

Nature Preserved

Slip your boat into the water, go far enough to lose sight of the landing and look around. You are treated to a view of nature and wild beauty in all its splendor. Tall stands of pine and birch crowd the shoreline, a pair of loons dive in a quiet bay and high overhead a bald eagle circles.

This view will remain. The rugged Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, under the ownership of the State of Wisconsin, will not become fragmented with development along its shores. The scenic beauty and wild character for-ever preserved for future generations to enjoy.

History of Good Stewardship

In 1926 the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company built a dam on the Flambeau River downstream from its confluence with the Turtle River creating the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. The dam flooded sixteen natural lakes and impounds approximately 14,000 acres. The Flowage serves as a reservoir to augment river flows for hydro-electric plants operated by downstream electric utilities and paper mills. The dam also provides flood protection and has created a unique recreational resource.

The State acquired the Flowage in 1990. State ownership now comprises over 35,500 acres including 114 miles of mainland shoreline and 195 islands.

The Department of Natural Resources manages the Flowage. With direction from a citizen advisory committee, a Master Plan was developed for management of the property. The Plan's goal implements management practices that perpetuate the natural character of the Flowage's shoreline. Top priorities include preserving its scenic qualities and protecting its plant and animal communities. The Department also strives to preserve the quality and wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, camping, nature observation, trapping, boating, and canoeing.



Quiet Area

A voluntary quiet area is in place on approximately the eastern 1/5 of the Flowage. The quiet area boundaries run from the narrows near Blair Lake upstream to the property boundary near the confluence of the Bear and Manitowish Rivers.

Many anglers, canoeists, and campers come to the Flowage seeking its solitude. The Quiet Area designation helps promote that atmosphere of solitude for those seeking a more "wilderness" type experience.

When camping in the quiet area, please be especially conscious of keeping noise to a minimum. If you plan to use radios or other noise devises, please consider camping in another area.

We also ask that you observe slow, no wake boating. Anglers and canoeists appreciate the courtesy of boaters making no wake.

The quiet area offers a refuge for those seeking a peaceful experience away from the hustle-bustle of everyday life.



Securing the Future

In 2006, an anonymous donor created a permanent endowed fund to provide a perpetual source of support for the purpose of preserving, protecting and enhancing the lands and waters of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, a statewide nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for individuals and organizations to support Wisconsin's natural resources, manages the **Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area Fund**. More information on the Natural Resources Foundation and the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area Fund can be found at www.wisconsinervation.org or by contacting the Natural Resources Foundation at P.O. Box 2317, Madison, WI 53701; Phone: (609) 264-4096.

Protecting Your Flowage

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area offers the opportunity to camp, fish and enjoy the outdoors in a scenic wilderness type setting. The undisturbed wooded shorelines and islands are what make the Flowage unique. Please help us protect the Flowage by considering the following concerns.

- ✦ Do not pound nails into trees; this damages the trees and could create a hazard for other campers or for maintenance crews.
- ✦ Do not peel bark, carve the bark, or prune limbs of trees; damaging the bark will eventually kill the tree.
- ✦ Set your tent on the leveled tent pad or in an opening away from trees. Too much traffic on tree roots near the ground surface will eventually kill the tree.
- ✦ Hang your lantern away from tree trunks; heat damages the tree's bark.

Invasive Species

Exotic species, both aquatic and terrestrial, are one of the biggest threats to our natural environment. You can help prevent introduction of invasives to the Flowage.

Prevent introducing aquatic invasives by cleaning your boat, boat trailer, and live well before you arrive. Discard unused live bait including worms, minnows or crayfish into the dumpster, not the environment.

Terrestrial invasives such as garlic mustard and buckthorn establish themselves through seeds transported by campers. To help prevent the spread of these aggressive invasives, please clean your shoes and boots prior to visiting the area.



Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

Information

For additional information about the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area, contact the DNR Ranger Station, 5291 N. Statehouse Circle, Mercer, Wisconsin 54547 (715) 476-7846.

In case of EMERGENCY

call the Iron County Sheriff's Department at (800) 243-2131 or dial 911.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WARNINGS

For updated weather information tune to local weather band radio. Staff is not on duty 24 hours a day and staff that is on duty will not be able to contact all visitors. Pay attention to the weather. In case of severe storms, use picnic tables and the toilet buildings as shelter.

