

About the Unit

The Wilkie Unit is located predominantly in river bottom, and features three prominent lakes (Blue, Rice, and Fisher) and large areas of associated marsh. There are also extensive areas of bottomland forest, as well as stands of coniferous trees. A connecting trail and pedestrian bridge also allow access to the refuge's Bloomington Ferry Unit.

Getting There



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

Primary access to the Wilkie Unit is from the trailhead located ½ mile west of the HWY 169 & County Rd. 101 junction. From HWY 169, exit on County Rd. 101 west toward Shakopee. Turn right at the first stop light and around the bend to the trailhead parking area (**7701 County Road 101 East, Shakopee, 55379**).

The unit can also be reached from the north side of the river, via the Bloomington Ferry trailhead (**11255 Bloomington Ferry Rd., 55438**). From Hwy. 169, proceed east on Old Shakopee Road to Bloomington Ferry Road (at the Dred Scott Playfields). Turn right, proceed 1/2 mile, and turn right on Bloomington Ferry Circle. Proceed down the hill to the parking area. The trail begins across the pedestrian 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.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Wilkie Unit Trail Map



Wilkie Unit - Trail Map

Wilkie Trail Descriptions

Minnesota River Trail:

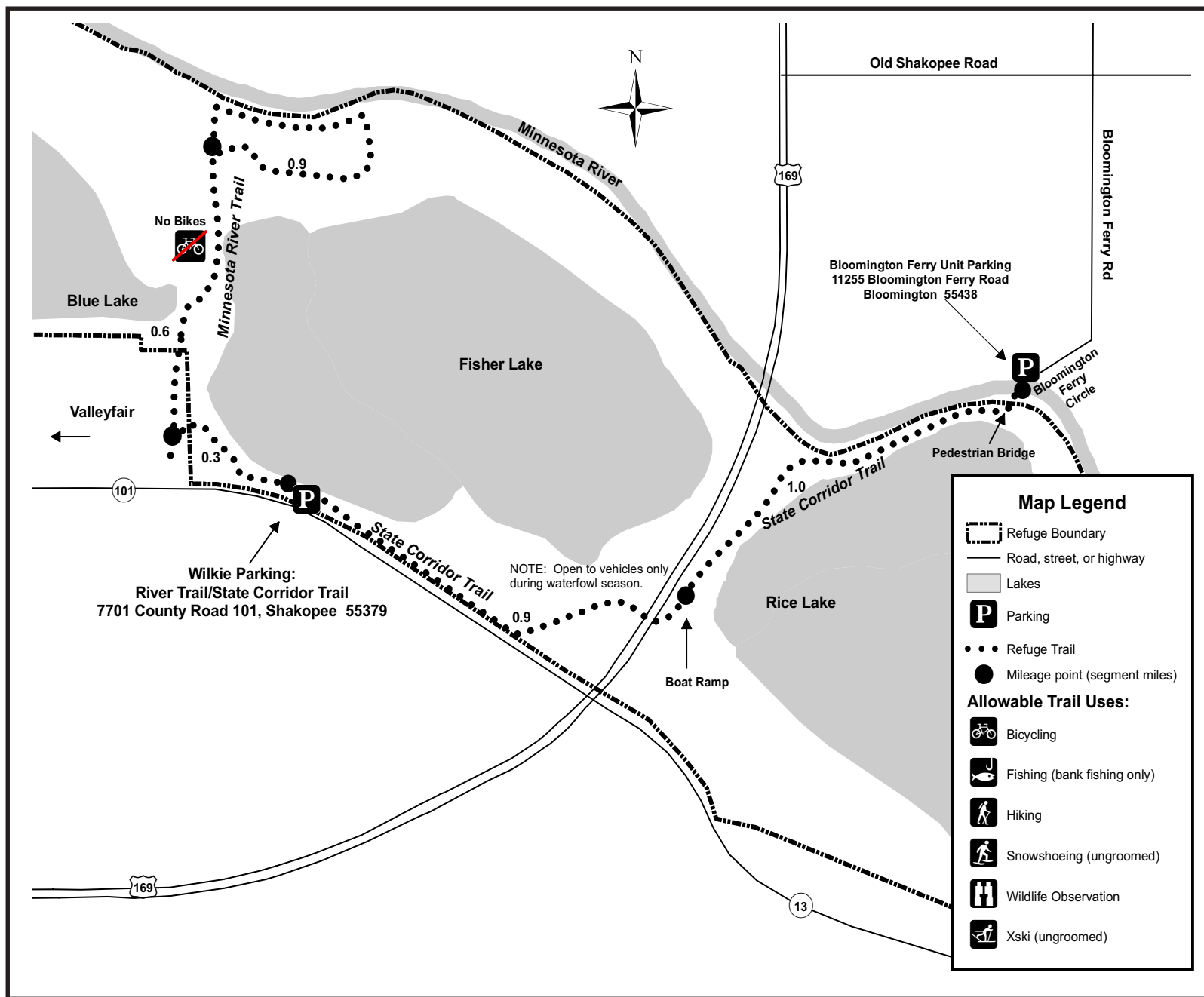
2.75 miles (linear, round trip)
Surface: grass/dirt

From the parking area, walk 0.3 mile west to an old farm road. Proceed to the right on this road. The trail passes scattered large trees, and then crosses a culvert between Blue Lake (west) and Fisher Lake (east). The trail continues to a junction where a loop trail begins. Proceed straight (left) and the trail reaches the Minnesota River, turns right and follows the river, and then loops back right to the loop junction. Turn left and proceed back to the trailhead via the incoming route. NOTE: no bicycles are allowed on this trail.

State Corridor Trail:

1.9 miles (linear, one way)
Surface: asphalt

From the parking area, walk east along the old HWY 18 alignment for 0.9 mile to the boat ramp (under HWY 169), then proceed northeast, between Rice and Fisher Lakes. The trail eventually meets and follows the river for the remainder of the route, crossing it over a pedestrian bridge and ending at the Bloomington Ferry parking lot (from which the trail can also be started). Return the same route. NOTE: during waterfowl hunting season (fall) the section from the main Wilkie parking lot to the boat ramp is open to vehicles.



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