



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Bloomington Visitor Center
3815 American Blvd, East
Bloomington, MN 55425
(952) 854-5900 Fax: (612) 725-3279
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
952/854-5900

Bluff Trail Improvement at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Starting on Monday, August 4 about a mile section of the Bluff Trail on the Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be restored and enhanced. The current trail and boardwalks are continuously impacted by flooding. The new trail will be realigned a little further up the bluff, and will be a more sustainable natural surface trail. The current boardwalks will be replaced with ones that can withstand yearly freeze and thaw, as well as flooding. In the area of the trail, invasive species will also be removed.

During the trail construction, the current trail will not be closed. However, trail building equipment will be utilized, so please use caution while on the existing trail.

For questions concerning the Bluff Trail realignment, call the Refuge Main Office at (952) 854-5900. TTY users may reach the Refuge through the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>