

## Protecting Your Flowage

The Willow Flowage 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 following these regulations:

- 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 or 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 will damage the bark and may eventually kill the tree.



**For more information, contact:**

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Woodruff Service Center  
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Woodruff, WI 54568

(715) 356-5211  
Monday-Friday  
7:45 am to 4:30 pm



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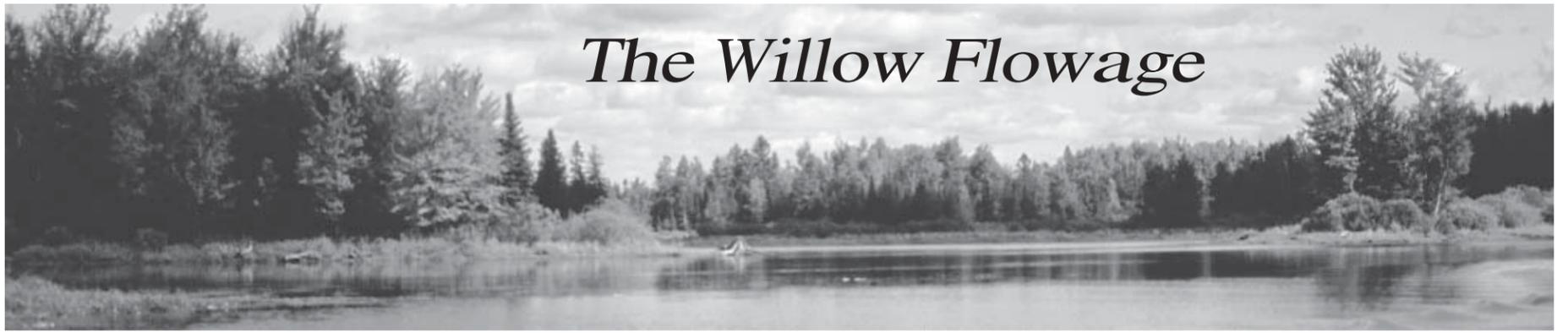
# Willow Flowage

Scenic Waters Area



Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
PUB-FR-287 2004

# The Willow Flowage



“Almost Canada” is how one visitor described the Willow Flowage. Surrounded by swamps, bogs, and other watery lowlands, the Willow Flowage is isolated from roads and development. Its sense of remoteness, abundant wildlife, and scenic, natural shoreline are unique and highly-valued features, drawing visitors from around the region and state. State ownership of the property is over 16,000 acres. Under the State of Wisconsin ownership, the Willow Flowage will not fall victim to fragmented shoreline development, and its scenic beauty will be preserved for generations.

## Forest Management

The forest management goal for the Willow is to protect wildlife, emphasize forest diversity, promote a natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance, and practice sustainable forestry.

A narrow buffer of mature aspen and scattered pine left around the shoreline gives the flowage a wild, scenic appearance from the water. Future light thinning of selected trees will eventually restore the shoreline to older forest conditions dominated by long-lived tree species such as red and white pine.

A relatively young aspen forest dominates interior areas of the Willow. Aspen will be maintained here in diverse age classes, while some acreage will be converted to pine and mid-successional species, such as red oak,

fir-spruce, and red maple. Varying the types and levels of management in this manner will help to create a diverse natural environment rich in wildlife and well suited for low-impact recreational activities.

## Wildlife

The forests surrounding the Willow Flowage provide abundant food, water, and shelter for a variety of wildlife species, such as songbirds, ruffed grouse, woodcock, white-tailed deer, black bears, wolves, and butterflies, to name a few. The waters of the flowage provide habitat for many species of waterfowl, bald eagles, ospreys, common loons, and Great Blue Herons. The flowage is also home to many furbearers as well as various species of amphibians and reptiles. There are numerous opportunities to observe and enjoy the wildlife in a remote and wild setting, but please remember to observe from a distance. In particular, to minimize disturbance, make sure to stay at least 100 yards away from eagle and osprey nests.

## The Fishery

The Willow Flowage provides excellent fishing opportunities. Walleye, northern pike, and panfish are abundant. Less common are musky and small and largemouth bass. Two seasonal fish refuges, located at Cedar Falls on the north end and Willow Rapids to the west, protect spawning walleye and musky.



Angling is prohibited from mid-April to mid-May in these posted areas. As a reminder, you must have a fishing license to fish in the flowage, and don't forget to review your regulations prior to fishing. Please consult the Wisconsin Fishing Regulation pamphlet for specific information.

