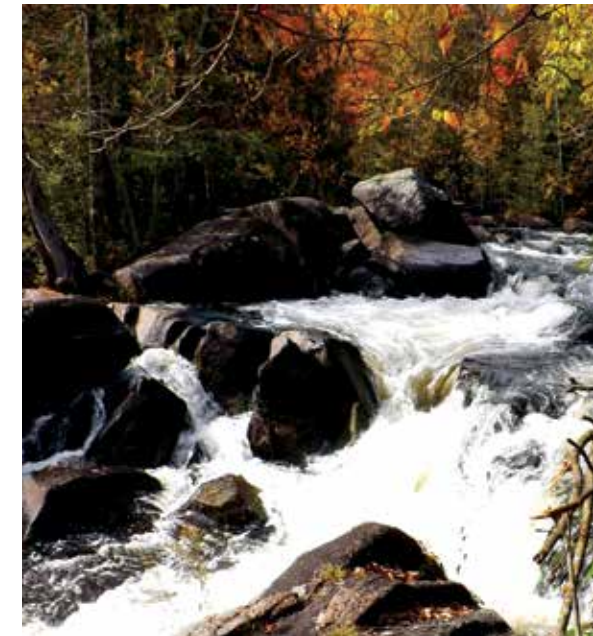


POPPLE RIVER

Big Bull Falls

There is an island in the middle of the Popple River here. The north channel is 7-foot Big Bull Falls, while the south channel is a cascade of smaller falls.

There are two good places to view the falls. Follow the rustic trail directly to the falls, or follow the trail downstream for a better view looking upstream at the falls.



Directions: Big Bull Falls is accessed from West River Rd (just north of the Popple River), off Hwy 101, about 13 miles south of Florence. Look for WI Wild River access sign #3 and turn west onto West River Rd. A parking lot is just over 1/2 mile from Hwy 101. A signed rustic 1/4 mile trail offers easy walking to the falls.

Washburn Falls

This is a very scenic spot to enjoy the tranquility of a truly wild river. Washburn Falls is a cascading waterfall that drops about 6-feet over a series of ledges.

The best view is from a peninsula that juts out in front of the falls. Reaching the peninsula can be difficult with a steep hill and a small stream crossing. This is a great place for a picnic or to access the river for fishing where cold water, class I Woods Creek and Lamont Tanguet Creeks flow into the Popple River.



Directions from the south: Turn left on Sunrise Road, about 5 miles east of Hwy 101 on Hwy C. Follow this winding dirt road about 4 miles to a parking lot on a sharp curve. A walk of less than 1/4 mile leads you to Washburn Falls.

Directions from the east: Washburn Falls is about 4 miles from the LaSalle Falls parking lot via LaSalle Falls Road, Bradle's Blvd and White Ash Rd.

Jennings Falls

Once you reach the river, Jennings Falls doesn't look like much, but the farther you follow the trail downstream, the better it looks. There can be some physical exertion to get to the best part of the falls. Jennings Falls and the ensuing rapids, drops the Popple River about 10-feet.



Directions: Jennings Falls is accessed from the north via Mulberry Lane. Turn south at WI Wild River access sign #2 off Hwy 101. At the end of Mulberry Lane, park in the turnaround area or soon to be completed parking lot. Look for the trailhead signs near the gate. The hike into the falls is about 3/4 mile on a newly built trail.

PINE RIVER

Meyers Falls

The best view of 10-foot Meyers Falls is from the north. The ancient bedrock surrounding all the waterfalls dates to the Precambrian era. The river narrows here through a mini canyon with ancient rock walls and boulders over 2 billion years old.



Directions from the north: 7.5 miles west of Florence on Hwy 70 turn left onto Goodman Grade Rd where the WI Wild River access signs #13-#15 are located. Follow signs for #13 Meyers Falls on the gravel road to the right for 1.5 miles to a grassy parking area. The falls is only 25 yards from the lot, so listen for the roar especially in the spring.

Directions from the south: 11.5 miles south of Florence on Hwy 101 turn right onto Patten Lake Rd. Drive 3.5 mile and turn right onto North Shore Rd. This road turns into the Goodman Grade. Follow the blue waterfall signs. Just south of the Pine River, turn left and drive a little more than 1/2 mile and park near a fork in the road. It is a short walk to the falls.

Bull Falls

Bull Falls is small (5-feet), and some may not consider it a waterfall, but if you enjoy the sound of rushing water, this is still a good place to visit. There are some very interesting yellow birch root formations next to the river. The 1/4 mile hike to the falls is through a beautiful mature hemlock forest with an abundant blanket of spring wildflowers.



Directions from the north: 7.5 miles west of Florence on Hwy 70 turn left onto Goodman Grade Rd where the WI Wild River access signs #13-#15 are located. Follow signs for #15 Bull Falls on the gravel road to the left for about a mile to a grassy parking area. The 1/4 mile trail to the falls is an easy hike.

