

Welcome to Van Vliet Hemlocks

The 416 acre tract of land you are about to enjoy has been available for public use and recreation since Wisconsin gained statehood in 1848.



Hemlock photograph taken by Bruce Nelson

How can that be?

In order to answer that, we need to look back at our country's history and the creation of Wisconsin's Common School Fund. As new states were coming into the Union, citizens sent petitions to Congress asking for help to establish public schools.

In 1825, Congress passed a law that gave each new state the sixteenth section of every township within a state for the purpose of establishing public schools. Van Vliet Hemlocks was included in this Act of Congress because it is located in the sixteenth section of Presque Isle Township.

To manage these lands and the proceeds from their sale, the Wisconsin Constitution of 1848 created a school trust (now known as the Common School Fund) to be managed by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). Nearly 1.5 million acres of land would eventually be set aside for the support of public schools.

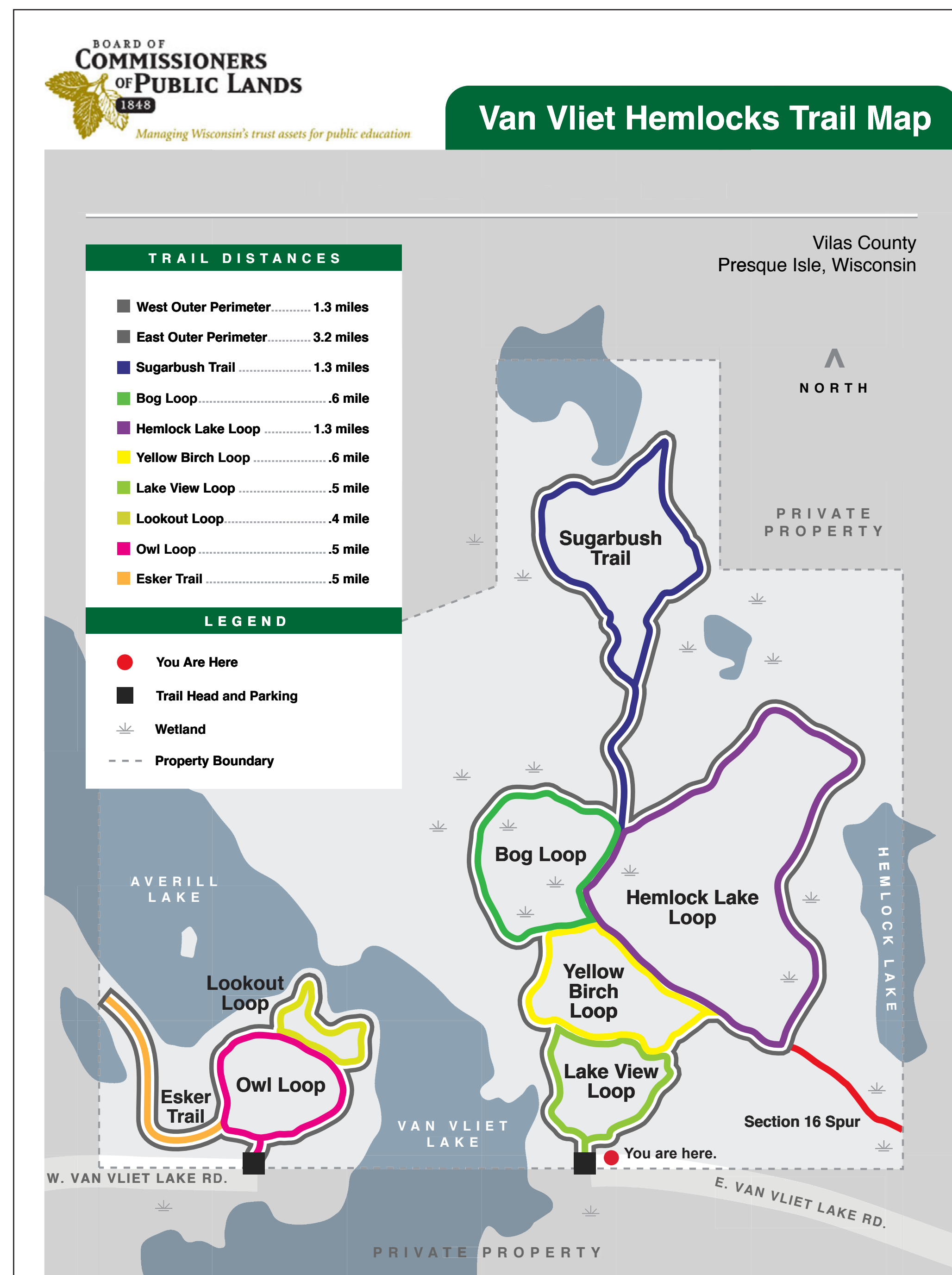
In the years since 1848, BCPL sold over ninety-nine percent of these lands to create the principal of the Common School Fund. Van Vliet Hemlocks is a part of the 5,500 acres that remain of the Common School lands.

Sugar tree abounds in ample quantity for sugar making all over the Township

As directed by Article X, Section 2 of the State Constitution, earnings from the Common School Fund are used exclusively for the support and maintenance of common schools (now known as K-12 public schools) and "the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefor." Public schools today use these funds to purchase library books, newspapers and periodicals, audiovisual materials, and computer equipment and software.



*Subdivision
of
Township No 43 North
Range No 6 East
of the 14th
Principal Meridian
State of Wisconsin
By
Elisha S. Morris Deputy Surveyor
Commenced Oct 17th 1862
Finished Oct 31st 1862*



Jack-In-The-Pulpit

The principal of the Common School Fund is invested in loans to school districts and municipalities for public purpose projects through the BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program, helping communities in every corner of the state.



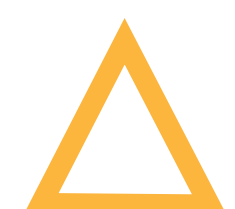
Unspoiled shoreline of Van Vliet Hemlocks. Photograph taken by Bruce Nelson

While the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, consisting of the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer and the Attorney General, was created more than 150 years ago, the duties and fiduciary responsibilities remain the same – managing Wisconsin's Trust Assets for public education.



Northern Parula Warbler

**Please enjoy the Van Vliet Hemlocks
for hiking, wildlife viewing,
skiing, and snowshoeing.**



Hunting, fishing, and trapping are permitted in accordance with state game regulations.



Camping, firewood cutting, mountain biking, and the use of motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited.