

Segment #6 Omro to Terrell's Island Sunday, July 18

Please support our
Segment
Sponsors:



8:00 am: Meet at Miller Park, 1121 Kiwanis St., Omro.

8-8:45: Unload & shuttle vehicles to Terrell's Island, Rivermoor Rd., unless you plan to paddle back.

8:45: Welcome by Omro city officials. Paddle Hosts to provide overview & safety briefing before launch.

9:15 am: Launch!

9:15-11:30: Relaxing paddle from Omro.

11:30: Est. take-out time at Terrell's Island. Program on wetland restoration.

Hosted by NE Wisconsin Paddlers, Friends of the Fox, Fox River Voyager Canoe LLC

SAFETY RULES

- 1) PFDs (lifejackets) will be worn by all boaters at all times.
- 2) All participants must be at least 16 years old or be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- 3) No alcohol or illegal drugs allowed.
- 4) Any segment may be canceled by the segment leaders without notice if conditions warrant.
- 5) All participants must sign registration form & stay with the group when paddling.

PADDLE POINTS

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway includes the Fox & Wisconsin Rivers, spanning 280 miles across Wisconsin from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien. The Parkway concept was created in 1991 to highlight the unique heritage of Wisconsin and to promote the cultural, historical and recreational resource of the rivers. In 2008, Friends of the Fox and the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission began seeking a National Heritage Area designation for the Parkway. Sen. Herb Kohl has written draft legislation for the Parkway's designation. To learn more, visit: www.friendsofthefox.org

Paddle Overview: Segment #6

This Segment, one of the shortest of the 13, begins in the charming city of Omro. This city of 3,200 people was built on trade and the river. It was named for French trader and blacksmith Charles Omereau when platted in 1849. Previously, it was known as Smalley's Landing, for Jed Smalley's pioneer trading post, and then the Town of Beckwith for Nathan Beckwith, who was – what else? – a trader. By 1880, Omro was thriving as both a river town and a railroad stop with several mills, a glass factory and carriage factories. A historic downtown walking tour pays tribute to that past. Terrell's Island lies in Lake Butte des Morts to the east. Its past was as an expansive wetlands at the confluence of the Fox and Wolf rivers, rich with diverse plant, bird and fish species. In a 12-year experiment, the Lake Butte des Morts Conservation Club and the Wisconsin DNR have been restoring that diversity by enclosing 630 acres of wetlands in a 2-mile breakwall. DNR biologist Art Techlow will trace the project's history and its successes.

Paddle Points along your route

PPT#1: Historic Downtown Omro – As part of a revitalization process that started in 1986, Omro gained a historic downtown district designation and compiled a self-guided walking tour.

PPT#2: Scott Park – This crown jewel, the focal point of Omro, includes picnic facilities, playground equipment, ice-skating areas, public restrooms, as well as fishing and docking points along the Fox River. A gazebo housing tourist information on local points of interest is positioned in South Scott Park.

PPT#3: Yost Road Boat Landing – A small, simple boat landing that is ideal for canoe and kayak launching. However, the only parking is on the road. When you use this landing, be kind to the neighbors and park up the road a bit.

PPT#4: Lake Butte des Morts – Translated as “the hill of death,” this 8,857-acre lake at the confluence of the Wolf and Fox rivers is so named not for being a dangerous passage, but because of the presence of Indian burial mounds.

