

Stevens Point Area

Portage County in Central Wisconsin



Pedal



Paddle



Hike



Hiking & Bikingpages 8-27
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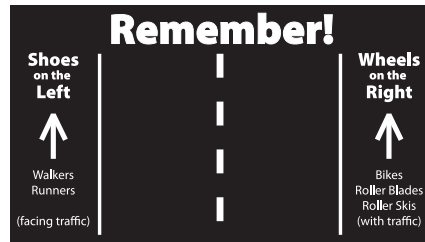
Stevens Point Area Trail Guide

Conveniently located in the center of the state, the Stevens Point Area is a recreationalist playground in the heart of central Wisconsin. Fish the diverse rivers of the Wisconsin River and the backwaters, including the 6,830 acre Lake DuBay, a hotbed for walleye, northern pike, musky and bass. Paddle the backwaters and sloughs, trout streams and smaller lakes for more variety. On land, leisurely follow one of the many great trails and natural areas perfect for bird watching and wildlife viewing. The Stevens Point Area has no shortage of great recreational opportunities.

In this guide you will find information about exploring the outdoors in the Stevens Point Area, including hiking, bicycling, paddling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding. Most of the trails in this guide are multi-use, and may vary by season. Routes provided for road-biking and paddling are not a complete list, rather a list of popular routes worth exploring. Be sure to check out the map, trail restrictions and use fees before heading out. For more information on camping and lodging, trail conditions and other area attractions in the Stevens Point Area visit stevenspointarea.com or call 715-344-2556.

Plan ahead

Always tell someone where you are heading and when you expect to return.



Stevens Point Area Trail Guide

TRAIL NAME AND LOCATION	Map Page	Restroom	Mileage	Camping	Pets
Erickson Natural Area/Kozcizkowski	7		.5 mi		🐾
Green Circle Trail and Spurs	12	✓	26 mi		🐾
George Mead Wildlife Area	14	✓	80 mi		
Ice Age Trail	16		1000 mi		🐾
Iverson Park	18	✓	2.7 mi		🐾
Jordan Park	19			✓	🐾
Lake Emily County Park	20	✓		✓	
Wolf Lake Park	21	✓			
Schmeeckle Reserve	22	✓	.5 mi		
Standing Rocks Park (F)	24	✓	13 mi		🐾
Tomorrow River State Trail (F)	26		28 mi		
State Natural Areas	31				
ROAD BIKING ROUTES					
Old Wausau Road	35	✓	11 mi		
Plover to Amherst	35	✓	40 mi	✓	
Lake Emily Loop	35	✓	28 mi		🐾
Stevens Point to Polonia	35	✓	22 mi		🐾
Wetlands	35	✓			🐾
West Loop	35	✓	43.8 mi		
Sunset Lake Area	35	✓			
PADDLING ROUTES					
Wisconsin River North (I)	37		4 mi		
McDonald Island	38		1-2 hr		
Blue Heron	39		3-4 mi	✓	
Upper Plover River (I)	40		8 mi	✓	
Lower Plover River (B/I)	40				
McDill Pond (B)	41		2-4 hr		
Tomorrow River (I)	42				
Lake Joanis (B)	43				

(F) = Trail Fee (B) = Beginner paddling route (I) = Intermediate paddling route

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS	# of Sites	Tent Area	Showers	Flush Toilets	Swimming	Playground
Lake DuBay Shores, Mosinee 715-457-2484 dubayshores.com	150 (120W/E)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
River's Edge, Stevens Point 715-344-8058 riversedgewisconsin.com	115 (10W/E)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vista Royale, Bancroft 715-335-6860 vistaroyalle.com	275 (155W/E) (120W/E)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Wild West, Amherst 715-824-5112 wildwestcampground.com	54 (54W/E)	✓	✓	✓		✓
COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS						
All county parks 715-346-1433						
Collins Park, Rosholt, WI co.portage.wi.us/parks	27 (27E)	✓			✓	✓
DuBay Park, Junction City co.portage.wi.us/parks	31 (31E)					
Lake Emily Park, Amherst Junction co.portage.wi.us/parks	67 (12E)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Jordan Park, Stevens Point co.portage.wi.us/parks	25 (22E)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
STATE CAMPGROUNDS						
Hartmann Creek, Waupaca 715-258-2372, dnr.wi.gov	101 (23E)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

(E) = Electric (W/E) = Water/Electric • All Campgrounds listed have dump stations.

Trail Routes

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- 1 Erickson Natural Area/Kozcizkowski Park*
 - 2 Green Circle Trail and Spurs*
 - 3 George Mead Wildlife Area
 - 4 Ice Age Trail (see pg 17 for complete trail)
 - 5 Iverson Park*
 - 6 Jordan Park
 - 7 Lake Emily County Park
 - 8 Wolf Lake Park
 - 9 Schmeckle Reserve*
 - 10 Standing Rocks Park
 - 11 Tomorrow River State Trail

State Natural Areas

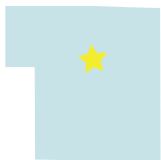
- Pages 28-31
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 - 22 Plover to Amherst*
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 - 24 Stevens Point to Polonia*
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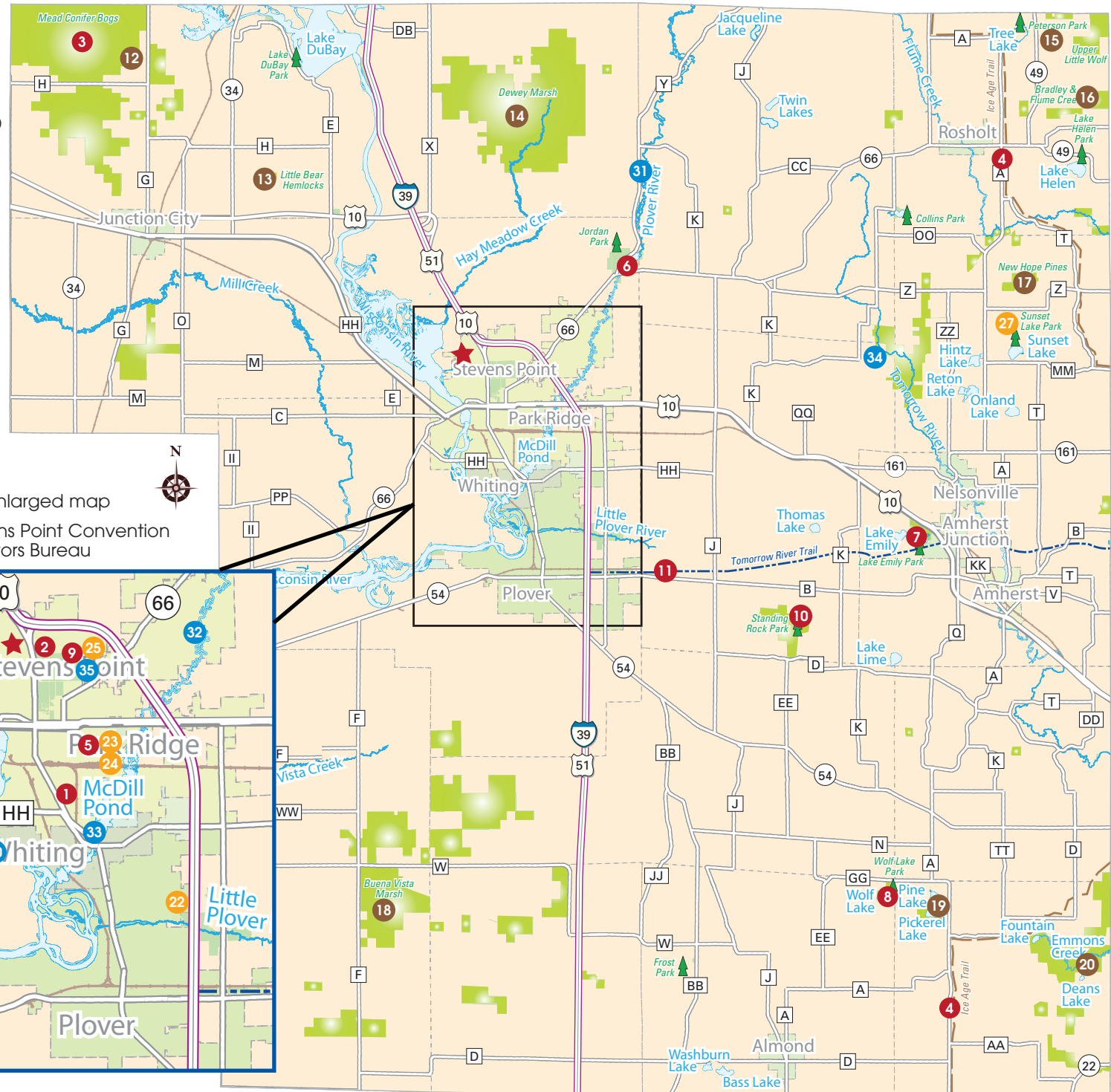
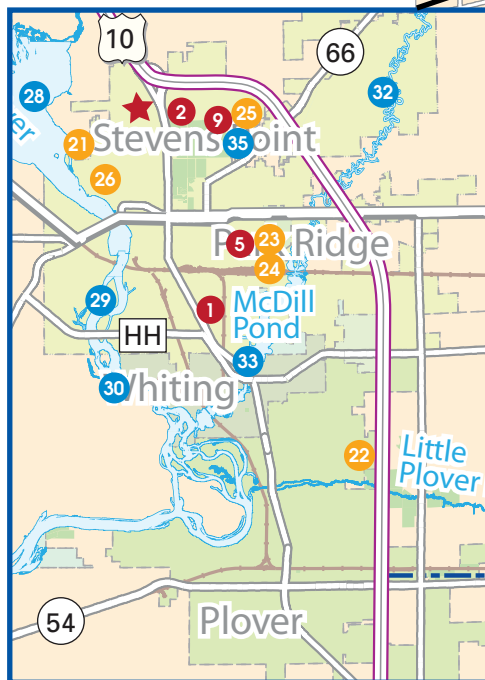
Paddling Routes

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 - 33 McDill Pond*
 - 34 Tomorrow River
 - 35 Lake Joanis*



star shows location on county map

* see enlarged map
 Stevens Point Convention & Visitors Bureau



Stevens Point Area Trail Guide



Adventures on Land

Start your journey by exploring the trails and natural areas in Portage County. With no shortage of great recreational trails, like the Green Circle Trail, the Tomorrow River State Trail, Schmeeckle Reserve and the Ice Age Trail, be sure you don't overlook the smaller and lesser known trail systems. For adventures on two wheels, from trail riding to road biking, get some miles in along the scenic routes on trails and rural roads.



Adventures on Water

Venture out on one of the many waterways in Portage County. Numerous lakes, an array of rivers, streams, and flowages offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities, whether you want to fish, kayak, canoe, boat and swim. With routes for novices to pros, explore the distinct paddling routes in the area.



Plan Your Trip

The area offers more than 800 campsites, at county, state and private campgrounds. For those looking for a little more luxury, try one of the area's cabins, Bed & Breakfasts or hotels. After a day filled with exploring the trails and waterways in Portage County, find other activities worth exploring in the Stevens Point Area by visiting stevenspointarea.com.

