

Coldwater Hatchery 1909

Welcome to Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

Wild Rose is a reliable workhorse that's been enhancing and restoring fish populations in Wisconsin for more than a century. But after carrying that load -- up to 50 tons of fish every year for more than 100 years -- Wild Rose was showing its age. With much needed renovation now underway, the historic memories are being preserved and a new era is beginning.

See all we have to offer

Step into the new Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center where you'll find two large aquariums, interpretive displays, interactive exhibits, activities, and games that help tell the story of the fish hatchery then and now.

On guided tours you can take a peek at hatchery production from the coldwater (trout and salmon) observation room, and then stroll down to the historic village where Wild Rose first began and where fish still swim in the raceways.

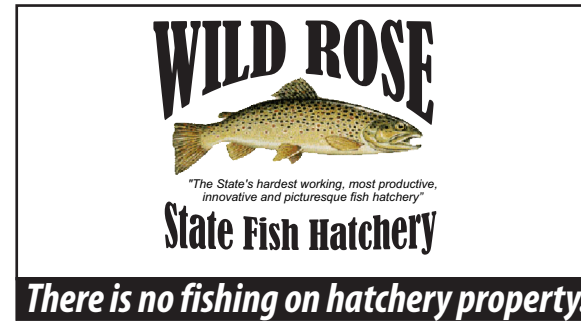
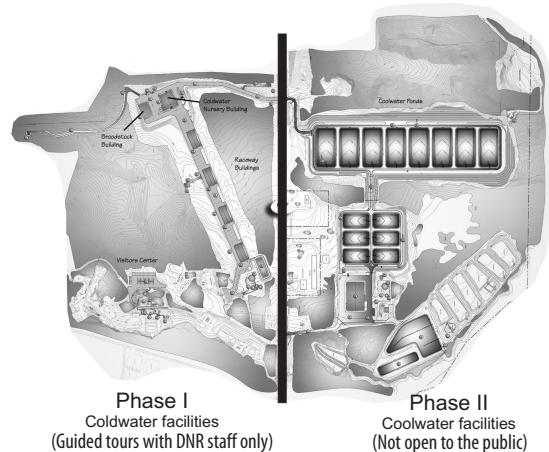
Don't forget to pack a lunch! There are tables available outside the visitor's center and down by the historic village for your picnicking pleasure.



- Boats and trailers should park in the gravel lot before going to the Education Center
- Unhitch boats before going on a guided tour to the coldwater hatchery.

The Wild Rose Renovation

The Wild Rose renovation will allow the hatchery to produce healthier fish and more of them. Production of coldwater species such as trout and salmon is expected to increase by 15 percent, with the possibility of adding production of rainbow trout. Production of coolwater species such as northern pike, musky, lake sturgeon, and walleye is expected to double. The renovation is being completed in three different phases.



Fish Hatchery & Visitor Center Hours

Visitor Hours: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm daily
Public Tours - 10:00 am and 1:00 pm when open

Summer hours: Education Center Open 5 days a week, Wednesday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day

Spring and Fall Hours: May and Sept
Open Thursday-Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sundays: Call 2 weeks ahead for reservation (minimum 10 people)

April and October - Open Fridays and Saturdays. Please call ahead to avoid disappointment. Hours subject to change.

Closed November through March

Carry-In, Carry-Out Policy

Wild Rose does not provide trash cans. We invite you to enjoy a picnic on hatchery grounds, but please take out what you bring in.

Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery

N5871 State Rd. 22
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(920) 622-3527
Visitor Center Ext. 209
Main Office Ext. 201

Go to dnr.wi.gov and search for "Wild Rose"



Phase I

The first \$15.9 million phase of the project was completed in mid-2008 and involved constructing all new coldwater fish production facilities. Phase I also saw the creation of a \$1.5 million visitor and education center that incorporates four historic buildings from the old hatchery and uses live aquariums, video, and extensive exhibits to share the story of the Wild Rose hatchery and the fisheries management program.

Phase II

Work began in spring 2008 on the second phase of the renovation, which includes the construction of new coolwater incubation and rearing facilities and 14 modern rearing ponds for raising pike, sturgeon, walleye and musky. A new wastewater system will clean the water leaving the hatchery before discharging it to the Pine River, a Class 1 trout stream. Phase II was completed in December 2009, allowing the new hatchery to start raising coolwater fish for stocking in 2010.




Phase III

The third phase is scheduled to begin in the near future and will restore the wetlands, springs and headwaters of the stream disturbed when the hatchery was built more than 100 years ago.

Keeping Fish Healthy

The discovery of the fish disease, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, or VHS, in Wisconsin changed many aspects of fish production at Wild Rose and other DNR hatcheries. In addition to strict disinfection procedures and extensive fish testing, visitors can no longer enter fish production areas to avoid tracking in viruses or bacteria. These precautions help us to stock the healthiest fish possible and prevent the spread of VHS and other diseases to Wisconsin's waters and fish.

 To prevent cross-contamination of disease, boat trailers and fishing equipment are prohibited on hatchery grounds.

