

Fishing Easements 101

As an angler, you might be familiar with the term “fishing easement.” However, you may not know exactly what that involves. A fishing easement is privately owned land (usually along a streambank) where members of the public are granted access to the land so they can hike, fish or just enjoy the natural scenic beauty. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) purchases these easements directly from landowners. In return for payment, the landowner allows public fishing and DNR management activities along the stream on their property. The easement area is generally 66 feet of land from the stream bank on either side of the stream. Once the easement is created, it remains even if the land is sold or deeded to another.

Anglers can use the easement to get to certain streams and rivers. They just need to make sure to stay within the easement itself.

Easements also allow the DNR to conduct management activities such as streambank restoration projects.

PROPER ETIQUETTE WHEN FISHING AN EASEMENT

There are some unwritten rules to follow when fishing an easement:

- Know where the easement starts and ends.
- Make sure to stay on the easement (not on the landowner's property).
- TIP: Stay on the shoreline or wade into the stream to fish.
- Pack in, pack out. Take home whatever you bring with you.

Now that you know a little more about easements, get out and find an adventure fishing an easement near you: dnrmaps.wi.gov

Information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Fly Fishing Lures



Hale Bopp leech: A grouping of feather-like material that imitates a swimming leech by moving like ribbon in the water or slow in currents. Opt for a size 10 with a brass bead head in natural, gray or black.

Hippie stomper: Takes the form of terrestrial insects such as a beetle or hopper in grassy banks. This is a foam body top-water “attractor” fly that also can work as the top fly with a nymph in a two-fly rig. Features materials such as clipped and spun deer hair that give the appearance of centipede legs and white wings. Select a size 12 hook.

Ice cream cone: Imitates a midge (an immature underwater tiny fly) and features a threaded body with ribbing and a white bead that leads trout straight to it. Select a size 16 hook

Pink squirrel: Acts as a nymph (underwater immature stage of a mayfly or stonefly) and features a body with a mix of brown fur, light reflective and natural or synthetic material with a tungsten bead. Select a size 16 jig hook.

Elk Hair Caddis: Imitates the caddis fly with a body made of tapered thread, fine natural dubbing and cow elk hair tied for a hackle-like effect to attract trout. Select a size 16 tan hook.

Black foam beetle: A black foam body, moose hair legs and a dash of orange foam give this fly all the trout food appeal. Select a size 16 hook.

Klinkhammer: Imitates young mayflies with a body that hangs just below the water's surface. Its design features a poly wing material and light tungsten head. Select a size 16 hook.

Scud: Has the appearance of one of the Driftless Area trout's main food sources – small freshwater crustaceans. Select a size 14 hook in tan or gray for productive results.

San Juan worm: Red chenille fastened to a hook to dance in the water like a worm. Select a size 12 hook.

Sculpzilla: Resembles a small sculpin fish and features a cross-eyed cone and red eyes for the head. Choose a size 8 hook in olive.

HOW DO I FIND A FISHING EASEMENT?

Once the easements are purchased, their specific locations can be found in the DNR's Public Access Lands Mapping Application or the Trout Viewer: dnr.wisconsin.gov

Infographic by Julianna Williams

—IT'S BACK— IRISH FEST IN THE BARN

May 29, 2022 • Sugarland Barn • Arena



Ballyheigue is a six piece Irish band specializing in traditional instrumental and vocal Irish songs.



Irish Fest in the Barn is returning to Arena, Wisconsin! After a two-year hiatus caused by pandemic restrictions, the event returns May 29 to Sugarland Barn, the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. The event again features a multitude of bands on two stages, Irish dancing, food and a full bar. This year there are important additions. There will be a ceili dance, the equivalent of an Irish square dance with a Caller, a Session, where those who bring instruments can join in and both a storyteller and a Gaelic poet coming from Ireland.

There is a lot of green space to lay a blanket or a camp chair but luckily, due to the size of the barn, according to the organizers, there is no risk of a rainout.

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There are bands coming from Wisconsin as well the East Coast and Michigan and musicians are coming from Nashville, Seattle, St Louis, Dubuque and Chicago. Some of the excitement that has been generated has come from bands who invite audience participation such 3 Pints Gone and the chance to sing Sea Shanties with Boxing the Compass.

One of the bands that has been a cause of early ticket sales is Rising Gael with Wisconsin natives originally from Oregon, Verona and Evansville, Wisconsin. The band has 5 albums with international sales, a string of awards and past performances around the US and Europe.

For those who love Irish dance, there are opportunities to see the darling young dancers of the local Trinity Academy and the older dancers from the Chicago based touring Trinity Ensemble, who will perform at Irish Fest before leaving for festivals in Belgium and North Carolina this summer.

Tickets at www.irishfestwi.com



Rising Gael members, Madison area natives, will be playing at Irish Fest in the Barn.



Trinity Ensemble Touring Company dancing at a European Festival.