



Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with the Refuge Relay Challenge



2026 is America's 250th anniversary! In honor of this milestone, Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge are inviting visitors to participate in the Refuge Relay Challenge. This special event encourages everyone to explore locations where you can enjoy unique recreation and wildlife watching opportunities!

Fish and wildlife are resources that belong to all Americans. Working with partners, we strive to ensure that the rich diversity of species found within our national wildlife refuges are sustained for generations to come.

Learn more about YOUR national wildlife refuges by exploring at least **three** of fifteen locations listed below where you can find access to bank fishing opportunities, access to a land or water trails, or watch wildlife through the seasons. Take a selfie or identifying photo at that location to prove that you visited. Bring your three photos to one of the locations below to show them off and earn a **FREE** special patch!

Where to show off your photos to receive your patch

- Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station, Trempealeau, WI
 - W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661
 - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/visit-us>
- La Crosse District Visitor Center, Onalaska, WI
 - N5727 County Road Z, Onalaska, WI 54650
 - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-mississippi-river/visit-us/locations/la-crosse-district-visitor-center-and-office>
- Genoa National Fish Hatchery and Great River Road Interpretive Center, Genoa, WI
 - S5631 State Highway 35, Genoa, WI 54632
 - <https://www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/genoa/visit-us>
- Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center, Lansing, IA
 - 1944 Columbus Road, Lansing, IA 52151
 - <https://www.allamakeecountyconservation.org/driftless-center>
- Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center, Thomson, IL
 - 7071 Riverview Road, Thomson, IL 61285
 - Please call ahead, hours may vary: (815) 273-2732

Locations to visit:

Stop by 3 of the 15 locations listed below and take a picture with the refuge sign in that location (photos of the signs below!). Locations on the Upper Miss. Refuge can be found on the Pool Maps here:

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/upper-mississippi-river-pool-maps>; and on the interactive

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge map here: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/map>

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

1.) Fishing Access: Refuge Entrance Road Area

Address: W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661-7246

GPS Coordinates: 44.052862, -91.515712

Photo: Take a picture with the Refuge blue sign!

The Entrance Road Area is a favorite for visitors that are looking for bank fishing locations in the refuge.



2.) Wildlife Watching/Observation: Observation Deck

Address: W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661

GPS Coordinates: 44.044547, -91.536437

Photo: Take a picture with the with the three-panel kiosk and the breathtaking wetland view in the background!

Many visitors enjoy wildlife viewing from the Observation Deck. It is a great location to observe the spring and fall migration of waterfowl, shorebirds and warblers!



3.) Trail Access: Kiep's Island Dike

Address: W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661

GPS Coordinates: 44.042253, -91.525946

Photo: Take a picture with the with the three-panel kiosk and the wetland view in the background!



Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

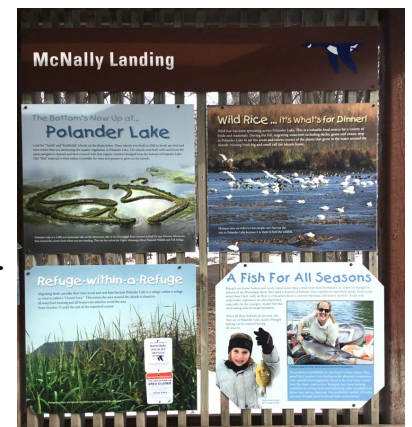
Winona District

4.)Fishing Access: McNally Landing

Address: Prairie Island Rd Winona, MN 55987

GPS Coordinates: 44.08132009892674, -91.68895181958838

Photo: Take a picture with the 2 panel kiosk located next to the boat landing.



5.) Trail Access: Nelson-Trevino Landing

Address: Nelson, WI 54756

GPS Coordinates: 44.4107326904183, -92.01413645347577

Photo: Take a photo next to the entrance sign located in the parking area.

This water trail offers backwater views of shorebirds, turtles and Other wildlife as you paddle the serene trail.



6.) Wildlife Watching: Weaver Landing

Address: Hwy 61 just North of Weaver MN

GPS Coordinates: 44.21887980770005, -91.92686616116407

Photo: Take a photo next to the entrance sign located in the parking area.

Weaver bottoms area is a great location to see Tundra Swans and waterfowl migrating in the fall.



La Crosse District

7.) Fishing Access: the Fred Funk Boat Landing near Onalaska, Wisconsin

Address: W8023 County Rd ZB, Onalaska, WI 54650

GPS Coordinates: 43.931650, -91.307811

Photo: Snap a photo with the two-panel interpretive kiosk located in the southeast corner of the boat ramp!

The Fred Funk Boat Landing is a popular bank fishing location on Brice Prairie. It includes an accessible fishing pier, two floating docks and offers additional bank fishing opportunities along the shoreline.



8.) Trail Access: the prairie trails at the La Crosse District Visitor Center

Address: N5727 County Road Z, Onalaska, WI 54650

GPS Coordinates: 43.931650, -91.307811

Photo: Celebrate our partnerships and take a photo with the Great River Road sign located outside in front of the Visitor Center. Stop by the Visitor Center to enjoy about 2.5 miles of trails winding through a restored sand prairie! Look and listen for dickcissels, meadowlarks and clay-colored sparrows.



9.) Wildlife watching: the Shady Maple Interpretive Trail at Goose Island County Park

Address: W6488 County Road GI, Stoddard, WI 54658

The trail is located within Goose Island County Park

Take the first left by the flagpole once you are inside the park.

GPS Coordinates: 43.726664182399894, -91.2145700350287

Photo: Take a picture with the two-panel kiosk located at the trailhead!



McGregor District

10.) Fishing Access: Big Slough Landing

Address: Hwy 82 Desoto WI, 54624- located next to car ferry parking for Lansing Bridge.

GPS Coordinates: 43.36718829199579, -91.20835490425995

Photo: Take your picture next to the two panel kiosk located next to the boat ramp. This site has a long fishing pier and great access.



11.) Trail Access: Ballard Bluff Hiking Trail

Address: 4.5 miles south of McGregor Iowa on the Great River Road

GPS Coordinates: 42.97105975541485, -91.17146235682091

Photo: Take a photo next to the single panel info board with the scenic views of the bluffs behind you. This trail winds through a blufftop prairie with sweeping views of the river.



12.) Wildlife Watching: New Albin Boat Landing

Address: Army Rd, Lansing, IA 52151

GPS Coordinates: 43.49226212488441, -91.24889815586866

Photo: Take your photo next to the blue bald eagle sign at the boat landing. This is a great spot for wildlife viewing of all kinds!



Savanna District

13.) Fishing Access: Frog Pond

Address: 9496 IL-84, Savanna, IL 61074

GPS Coordinates: 42.07071680531984, -90.12533889047758

Photo: Take your photo next to the single panel info board. This location has a fishing pier and accessible bank fishing opportunities.



14.) Trail Access: Prickly Pear Trail

Address: McIntyre Rd, Hanover, IL 61041

GPS Coordinates: 42.18282038654205, -90.2524845935209

Photo: Take your photo next to this information board. This trail winds through prairie and a short walk will lead you to an overlook on the river.



15.) Wildlife Watching: Spring Lake

Address: Hwy 84 Savanna, IL 61074 – located .5 mile south of Frog Pond

GPS Coordinates: 42.06478758203184, -90.12605041771093

Photo: Take your picture next to the 3 panel kiosk. This is a popular place to view birds during the spring and fall migration.

