

Karner Blue Butterfly Viewing Tips

When:

- The Karner blue butterfly seasons peak during the first two weeks in June, the last week of July, and first week of August.
- Karner blue butterflies are active during the day, but are best viewed in the morning.

Where:

- Karner blue butterflies are found in areas with high wild lupine concentrations.
- Look at the flowers and down at your feet on the trail. They usually do not fly higher than 4 ½ feet.

How:

- Move slowly and quietly.
- Sitting in one good location allows these butterflies to float around you without fear. Also, they are more likely to think you are a flower this way!

Please be respectful.

- These are small, fragile butterflies, so if one lands on you, do not touch it and patiently wait for it to fly away.

What:

- **Things to have along:** camera, ID books, journal, water, etc.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

NECEDAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HIKING



LUPINE LOOP TRAIL



Welcome to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge's Lupine Loop Trail

The Trail:

Lupine Loop Trail is a 0.8 mile trail that takes you through a variety of native habitats. From prairie to marsh to a savanna setting, there is always something unique and fascinating to discover here. Lupine Loop Trail is also the best spot to find the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

Trail Wildlife & Habitats:

Keep an eye on the flowers - the tiny Karner blue butterfly could be flying right under your nose! This beautiful endangered butterfly is only about the size of a quarter! Its pale blue markings make it stand out among the yellows, reds, and greens of the purple lupine.

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge is home to the world's largest population of this endangered butterfly – in part due to its abundance of the wild lupine plant which the butterfly is entirely dependent upon.

Its tall blue flowers and uniquely palmate leaves make this common wildflower a real eye-pleaser. Other butterflies you might find out on this trail are the common tiger swallowtail, pink-edged sulphur, viceroy, monarch, and white admiral.

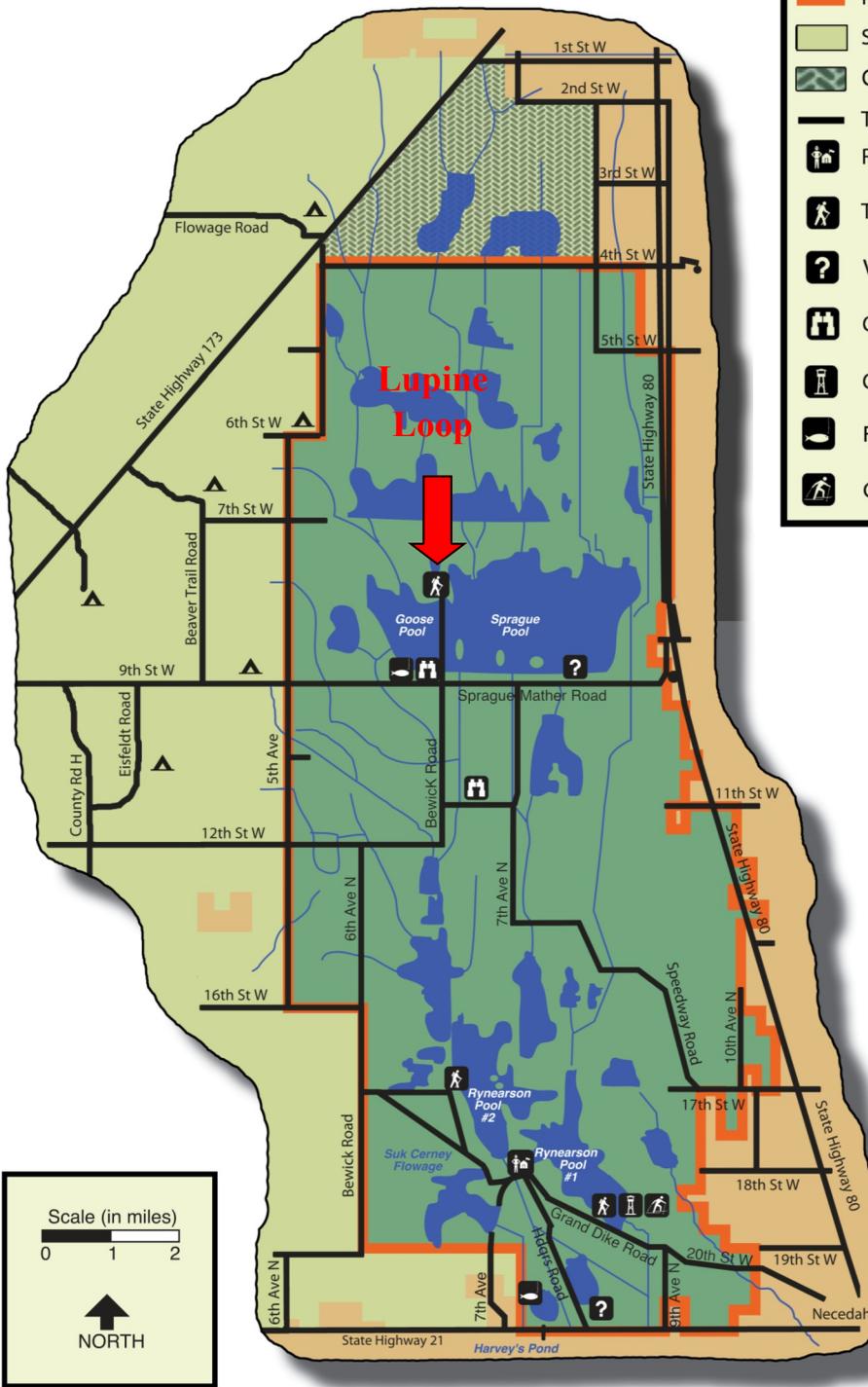
Keep your eyes to the skies for the many bird species that make their home around the trail. The combination of trees and open areas provide ideal nesting, feeding, and display areas. Look and listen for brown thrashers, common yellowthroats, field sparrows, chipping sparrows, killdeer, and tree swallows.



