

- 1 Wisconsin River Centennial Trail (Trip 1)
25mi | 11hrs | 6 landings
x Lac Vieux Desert Dam to River Rd
x Lac Vieux Desert Dam - 100ft x West Shore Rd Culvert - 75ft
- 2 Wisconsin River Centennial Trail (Trip 2)
23mi | 9hrs | 4 landings
River Rd to County O Bridge
x Otter Rapids Dam - 500ft
- 3 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 1)
7.5mi | 4hrs | 2 landings
High Lake to Fishtrap Dam
x Fishtrap Dam Portage (End of Trip) - 300ft
- 4 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 2)
6.3mi | 3hrs | 2 landings
Fishtrap Dam to County K
x Fishtrap Dam Portage (Start of Trip) - 300ft
- 5 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 3)
15.5mi | 8hrs | 6 landings
County K to US 51
x Manitowish River-Highway K Rapids - 600ft x Rest Lake Dam - 300ft
- 6 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 5)
19mi | 12hrs | 4 landings
White Sand Lake to Trout River Trip
x White Sand Lake-Lost Canoe Lake - 1,700ft
x Lost Canoe Lake-Palette Lake - 1,400ft
x Palette Lake-Stephens Springs - 700ft

- 7 Crab Lake Portage/Padding Route
5.7mi | 4 landings
Crab Lake Landing to Sensesenbrenner Park
x South of Armour Lake - 50ft x Armour Lake Rd - 140ft
x County B - 300ft
- 8 Rice Creek Paddling Route
5.2mi | 3 landings
Round Lake Landing to Big Lake Landing
- 9 Guido Rahr Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Preserve Access Route
3mi | 1hrs | 2 landings
Boat Launch to Guido Rahr Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Preserve Trail

- 10 Wisconsin River Centennial Trail (Trip 3)
25mi | 11hrs | 6 landings
Lac Vieux Desert Dam to River Rd
x Lac Vieux Desert Dam - 100ft x West Shore Rd Culvert - 75ft
- 11 Wisconsin River Centennial Trail (Trip 2)
23mi | 9hrs | 4 landings
River Rd to County O Bridge
x Otter Rapids Dam - 500ft
- 12 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 1)
7.5mi | 4hrs | 2 landings
High Lake to Fishtrap Dam
x Fishtrap Dam Portage (End of Trip) - 300ft
- 13 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 2)
6.3mi | 3hrs | 2 landings
Fishtrap Dam to County K
x Fishtrap Dam Portage (Start of Trip) - 300ft
- 14 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 3)
15.5mi | 8hrs | 6 landings
County K to US 51
x Manitowish River-Highway K Rapids - 600ft x Rest Lake Dam - 300ft
- 15 Northern Highland-American Legion Canoe Route (Trip 5)
19mi | 12hrs | 4 landings
White Sand Lake to Trout River Trip
x White Sand Lake-Lost Canoe Lake - 1,700ft
x Lost Canoe Lake-Palette Lake - 1,400ft
x Palette Lake-Stephens Springs - 700ft

Fishes of Vilas County

Learn about the major fish species present in Vilas County - identification, habitat and tackle tips. For more information about fish, fishing regulations, streams, lakes, lake access, or any of Wisconsin's other natural resources, please contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by phone (888.936.7463, 7am-10pm) or visit them online at dnr.wisconsin.gov.

Fish information from WISN Match You Catch Wisconsin Wildcards images by Virgil Beck and Ted Weyer

Black Crappie (omoxis nigromaculatus)

Identification: Black crappies are speckled and have seven to eight spines on their dorsal fin. Outstanding as a sport fish, they can be strong fighters and are fun to catch on light tackle!
Habitat: Black crappies feed in clear, open water but can also be found resting among logs or weed beds during the day. They live in small schools and prefer cooler, deeper water than white crappies.
Tackle Tip: Cast out a minnow, spinner or small jig just as the sun is setting.
Common Catch Size: 7-10", 7-12 oz.

White Crappie (omoxis aulatus)

Identification: The white crappie has a lighter belly than the black crappie, speckled vertical bands, and six dorsal fin spines. On average, white crappies tend to be slightly larger than black crappies.
Habitat: White crappies can be found in shallow, cloudy water where vegetation is sparse. They travel in small schools and prefer warmer temperatures than black crappies.
Tackle Tip: Get up early and go to bed later! Cast in the early morning or late evening using minnows, small jigs or spinners.
Common Catch Size: 7-10", 7-12 oz.

Yellow Perch (perca flavescens)

Identification: Yellow perch are found in most Wisconsin lakes. These tasty fish can be identified by the prominent vertical bars along their yellow sides.
Habitat: Yellow perch prefer the cool, open waters of Wisconsin's deep lakes. They move about in large schools, sometimes numbering in the hundreds. They are not active at night but are still near the bottom.
Tackle Tip: Keep on the move! If you don't get a bite in one area, move to another until you find a school. Yellow perch will bite on almost any bait, but tend to nibble lightly. Use light tackle and set your hook quickly!
Common Catch Size: 7-10", 4 oz.