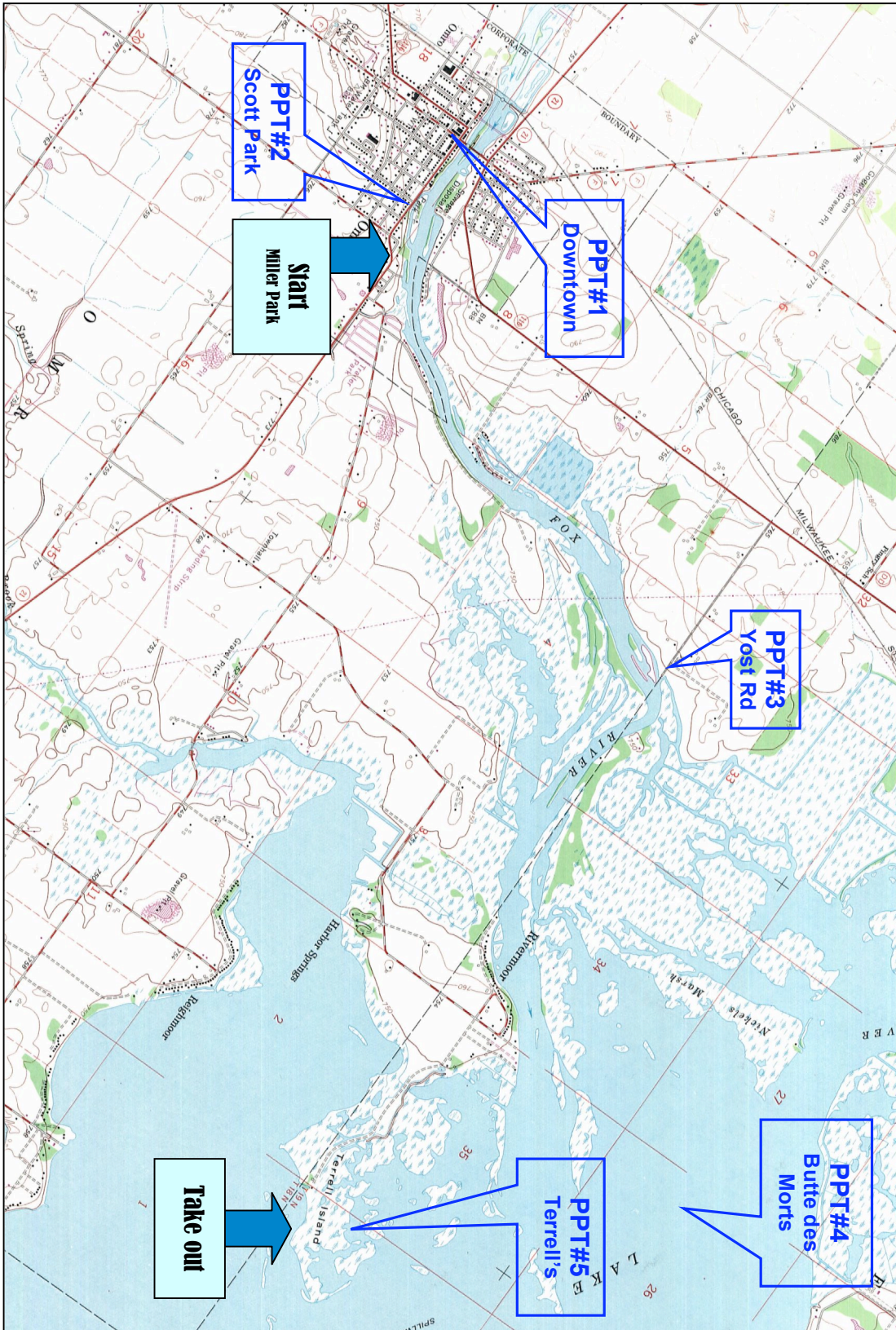
PPT#5: Terrell's Island – A carp barrier, design so boats can slide over the top, separates 630 acres of natural history within a 2-mile breakwall from the wave action and turbidity on that part of Lake Butte des Morts. The enclosure, with its seven nesting islands, is home to 160 bird species, including bobolinks, great egrets, the endangered common tern and hundreds of pairs of nesting white pelicans. The breakwall has improved water clarity and allowed the return of native aquatic plant species, including wild rice and wild celery. Enjoy a presentation by DNR biologist Art Techlow and members of the Lake Butte des Morts Conservation Club after a 5-mile paddle. Then paddle back to Miller Park or call it a day and load up on the Conservation Club's 1,183-acre property off Rivermoor Road, north of Hwy. 21.



Segment Map #6

Omro to Terrell's Island

5 miles



Supplemental Trip Information: Bring a sack lunch. Shuttle on your own by grouping together with others. On the water: buddy up, stay hydrated, cover up with sunblock & ask for assistance if fatigued. Please patronize our sponsors and local vendors! For more information, call 920-779-0652 or email sandhill7@charter.net.