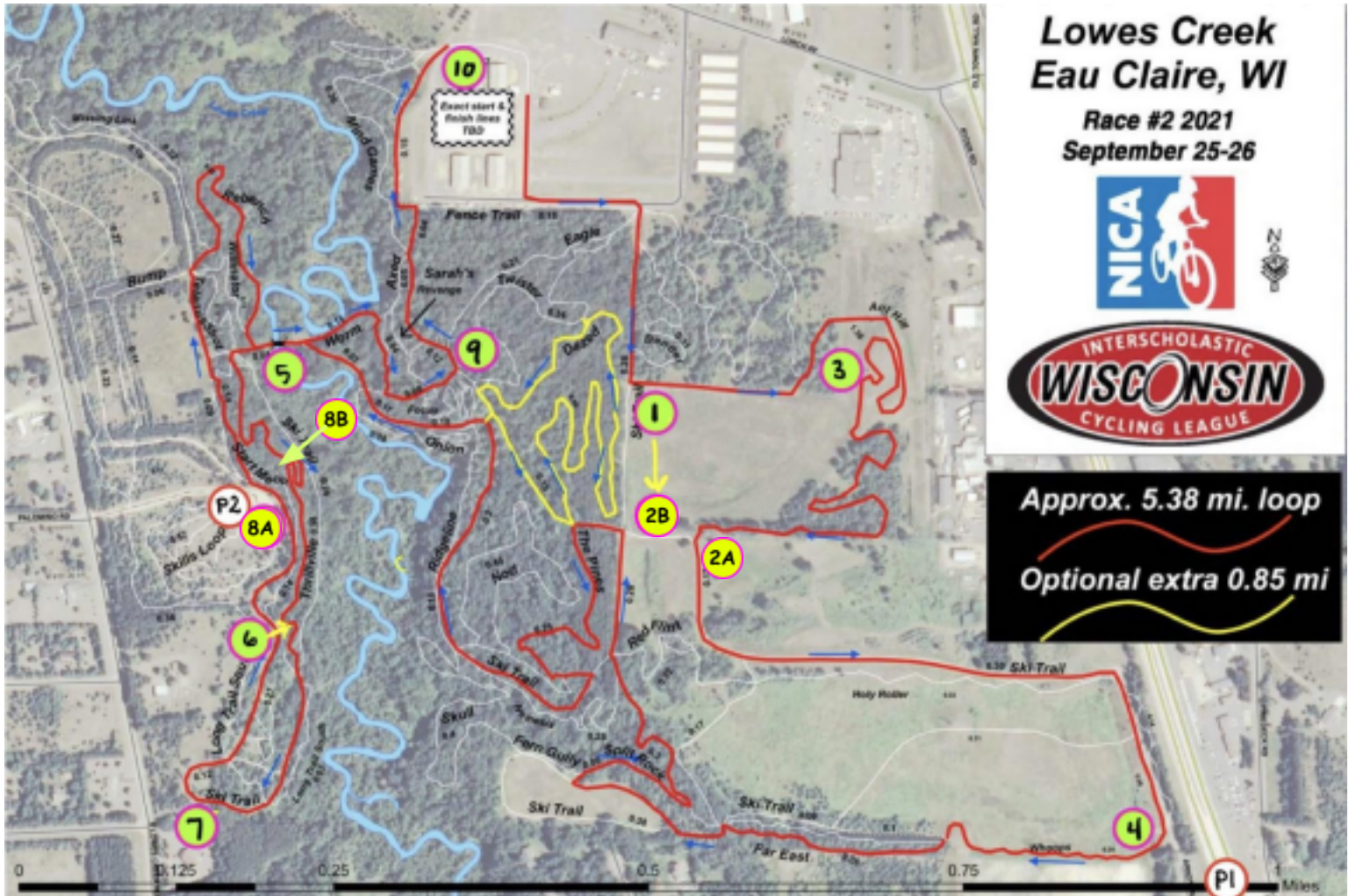


Race #2 Spectator Map: Lowes Creek, Eau Claire

Lowes Creek is a great course for spectators. The course/trails are relatively tight together and close to the main venue. There are multiple spots to scope out riders, all with easy access or walking trails. Below will focus on the areas away from the Start/Finish area, as those are obvious and super fun in their own right. There are certainly more spots out there with easy access, these are just the ones I've happened to find in prior seasons.

Note: Make sure to put "Eau Claire County Expo Center" into your GPS, as "Lowes Creek County Park" will likely lead you to the wrong parking area on the other side of the creek.



1. Hard Left

Watch the lead-out, then walk to #2 to see riders return from the field. Close enough to the start that the riders should still be rather bunched up, but far enough that they're locking into positions. They'll be hauling butt here and have to make a 90 degree Left turn. Double-track, fast riding. Could have potential for wipeouts. Easy walk from the main venue, just follow the mass of people heading down course. Be there before the first wave starts.

2A. Out of the Trees

Quick jog from 1, you can see the racers coming out of a short burst of single-track, entering another passing area. Riders jockeying for position will be making moves here. You may need to run hard from 1 to catch your rider.

2B. Into the Forest

Near multiple viewing spots easily accessible from the Expo Center. Leisurely walk from 1 or 2. Riders are making another Left and necking down to single track while getting into the trees. There is an opportunity to sneak into the

woods a little bit here and potentially plop yourself by the “prologue” section (yellow on map), catching the riders a couple of times from the same spot. After this, either head to 9 or back to the Finish line.

3. Ant Hill

Watch riders wind up and down the Ant Hill. Top of the sandy hill will give a number of cheering opportunities as the riders switchback up and down. First Lap will have the riders still rather bunched up, should see some good teamwork in here. You could potentially start your day watching here and then head back to the finish line in time.

4. Whoops

Wide open views of ski trail and the Whoops. Small parking area accessible from Hwy 93. Ok, this is just a super fun spot to ride. Might not be all that great to watch, and it’s a long walk, but really fun. Riders should have big grins through here as they pump through the swoops.

5. The Bridge

Watch riders coming and going across the Lowes Creek bridge, a 2-way bridge on course the riders have to navigate. Nice, open area to watch from (I think there’s even a bench). You’ll see riders twice from the same spot.

6. Thrillville

From the ski trail to the west, watch racers descend the rock face of Thrillville.

7. Climb!

One of the toughest climbs on the course.

8A. Trailhead

Riders pass by the west-side trailhead and pavilion. Parking and pit toilets are available.

8B. The Flow

Long walk to get to, but there’s a flow-section that is pretty incredible. Nice spot to watch the JV and Varsity racers flow through. Less experienced riders may have some anxiety to overcome. They’ll be pretty spread out by the time they get here. You can actually get to this spot from the other parking lot/trailhead or hop across the bridge (5) and follow course.

9. The Long Climb Up

Ski trail climb near the end of the lap. Easily accessible from the Expo Center. Follow course and other spectators to the hardest climb of the day (not for you). Plenty of time to make it here from spots 1, 2A or 2B, though you’ll need to keep an eye on the course and stay out of the way of racers. Follow the crowd, it’s a popular spot. Also accessible from the “Eagle” trail. Great spot to cheer, as the riders are going slow (or walking) and need the encouragement. If you see your racer here, you likely won’t have time to make it to the Finish line.

10. Finish!

Riders enter the Expo Center gate near the course finish.

P1. Small parking area on Arndt Rd., just off of Hwy 93.

P2. West trailhead parking area at 5238 S. Lowes Creek Rd.