

Nature Trails

wildlife area. The property consists of approximately 1,270 acres of wetland, 260 acres of grasslands and 60 acres of wooded habitat. You will find warm water stream frontage with extensive cattail and shrub marsh wetlands, hardwood timber, grassland fields and cropland. Habitat is suitable for deer, squirrel, rabbit, pheasant, fur-bearing animals, sandhill cranes, herons and songbirds.

Park Lake, Pardeeville

330 acre lake - maximum depth of 27 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from public boat landings. Fish include Musky, Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye.

Peter Helland Wildlife Area

3,543 acre property - find it six miles east of Pardeeville on County Road P. The property consists of approximately 2,700 acres of wetland, 500 acres of grassland, 240 acres of wooded habitat and some shrub and agricultural lands.

Pine Island Wildlife Area

5,499-acre property - located along the

Wisconsin River southwest of Portage. The property consists of approximately 1,200 acres of wetland habitats, 1000 acres of grasslands, 1500 acres of oak/savanna habitats and 1,900 acres of wooded habitat. Includes cattail and shrub marshes, lowland hardwood, grassland fields, cropland, river islands and native prairie habitats suitable for deer, pheasant, squirrel, rabbit, turkey, grouse, ducks, geese, fur-bearing animals, sandhill cranes, herons and songbirds.

Spring Lake, Pardeeville

27 acre lake - maximum depth of 32 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing. Fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike.

Springville Wildlife Area

Cty. Hwys. P and SS between Pardeeville and Cambria, 2,841 acres with warm water stream frontage, extensive ditched wetlands, cattail/shrub marsh, grassland fields, pheasant, rabbits, ducks, geese, fur-bearing animals, sandhill cranes, herons and songbirds.

Swan Lake Wildlife Area

2,466 acre property - one mile east of Portage off of Highway P in Columbia County. The property consists of approximately 2,000 acres of wetlands, 100 acres of grassland and 366 acres of wooded habitat. The Fox River flows through the Swan Lake Wildlife Area in a northwesterly direction from Swan Lake on the east. Extensive cattail marshes, lowland aspen woodland, shrub wetlands, grassland, and a 1.5 mile dike for water level control, suitable for deer, pheasant, rabbits, ducks, fur-bearing animals, sandhill cranes, herons, shorebirds and songbirds.

FISHERIES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Hinkson Creek Fishery

Near Cty. Hwy. J northwest of Poynette, 160 acres of shrub and wetland along the Hinkson Creek trout stream with brown and brook trout, deer, squirrel, grouse, fur-bearing animals, sandhill cranes and songbirds.

Rocky Run Creek Fishery

Located southwest of Wycocena between State Hwy. 22 and U.S. 51, 750 acres of cold water stream frontage, shrub wetlands, upland hardwood forest, grassland fields and some cropland. The stream provides a fishery for brown trout. Habitat is suitable for deer, grouse, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, sandhill cranes, fur-bearing animals, songbirds and limited waterfowl use.

Rowan Creek Fishery

From Cty. Hwys. J and CS west of Poynette, along Rowan Creek., 650 acres of cold water stream frontage, shrub wetland and lowland hardwood habitat suitable for deer, grouse,

squirrel, rabbit, sandhill cranes, fur-bearing animals, songbirds and limited waterfowl use.

Wisconsin River

Wisconsin Dells to Portage
Running approximately 19 miles from Wisconsin Dells to Portage, the Wisconsin River is a great place to float, boat, canoe, sail or swim. Accessible from numerous public and private boat landings and launching ramps along the way, during low water periods, the river has many sand bars to lounge on and shallows to wade in. Under these conditions, canoes and small boats that can be dragged over sandbars are recommended. Fishing enthusiasts will find sturgeon, bass, panfish, northern, walleye, muskie and more in these waters.

SANCTUARY SITES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Goose Pond Sanctuary in Columbia County In the Town of Leeds, there are several prairies (Sue Ames, Hopkins Road, and Ankenbrandt) that are part of the larger Goose Pond Sanctuary. Erstad Prairie, next to Schoeneberg's Marsh, is also in the town. All are open to the public.

Hopkins Road Prairie

A 40-acre tallgrass prairie restoration with 1.5 miles of mowed hiking trails. Off-road parking area is on Hopkins Rd. east of Goose Pond.

Sue Ames Prairie

Hike west from Hopkins Road Prairie parking area down the quarter-mile access lane to the trailhead. Two miles of mowed trail inside and around the edge extend through tall grass prairie on rolling terrain that provides good views to the west.

Ankenbrandt Prairie

Visitors can walk north on the mowed old farm lane from Kampen Road to Highways 51 and 60. This large, productive restoration features over 50 plant species on 80 acres. Park in mowed area at southwest corner of the prairie just west of Hopkins Road.

Erstad Prairie

A 60-acre sanctuary, with 18 acres of wetlands and 42 acres of uplands, has a hiking trail to an overview of a small wetland frequented by migrating waterfowl and marsh birds. Hike north to see the expansive 700 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Waterfowl Production Area at Schoeneberg's Marsh, a premier prairie wetland with nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Black Terns. The entire parcel is open during the fall for hunting.

