

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

La Crosse District
N5727 County Road Z
Onalaska, WI 54650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2023

Contact: Katie Julian
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Wildflower Walks at the Upper Mississippi River Refuge

Come enjoy the beauty of summer wildflowers on a FREE walk through the sand prairie! Join Ranger Katie on a “plant identification ramble” to learn which flowers are blooming and about the wildlife they support. We may walk up to two miles on paved and gravel surfaces but will likely walk less as there’s a lot to see nearby! This event will best be enjoyed by teens or adults, but all ages are welcome.

Where: La Crosse District Visitor Center, N5727 County Road Z, Onalaska, WI 54650

When: Saturday, July 29, 2023, 8:00 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. **OR** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Please meet at the three-panel kiosk by the Visitor Center parking lot. The building will open at 9:00 a.m. - restrooms on the back side of the building will be available before then. Please bring drinking water and sun protection. Please leave pets at home. We’ll walk in light rain but will cancel for heavy rain, storms or extreme heat.

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The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the most visited refuge in the United States. The refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from Wabasha, Minn. to Rock Island, Ill., protecting and preserving habitat for migratory birds, fish, and a variety of other wildlife.

In addition to being the most visited refuge in the country, the “Upper Miss” Refuge has the added complexity of a major navigation system, including 11 locks and dams, within its boundary. It is also a world-class fish and wildlife area which harbors 306 species of birds; 119 species of fish; more than 300 active bald eagle nests; thousands of heron and egret nests; spectacular concentrations of canvasback ducks, tundra swans, and white pelicans; and several threatened or endangered species.