This guide is compiled by the Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and Active Portage County. Active Portage County is dedicated to create a healthier Portage County by encouraging citizens to get active and lead healthier lives through programs and planned activities to motivate citizens to get into regular exercise. The Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the destination marketing organization for Portage County.



QR Codes

To see more about some of the locations in the guide, scan the QR code with your mobile device. QR Readers are free from both The App Store and The Android Market.

After downloading:

1. Open your QR Reader
2. Scan the QR Code
3. Open the link provided



Erickson Natural Area/Kozcizkowski Park

Tucked along the shores of McDill Pond in Kozcizkowski Park, is the 5.5 acre **Godfrey & Maybelle Erickson Natural Area**. The park, known for birding with more than 170 species documented, has a .5 mile trail. The trail, consisting of woodchips winding along the shore of McDill Pond, and through a variety of habitats, is part of the **Green Circle Birding Trail**.

LOCATION

Parking is available on the north side of Kozcizkowski Park, off of Minnesota Avenue or Della Street.



Photo by KT Elements

KEY	
	Hiking Trail
	Parking
	Restrooms
	Shelter



The **Green Circle** offers 26 miles of scenic hiking and biking trail that loops through the Stevens Point area and connects with nearly 30 miles of additional trails. It winds through forests and parks, over wetlands, and along rivers.

The Schmeekle Reserve Visitor Center is the headquarters of the **Green Circle**, which offers free parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, and an information desk from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. This would serve as an ideal starting point for trail users who are unfamiliar with the Stevens Point area.

The main loop of the **Green Circle** is made up of 12 connecting trail segments. Our additional trail spurs connect to the **Green Circle Trail**.

University Trail

Length: 2.6 miles

Surface: Crushed granite trails, boardwalks and paved roads

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, no pets (use alternate route along North Point Dr.)

Parking: Schmeekle Reserve Visitor Center (west), Along Wilshire Dr. (east)

The **University Trail** spans from the Green Circle Trailhead off of Business 51 (west) to the Moses Creek parking lot off of Wilshire Drive (northeast). The west portion of the trail meanders through Schmeekle Reserve, a natural area owned by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Diverse habitats of forest, prairie, wetlands, and oak savanna provide ample wildlife viewing opportunities. The east portion follows Wilshire Drive to the north.

Moses Creek Trail

Length: 2.3 miles

Surface: Crushed granite, boardwalks

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets

Parking: Wilshire Drive parking lot (west) or Hwy. 66 Plover River Trail parking lot (east)

Spans from parking area along Wilshire Drive (west) to Highway 66 crossing (east).

The **Moses Creek Trail** features the longest boardwalk on the Green Circle (nearly 1/2 mile). The trail meanders through wet woodlands and over pristine sedge meadows, providing ample wildlife watching opportunities.

Plover River Trail

Length: 3.6 miles

Surface: Crushed granite trail

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets, cross-country skiing

Parking: Lot off of Hwy. 66 (north), end of Hofmeister Dr. (south)

The scenic **Plover River Trail** spans from the Highway 66 crossing (north) to Hofmeister Drive (south). This wooded trail, one of the longest segments of the Green Circle, follows the meandering Plover River on its journey to the Wisconsin River. A portion of the trail runs through Izaak Walton League (Bill Cook Chapter) land. The diverse woodlands, towering trees, flowing water, and ample wildlife viewing make this trail a favorite among users.



Iverson Park Trail

Length: 2.7 miles

Surface: Crushed granite (through park) and paved roads

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets

Parking: End of Hofmeister Dr. (north), Iverson Park (middle), Patch St. (south)

The **Iverson Park Trail** travels through one of the oldest and largest city parks in Stevens Point. It spans from Hofmeister Drive (north), travels over I-39, follows quiet residential roads, crosses over Hwy. 66, meanders through Iverson Park, ducks under a train bridge, and ends on Patch Street (south).

Heartland Trail Spur

Length: 2.8 miles

Surface: Asphalt paved trail

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets

The **Heartland Trail Spur** is a paved path that parallels Patch Street. Green Circle users can access the trail at the intersection of the Iverson Park and McDill Trails. The path travels from Michigan Avenue at its west end to the Portage County Business Park on the east side of Interstate 39 with a safe underpass trail beneath the highway.

McDill Trail

Length: 1.4 miles

Surface: Crushed granite and paved roads

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets

Parking: Patch St. (north), Whiting Park (south)

The **McDill Trail** spans from Patch Street (north), crosses McDill Pond and follows its shore, enters into quiet residential neighborhoods, and ends at the County HH intersection (south).



Hoover Road Trail Spur

Length: 4.9 miles

Surface: Asphalt paved trail

Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking.

Pets allowed only on the trail spur, not in Plover parks.

Parking: Little Plover River Park (middle), Worzella Pines/Lake Pacawa Parks (south)

The **Hoover Road Trail Spur** is a popular spur that connects Stevens Point (north) with the Village of Plover (south). The trail spur is accessed via a short crushed granite connector path from the Mainland Meadows Trail and winds through the Whiting wellfield woodlands. The majority of the trail parallels Hoover Road. It is paved for easy biking and jogging.

Whiting Park Trail

Length: 1.4 miles
 Surface: Sidewalk (along County HH) and woodchips (in park)
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, pets (no bikes in park)
 Parking: Whiting Park

The scenic **Whiting Park Walking Trail** is accessed at the intersection of the **McDill and Mainland Meadows Trails** in the east, and the **Paper Mill and Mainland Meadows Trails** in the west. Bikers should ride the **Mainland Meadows Trail** to bypass Whiting Park. The eastern portion of the trail parallels County HH, before entering Whiting Park just west of Business 51. The western portion meanders through the forested Whiting Park, offering views of the Whiting dam, the wide Plover River, an abundance of year-round waterfowl, and Indian Mounds.

Mainland Meadows Trail

Length: 2.2 miles
 Surface: Crushed granite and paved roads
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: Whiting Park (northwest), McDill Elementary School - School St. (northeast)

The **Mainland Meadows** section provides bicycle access around the Whiting Park Walking Trail. It spans from the intersection with County HH (east) to the bridge over the Plover River at the edge of Whiting Park (west). This trail winds through scenic meadows of grasses and wildflowers on its eastern end.

Paper Mill Trail

Length: 1.7 miles
 Surface: Crushed granite and sidewalks
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: Whiting Park/Cedar St. (east), corner of Sherman/Whiting Ave. (west)

The **Paper Mill Trail** spans from the edge of Upper Whiting Park (west) at the Plover River bridge to Sherman Ave. The trail meanders through Village of Whiting and paper mill woodlands following the Plover River flowage to its confluence with the Wisconsin River.

River Pines Trail

Length: 3.5 miles
 Surface: Crushed granite trail (along river), paved roads, sidewalks
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: corner of Sherman/Whiting Ave. (south), downtown (north)

The **River Pines Trail** extends from Sherman River in the south to the Highway 66 bridge over the Wisconsin River in the north. The majority of the trail meanders through natural forest as it follows the Wisconsin River shoreline. One of the most scenic portions of the trail, this section offers views of rocky outcroppings, islands, large white pine and oak trees, and incredible sunsets.



Photo by KT Elements

Westside Loop Trail Spur

Length: 2.4 miles
 Surface: Crushed granite trails and sidewalks
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: corner of Sherman/Whiting Ave. (south), downtown (north)

The **Westside Loop** is an alternative route that follows the west side of the Wisconsin River. The loop spans from the Highway 66 river crossing in the north (Riverfront Trail) to the County HH river crossing in the south (River Pines Trail).

Riverfront Trail

Length: 1.3 miles
 Surface: Asphalt paved trail
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: Bukolt Park (north), downtown (south)

The popular **Riverfront Trail** spans from Bukolt Park in the north to the Highway 66 bridge in the south. It travels along the shore of the Wisconsin River through Bukolt and Piffner Pioneer Parks, with easy access to historic downtown Stevens Point.

Stagecoach Trail

Length: 2.2 miles
 Surface: Paved roads
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: Bukolt Park (west), Zenoff Park (east)

The **Stagecoach Trail** spans from Bukolt Park (southwest) to Zenoff Park (east) along quiet neighborhood roadways. It provides stunning views of the quiet Wisconsin River north of Stevens Point. Old Wausau Road has extended shoulders for biking.

Stevens Point Sculpture Park Trail Spur

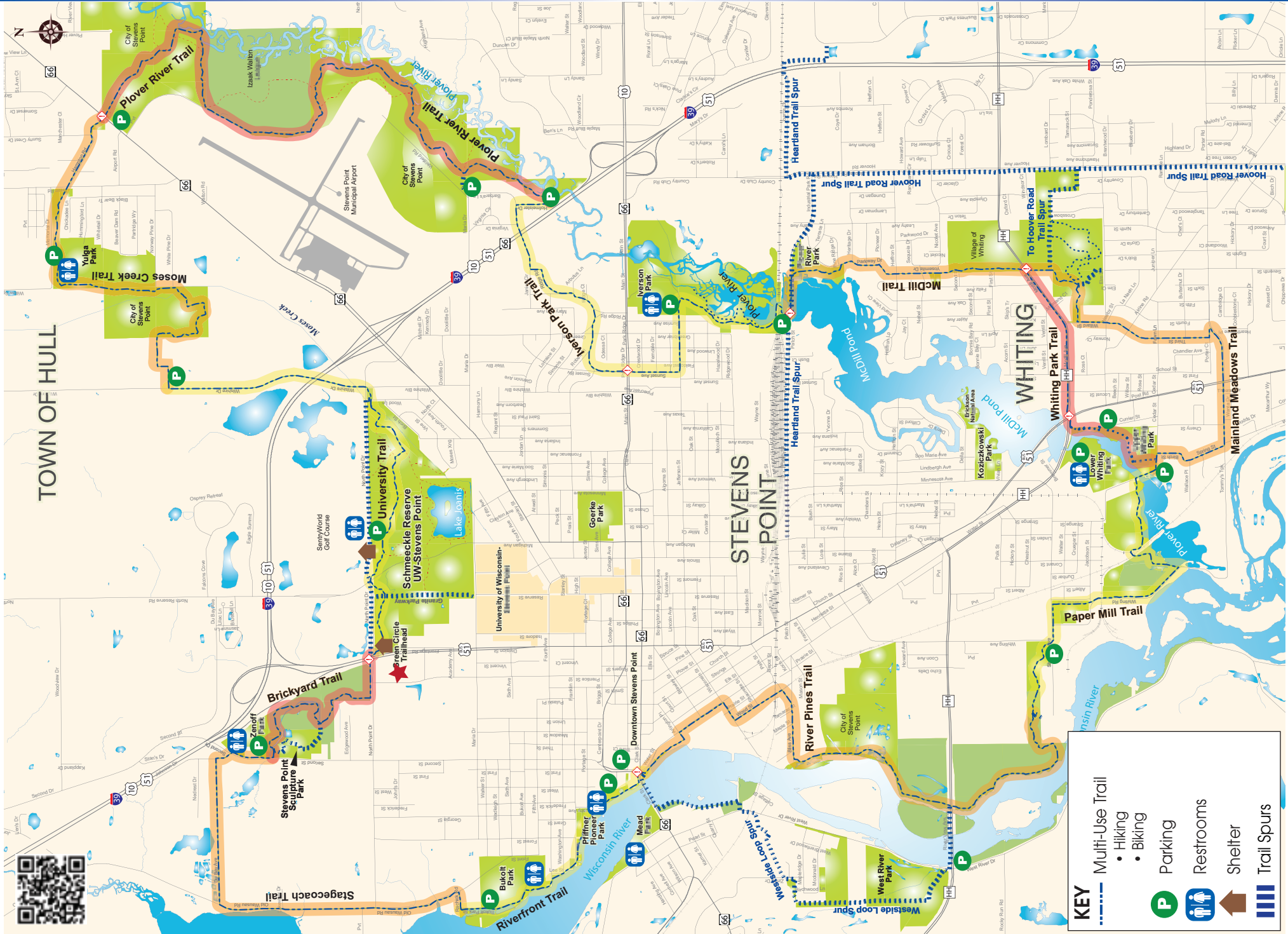
Length: .5 mile
 Surface: Crushed granite and woodchips
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: Zenoff Park (north), Along North Second St. (west),

Explore beautiful sculptural works along the scenic .5 mile trail. Leisurely stroll through towering pines to discover a unique connection between nature and art. Sitting on 20 acres and connected to the **Brickyard Trail**, the **Stevens Point Sculpture Park** features artwork from local, regional, and national artists.