Role of Hatchery Fish

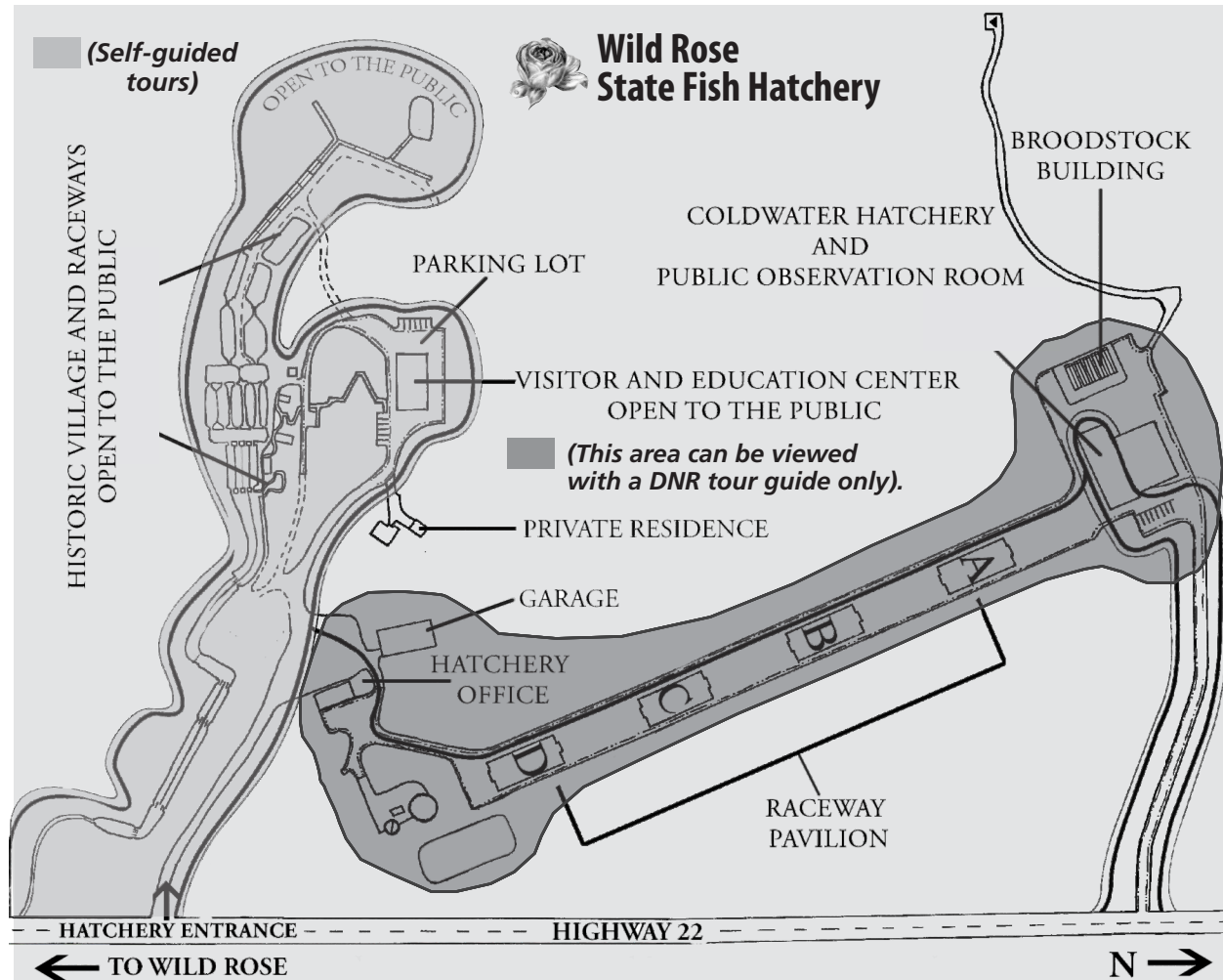
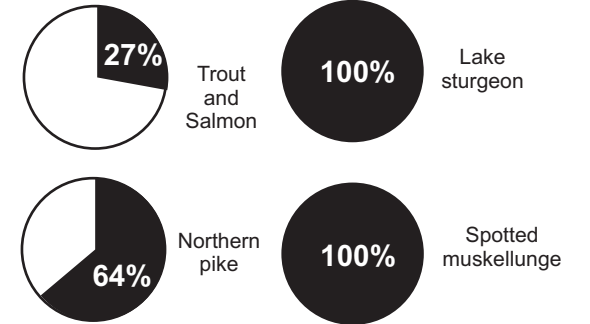
With both cold and coolwater capabilities, Wild Rose Fish Hatchery is able to raise a variety of fish. Wild Rose continues to produce brown trout, Chinook and coho salmon and in the near future, rainbow trout. Upon completion of the coolwater facilities, Wild Rose plans to resume production of northern pike, walleye, lake sturgeon, Wisconsin and great lakes spotted musky, in addition to raising suckers and minnows for forage.



Fish Stocking

Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery is critical to Wisconsin's \$2.75 billion sport fishery. The hatchery is particularly important to great Lake Michigan fishing; most of the fish raised at Wild Rose are stocked there.




Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery's contribution to the statewide stocking of fish



COMING SOON!

Visitors will soon be able to view coolwater ponds upon completion of a viewing platform and parking area.

Wild Rose is...

-  the largest coldwater hatchery in Wisconsin.
-  one of only 3 hatcheries to raise both cold and coolwater fish.
-  the only hatchery to raise spotted musky and lake sturgeon.