“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

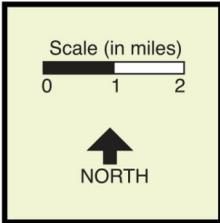
- Aldo Leopold

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

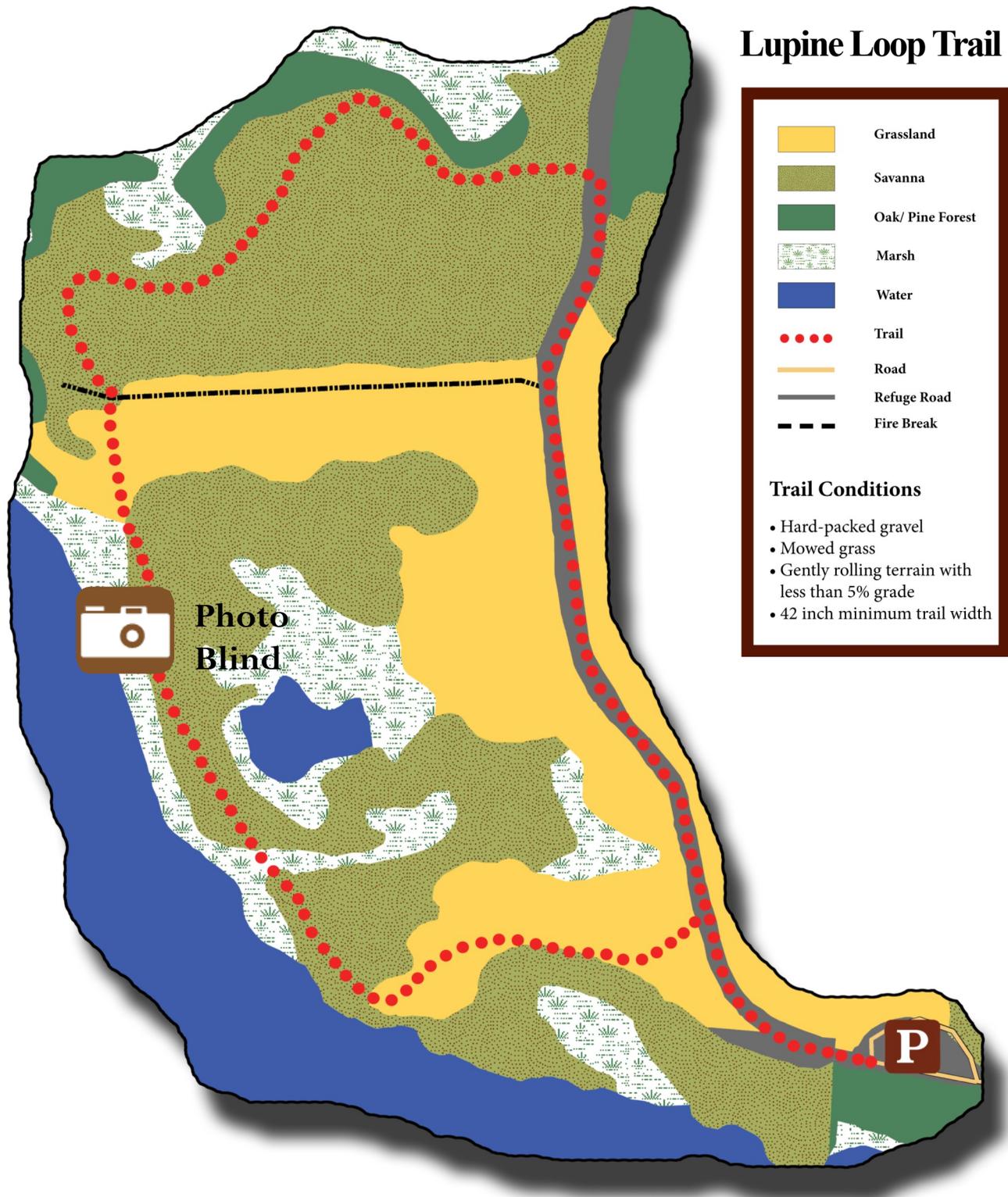


Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- State Managed Lands
- Co-op Managed Unit
- Township Roads
- Refuge Headquarters
- Trail Access
- Visitor Information
- Observation Area
- Observation Tower
- Fishing
- Cross-Country Ski



Lupine Loop Trail



- Grassland
- Savanna
- Oak/ Pine Forest
- Marsh
- Water
- Trail
- Road
- Refuge Road
- Fire Break

Trail Conditions

- Hard-packed gravel
- Mowed grass
- Gently rolling terrain with less than 5% grade
- 42 inch minimum trail width