Brickyard Trail

Length: 1.1 miles
 Surface: Crushed granite, some sidewalk
 Activities: Hiking, jogging, biking, pets
 Parking: Zenoff Park (west), Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center (east)

The **Brickyard Trail** spans from Zenoff Park (west) to the Green Circle Trailhead on the edge of Schmeckle Reserve (east). It travels through a forested area, following a small stream past meadows. Several active ponds along the path provide habitat for frogs, turtles, and herons. The **Brickyard Trail** provides access to the **Stevens Point Sculpture Park**.



KEY

- Multi-Use Trail
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- Trail Spurs

- Hiking
- Biking

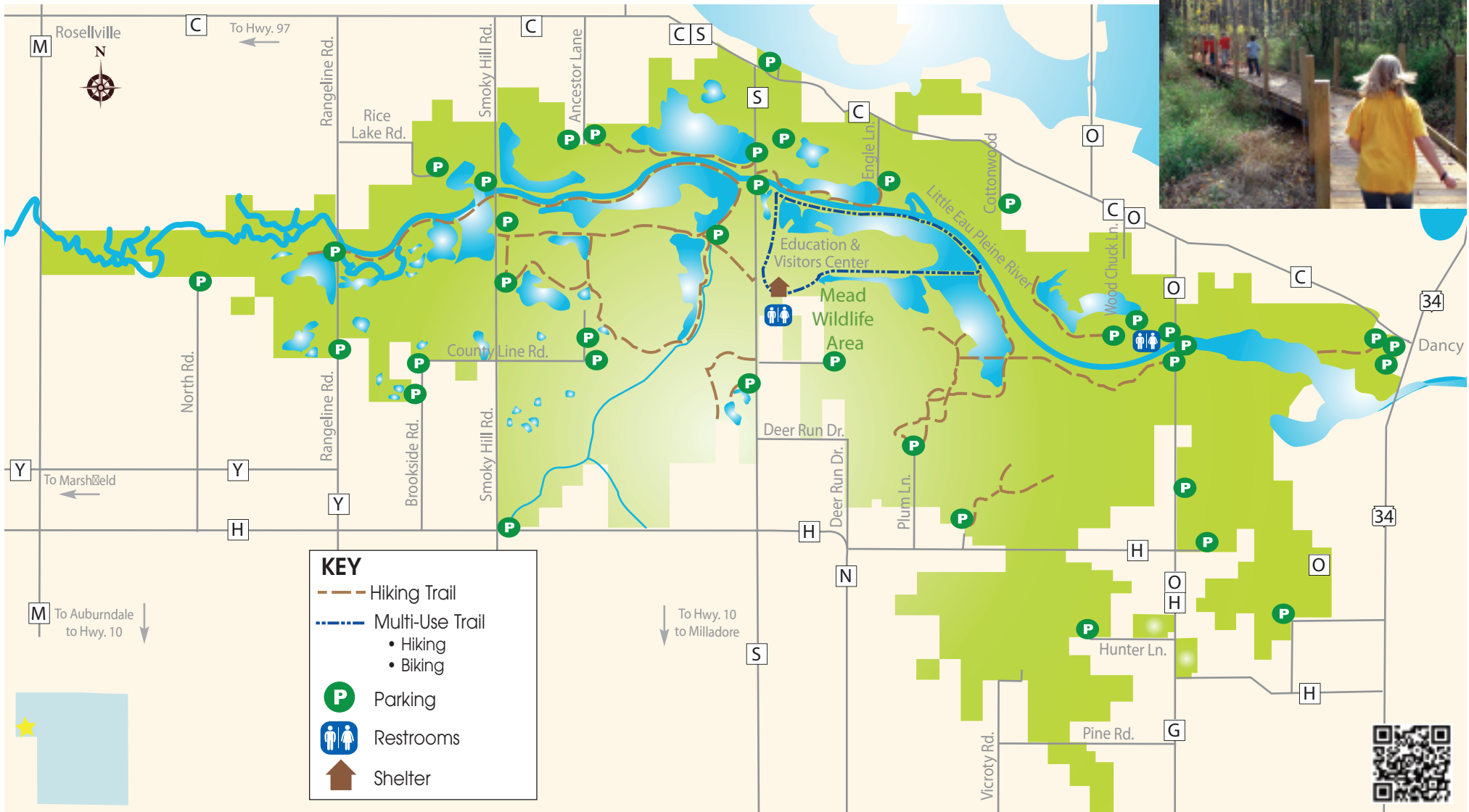
The **George W. Mead Wildlife Area**, a public property managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, offers over 80 miles of trails that explore portions of the expansive 33,000 acres. The 7 mile **Berkhahn Rookery Bicycle Loop** is open May 15 to September 1. Observe nesting great blue herons and cormorants in the rookery.

Three walking trails are accessible from the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center. The **Audubon Prairie Nature Trail** is a tranquil .5 mile walking trail through grassland habitat and native prairies. The new **Ephemeral Trail and Boardwalk** is a nice 2 mile hike along native prairies, past Dragonfly Pond and through a forest habitat. The easiest trail is the **Turkey Foot Trail** at .25 mile;

it meanders over a wooden bridge and through a tall grass prairie habitat. The **Smokey Hill Watchable Wildlife and Historic Site** located just off of Smokey Hill Road is an excellent place to explore the wildlife area. Walking trails in this location run along Rice Lake and the Little Eau Pleine River and includes the Rice Lake Refuge.

LOCATION

Travel west from Stevens Point on Highway 10 West. Take Highway S North to enter the wildlife area. The Stanton W. Mead Education & Visitors Center is located at S2148 Cty Hwy S, Milladore, WI 54454.



Eastern Portage County is known for its rolling hills, remnants from the glaciers in the area. Relive the past by biking or hiking the trail once shaped by glaciers on the **Ice Age Trail**. If the conditions are right, try snowshoeing the **Ice Age Trail**. Portions of this 1,000 mile footpath travel through eastern Portage County, linking history, cultures and geological features.

Belmont, Emmons-Hartman Creek Segment

LOCATION

Begin near the Emmons Creek State Fishery, located in southeastern Portage County. Parking is available near Stratton Lake Road in the Fishery. From Stevens Point, take I-39 South to Highway 54 West. Then south on County D, which becomes Stratton Lake Road, parking will be on the right.

Little Wolf River Fishery Area Segment (New Hope-Iola)

LOCATION

To access this 5 mile segment, parking is available off of Highway Z, just east of Sunset Lake Road. From Stevens Point, take Highway 66 East, to County Road Z, parking will be on the left.

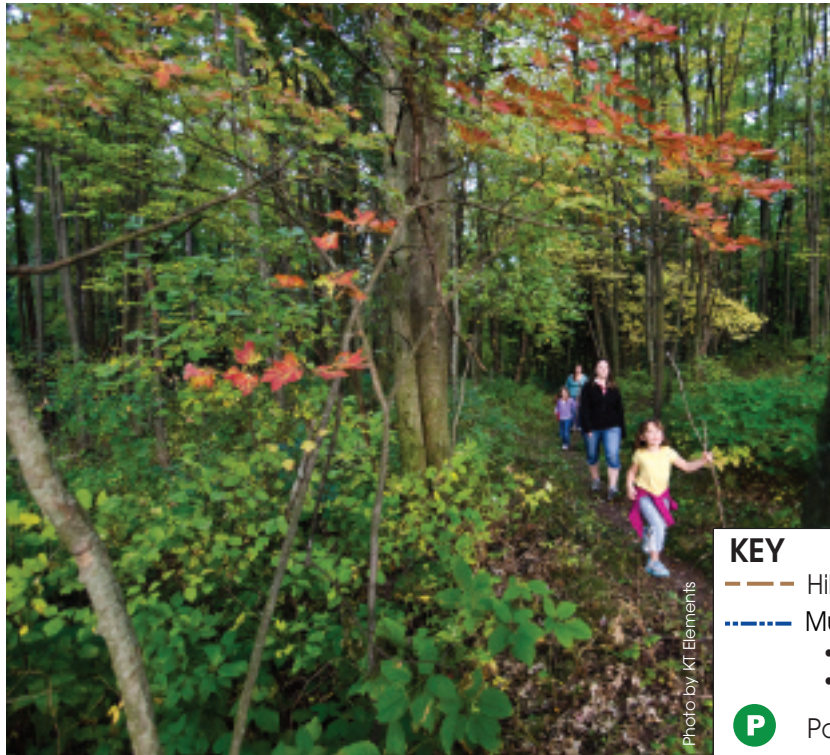
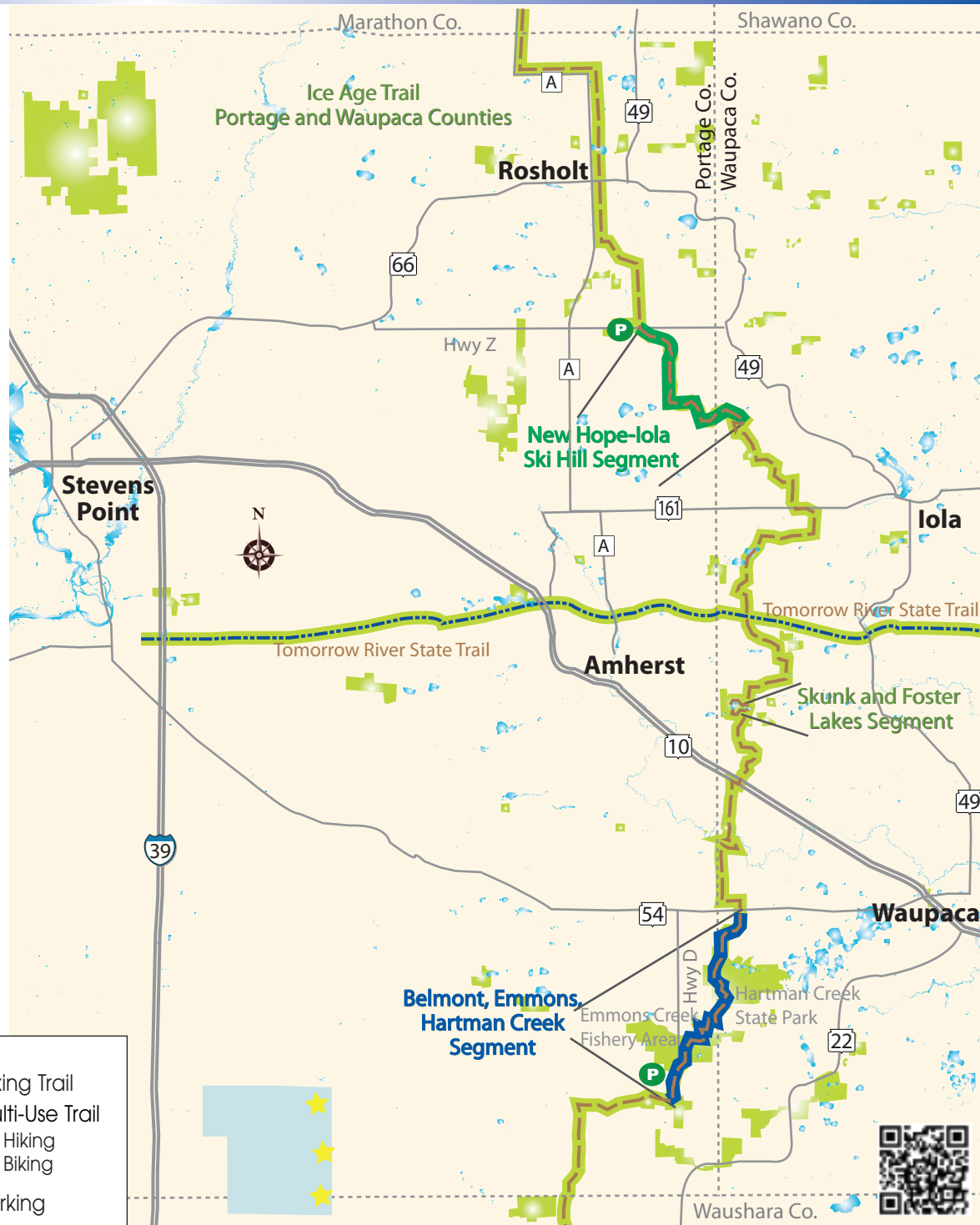