Camping

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area offers 66 remote campsites accessible by water only. Sixty of these sites are available year round on a first come first serve basis with no registration or fee. Six group sites are available by reservation only. There is no camper registration so you should leave your planned itinerary with friends or family so that you can be located in case of an emergency.

Camping is allowed in designated campsites only. You **MAY NOT** establish new campsites or camp at undesignated sites. There is a ten day limit on camping at all campsites on the property. In addition, when you set up camp you must occupy the site the first night and you may not leave it unoccupied for more than one night thereafter (you may not leave unattended camping equipment to "save" a site). Your dog is welcome to join you, but please respect other campers and clean up after your pet. The map on the reverse side of this page shows the location of all designated campsites. All designated sites have a steel fire ring and an open air pit toilet and are identified with a site number. To preserve the quiet natural setting and in respect for fellow campers, generators are not allowed. If a generator is required for medical reasons, please contact the property manager prior to your visit.



Family Campsites

Fifty-eight sites scattered throughout the property are designated family campsites. **These sites are limited to a group of not more than six people.** A family consisting of two parents and their dependent children (any number less than 18 years old), and up to two guests (any age) are allowed even if it exceeds six individuals. Seventeen of the family campsites include a picnic table as well as the fire ring and open air pit toilet. These sites are designated with a letter "F" as the prefix to the site number.

One of the family sites includes facilities which make it more accessible to persons with physical disabilities. This is site number "A1" on the map. Please be considerate of our visitors with disabilities; use discretion when considering this site.

Forty of the family sites are more rustic and do not include a picnic table. The site numbers for the rustic sites have a letter "R" prefix.

Garbage and Waste

Garbage service is not provided at the campsites. All refuse must be carried out with you. Do not leave items "for the next campers". These things are generally not appreciated and tend to detract from the rustic setting. Bear visits are increasing. Be bear aware—do not leave food (including pet food) lying around. Do not put unused food in the fire to burn it. Hang all food and garbage at least 10 feet off the ground and 5 feet from the tree trunk. Please do not feed the bears. A fed bear is a dead bear!

Dry paper can be burned but please do not put plastic, cans, glass or other waste in the fire ring.

Snowmobiles and ATV's

A number of snowmobile trails cross the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. Please refer to the Iron County snowmobile trail map before venturing onto the property to determine those areas which are legal for snowmobile use. There are no ATV trails within the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area; as such, ATV's are not allowed on the property.

Snowmobiles and ATV's are allowed on the ice of the Flowage; however, before venturing out onto the ice, be sure conditions are safe and you know where you are going. Some areas are hazardous throughout the winter because of currents under the ice. In addition, fluctuating water levels can create uneven ice conditions.

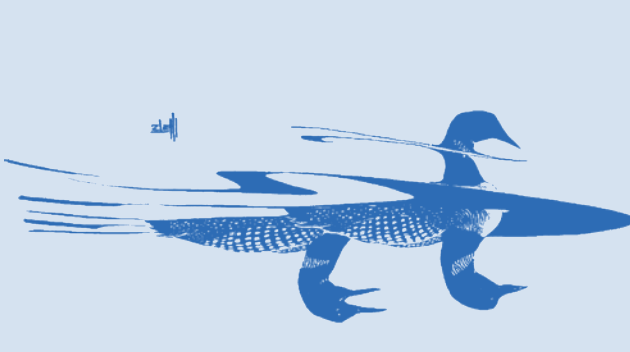


Boating

Six Boat access sites on the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area provide public access to the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. Springstead landing, the largest, offers the most amenities including a triple wide concrete launch ramp and paved parking for 75 vehicles. Fisherman's landing, Sportsman's landing, and Trude Lake landing also have concrete launch ramps with moderately sized gravel parking areas. Murray's landing is a shallow water gravel access and is recommended for smaller boats and canoes only. Sturgeon Bay landing has a gravel launch area with very limited parking and turn-around space. The County Park on the north end of the Flowage also has a boat launch.

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage has an abundance of stumps, logs, floating "driftwood", and rock bars that make good fish and wildlife habitat but could damage boats. The map should not be used for navigation; conditions are always changing, particularly when water levels fluctuate. Boaters should always exercise caution. Water skiing and personal watercraft are not advised.

