



North Ottawa Impoundment

Grant County, Minnesota



Getting There



45.99563, -96.25672

70 miles SE of Fargo-Moorhead
180 miles NW of Minneapolis-St. Paul
200 miles N of Sioux Falls



ABOUT THE IMPOUNDMENT

The North Ottawa Impoundment was finished in 2016, after nearly 20 years of development and construction. The facility provides 16,000 acre-feet of flood storage during spring snowmelt. Following spring snowmelt, water is slowly released from Cell C to expose mudflats. Agricultural cells are designated annually to provide funds to maintain the facility. Some cells are managed for natural resource enhancement benefits.

A SAMPLE OF OBSERVED SPECIES

SHOREBIRDS

Dunlin
Least Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper*
Semipalmated Plover
Semipalmated Sandpiper*
Spotted Sandpiper
Wilson's Phalarope*
Short-billed Dowitcher*
Marbled Godwit*
Wilson's Snipe

WADING BIRDS

Great Blue Heron
American White Pelican*
Horned Grebe*
Sandhill Crane
Black-crowned Night Heron*
American Bittern*
Cattle Egret
Red-necked Grebe*
White-faced Ibis*
American Avocet*
Black-necked Stilt*
Glossy Ibis*
King Rail*

WATERFOWL

Northern Shoveler
Green-winged Teal
Gadwall
Northern Pintail*
Wood Duck
Redhead
Ruddy Duck
Hooded Merganser
Lesser Scaup*
Ring-necked Duck*
American Wigeon
Red-breasted Merganser
Trumpeter Swan*
Canvasback



Scoter
Canada Goose
Ross's Goose
Snow Goose
White fronted Goose

OTHER

Northern Hawk Owl*
Greater Prairie Chicken*
Little Blue Heron*
Great-tailed Grackle*
Whimbrel*

** Denotes rare or unusual species*



Interior Map

PORTAPOTTY (APR - OCT)

& GAZEBO

260TH STREET

CELL C

CELL B1

CELL A1

CELL B2

CELL A2

CELL C

CELL B3

CELL A3

CELL B4

CELL A4

340TH AVENUE

GRAVEL ROAD

NORTH OTTAWA TOWNSHIP 95

240TH STREET



SEASONAL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ROAD GATES (4)



PRIMARY VEHICLE ROUTE

The North-South gravel road between the A & B Cells is the exclusive route for vehicles. All other roads and paths are intended for pedestrian traffic only, and are closed to vehicles.



Revised 03/2023

TIPS FOR VISITORS

Although there are birds and waterfowl that can be observed year-round, the most active times at the North Ottawa Impoundment are at spring and fall migrations.

The Impoundment is a designated game refuge. Road gates are closed during fall hunting seasons to protect migrating birds and other wildlife.

Inside each cell, you will see a “borrow” pit (named because material was dug from this channel, aka “borrowed” to build the tall cell flood levies). Watch for birds and wildlife in the borrow pits.

Although there is a lot to see at the Impoundment, don't forget to listen - unique songbirds, insects, toads, and frogs compete for airtime!

Please share your finds on with us on <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2182908>



OUR TOP TIP:
**Don't forget your
binoculars or
spotting scope!**