the visitor center and dormitory opened, and the education wing opened in 2008. The center is part of the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and is a cooperative venture between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Fergus Falls and the State of Minnesota.

PWLC Mission

The mission of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is *“to provide environmental education opportunities for students, private landowners and the general public, and to foster stewardship by demonstrating methods for protection, enhancement and restoration of the prairie pothole ecosystem.”*

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center includes 330 acres of native and restored prairie, 28 wetlands and 3.5 miles of trails. The visitor center houses a 2,500 square foot exhibit area, the Bluestem Store, six classrooms, a multi-purpose meeting room and dining hall, and a greenhouse. The center provides both day and residential environmental education and interpretation of the prairie pothole region for learners of all ages.



Finding the PWLC

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is easy to find!

From Interstate 94 take exit 57, State Highway 210 East towards Fergus Falls. The entrance is one mile on the right.

Community Information

For more information on the Fergus Falls community visit www.VisitFergusFalls.com or call 1-800/726 8959.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
 602 State Highway 210 East
 Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 Phone: (218) 998 4480
 Fax: (218) 736 0941
prairiewet@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/pwlc>
 Find us on [www.facebook.com!](https://www.facebook.com/)

Persons with hearing impairments can contact the PWLC through the Federal Relay System at 1-800-877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 1 800/344 WILD
www.fws.gov



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fergus Falls

*Wetland Management
 District Prairie
 Wetlands Learning
 Center*

Trail Map



*Prairie Wetlands Learning
 Center, Roland Jordahl*



5th Grade Ski Expedition.
Shannon Duffy, USFWS

Visitor Center Hours

Welcome to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The trails and grounds are open dawn to dusk daily, year round.
No pets please!

Located just outside Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) is the first residential environmental education center operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and focuses on the understanding of prairies and wetlands. The PWLC sits on the Townsend Waterfowl Production Area, a 330-acre tract. The site includes both native unbroken and restored prairie, over 20 wetlands and two oak savannas. Over 180 species of birds have been identified at the PWLC, as well as a wide variety of native prairie grasses and forbs.



Autumn PWLC, Matt Conner, USFWS



Boundaries posted in the field supercede all boundaries shown on map.

**Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Boundary
- Water
- Barn
- Foot Bridge
- Dock
- Amphitheater
- Office/Visitor Center
- Kiosk
- Parking
- *Hiking Trails (see map/trail information below)
- Mallard Marsh - .5 mile
- Tatanka Trail - 1 mile
- Wetland Way Trail - 2 miles
- Tintah Trail - 3 miles
- Native Prairie (spur trail)
- Butterfly Garden (spur trail)



*Mallard Marsh Trail - .5 mile paved trail loop.
A foot bridge crosses the Mallard Marsh.

Butterfly Garden - a short spur trail.
Best view of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.

Tatanka Trail - 1 mile loop mowed grass trail.
Summer opportunities to see nesting bobolinks.

Wetland Way Trail - 2 mile loop mowed grass trail.
Be quiet and you may see wildlife.

Tintah Trail - 3 mile loop mowed grass trail.
See it all! Take the Tintah Trail challenge.

Native Prairie Trail - a short spur trail.
View 17 acres of beautiful native prairie