Visitors to the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage come to enjoy the peace, quiet, and wild natural surroundings. Please respect the rights of others, heed boating regulations, watch your wake, go slow, keep noise to a minimum and enjoy wildlife from a distance.



The unique character and outstanding fishery they can be seen surfacing like a dolphin. are protected. At certain times in the summer, Lake sturgeon, a pre-historic looking fish, occupies the Flowage in small numbers. These fish not visible from the water and are carefully laid out generation harvests on the property occur in areas such as a tornado in nature or a harvest by man. Regeneration harvests on the property occur in areas such as a tornado in nature or a harvest by man. Regeneration harvests on the property occur in areas such as a tornado in nature or a harvest by man.

Timber harvests in certain areas of the property not visible from the Flowage may include more intensive forest management to increase the diversity of wildlife habitats while providing additional forest products. Aspen is the most important timber type for benefitting grouse, deer, bear, wolves, beaver, and many species of songbirds. Maintaining and regenerating aspen requires clearcutting (technically regeneration harvesting) because aspen is a sun loving tree and does not grow under shade. Also, young aspen shoots come from the parent root system following disturbance to the parent tree such as a tornado in nature or a harvest by man. Regeneration harvests on the property occur in areas such as a tornado in nature or a harvest by man.

Forest Management

Management of the forests in the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area primarily protects the scenic qualities, fish and wildlife of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. A 300 foot aesthetic zone around the entire shoreline of the Flowage prohibits any timber harvesting, including salvage harvests from tor-nadoes, burns, or insects, a number of other areas have been designated for limited or special management to protect unique natural communities. To further protect scenic qualities, lands more than 300 feet from the water but still visible from the water will be harvested on a selection basis only, providing some wood products from within a well managed forest.

Group Campsites

There are eight group campsites total. Two of these sites (G1 and G2) are first come, first served and free. They include two fire rings, two pit toilets and a picnic table. These sites are for use by groups larger than what is allowed in the family sites and are designed to accommodate groups of between seven and approximately twenty persons.

Six other group sites (B3 through B8) are available by reservation only from April 15–October 30. These six sites are divided into two groups of three sites clustered together sharing one toilet building. Each site allows wheelchair access and accommodates seven to fifteen persons. A picnic table, three benches and a fire-ring also occupy each site. These are primitive sites with no running water or garbage disposal available.

There is a fee associated with these six sites: \$40.00 per night per site unless you are a Wisconsin non-profit youth group and then the fee is \$10.00 per night per site. Your stay is limited to ten days. You do not need to check in anywhere but a card with your party's name will be attached to the site post and will indicate your departure date. Reservations can be made any time of year by going to the DNR website (www.dnr.state.wis.us) and clicking on the Camping Reservations link. You may also call RESERVE AMERICA at 888-947-2757.

Additional camping opportunities are provided at an Iron County Park located off of County Highway 'FF' where the Turtle River enters the Flowage. Some resorts also provide camping with rustic to "full hook-up" facilities.

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The Wildlife

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area encompasses a wide variety of wildlife habitats including large expanses of open water, hundreds of scattered islands and many quiet bays. Surrounding woodlands vary from steeply rolling hills to level terrain with grassy openings, small wild lakes and ponds, and expansive wetlands. The woodlands consist of aspen, northern hardwoods, white birch, pine, and scattered old growth hemlock pockets.

The Flowage, known for its high density of bald eagles, osprey and common loons, also hosts black terns, merlins, trumpeter swans and over 150 other bird species. In addition, a variety of reptiles, amphibians and mammals including deer, bear, bobcat and timber wolves also reside here. Even the occasional moose hangs out here in the fall.

Many opportunities exist to observe and enjoy wildlife in a remote and wild setting. Approach wildlife slowly and quietly. Be particularly careful not to disturb nesting birds or animals with small young.