Photo by KT Elements

KEY	
	Hiking Trail
	Multi-Use Trail
	• Hiking
	• Biking
	Parking



Iverson Park

The **Iverson Park Trail**, a segment of the **Green Circle Trail**, is a 2.7 mile trail that travels through one of the oldest and largest parks in Stevens Point. The trail, consisting of crushed granite in the park with some paved roads, winds through quiet neighborhoods and along the Plover River. On the bank of the Highway 66 entrance, notice the words "City of Wonderful Water", near the public swimming beach. Iverson Park offers canoeing along the picturesque Plover River.

The Iverson Park Winter Sports Area is a great place to explore winter recreation in the Stevens Point area. Bring a sled and enjoy one of four sledding hills. Or, if you would rather, try the toboggan runs. Toboggans are available for rent, by the half or full hour. The park also has a lighted ice-skating rink, a warming house and a 2.5 mile cross-country skiing trail that is great for beginners.

LOCATION

From Highway 66, turn south at Sunset Avenue to Hillcrest Avenue. Turn left (east) to the entrance of Iverson Park.



Jordan Park

The **Jordan Park Nature Trail**, is located just two miles northeast of Stevens Point in Jordan Park. The non-surface trail, cuts through the woods winding through pines, wetlands and an oak/maple forest.

LOCATION

Located just Northeast of Stevens Point on Hwy 66.



Lake Emily County Park

Located just east of Stevens Point, on Highway 10, **Lake Emily County Park** is a great spot for hiking. Several nature trails cut through the 143 acre park, which includes one of Portage County's largest lakes. Running just to the south of the park is the **Tomorrow River State Trail**. Lake Emily County Park also offers camping, swimming, picnic areas, playground and excellent fishing.



Photo by KT Elements

LOCATION

Take the Lake Road exit, off of Highway 10, to access Lake Emily Park.



Wolf Lake Park

This 137 acre park/recreation area is located on Wolf Lake, four miles northeast of the Village of Almond. The area is completely undeveloped but has a boat ramp, fishing area and picnic area. Approximately two miles of wooded hiking trails exist.

LOCATION

From Plover, take Highway 54 East turning onto County Highway EE heading south. Continue on County Highway EE, until intersecting with County Highway GG. Stay on County Highway GG until taking a right on to Wolf Lake Road. The park will be on your right.



Photo by KT Elements



The 280 acre natural area on the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point campus offers 5 miles of trails, in addition to serving as the headquarters for the Green Circle. The **Trail of Reflections** is roughly a 1/2 mile trail, that is wheelchair accessible. The trail, which includes a reflection pond and a tree house, is a great place for wildlife viewing. No pets are allowed in Schmeeckle Reserve.

Lake Loop Trail

The **Lake Loop Trail** is a 1 mile trail which loops around 24 acre Lake Joanis and offers wildlife viewing, sitting benches and water access for fishing.

University Trail

A segment of the **Green Circle Trail**, the **University Trail** is a 1.5 mile trail with a diverse habitat of forest, prairie, wetlands and an oak savanna. and is designed for bikers, hikers and joggers.

For Green Circle Trail users with pets or those that want to bypass the Reserve, follow trail along North Point Drive.

Berard Oaks Savanna

The **Berard Oaks Savanna** is an easy .5 mile walk from the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center. The 4 acre area is being restored as an oak savanna. On the way back, explore the **Plank Trail**, a short boardwalk that travels over rocky wetlands to Lake Joanis.

LOCATION

Parking is available at the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center at 2419 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481.



Photo by KTElements



Standing Rocks County Park, located in eastern Portage County, offers just over 13 miles of mountain bike single-track trails for beginners to expert cyclists. Parking is available off of Tower Road and Standing Rocks Road, to access the trails. Trails are closed when wet conditions exist. A daily or seasonal trail fee is necessary.

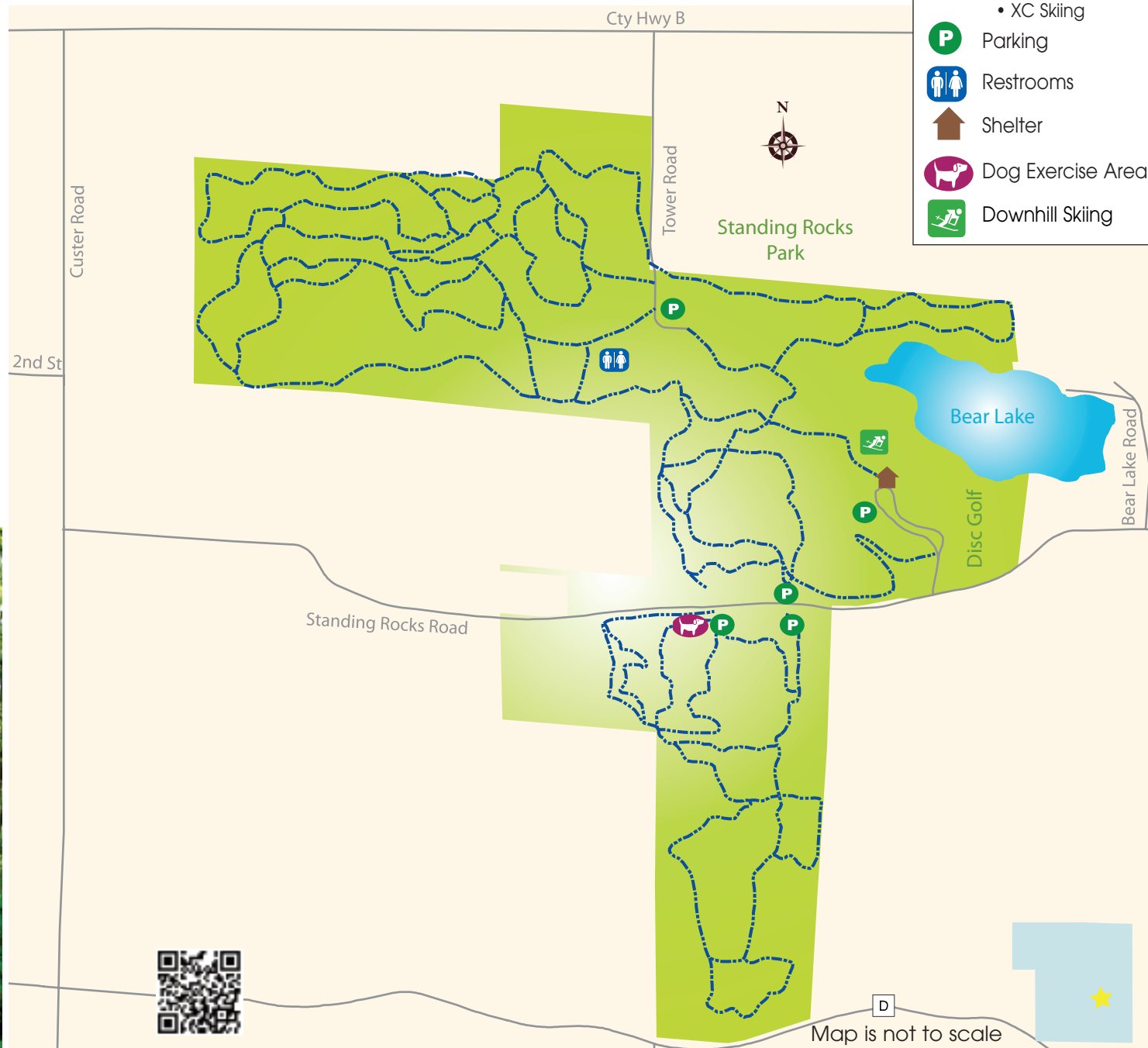
The cross-country skiing trails at **Standing Rocks County Park** are marked for varying skills from beginner to advanced levels. The Green Trail is an easy 1.8 mile groomed trail, that is mostly flat. The Red Trail is an intermediate 4.9 mile groomed trail, with many hills. The Blue Trail is an expert 7.9 mile groomed trail, that has many steep hills. Weather permitting, the ski lodge is open weekdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on the weekends from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The park also offers downhill skiing and a year-round dog exercise area. Parking is available off of Standing Rocks Road, to access the trails. Call 715-346-1433 for snow and trail conditions.



Photo by KT Elements

LOCATION

Located east of Plover off Hwy. B to south on Custer Road to Standing Rocks Road.



Tomorrow River State Trail

Tomorrow River State Trail

Try exploring the **Tomorrow River State Trail**, from the Plover trail head, just north of Highway B near the Hoover Avenue Green Circle Trail spur. The 28 mile trail, once a railroad bed, cuts through the rural landscape of eastern Portage County, linking Plover to the Village of Manawa in Waupaca County. Outdoor recreational enthusiasts can use the crushed limestone, packed to a smooth surface, trail throughout the year, including snowmobiling, dog-sledding and cross country skiing in the winter to biking, hiking and horseback riding the rest of the year. Trail passes are required (State Trail passes are valid), available on the trail, at trail head self registration stations or at the Portage County Parks Office.

