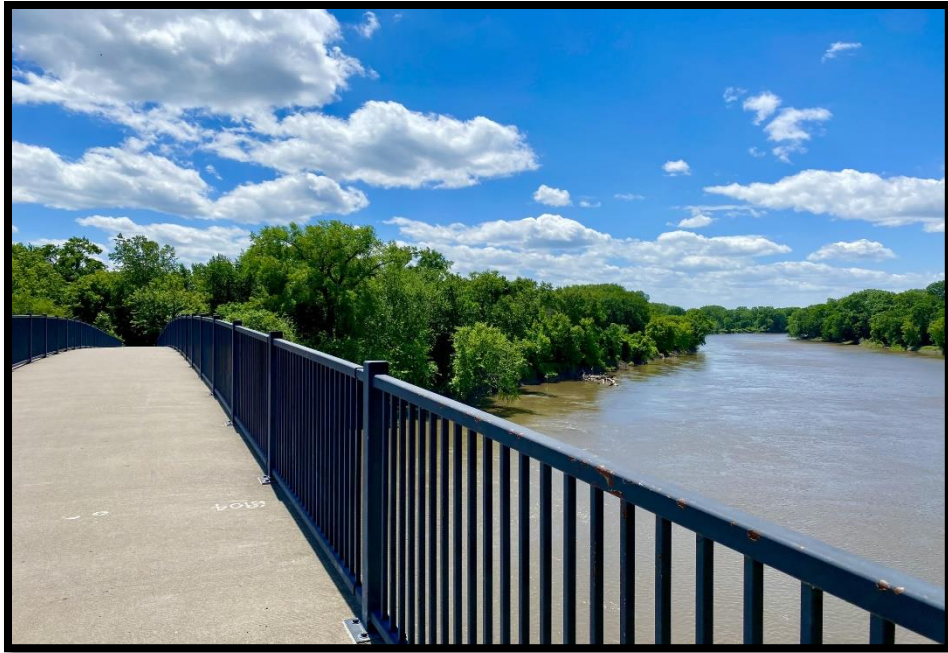


Take a Hike - Week 3

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Bloomington Ferry Unit

Description: The 358-acre Bloomington Ferry Unit features wetlands and floodplain forest along the MN River. Within the unit, Opus Marsh provides habitat for waterfowl and other water birds, as well as views of otters, turtles, and dragonflies. Enjoy hiking, cycling, mountain biking, and snowshoeing in the winter. Or, try fishing the river from the pedestrian bridge at the Bloomington Ferry Trailhead. The trails in this unit are mostly flat and flood seasonally.

Bloomington Ferry Trailhead

Address: 11255 Bloomington Ferry Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438

Parking: There is free parking at the trailhead.

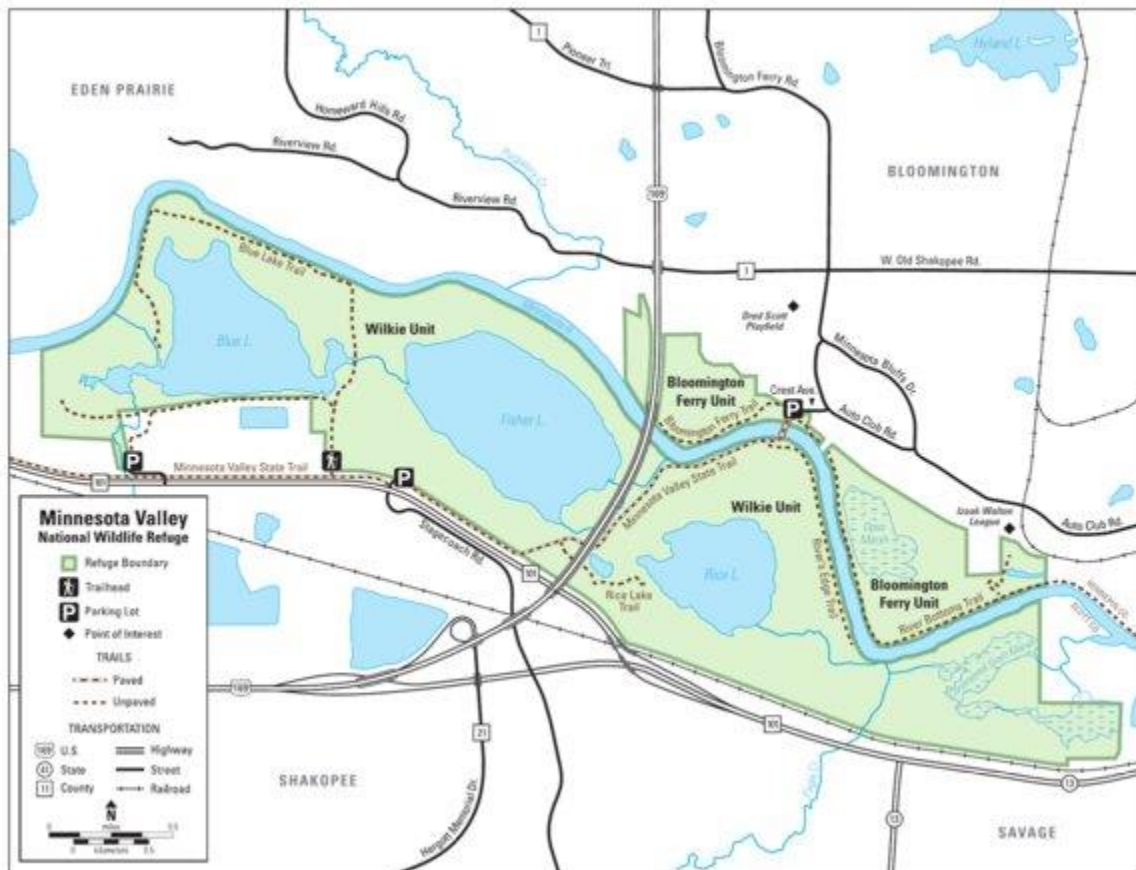
Meeting Location: Look for each other by the gate and kiosk on the west side of the parking lot; the walking bridge should be nearby.

Special Notes: There are no restrooms available at the trailhead or along the trail; also unpaved trails may be muddy or impassable in places depending on recent rains.

Map of City Roadways:

[CLICK HERE](#) for a Google Map to the park from the church; the trailhead is approximately 18-20 minutes south of the church, between Hwy. 169 and Normandale Blvd.

Map of the Park Area:



For more information on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, visit their headquarters and Visitor Center (NOT located at the trailhead):

3815 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

Park Office Phone: 952-854-5900

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley>

Links to Devotional Resources:

Current YouTube recording: [Take a Hike – Week 3 – Gardens](https://youtu.be/4Edvy8b41P0)

<https://youtu.be/4Edvy8b41P0>

Playlist for [all recordings of Take a Hike](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxG4KCljuxEEI1pcJPoQdGRsnoZWJLJIT)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxG4KCljuxEEI1pcJPoQdGRsnoZWJLJIT>



Suggestions for Reflection as You Take a Hike:

- 1) Stop now and then to take in the beauty of God's natural garden which is before you
- 2) Watch for places where death and life are simultaneously taking place side-by-side
- 3) Recall times in your life when something or someone was dying but new life was also coming forth; picture your loss taking place in a garden, and that Jesus is there (though you may think he is only the gardener!)