

On the Water

There are plenty of places in and around New Richmond that provide excellent opportunities to fish for trout, bass, walleye, crappies or even just to paddle around. Grab your gear and explore some of these local waterways.

Area Lakes

Bass Lake, located south of Somerset, is a 416-acre seepage lake with a maximum depth of 44 feet. It is home to some of the county's top fishing for largemouth bass, walleye, panfish and northern pike. Three to 4-pound fish are not uncommon. Recently placed fish cribs, re-established woody habitat and periodic walleye stocking add much to this lake's fishery. A boat landing is located along 153rd Avenue off County Road I

New Richmond Flowage (also known as the "Widespread") is a 236-acre flowage of the Willow River formed by the New Richmond Dam. It has a maximum depth of 12 feet in the main channel. Large northern have been taken and plenty of panfish are available. A fishing dock and pier plus boat landing are available in New Richmond's Mary Park, at Green Avenue North. A dock above the dam in New Richmond allows access from the flowage to the city's downtown area.

Hatfield Lake, located at the intersection of highways 64 and 65 near the New Richmond airport and athletic fields, is a 47-acre, shallow, aerated lake that provides good panfish and gamefish activity. A new boat landing for small crafts is located between the last two ball diamonds.

Cedar Lake is a 1,117/-acre, 34-foot maximum depth drainage lake, known for trophy muskellunge, large walleye, bass and abundant panfish. An extensive fish crib project has been ongoing for several years adding greatly to the lake's fishery. A public boat landing is situated near Polk County Highway M and 10th Avenue on the north side of the lake, while two private landings, a winter drive-on access and a carry-in access are located on the south shore off County Highway H.

Riverdale Flowage is a 75-acre impoundment of the Apple River north of Somerset known for its muskie and smallmouth bass fishery. A boat landing and access is located on the northwest side of the lake off County Road C.

Apple Falls Flowage is located up- stream from a dam 3 miles north of Somerset on County Road I. Canoe access is offered around the west side of the dam. Excellent smallmouth bass and walleye fishing can be found there as well.

Squaw Lake is an excellent panfish and bass fishing lake. It is a 129-acre lake located between County Highway I and 210th Avenue along 100th Street in the Town of Somerset a few miles southwest of Star Prairie. A boat landing and parking lot is located off 100th Street on the southeast side of the lake.

Perch Lake is a 42-acre, 63-foot deep seepage lake located north of County Highway E in the Town of St. Joseph. Crystal clear water attracts scuba enthusiasts and ice divers. Only electric motors are allowed. The lake contains populations of trout, bass and panfish.

Homestead Parklands, a county park located at 550 Perch Lake Road, Hudgon, is on Perch Lake and provides shore and pier fishing. The park also provides boat and canoe rentals. A park entry permit is required. A small boat landing and parking lot is located on the south side of the lake.

Little Falls Flowage, located in the Willow River State Park, 1034 County Road A, is a 172-acre, 18-foot deep flowage of the Willow River. No motors of any type are allowed and a park entry permit is required. A landing for canoes and small boats is available. Northern pike, bass, trout and panfish may be caught

on the flowage. Shore fishing, fishing piers and sites for fishing from the dam are available while the park provides canoe rentals.

Star Prairie Trout Farm, located at 400 Hill Ave., in the Village of Star Prairie, is a historic facility that offers trout fishing in spring-fed trout ponds. No license is necessary. Call 715-248-3633 for more information.

Area Rivers

The **Apple River** is a fast flowing river, running from north of Amery through Star Prairie and ending at the St. Croix River north of Somerset. Native and stocked trout populations, trophy muskie and other species of smallmouth bass and a few walleye are available through-out the run of the river. Access to the river by small boat or canoe is available at Star Prairie, Huntington, Johannesburg, the Riverdale Flowage and County Road I just north of Somerset. Two dams are found at Riverdale and just downstream of Somerset.

The **Willow River** flows through the townships of Cylon, Stanton, Erin Prairie and Richmond and supports brown and brook trout on the upper portion. The best trout water is from Highway 64 downstream to 160th Street and the lower end of the South Fork. Downstream of and within Willow River State Park, the Willow River offers stocked brook, rainbow and brown trout, as well as other species such as smallmouth bass. The river crosses beneath Highway 63 between Deer Park and the "Four Corners" intersection of highways 63 and 64. Additional access points can be found near County Highway T, a newly completed canoe/kayak landing at the New Richmond Nature Center, at County Highway A near Boardman or in Willow River State Park, 1034 County Road A.

The Willow River was officially designated as a Water Trail in 2016. Work by the Wisconsin Conservation Corps cleared a route passable for canoes and kayaks from the Nature Center to 100th Street in Boardman in the fall of 2016.

The **St. Croix River**, dividing Wisconsin and Minnesota, is among the world's great wild and scenic riverways. Trophy walleye, sauger, bass, panfish (especially crappie), northern pike, white bass and other species may be caught. The river is a unique ecosystem, featuring sturgeon and paddlefish. Certain species of fresh-water clams are found in the St. Croix and only one other river in the world, Russia's Volga. Public access is available north of Stillwater.