Brook Trout (salvelinus fontinalis)

Identification: Brook trout are Wisconsin's only native stream-dwelling trout. Look for worm-like markings on their backs and white edges on their fins.
Habitat: Brook trout hide at the head of a stream, in small pools or under logs. In the fall, they make gravel nests close to the springs that feed the stream, where water is the freshest.
Tackle Tip: Be quiet! Brook trout are easily spooked. After a short rain, use flies, worms or minnows. For successful catch and release, however, flies are best.
Common Catch Size: 6-10", 1-2 lb.

Largemouth Bass (micropterus salmoides)

Identification: They don't call them "bucketmouth" for nothing! The largemouth bass is the largest member of the sunfish family. It has a big mouth and knows how to use it! Its upper jaw extends beyond its eye. Notice the prominent lateral line on the side of the fish and the deep notch in the dorsal fin.
Habitat: Largemouth bass prefer warm water and like to hide under lily pads, docks, or in weed beds.
Tackle Tip: Cast out a minnow, spinner or small jig just as the sun is setting. These fish like weedy areas so don't forget to use a weedless bait or you may lose your lure!
Common Catch Size: 12-14", 1-3 lb.

Smallmouth Bass (micropterus dolomieu)

Identification: The smallmouth is perhaps Wisconsin's scrappiest game fish. Vertical markings, a shallow notch in the dorsal fin, and an upper jaw that ends in line with the center of their red eye, distinguish smallmouth bass from the largemouth bass.
Habitat: "Smallies" like rocky streams or lakes where they can find their favorite food - crayfish. In summertime, they seek out deep, cool waters.
Tackle Tip: Shhh! Fish quietly and cast near old logs or rocks. Bring along natural baits like hellgrammites or crayfish. In Vilas County, the Mississippi River is inland, use the crayfish that don't grow there.
Common Catch Size: 12", 1-2 lb.

Walleye (sander vitreus)

Identification: A white triangular mark on their tail fin, and large eyes, which help them see well in low light, help to make these members of the perch family easy to identify.
Habitat: Walleye prefer clear water lakes but can also be found in large river systems like the Mississippi. They stay in deep water during the day and move into the shallows at night.
Tackle Tip: Cast or troll minnows, spoons, night crawlers or small plugs.
Common Catch Size: 14-17", 2 lb.

Lake Trout (salvelinus namaycush)

Identification: Lake trout have a bright white belly and deep green-blue sides that are marked with spots of dull yellow.
Habitat: Lake trout naturally reproduce in a few northern lakes and, to a limited extent, in lakes Superior and Michigan. They are also stocked in some of the state's deepest, coldest lakes.
Tackle Tip: Fish the shallows with live or cut bait in the early season and troll the deep waters later in the year. In winter, bobbing (an old-fashioned term for jigging) works well.
Common Catch Size: 27", 8 lb.

Northern Pike (esox lucius)

