



Fox-Wisconsin Water Trail: Lutz Park to Sunset Point Park 6.4 miles

PADDLE SAFELY

- 1) Wear PFDs (lifejackets) at all times.
- 2) Use no alcohol or illegal drugs on the water.
- 3) Cancel if conditions warrant. High winds, excessively high flow or lightning are all reasons to cancel.
- 4) Suggest experienced paddlers lead to keep the group together and safe.
- 5) Bring food & stay hydrated. Buddy up.
- 6) Tell someone when you plan to be off the water.

NOTE: This Fox-Wisconsin Water Trail brochure is intended to be used in conjunction with the Heritage Parkway Water Trail Portage Map that identifies the trail route and portage landings. (Print in Legal Size)

Paddle Overview

Welcome to the Fox-Wisconsin Water Trail! This trail flows through the heart of Appleton. The area served as the earliest highway, first for the native peoples, then for explorers, fur traders and missionaries. The city, first settled by early Europeans, served as a location for fur trading posts (circa 1760). As the region grew, entrepreneurs harnessed the power of the river for manufacturing and agriculture, and later the hub of the Fox Valley's paper industry, producing more paper than any other place in the world. Your paddle takes you through this largely urban area, past dams, through the Appleton flats, portaging through to your final destination.

Paddle Points (PP) along your route

PP#1: Site of Hippolyte "Paul" Grignon Trading Post –
In 1835, Hippolyte Grignon, built a trading post on a small piece of flat land, just west of Lutz Park, called the White Heron. It was the first establishment in what is present-day Appleton.

PP#2: Lawrence University – Founded in 1847, the same year Appleton was settled, LU has long been a community institution. Samuel Appleton, a New England merchant, donated \$10,000 to the library. The city bears his name in appreciation.

PP#3: Vulcan Street Power Plant – Put into operation on Sept. 30, 1882, this structure became the world's first hydroelectric central station. Appleton Paper & Pulp Co and Appleton Gas Light Company were owners. The original plant burned in 1891; a replica is now located in its place.

PP#4: Hearthstone – Historic home of H.J. Rogers, owner of the Appleton Pulp & Paper Co., Hearthstone was the world's first residential structure powered by a central hydroelectric station, the Vulcan Street Power Plant. The Queen Anne revival home, now a museum, has rare working 1882 Edison light switches and electrifiers.

PP#5: Appleton Locks 1-3 Historic District – Constructed in the 1850s by the Fox-Wisconsin Improvement Company, the Fox River locks were the primary means of travel. There are 17 locks from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien. Decreased usage and deteriorating facilities forced closure. In 2004, the locks were transferred to the Fox River Navigational System Authority. Today, the manual lock system remains one of two left in the United States.