LOCATION

Trailheads are located off Twin Towers Road in Plover, Amherst Junction, Cate Park in Amherst, and at the State Highway 49 overpass in Scandinavia. All Portage County trailhead parking areas accommodate horse trailers as does a parking lot on Custer Road. Additional parking and public restrooms are available at Lake Emily County Park.

The Green Circle State Trail connects to the Tomorrow River State Trail at Hoover Road, just north of County Highway B in Plover.



Photo by KT Elements



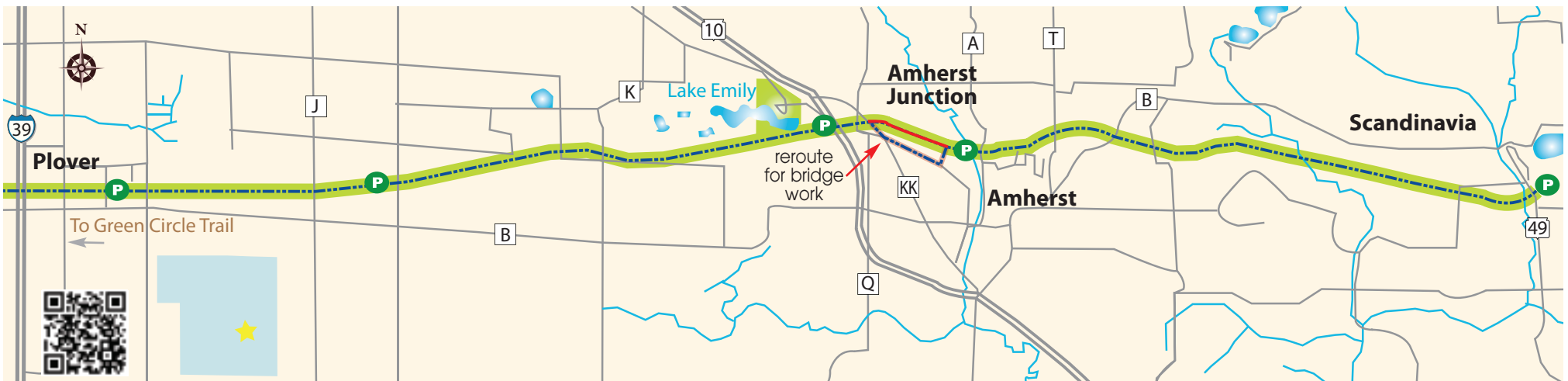
Photo by KT Elements



Photo by KT Elements

KEY

- Multi-Use Trail
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - XC Skiing
 - Horseback Riding
 - Dog Sledding
 - Snowmobiling
- P** Parking



State Natural Areas in Portage County

Buena Vista Grasslands: From the intersection of State Hwy 54 and County Hwy F, west of Plover, go south on County Hwy. F 6 miles, then east on Griffith Avenue .75 mile to the southern boundary of the natural area. The Buena Vista Prairie Chicken Meadow is a part of Buena Vista Marsh, a large outwash plain and former glacial lake bed. The land has since been altered



by drainage, agricultural use and wildfires and its topography has been altered by fire and wind erosion. The site is dominated by bluegrass and is managed as open grassland for prairie chickens.

New Hope Pines: From the intersection of State Highway 66 and County Highway A just east of Rosholt, go south on A 1.5 miles, then east and south on County Highway T 1.3 miles, then south on Sunset Lake Road 1.5 miles to a parking area west of the road. New Hope Pines features one of the largest northern dry-mesic forests in central Wisconsin and is reminiscent of the vast "pineries" found in this region prior to settlement. The site lies on steep, irregular topography in ground moraine - a legacy of the last glacier.

Dewey Marsh: From the intersection of I-39 and Business Highway 51 on the north end of Stevens Point, go north on I-39 about 9.1 miles, then east on County DB 1.9 miles, then south on County Highway X .7 mile, then east on Oakwood Drive 2.7 miles, then south on Hay Meadow Drive .8 mile to the southwest corner of the site. Park along the road. Dewey Marsh contains a large expanse of northern sedge meadow. Rocks are exposed in many areas and there is little peat formation under the sedge mat. Large areas of peat and several acres were destroyed in a large fire in 1976.

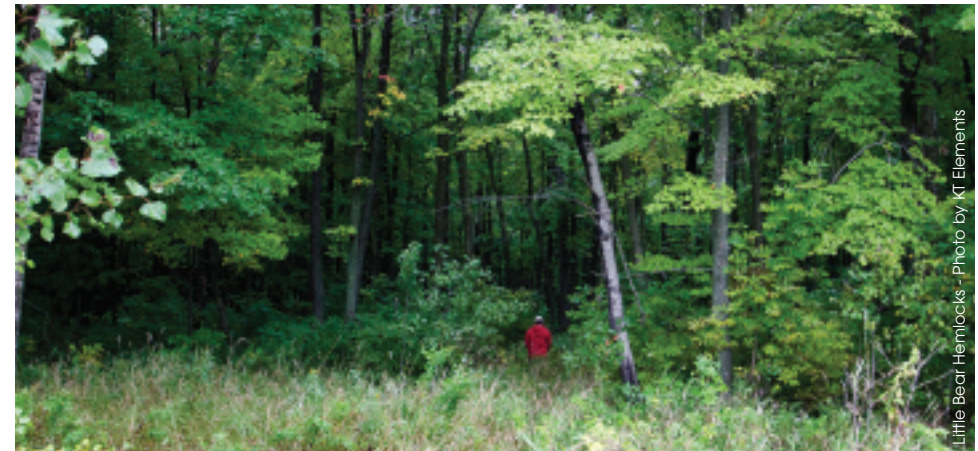
Pickerel Lake: From the intersection of County Highways A, J, and D in the city of Almond in south central Portage County, go east on County D 4.5 miles, then turn north on D 4 miles to an access road which is next to a town hall. Pickerel Lake is a hard-water seepage lake with a fluctuating shoreline that provides ideal conditions for plants by flooding out competing plants and killing trees when water is high and provides habitat when water is low. Due to dense blooms of algae in summer, oxygen depletion and corresponding fish kills are not uncommon. Scattered throughout the oaks are small patches with prairie species, indicating this area was once a savanna.

State Natural Areas in Portage County

Emmons Creek Barrons: From the junction of Highways 10 and 54 in Waupaca, go west on 54 4.5 miles, then south on Hartman Creek Road to the State Park office and get a park map. Continue south on Hartman Creek Road, then go west on W. Windfeldt Lane to one of two parking areas. Follow the Ice Age Trail south into the natural area. One portion is within the State Park, the other within the Fishery and Wildlife Area. Located on a sandy glacial outwash, Emmons Creek Barrons supports an oak savanna with scattered bur and white oaks. Patches of wild lupine provide a habitat for the federally endangered karner blue butterfly.

Mead Conifer Bogs: From the junction of Highway HH West and S in Milladore, go north on S 6.2 miles to the Wildlife Management Area Headquarters. Get a map and directions to the sites. Three parking areas provide access. To access the western portion: From the headquarters, go south on S .8 mile to a parking area on the west side of the road. For the eastern portion: Go south on S .8 mile, then east on Martin Lane about 1 mile to a parking area at the end. Alternatively, go south 1.8 miles, then east on Deer Run Road 1 mile. Mead Conifer Bogs are extensive areas containing northern wet forest dominated by black spruce that is gradually replaced by larger tamaracks. The groundcover is a firm carpet of sphagnum moss dominated by leather-leaf and cotton-grass. Poison sumac is present.

Upper Little Wolf: From Rosholt, go east on Highway 66 1.8 miles, then north on Highway 49 3.6 miles, then east on Wigwam Road .3 miles to a parking area north of the road. Upper Little Wolf features a cold-water stream surrounded by a northern mesic forest comprised of hemlock hardwoods. Within this area, the Little Wolf River is very scenic with gravel and rubble as the bottom materials. Scattered vegetation along the stream allows for good fishing.

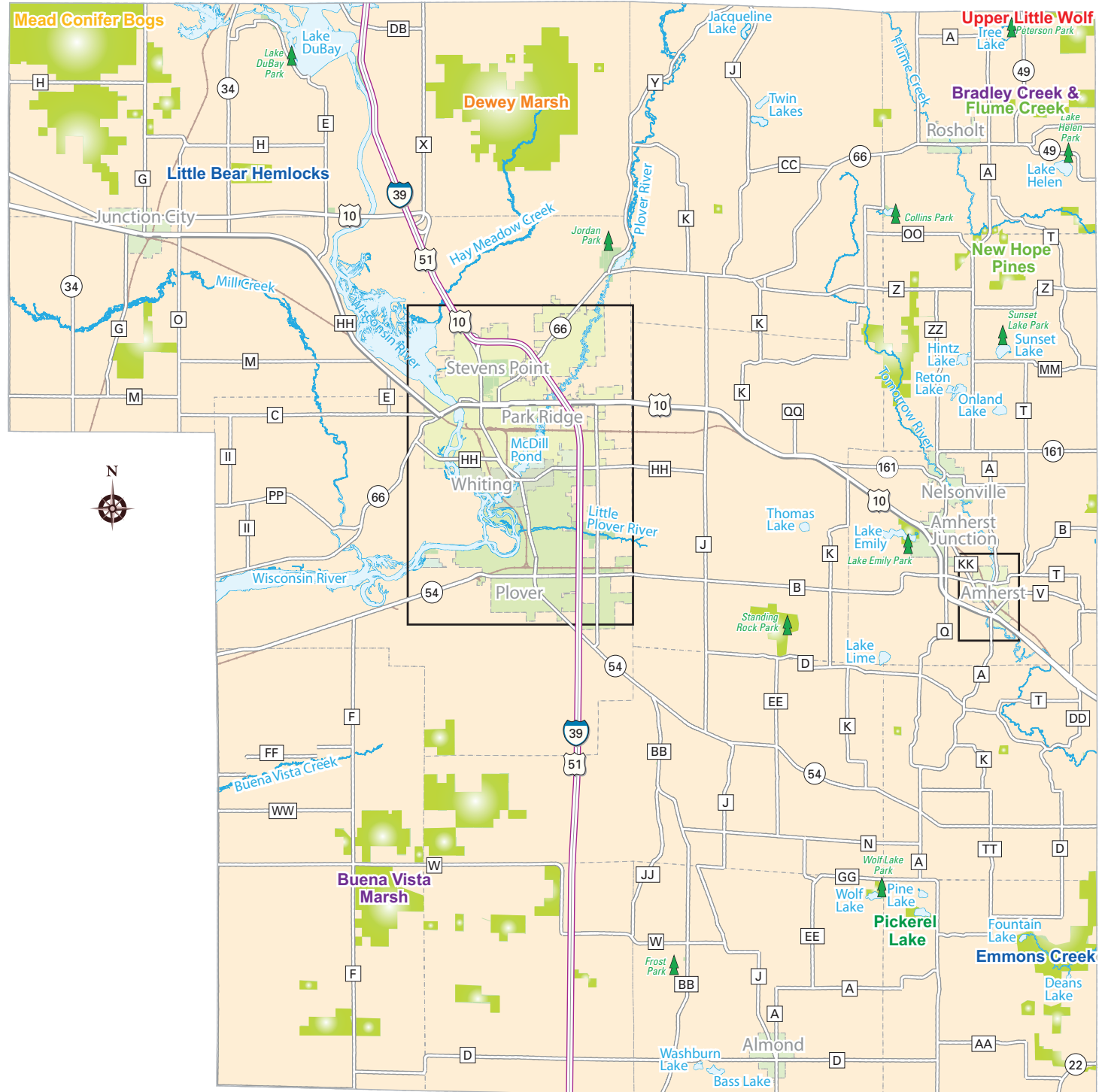


State Natural Areas in Portage County

Bradley Creek Swamp Conifers: From Rosholt, go south on Highway 49 2.3 miles, then northeast on County NN 1.75 miles, then north on Hill Road .65 miles. Park and walk northeast to the creek. Bradley Creek Swamp Conifers features a spring-fed trout stream and a tributary to the Little Wolf River. A dense canopy lines and shades an understory of herbs and forbs. The creek is considered a Class I trout stream for its entire 6 mile length and contains a bottom of silt-covered sand, gravel, and rubble.