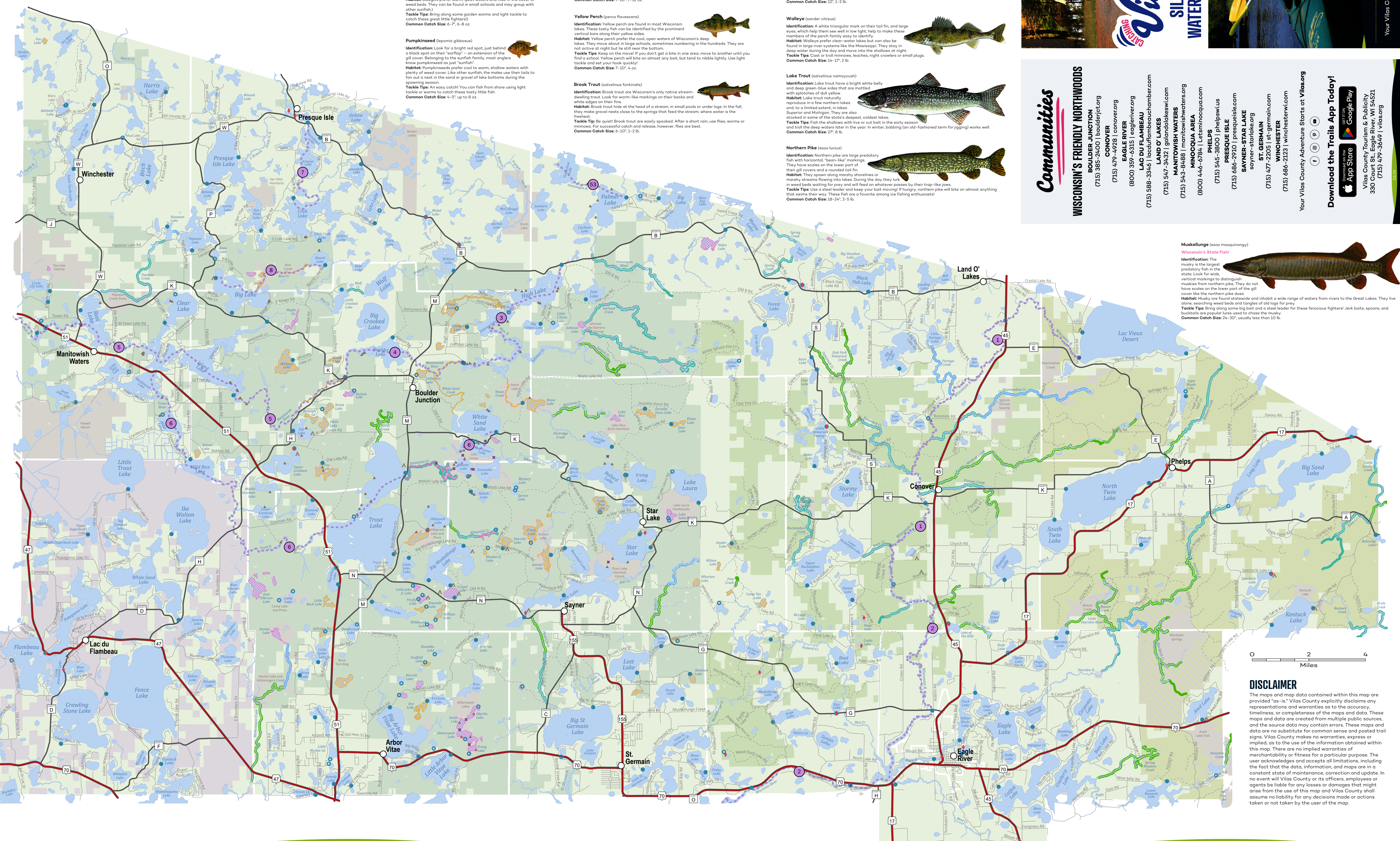
Identification: Northern pike are large predatory fish with horizontal, "tooth-like" markings. They have scales on the lower part of their gill covers and a rounded tail fin.
Habitat: They spawn along marshy shorelines or nearby streams flowing into lakes. During the day they lurk in weed beds waiting for prey and will feed on whatever passes by their trap-like jaws.
Tackle Tip: Use a steel leader and keep your bait moving! If hungry, northern pike will bite on almost anything that swims their way. These fish are a favorite among ice fishing enthusiasts!
Common Catch Size: 18-24", 2-5 lb.

Vilas Vibes
SILENT SPORTS & WATER RECREATION MAP

- ### Map Symbol Key
- Carry-In Lake Access
 - Boat Ramp
 - ◆ Fishing Pier
 - ~ Trout Stream (Class I)
 - ~ Trout Stream (Class II)
 - ~ Trout Stream (Class III)
 - ✕ Portage
 - Paddling Route
 - ⊞ Electric Motors Only Area
 - ⊞ No Motors Area
 - Waterbodies
 - ▲ Public Campground
 - ▲ Wilderness/Canoe Campsite
 - US/State Highway
 - County Highway
 - Local Road
 - Forest Road/Track
 - Municipalities
 - National Wilderness Area
 - State Wildlife/Natural Area
 - County Forest
 - State Forest
 - National Forest
 - Tribal Land



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StopAquaticHitchhikers.org



Muskellunge (esox mosquitum)

Identification: The musky is the largest predatory fish in the state. Look for wide, vertical markings to distinguish muskies from northern pike. They do not have scales on the lower part of the gill cover like the northern pike does.
Habitat: Muskies are found statewide and inhabit a wide range of waters from rivers to the Great Lakes. In Vilas County, they are most commonly found in the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
Tackle Tip: Bring along some cut bait and a steel leader for these ferocious fighters. Jerk baits, spoons, and bucktails are popular lures used to chase the musky.
Common Catch Size: 24-30", usually less than 10 lb.



Communities

WISCONSIN'S FRIENDLY NORTHWOODS

- BOULDER JUNCTION**
(715) 365-3400 | boulderjunction.com
- CONOVER**
(715) 479-4929 | conover.org
- EAGLE RIVER**
(800) 359-6335 | eagleriver.org
- LAC DU FLAMBEAU**
(715) 588-3346 | lacdumacochamb.com
- LAND O' LAKES**
(715) 547-3432 | golandolakes.com
- MANITOWISH WATERS**
(715) 543-8488 | manitowishwaters.org
- MINOQUA AREA**
(800) 446-6768 | letsmacochamb.com
- PHELPS**
(715) 545-3800 | phelpswis.com
- PRESCQUE ISLE**
(715) 686-2910 | presqueisle.com
- SAYNER-STAR LAKE**
sayner-storlake.org
- ST. GERMAIN**
(715) 477-2205 | st-germain.com
- WINCHESTER**
(715) 686-2123 | winchesterwi.com

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Vilas County Tourism & Publicity
330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521
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Water Recreation



VILAS COUNTY
LAND INFORMATION

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