The property includes two special wildlife management units. The Deadhorse Ruffed Grouse Manage-



Fires and Firewood

Firewood can harbor pests such as gypsy moths, emerald ash borer, and oak wilt that threaten the local forest. New regulations regarding the transport of firewood are aimed at stopping the threat. **It is now illegal to bring firewood to this or any other state property from more than 25 miles away. It is also illegal to bring firewood from out of state.**

You are allowed to gather wood that is "dead and down" for your fire. Consider purchasing locally harvested firewood to bring to your campsite. Several local businesses sell bundled campfire wood.

As added insurance against introducing forest pests, please burn all your firewood; do not leave it for the next camper and do not transport it to other properties.

You MAY NOT cut standing trees whether they are live or dead. Standing dead "snag" trees provide valuable wildlife habitat. You MAY NOT use a chain saw on the Turtle-Flambeau to cut firewood.

Prevent forest fires by confining your campfire to the steel fire ring provided at each campsite. Make sure your fire is dead out before you leave by pouring water on it and stirring with a stick.

Driftwood

Driftwood provides valuable fish and wildlife habitat and adds to the unique character of the Flowage; it is rapidly disappearing through natural processes and from illegal harvest. Removal of driftwood from the property is prohibited by law.

We also ask that you not burn driftwood. Generally driftwood is water logged and does not burn well (even if it appears dry on the outside).

ment Demonstration Area showcases management techniques and principles which best promote grouse habitat. The Little Turtle Waterfowl Management Area includes the Little Turtle Flowage which emphasizes maintaining breeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl.

Three separate publications are available that provide additional wildlife related information. *Birds of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area* includes a bird list; the *Turtle-Flambeau Auto Tour* booklet provides interpretive information on habitats and management techniques while following a self-guided tour; and *Hunting Opportunities in the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic waters Area* includes maps of four designated hunter-walking trails on the property.



