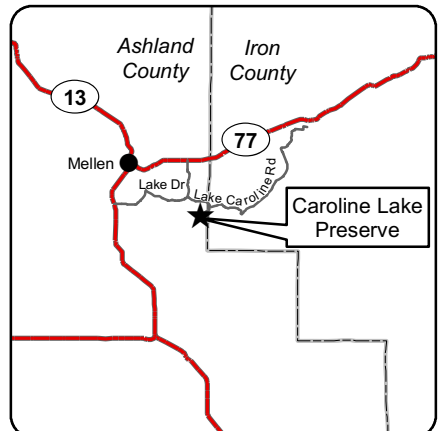


Directions from Mellen: Travel east on State Hwy 77 for about 4 miles to Lake Drive. Take a right and follow Lake Drive for 2.5 miles to Lake Caroline Road. Take a left and travel 2 miles to an unmarked road on the right. After one mile, this road dead ends at the mouth of the Bad River and at the Caroline Lake boat landing. Park at the boat landing area, then walk 1/2 mile back down road you drove in on to start of hiking trail to Twin Lakes. It is the first wide path on left side of road; look for small trail sign.



- Preserve boundary
- Parking
- Trails
- Lake
- River / Stream
- Paved road
- Gravel road
- County boundary

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

April 20, 2009

Caroline Lake Preserve

This 1,044-acre preserve is a great place to experience the serenity and beauty of the wild, undeveloped lakes that epitomize Wisconsin's Northwoods, but which are becoming increasingly rare.

Public Access

The preserve is open to the public from year-round from dawn to dusk. There is a good, relatively flat walking trail that will take you to Twin Lakes (2 miles round trip), and another that will lead you to land owned by Ashland County (this trail is not well-marked). Visitors can canoe, cross-country ski, hunt whitetail deer, and fish at the preserve.

Please help protect this unique area by making sure your shoes/boots are clean of any mud that may transport invasive plant seeds to the preserve from other locations, and pack out everything you pack in. Please stay on marked trails and respect private property surrounding the preserve.

What to See: Wild Lakes

The last glaciation left northern Wisconsin dotted with more than 12,400 lakes. Pressure to develop this lake resource has been increasing dramatically. In 1960, there were approximately 1,200 privately-owned lakes with no development. Since that time, more than 700 of those lakes have been developed with one or more dwellings. The Conservancy's Caroline Lake Preserve protects the majority of the shoreline around Caroline Lake and Twin Lake-East and Twin Lake-West.

The surrounding forests are composed of mainly balsam fir, aspen, hemlock, yellow birch, maples and pines.

What to See: Wildlife

Wildlife that use the area include wolves, coyote, bears, osprey, and bald eagles. The wetlands surrounding the lakes provide important nesting and migratory stopover habitat for mallards, blue-winged teals, common loons, and neotropical migrants.

Conservation Significance

Caroline Lake forms the headwaters of the Bad River. Its clean, clear water contributes to the high water quality of the river and of the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs—16,000 acres of wild rice, grasses, sedges, trees, streams, and open water located along the southern shore of Lake Superior. The Sloughs are the largest and healthiest full-functioning estuarine system remaining in the upper Great Lakes region.

How You Can Help

Protection of the Caroline Lake Preserve is only possible through the generous support of individuals who donate time and resources to The Nature Conservancy. Visit nature.org/joinanddonate or contact us (see below) to find out how you can help.

Contact Information

For more information about Caroline Lake Preserve, stop by our Northwoods Office at: 8648 Hwy 51 N #3, Minocqua, WI 54548, call 715-358-6305 or e-mail us at Wisconsin@tnc.org.