Directions from the south: 9 miles south of Florence on Hwy 101 turn right onto Price Lake Road. Follow this road almost 4 miles to get to Bull Falls.

Little Bull Falls

Little Bull Falls is located within Florence County, but it is surrounded by private land and only accessible by paddling downstream on the Popple River from Morgan Lake Road.

LaSalle Falls

With a 22-foot plummet, LaSalle Falls is the most impressive waterfall in the area. The 1-mile hike into LaSalle ends at a 35-foot rock outcrop next to the falls. The best view on foot is to follow the right trail down a steep hill to the base of the falls.

Downstream of the falls is a gorge, filled with rapids, that run for 1/2 mile. There is a portage trail along this gorge that also provides scenic views.

If you only visit one waterfall, make this the one.



Directions from the south: Follow the WI Wild River access signs 9 miles south of Florence on County N then turn right (west) onto County C. Travel almost 2 miles and turn right (north) off of Hwy C onto LaSalle Falls Road. Follow LaSalle Falls Road about 2.5 miles to a parking lot on the north side of the road. A medium difficulty hike of about 1 mile leads you to the falls.

Directions from the west and Washburn Falls: Go east on White Ash Road and LaSalle Falls Road about 4 miles from Washburn Falls to the LaSalle Falls parking lot.

Pine River Falls

Pine River Falls has also been called Breakwater Falls. Three separate tiers of cascading falls and rapids, create this spectacular 45-foot drop just below the Pine River Flowage Dam. Caution signs hang over the river here. Unique rock formations show the power of the river and beauty of nature. Other than LaSalle Falls, this is the most impressive falls in Florence County.

This hike is not recommended for young children and people with difficulty walking, because climbing up and down rocks is required in order to access all three falls: the upper, the middle and the lower.



Directions from the north: 3 miles south of Florence on County N turn right (west) onto County D. Travel 1.3 miles then turn left (south) on Pine River Road. Follow Pine River Road about 4 miles to the Pine River Flowage. From the parking lot, walk down to the dam and follow the foot path to the falls. This route can be rather brushy.

Directions from the south: 7 miles south of Florence on County N, turn right (west) on Power Dam Road. Follow this road 1.5 miles to a parking lot by the WE Energies dam. Walk under the gate toward the building and follow the gravel canoe portage road about 100 yards. Look for a sign to the right to climb down the hill to reach the falls. This side of the river is less brushy.

Trout Fishing

The Pine and Popple Rivers offer the best trout fishing opportunities during May and June or in the fall. During dry, warm summers, July and August will require fishermen to search out deep water runs, spring seepages or cold water feeder streams such as the following Class I trout streams: Woods Creek and Lamont Tanguet Creek on the Popple River, Chipmunk Creek on the Upper Pine River or Johnson Creek and Lapage Creek on the lower Pine River downriver from the Oxbow. Many of the waterfalls offer deep pools at their base or rapids downriver that hold fish.

The Wisconsin DNR stocks brook and some brown trout at the following locations:

Pine River between Hwy 139 and Lost Lake Rd: 9 inch fish are stocked in the spring and 5-6 inch fingerlings are stocked in the fall. Chipmunk Rapids area along Lost Lake Rd is a likely place to catch fish until July. The Chipmunk Creek inlet has the coldest waterfall.

Popple River between Twin Rivers Rd and Hwy 101 crossing fish are stocked at all road crossings. Try the stretch between Morgan Lake Rd and Hwy 101. Also try downriver from 101 where Lamont Tanguet Creek and Woods Creek join the Popple. Washburn Falls provides access to the Popple between these two Class I tributaries. A DNR 2009 trout stamp project restored habitat on 1800 feet of the Popple River up and downstream from Woods Creek. Runs were deepened, rocks added and cover logs were installed to restore this stretch damaged by log drives in the late 1800's.

In the Pine River Flowage and the Lower Pine River feeding into the Menominee River, fishermen will also find northern, walleye, small mouth bass and panfish.

Wild Rivers Geology

There are 3 main types of bedrock in the outcrops along the Pine, Popple, and Rivers.

- Basalt**, ocean-floor lava that has been modified by the heat of continental collision into a rock that is called Greenstone,
- Clay** that has been modified by the heat of continental collision into a rock that is called Slate,
- Granite** formed from volcanos.

The type of outcrop one finds depends on whether you are north or south of the Niagara Fault. This fault runs across the Pine River Watershed. Bedrock north of the fault is in the Michigamme Slate Formation characterized as slate or slate-like rock. South of the fault in the Quinnesec formation one finds Greenstone from metamorphic basalt with granite intrusions from volcanoes. The Popple River is in the Quinnesec formation.

The ancient rock formations you see along the Wild Rivers are from the Precambrian period – the same age as the bedrock at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. These rocks contain no fossils and pre-date life on earth, roughly 2 billion years old. Glacier meltwater scoured and sculpted many layers of rock leaving behind our beautiful waterfalls.