Flume Creek Cedars: From Rosholt, go south on Highway 49 2.5 miles, then south on Lakeview Road 1.3 miles, then south on Linden Road almost .6 miles to the creek crossing. Follow the creek .4 miles east into the site. Flume Creek Cedars features a hard-water trout stream with a moderate flow and high scenic value. The sand and rubble-bottom stream flows through a large, dense white cedar and balsam fir swamp. The creek originates in Marathon County and flows through the northeastern corner of Portage County and into the Little Wolf River.

Little Bear Hemlocks: From the intersection of County G and US HH West in Junction City, go east on Highway 10 2.4 miles, then north on State Highway 34 1 mile, the parking area is not marked and sits about 200 feet north of Elm Road on Highway 34. The site lies north of Elm road. Hunting is not allowed. Located just west of the Mead Wildlife Area, Little Bear Hemlocks is one of four isolated woodlots. Little Bear Hemlocks is an excellent teaching and research site to study the effects of management of a once vast forest.



State Natural Areas in Portage County

Old Wausau Road: Begin in the parking lot of Bukolt Park in Stevens Point. Ride north through the park, turn left (north) on Old Wausau Road; continue 2.5 miles on Old Wausau Road, turn left on Casimir Road, continue 2.4 miles on Casimir, turn right on Granite Ridge, continue .6 miles on Granite Ridge to Sawmill Road/County Road X. At this point you can choose to continue 4.7 miles on Granite Ridge to your starting point at Bukolt Park via Old Wausau Road. For a longer loop, turn left on Sawmill Road/County Road X, continue 1.3 miles on Sawmill/County Hwy X, turn right on Second Drive, continue 4.4 miles on Second Drive, turn right on North Point Drive, continue .7 miles and turn left on Old Wausau Road, continue .8 miles on Old Wausau Road until you reach the entrance of Bukolt Park. Relatively rolling gentle hills make this a very scenic ride. Longer Loop 12.7 miles. Short Loop 10.2 miles. **Insider Tip: Stevens Point Sculpture Park**

Plover to Amherst: Begin at Little Plover River Park. Follow the bike path north .4 miles to Porter Road. Turn right on Porter Road/5th Street, continue 3 miles on Porter Road/5th Street, turn right on Bluff Road, follow Bluff 1 mile, turn left on 4th Street, continue 2 miles on 4th Street, turn right on Custer Road, continue 2.2 miles south on Custer Road, turn left on Standing Rocks Road, continue 6 miles on Standing Rocks Road which becomes Fountain Grove Road, take a left on County Road Q, continue 1.1 miles on County Road Q, turn right on Packer Avenue, continue 1.4 miles on Packer Avenue, cross County Road KK and you will be on Main Street in the Village of Amherst, continue 1.5 miles on Main Street which becomes School Street, turn right on Alm Road, continue 1.7 miles on Alm Road, turn right on County Road Q, continue 1.6 miles on County Road Q through the Village of Nelsonville, turn left on State Hwy 161, continue .3 miles on State Hwy 161, turn right on Rolling Hills Road, continue 5.7 miles on Rolling Hills Road, take a left on County Road K continue 3 miles on County Road K passing through the Village of Custer where County Road K becomes Custer Road, turn right on 5th Street, continue 5 miles on 5th Street which turns into Porter Road, turn left on Hoover, continue .4 miles on Hoover Avenue back to Little Plover River Park. This loop is approximately 36.3 miles and offers some hills. Good for the intermediate rider. **Insider Tip: Clancy's in Custer, Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville, Downtown Amherst**

Lake Emily Loop: Begin in the south parking lot of Iverson Park in Stevens Point, near the sledding hills. Follow the Green Circle Trail/Hillcrest Drive up the hill out of the park. Take an immediate right at the on Sunrise Avenue, continue .2 miles on Sunrise Avenue, turn right on Highway 66 east, continue 1.1 miles on Hwy 66, turn right on Old Hwy 18, continue 5.2 miles on Old Hwy 18, turn right on Custer Road, continue 1.8 miles on Custer Road, turn left on 5th Street, continue 2 miles on 5th Street, turn right on Smokey Road, continue .4 miles on Smokey Road, turn left on Lake Thomas Road, Lake Thomas Road becomes County Hwy K, continue 1 mile on Lake Thomas Road/Hwy K east, turn right on Town Line Road, continue .9 miles on Town Line Road, turn left on Ward Road, continue 1 mile on Ward Road, turn left on Lake Emily Road, continue 1.2 miles on Lake Emily Road, turn left on Lake Road, continue .3 miles on Lake Road, turn left on Old Hwy 18, continue 5.5 miles on Old Hwy 18 which becomes 6th Street, turn right on Custer Road, continue .8 miles on Custer Road, turn left on Old Hwy 18, continue 5.2 miles on Old Hwy 18, turn left on Hwy 10 east, continue .8 miles back to Iverson Park. This loop is approximately 27.4 miles and offers some hills. Good for the intermediate rider. **Insider Tip: Lake Emily County Park, Tomorrow River State Trail**

Stevens Point to Polonia: Begin in the parking lot Iverson Park in Stevens Point. Park in the south parking lot of Iverson Park in Stevens Point, near the sledding hills. Follow the Green Circle Trail/Hillcrest Drive up the hill out of the park. Take an immediate right at the on Sunrise Avenue, continue .2 miles on Sunrise Avenue, turn right on Highway 66 east, continue 1.7 miles on Hwy 66 which becomes Hwy 10 east, turn left on Brilowski Road/County Hwy R, continue northeast 8.1 miles on Brilowski Road which turns Rainbow Drive, which turns into 9th Street which turns into County Hwy K. Reverse your trip to Iverson Park and you'll have traveled approximately 20 miles through relatively flat but interesting farmland. Beginner and intermediate riders will love the challenge. **Insider Tip: Polonia Café, Polish Heritage Trail**

Wetlands: Begin at the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center. Begin your adventure by taking a left out of the parking lot on North Point Drive, continue .3 miles on North Point Drive, turn right on Michigan Avenue which turns into Reserve Street, continue 2.5 miles to Jordan Road, turn right on Jordan Road, continue 3.4 miles to County Hwy Y, turn left on County Hwy Y, continue 3.7 miles on County Hwy Y, turn right on County Hwy K, continue .8 miles on County Hwy K, turn left on Bentley Road, continue 6.2 miles on Bentley Road which becomes Birch Road, turn left on County Hwy C, continue 9.7 miles on County Hwy C, take a left on County Hwy DB, continue 3.7 miles on DB, turn right on Sunset Drive, continue 6.9 miles on Sunset which turns into Second Drive, turn left on Evergreen Drive, continue 1.3 miles on Evergreen Drive, turn right on Reserve Drive, continue 3.3 miles on Reserve Drive which turns into Michigan Avenue, turn left on North Point Drive back to the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center. Most of the ride is gentle. For Beginner to intermediate riders. Approximately 41.3 miles. **Insider Tip: Mullins, Lake du Bay area, Tiki Bar, Shipyard Bar & Grill**

West Loop: Begin at Piffner Pioneer Park in downtown Stevens Point. Park in the City parking lot at the corner of Crosby Avenue and Water Street. From the parking lot, begin your journey by heading west/turn right on Hwy 66 West, continue .4 miles on Hwy 66 cross the Wisconsin River bridge, turn left on West River Drive; continue 7.1 miles on West River Drive which turns into Mill Creek Drive; continue 1.1 mile on Mill Creek Drive, cross over the highway staying on Mill Creek Drive, turn left on County Hwy PP, continue 4.4 miles on County Hwy PP, turn left on O, continue 1 mile on County Hwy O, turn right on Co Hwy DD, continue 1 mile on County Hwy DD, turn right on 2nd Avenue, continue 2 miles on 2nd Avenue, turn left on Hwy C, continue 3.8 miles on County Hwy C, turn right on Hwy S, continue 2.1 miles on County Hwy S, turn right on M, continue 4.9 miles on County Hwy M to Hwy O, turn right on O, continue 3 miles on County Hwy O to Hwy PP, take County Road PP, Mill Creek and West River Drive back to your parking spot in Stevens Point. For Intermediate to advanced riders. Approximately 43.8 miles. 35-40 miles. **Insider Tip: Rusty's Backwater Saloon, Rudolph Grotto and Dairy State Cheese.**

Sunset Lake and Surrounding Moraines: Begin in the parking lot of Sunset Lake County Park. The country roads surrounding Sunset Park are lightly traveled and offer a wide variety of terrain. Explore the gentle hills and scenic roadside, and circle back to your starting point. **Insider Tip: After your ride is done take a dip in the crystal clear, glacier formed lake. Sunset is also a great place for a picnic.**