This publication can be made available in alternate formats (large print, Braille, audio, tape, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 266-2135 for more information.
D.C. 20240
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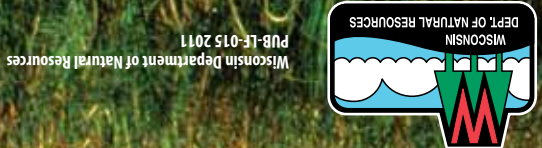
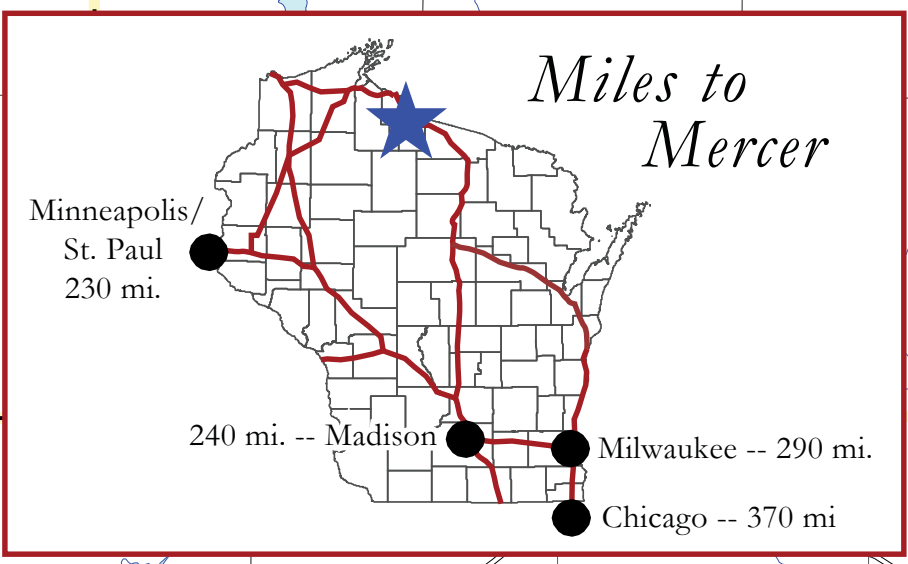
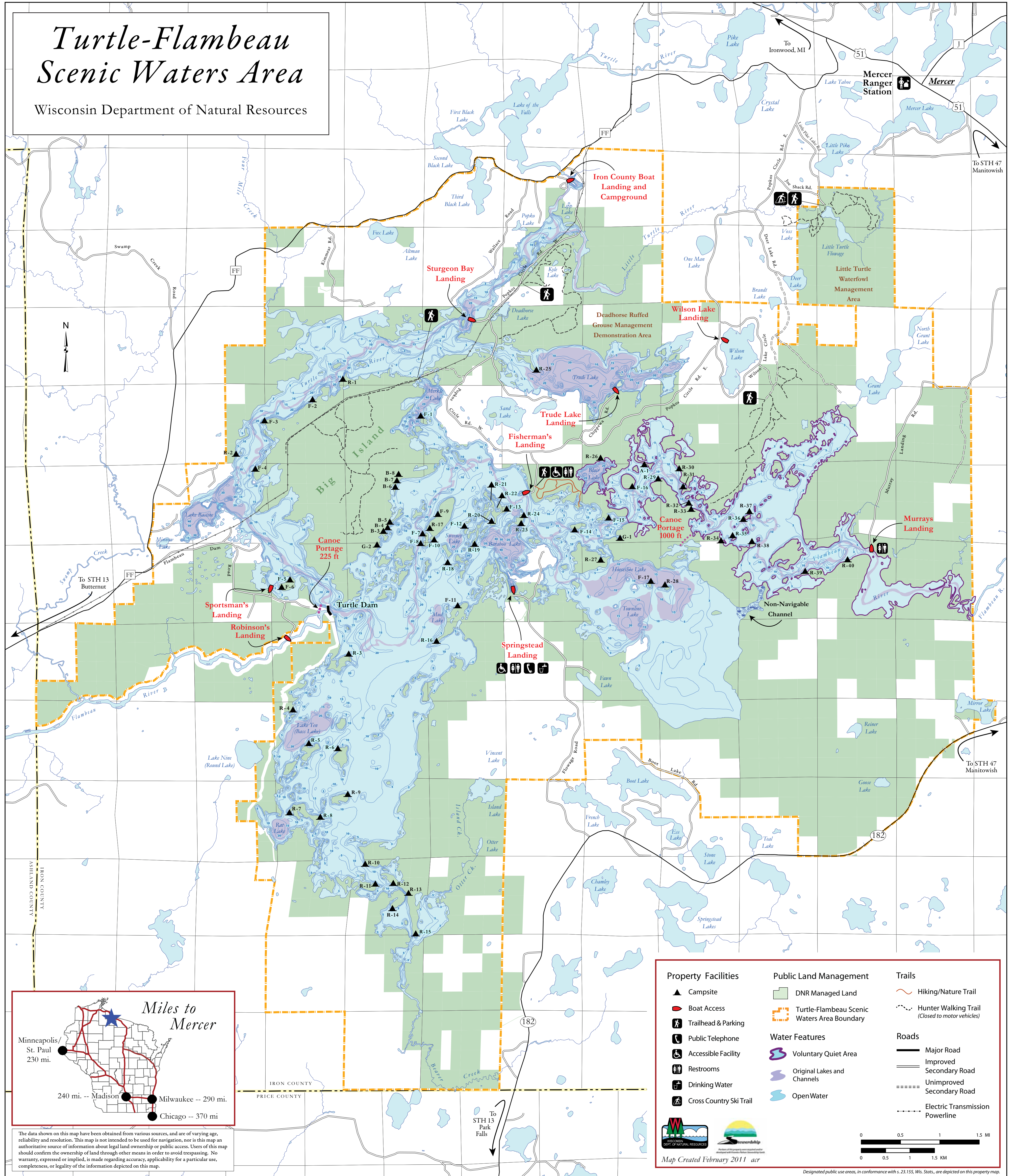


Photo: Al Frichner

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Property Facilities	Public Land Management	Trails
▲ Campsite	■ DNR Managed Land	— Hiking/Nature Trail
● Boat Access	▭ Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area Boundary	⋯ Hunter Walking Trail (Closed to motor vehicles)
🚶 Trailhead & Parking		
☎ Public Telephone		
♿ Accessible Facility		
🚻 Restrooms		
🚰 Drinking Water		
🏂 Cross Country Ski Trail		
	Water Features	Roads
	🌊 Voluntary Quiet Area	— Major Road
	🌊 Original Lakes and Channels	— Improved Secondary Road
	🌊 Open Water	⋯ Unimproved Secondary Road
		⋯ Electric Transmission Powerline

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