## Boating

Over 6,400 acres of water offer scenic boating opportunities and access to the 117 islands and backwaters of the Willow Flowage. In order to maintain the flowage's remote character, public boat access is limited. The east side location, at the Willow Flowage dam, has two improved landings and parking to accommodate vehicles with trailers. The Cedar Falls campground landing has parking for 15 car/trailer units. The Sportsman's, Talbot's, Jerry's, and McCord Road landings on the west side provide rustic access roads and parking accommodations for up to 8 vehicles with trailers at each landing. Please refer to the map for landing locations.

Toilet facilities are currently provided at the south WVIC boat landing parking lot.

Due to the fluctuating water levels, when boating, you are advised to use slow speeds and/or use the deeper channels because submerged rocks and snags are numerous.

## Camping

The Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area offers 35 remote, semi-primitive campsites accessible by water. These sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

There is no fee or registration required for the use of these sites. Campsites may be closed permanently or temporarily to protect threatened, endangered, or sensitive species and their habitats.

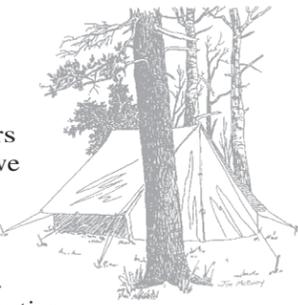
Due to the remoteness of the campsites, it is recommended that campers leave an itinerary with friends or relatives. In case of emergencies, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department can be reached by dialing 911.

There is a 10-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.

Camping is allowed in designated campsites only. You MAY NOT establish new campsites or camp at undesignated sites. Each designated site has a fire ring, a picnic table, and a box latrine. See the map for location of sites. Gas powered generators are not allowed on the flowage.

No garbage facilities are provided, so please carry out whatever you bring in. Burying of refuse is not allowed. Dry paper can be burned, but please do not put plastic, cans, glass, or other waste in the fire ring or toilet.

Potable water is not available at the campsites. It is recommended that campers bring their own, or it may be purchased locally in Tomahawk, Minocqua, Woodruff, or Wilderness Cruises and Willow's End Resort, located on Willow Dam Road.



## Single Unit/Family Campsites

There are 30 single unit/family campsites consisting of a fire ring, picnic table, and box latrine. These sites are for a single camping party only. A single camping party consists of one family\* or a group not exceeding six unrelated persons.

\*A family is defined as a parent or parents with their unemancipated children and not more than two guests.

## Group Campsites

There are five group campsites consisting of a fire ring, picnic tables, and a box latrine. Group campsites may be occupied by up to 15 persons.

## Fires and Firewood

A fire ring is provided at each campsite. Please build fires in the fire rings only. Fires may not be left unattended, and before you leave the fire, it must be completely extinguished. You are allowed to gather wood that is dead and down for your fire. You MAY NOT cut standing trees (whether they are dead or alive) or live brush. Standing dead “snag” trees provide valuable wildlife habitat, and they are protected. You MAY NOT use a chainsaw to cut firewood—even dead and down wood.

## Fire Safety

Please be advised that, due to the primitive nature of these campsites, you will have to use natural materials such as sand, soil, or water to extinguish any fires.

## Driftwood

Driftwood provides valuable fish and wildlife habitat and adds to the unique character of the flowage. To preserve this unique resource, removal of driftwood is discouraged. We also ask that you not try to burn driftwood. Generally, it is water logged and does not burn well, even if it appears dry on the outside.

## Other Recreational Opportunities

### Hunting and Trapping

All lands are open for hunting during scheduled seasons. Ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, and white-tailed deer are the primary game species. Trappers can find beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, fisher, and mink on the property. You must have appropriate licenses for hunting and trapping, and please review the regulations before you hunt or trap. Please be advised that firearms must be cased and unloaded while in or within 100 yards of designated campsites.

### Hiking, Snowshoeing, and Skiing

Silent sports enthusiasts can hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski along existing logging roads or primitive trails. There is currently one designated hiking trail, approximately 4.5 miles in length, which runs through the Native Community Management Area from Cedar Falls Road.

### Snowmobiles and ATVs

Snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles (ATVs) are allowed on state-owned lands on designated trails only. Consult the property and county maps for the location of these trails. Snowmobiles and ATVs are allowed on the ice of the flowage; however, before venturing onto the ice, be sure that conditions are safe and you know where you are going. Some areas are hazardous throughout the winter because of water currents. In addition, fluctuating water levels can create uneven and unsafe conditions.