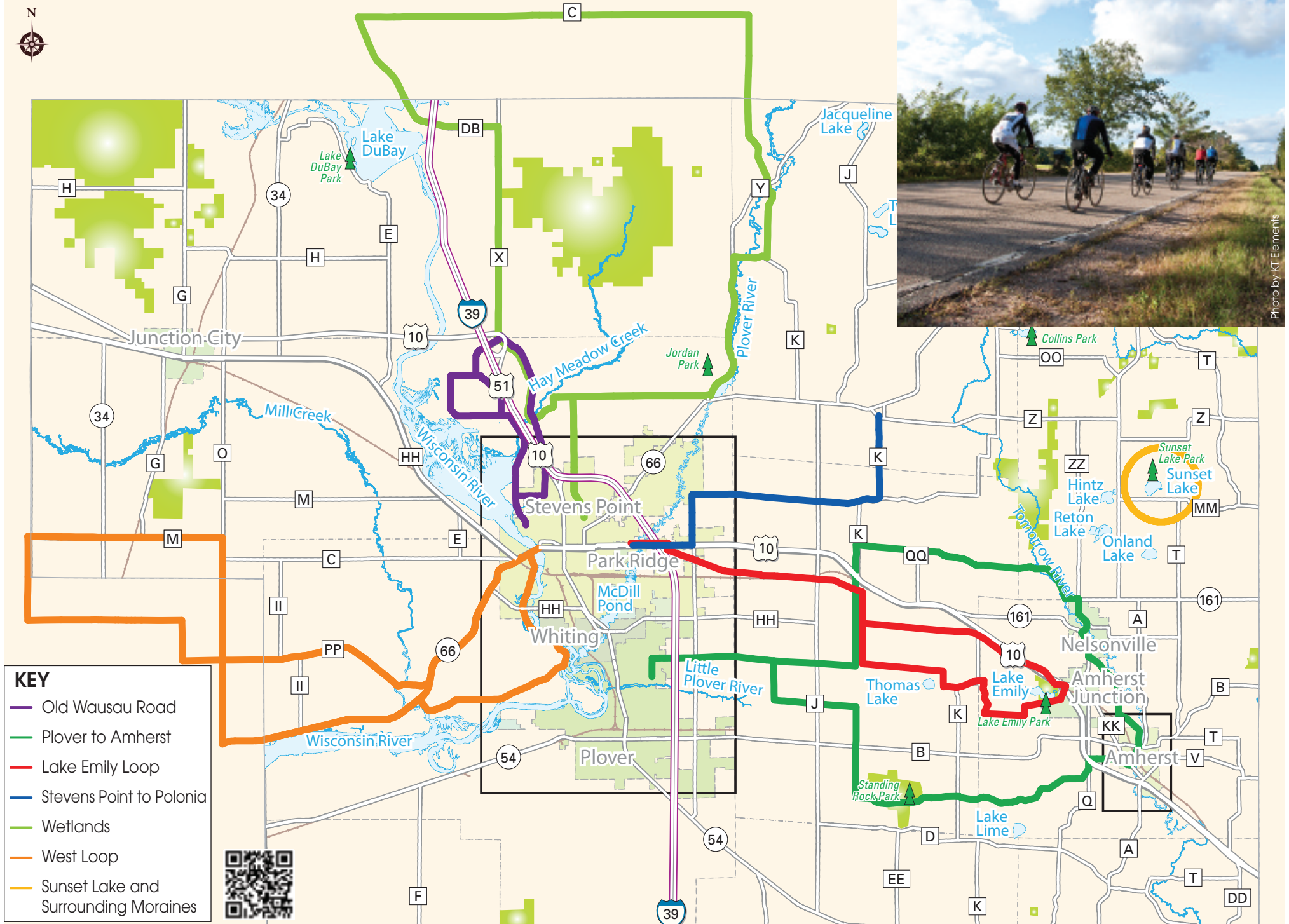


Photo by KT Elements

Most of the paddling routes in Portage County can be accomplished with two cars. Local outfitters can provide transportation for trips using rented equipment.

Wisconsin River North (for intermediate paddlers)

Take Highway HH West out of Stevens Point (approximately 4 miles) and you will find a boat landing on the right side of the road (A). Put in here and head back towards Stevens Point (E). As you proceed downstream, the islands to your left are surrounded by channels. The adventurous canoeist may wish to poke around the islands, spend some time fishing, bird watching or animal viewing. All channels headed south open into the Stevens Point Flowage and back to the main channel. In the Flowage, go under the power lines and take out at the boat landing near the swimming beach in Bukolt Park (B).

Wisconsin River North-River Highlights

- A.** Need a break? Maple Island Beach is a popular stop for boaters looking to play in the water or relax with friends.
- B.** Bukolt Park spans 56 acres in the City of Stevens Point and offers picnic areas, playground equipment, swimming beach, boat landing and restrooms. If you plan it right you can take in an American Legion Baseball game. In 1936 this park was named after John J Bukolt, an inventor and industrialist.
- C.** Mead Park is situated on 16 acres along the shore of the Wisconsin River. Situated within the park is a K.A.S.H. Playground, a 9-hole disc golf course, swimming beach, picnic areas, restrooms, lit tennis and volleyball courts and horseshow pits. The park was named after George W Mead, who worked for Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company. Mead deeded the land to the city in 1946.
- D.** Piffner Pioneer Park covers 10 acres in downtown Stevens Point. The park offers a boat landing, picnic areas, restrooms and playground. Throughout the summer under the band shell you may find entertainment on the band shell stage. At the southernmost tip of the park, you'll encounter the Riverfront Arts Center. A bit of history: In the park you'll find the George Stevens Rock near the Riverfront Arts Center. This rock recognizes George Stevens who came to the area in 1839, when he bought a log shack as a place to store his supplies for operations elsewhere. People going downstream could see his shack on a point sticking out in the river. Our town eventually became named Stevens Point, named after a person who simply stored his belongings in a log shack and wasn't here very long.
- E.** Downtown Stevens Point is just one block east of Piffner-Pioneer Park offers a variety of specialty shops, dining and attractions. Also located downtown are the several murals that pay homage to the rich history of Stevens Point.

Insider Tip: The Wisconsin River is known as the "hardest working river in the nation" because of the hydropower that is used in papermills and in the hydroelectric plants. Visitors to the Wisconsin River need to be aware of the dams both large and small Low Head dams. Stevens Point has a Low Head dam on the Wisconsin River below HH. Very dangerous to paddlers. Paddlers should beware of motorboat traffic on all sections of the Wisconsin River.



McDonald Island

McDonald Island is a great 1-2 hour paddling loop. To access the Wisconsin River/McDonald Island take Business 51 South to Hwy. 66 West. Continue on Hwy 66 through downtown Stevens Point and go over the Wisconsin River. Take a left on West River Drive after you cross the Clark Street bridge. Travel 1 mile until you see a boat landing on the left. Park your car in the driveway area on the left; unload your boat, kayak or canoe and paddle across the Wisconsin River to McDonald Island. The 34 acre Island features a wide diversity of wildlife species due to its proximity to the mainland and the high diversity of the forest types. Whitetail deer and gray squirrels are commonly seen. A wide variety of songbirds can be heard and seen feeding and nesting throughout the oak and maple forests. The Island is a haven for wildlife within the city limits of Stevens Point.

Consolidated Water, Power and Paper Company sold the Island to the McDonald family in the early 1900's. The family farmed a 20 acre section of the Island from the 1930's through the mid-1950's. At that time, crossing the river was accomplished on a small rocky bar from the west bank of the river to the north end of the Island. The water level is much higher today, so the Island is only accessible by boat. In 1969 the McDonald Family donated the property to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resource program.

McDonald Island



KEY



-  Boat Landing
-  Canoe Access

Blue Heron Loop

Blue Heron Island loop offers paddlers a 4, 4.2 and 3.25 mile option. To get to the Blue Heron Boat Landing, take Business 51 south to Hwy 66 west. Continue on Hwy 66 over the Wisconsin River/Clark Street Bridge, turn left on West River Drive. Drive south along the river. Continue 4 miles. When the road turns to the right, towards the Wisconsin River Golf Course, continue straight to Blue Heron Lane. Follow this dirt road to boat landing and park your car. From the boat landing paddle across the River (east) to the Blue Heron Island. This private island offers magnificent views of wildlife and diverse forest types.

Insider Tip: If you are hungry or thirsty afterwards, Rusty's is just down the road a few miles past the boat landing.

KEY

-  Boat Landing
-  Canoe Access

Blue Heron Loop

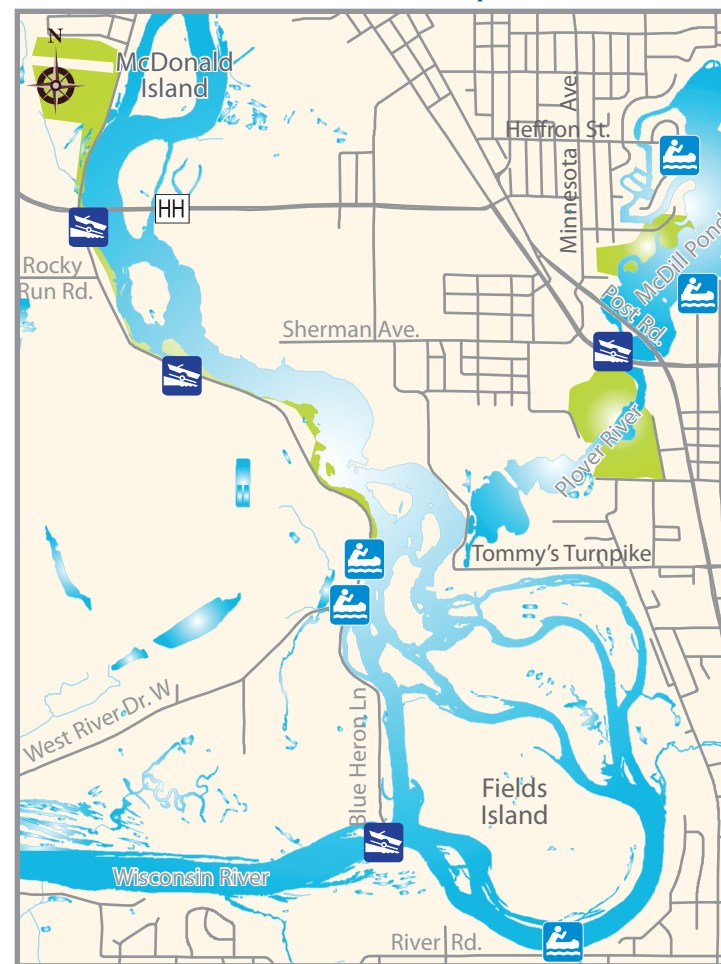


Photo by KT Elements

Paddling Routes

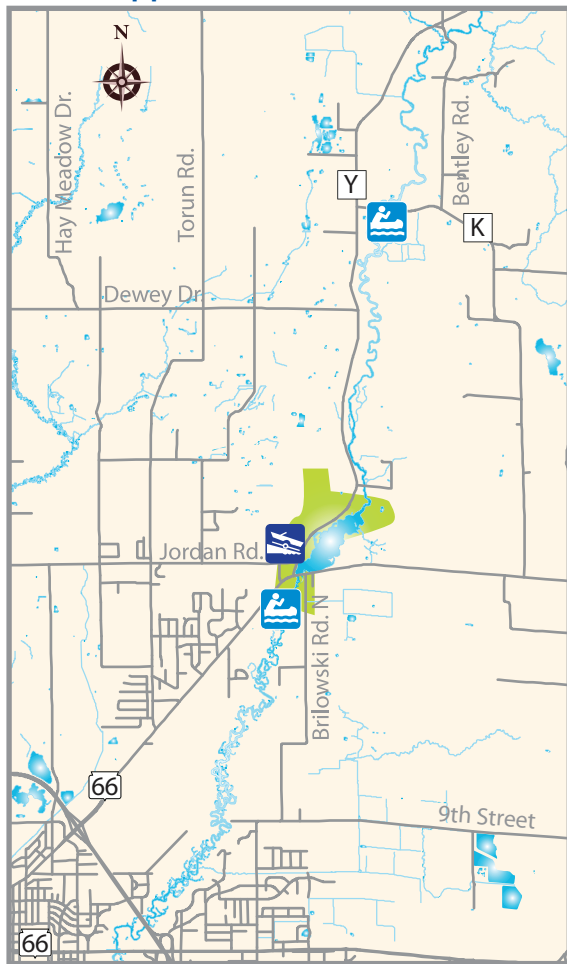
Upper Plover River (for intermediate paddlers)

Park one car at the Jordan Park east parking lot situated off Hwy Y. Travel north 5.8 miles on Hwy Y to Bentley Road, turn right on Bentley Road travel 1/4 mile, park and unload along Bentley Road where the road intersects with the Plover River on the right. During this nearly 8 mile, 3 hour quiet journey abundant wildlife may be revealed. This stretch of the river has generally a slow moving current, but be careful of the site of the former Christensen's dam and in the somewhat rocky stretch just downstream. Allow 3 1/2 hours to reach the boat landing at Jordan Park. **CAUTION:** Do not go near the dam in Jordan Park.

