

# WATER TRAIL MAP

RAMSEY-WASHINGTON  
METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT

## WATER ROUTES

- 1 KOHLMAN LOOP** | 1.3 mi  
*Launch: Gervais Beach*  
The closest launch is at Gervais Beach. (No public launch on Kohlman). This shallow lake has an extensive cattail shoreline with exceptional habitat for water birds. In late summer, the white waterlily blooms extend far from shore.
- 2 WEST GERVAIS SHORELINE**  
1.5 mi | *Launch: Gervais Beach*  
This route will take you up the west shoreline of Gervais. Paddle under the Linden Lane Bridge and into Kohlman, or continue on to route #3 down the east shoreline.
- 3 EAST GERVAIS SHORELINE**  
1.0 mi | *Launch: Spoon Boat Launch*  
Use this route to view the east side of Gervais and gain access to Lake Kohlman.
- 4 SPOON LAUNCH TO GERVAIS BEACH** | 0.75 mi  
*Launch: Spoon Boat Launch*  
If you're looking for a scenic route to the beach, this is it!
- 5 SPOON LAUNCH TO KELLER ISLAND** | 0.5 mi  
*Launch: Spoon Boat Launch*  
Paddle along the east shore and look for the boardwalk trail linking Keller and Spoon lakes. Have a picnic on Keller Island and take in the shoreline restoration. Seasonal restrooms are just over the pedestrian bridge.
- 6 PHALEN BOAT LAUNCH TO KELLER ISLAND** | 1.1 mi  
*Launch: Phalen Boat Launch*  
This route will take you up Keller Creek and into Keller Lake. See the creek restoration, the largest oak savannah in the Phalen Chain (west side of Keller Creek), the eagle's nest along the southwest shore of Keller Lake, and shoreline restorations along the east shore of the lake.
- 7 PHALEN LAUNCH TO ROUND LAKE** | 0.75 mi  
*Launch: Phalen Boat Launch*  
Head south along the shoreline until you see a bridge on your right. Paddle under that bridge, then pick either path around Phalen Park Island. *SHORTCUT: Paddle under a small tunnel just north of the launch; a good route if you want to see fishing spiders with elaborate webs.*
- 8 PHALEN LAKE LOOP** | 2.75 mi  
*Launch: Phalen Boat Launch*  
This route starts and ends at the same point and gives you access to Phalen Beach and miles of breathtaking native plants along the shoreline. No motorized boats are allowed on Phalen Lake, so enjoy a peaceful paddle!



## SAFETY

- Use Personal Flotation Device (life jackets).
- Use portages on Keller Creek to avoid the dam
- Use designated launch points
- Check the weather beforehand.
- Before you paddle, check the abilities of all persons in your group.

## RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

- Embrace "leave no trace" by packing your garbage out or using designated bins.
- Respect the natural shoreline using designated access points.
- Respect private property.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- A RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO WATERSHED (RWMWD) DISTRICT OFFICE**  
45° 1' 18.772" N / 93° 4' 47.105" W  
The watershed office overlooks Gervais Creek, but unfortunately it's not accessible by boat. Come visit to see a pervious parking lot, a green roof, native plantings, rain gardens and more. These features limit how much stormwater runs off our property.
- B GERVAIS LAKE**  
45° 1' 24.557" N / 93° 4' 11.152" W  
On the southwest shore is Gervais Beach with plenty of parking, a fishing pier, picnic tables, and bathrooms that are open seasonally. This is a great place to launch a kayak or canoe.
- C KOHLMAN LAKE**  
45° 1' 28.863" N / 93° 3' 24.579" W  
Paddling under the bridge into Kohlman will bring you face to face with a variety of feathered friends: eagles, herons, egrets, and even pelicans love this place! In this shallow lake, you will float over prime bluegill, crappie, and largemouth bass habitat.
- D KELLER LAKE**  
45° 0' 27.268" N / 93° 3' 34.149" W  
Keller is named for Herbert Keller who introduced the "linking of the lakes" project in the 1920s. That project dredged a wetland and a shallow creek to create Keller Lake. The dredging material was used to create Keller Island, which is another fun launch and lunch spot with seasonal restrooms.
- E KELLER GOLF COURSE RESTORATION**  
45° 0' 14.384" N / 93° 3' 25.313" W  
You won't reach these restorations by boat, but you could swing by this public course for a round of golf or a meal at the clubhouse. You will be amazed by the 26 acres of restored shorelines, prairies, and woodlands. This course is nationally certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and a state leader in golf course management.
- F KELLER SHORELINE RESTORATION**  
45° 0' 15.085" N / 93° 3' 41.576" W  
In the 1980s, Keller's eroding shoreline problem was remedied by using galvanized wire baskets filled with rock. Though it was effective, they created little habitat value and looked unsightly. In 2010-2012, large areas of shoreline were restored. Currently, over 50 native plant species are established, creating attractive habitat for a multitude of bird and fish species.
- G KELLER CREEK RESTORATION**  
44° 59' 56.462" N / 93° 3' 48.425" W  
Started in 2015, this shoreline restoration replaced invasive buckthorn and reed canary grass with critical creek wetland habitat. Hundreds of dedicated students and several civic groups contributed to the watershed district's restoration effort.
- H KELLER CREEK PORTAGE**  
44° 59' 53.067" N / 93° 3' 46.951" W  
The only obstruction for small watercraft in the Chain is a small dam used to manage lake water levels. As part of the creek restoration, two new rock landings and steps make this 50 foot portage manageable for most paddlers.
- I FROST AVENUE HISTORICAL BRIDGE**  
44° 59' 51.026" N / 93° 3' 46.294" W  
Midway between Lakes Phalen and Keller, you will cross under the new and the old Frost Ave Bridges. The visibly older one was built in 1930 and now supports the Gateway Trail. Both bridges have double arches, one for Keller Creek and one for a paved trail.
- J PHALEN HISTORY**  
44° 59' 44.466" N / 93° 3' 34.049" W  
The Phalen Chain has been a popular tourist destination since 1879. Learn more at the interpretive sign at the observation platform.
- K PHALEN WATERFALL**  
44° 59' 34.208" N / 93° 3' 34.377" W  
This man-made waterfall was created in the 1950s. It supplied water from a well to help increase Phalen's water level during drought conditions. This approach was discontinued in the 1970s, and the well was sealed. Artfully restored in 2014 with community and city support, it now uses a pump to circulate lake water.
- L ROUND LAKE**  
44° 59' 37.587" N / 93° 3' 43.165" W  
This is a shallow lake with sunfish, northern pike, and largemouth bass. A fishing pier is located on the north end. Wading birds cruise the shallows, gobbling up small fish, frogs, and waterbugs.
- M LAKE PHALEN SHORELINE**  
44° 58' 54.707" N / 93° 3' 7.734" W  
Beginning in 2001, the watershed district initiated over two miles of shoreline restoration to stabilize eroding banks, create habitat, and to improve the aesthetics. There are now over 100 native plant species that are well-established, composing one of the most ecologically diverse lakeshores in the Twin Cities. This is now one of the largest and most successful shore restoration projects in Minnesota. The watershed district and the City of St. Paul continue to manage shoreland areas and Lake Phalen.





# PHALEN CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL MAP

Routes for Canoes, Kayaks & Paddleboards