### Biking

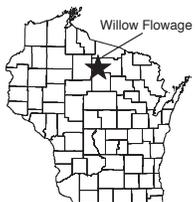
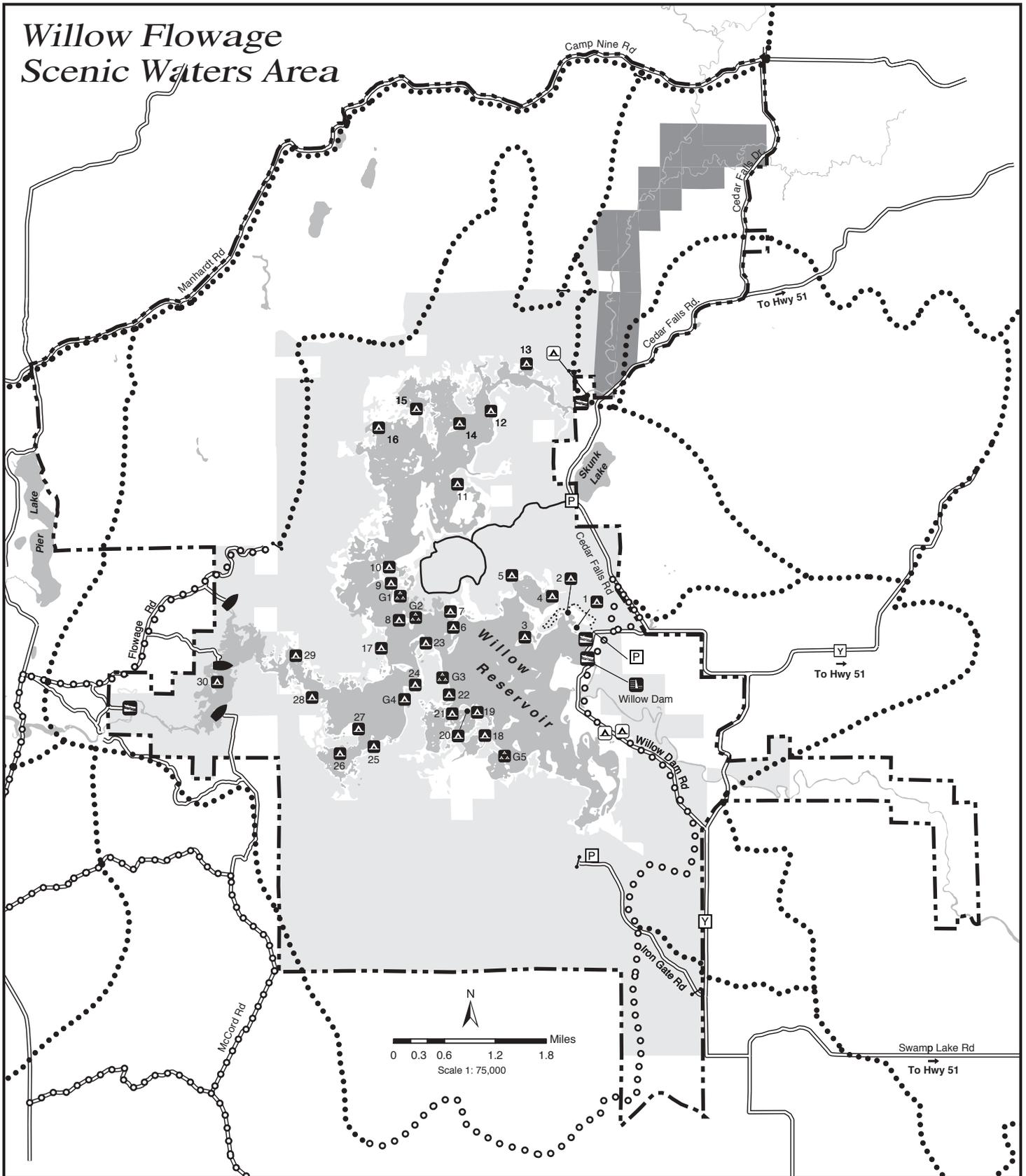
Mountain biking is allowed on interior roads and trails.

### Horses

Horseback riding is not allowed, except on public roadways.



# Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area



The data sources used to prepare this map are of varying age and reliability. Representation of Public Lands may include errors and omissions and should not be interpreted as a legal representation of land ownership boundaries. No warranty expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

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|-----------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|---|---|
| — — — — — | Project Boundary     | ▲   | Campsite           | ■ | Tomahawk River Pines State Natural Area |
| ■         | State Ownership      | ▲ X | Group Campsite     | ○ | Open Water                              |
| .....     | Nature Trail         | ▲ P | Private Campground | — | River or Stream                         |
| —         | Hiking Trail         | ☐   | Boat Launch        | ⌋ | Gate                                    |
| ○ ○ ○     | Snowmobile/ATV Trail | ☐   | Parking Lot        |   |   |
| ● ● ●     | Snowmobile Trail     | ☐   | Boat Access        |   |   |