KEY

-  Boat Landing
-  Canoe Access

Upper/Lower Plover River



Lower Plover River (for beginner to intermediate paddlers)

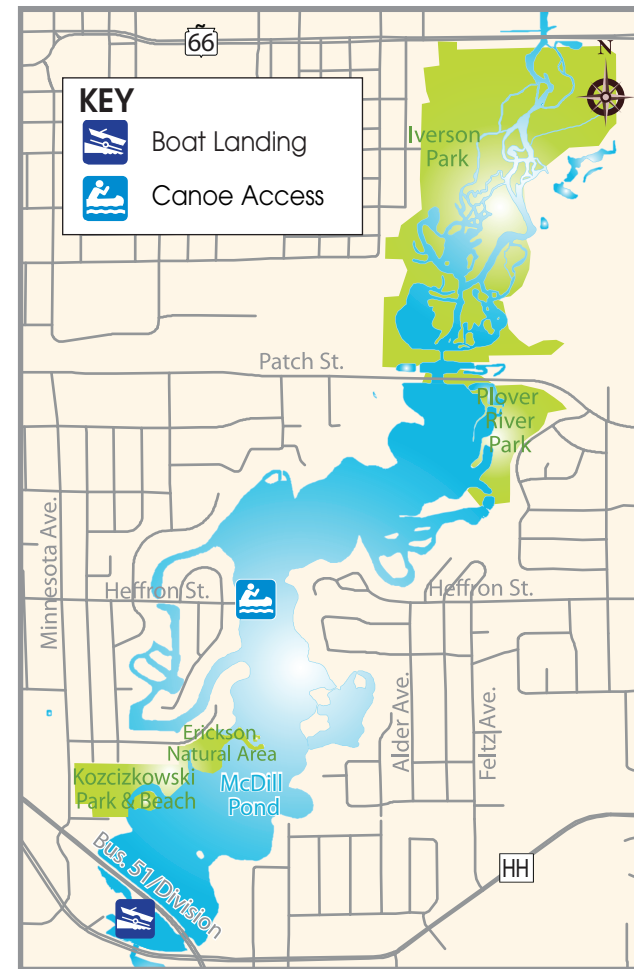
Park one car in Iverson Park off Highway 66 in Stevens Point. Then travel Highway 66 east to Jordan Park. Begin this route at the canoe ramp on the south side of Highway 66 in Jordan Park (handicap accessible dock is available). The route will meander through generally flat water, and is an excellent trip for bird watchers in June and July. Because of the wooded landscapes on either side of the river, it is an excellent way to view fall colors in the area. Once you have reached Iverson Park, enjoy a dip in the water near the swimming beach, or walk on a short segment on the Green Circle Trail that makes its way through the park. **Insider Tip:** Want to grab a bite to eat? Try Hilltop Pub & Grill, just east of Iverson Park.

Paddling Routes

McDill Pond (for beginner paddlers)

Two boat landings are available; Business 51 adjacent to the bridge and the end of Heffron St. Put in points are also available at Kozcizkowski Park. Caution: stay away from the dam by the Business 51 landing, do not go near it. If going under the bridge, look for many cliff swallow nests on the bridge. Kozcizkowski Park has a swim beach and hiking trails, follow around the island next to the beach to observe the turtles on the kings crowns. Adjacent to the park is the Godfrey and Maybelle Erickson Audubon Wildlife area with many bluebird nesting boxes. The power lines crossing McDill in the middle have Osprey nests on top; binoculars allow you to see nestlings in early spring. On the east shore of the power lines is a small opening to Spring Slough which contains the most aquatic plant diversity in the county and is home to a DNR weevil study. On the west shore of the power poles is Oriole Island. Both sides are good stops for wildlife observations. Further north on the west shore are the openings to the North and South Channel. The channels continue through the culvert going under the road, canoes or kayaks will fit through the culvert. On the North side of McDill as it bends around the curve, there are more small channels on the south side including a circle around a spooky island, and an old abandoned shack. On the northern most stretch of McDill before Patch St the water deepens in the middle to 16' due to a sand trap dredge, and on the sides are shallow flats used for spawning that are frequented by a variety of birds and have a variety of plant diversity. Allow 2-4 hours for this trip. McDill offers flat water paddling, but can become choppy on the main body during windy days.

McDill Pond



Paddling Routes

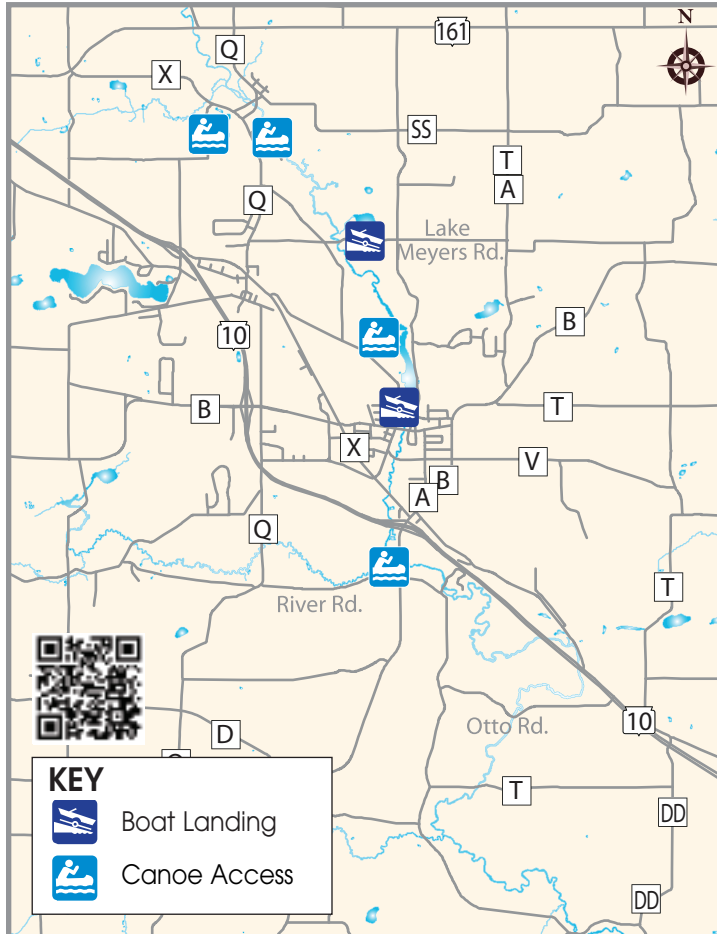
Tomorrow River (for intermediate paddlers)

Begin your adventure in Nelsonville. Stop to view the historic Rising Star Mill, one of four historical museums maintained by the Portage County Historical Society. The mill is open for special events throughout the year. This segment meanders through woods and fields. Four miles downstream in the Village of Amherst, be sure to follow portage signs to avoid dam. Once you reach Amherst, stop for a stroll and lunch in the downtown district, complete with shops, restaurants and an art gallery. Continue on the Tomorrow River, suggested take-outs are at Highway T or Highway DD. Please note: during high water, submerged logs and swirling water can cause problems. During low water, rocks and shallows will be present.



Photo by KT Elements

Tomorrow River



Many other waterways offer recreational opportunities throughout Portage County such as: Lake DuBay, Adams Lake, Collins Lake, Lake Emily, Jordan Pond, Sunset Lake, Lake Thomas, Wisconsin River flowages, The Little Wolf River, Spring Creek.

Paddling Routes

Lake Joanis (Schmeekle Reserve)

Lake Joanis is a great spot for beginner paddlers. The lake is open for paddlers but swimming is not allowed. You can easily park a car on Maria Drive to the south and walk a short distance to the beach. Paddle around the lake for a short trip or stay all day. Lake Joanis is surrounded by trees that block the wind and with no motorboat traffic, the lake is small and safe for children to try out kayaking for the first time. Stay until sunset and you may see deer come to the edge of the lake for a cool drink or an evening swim.

Lake Joanis



Photo by KT Elements

Outdoor Rentals are available. For a complete list, contact the Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.



www.stevenspointarea.com
715-344-2556



www.activeportagecounty.com

Paddling Routes

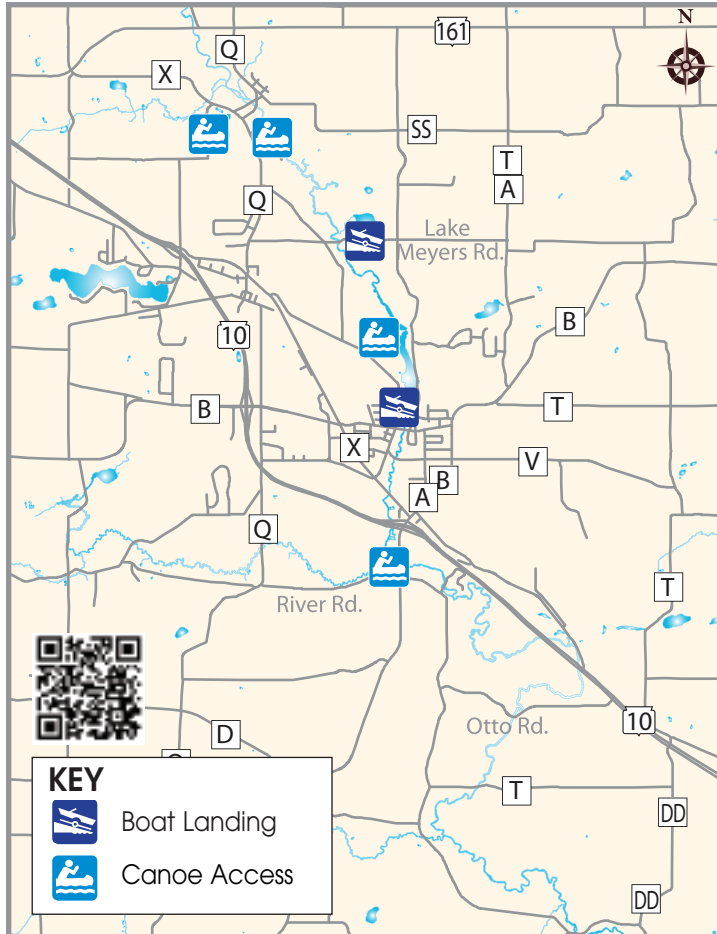
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