

Sherburne

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations & Map



Emergencies.....911

For More Information
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398
763-389-3323

TTY users may access the Federal Information
Relay Service at 800-877-8339

www.fws.gov/refuge/sherburne
Sherburne@fws.gov

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



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All previous versions obsolete

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Recreation Opportunities

Hiking

The refuge offers year-round access at three scenic hiking trails – Mahnomen, Blue Hill and Oak Savanna Learning Center – for foot travel only. September 1 to February 28, the entire refuge is open to hiking, excluding closed areas.

Photography

Personal and commercial still photography is allowed and does not require a special use permit. Refuge regulations must be followed. Sets and props are not permitted; tripods are not considered a prop. Please see website for full regulations.

Bicycling

Bicycles are permitted on the Wildlife Drive and on county roads crossing the refuge. Hiking trails are closed to biking, and no off-road travel is permitted. All traffic and directional signs must be obeyed. From September 1 to February 28 refuge service roads are also open to bicycling.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed in designated areas of the refuge following state and federal regulations and is subject to the following conditions:

- Possession of any turtle or frog is prohibited.
- Seining or digging for bait is prohibited.
- March 1 – August 31: Allowed on banks within 100 yards up or down stream of the designated fishing access points and from non-motorized boats on the designated canoe route.
- September 1 – February 28: Allowed throughout the entire refuge, excluding the closed areas.

Paddling

Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are permitted only on the designated canoe route that starts at Battle Brook, south of Little Elk Lake, and continues on the St. Francis River, south of Battle Brook. Motorized watercraft are prohibited, including electric trolling motors.

Hunting

Small game, big game and waterfowl hunting are available on the refuge. Consult the refuge hunting brochure for regulations and a map.



Collecting

Mushroom, berry and nut collection is permitted within 100 ft. of designated trails or public rights of way, in compliance with all refuge regulations. Collection is for personal consumption only.



Winter Activities

Hiking trails are open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Depending on snow levels, Mahnomen Trail may be groomed. From September 1 to February 28, the entire refuge is open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, excluding closed areas.

Regulations

The refuge is open to visitors 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

All property brought onto the refuge must be removed at the end of each day.



Parking is allowed on designated roads and parking areas only. No overnight parking. State and county regulations apply.



Dogs and other pets must be on a leash at all times. No dog training.

Prohibited

- OHVs & ATVs
- Camping
- Snowmobiles
- Drones
- Horses
- Fires
- Target Shooting
- Motorized Boats
- Use or possession of alcohol by minors.
- Use or possession of any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia.
- Plants and animals collected, taken or acquired elsewhere shall not be introduced, liberated or placed on any part of the refuge.
- All collection or disturbance of plant or animal life, including shed deer antlers, stones, plants and artifacts. See Collection section for exceptions.
- Unauthorized use of firearms, fireworks, air guns and all other weapons.

Federal Regulations Apply
(16 USC 668 dd & 50 CFR Part 25-32)



Welcome to Sherburne

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 to help protect and restore the habitats in the St. Francis River Valley for migratory birds and other wildlife. Today this 30,700 acre refuge encompasses wetland, oak savanna and prairie opening habitats that are home to an astounding array of wildlife. Recreation is encouraged where it is compatible with wildlife and the land.

Wildlife Sanctuary

The majority of the refuge is designated a wildlife sanctuary and closed to all public access from March 1 to August 31 to allow wildlife to breed and raise their young free from human disturbance. During this time the only areas available for public use are the Wildlife Drive, hiking trails, designated canoe route and fishing access points.

Signs to Know



Oak Savanna Learning Center

The Learning Center is located on Sherburne County Rd. 9 at 16797 289th Ave NW. It is open for refuge events or for conservation-related activities by appointment only.

Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive

The 7.3 mile Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive is located 1.2 miles north of Orrock on Sherburne County Rd. 5. It features four wildlife observation decks and three short trails. It is open to vehicles from spring through fall, closing when winter weather warrants. It is open to hiking and biking year-round. During the state firearms deer season in November it is closed to vehicle traffic.

