

Borah Creek Prairie State Natural Area

Near the town of Fennimore, in Grant County, Borah Creek Prairie includes 181 acres of scenic remnant prairie, a rare glimpse into the rolling grasslands that were prevalent throughout the area 200 years ago. The property is a boon for native plant, bird, and butterfly enthusiasts; varieties including rare and protected plant species and many grassland birds.

Borah Creek Prairie was discovered by local Prairie Enthusiast Gary Eldred, who noticed the abundance of native wildflowers on the site and worked with the landowner to manage the prairie with prescribed fire and invasive species control. Today, it is owned by The Prairie Enthusiasts. Partners in its permanent protection are Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Wisconsin DNR, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Activities allowed

Hiking, snowshoeing, wildlife observation, hunting, trapping, fishing, dog walking (*except in May-June nesting season*)

Activities NOT allowed

Biking, removing plants, camping

Caution

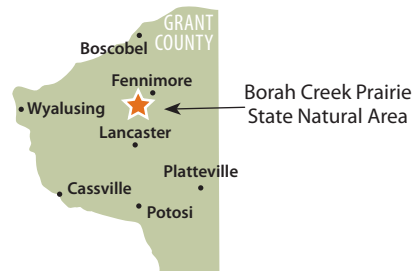
Do not enter the barn, as it may be structurally unsafe. Goats are utilized here for ecological restoration and habitat management. If they are grazing on the property, keep away from their enclosure fences—they may be electrified.



Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.

Plants and animals found here

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big bluestem | <input type="checkbox"/> Downy gentian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little bluestem | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink (special concern) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown thrasher (special concern) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Side-oats grama | <input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie dropseed | <input type="checkbox"/> Bell's vireo (threatened) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasque-flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Field sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cream wild indigo | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rattlesnake master | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray catbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rough blazing star | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow coneflower | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird's-foot violet | |



The
Prairie
Enthusiasts

Learn more about The Prairie Enthusiasts at
www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

This trail guide is provided courtesy of
Mississippi Valley Conservancy
www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org

2019-0408



TRAIL MAP

Borah Creek Prairie State Natural Area

11949 Mount Ridge Road,
Grant County, Wisconsin



Key to Symbols

- P** Parking
- Farm lane
- 1** Point of interest
(numbers are on map only, not on trail)
- Area of restored native prairie
- - - Tract boundary
- ▬ Road

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Exploring Borah Creek Prairie State Natural Area

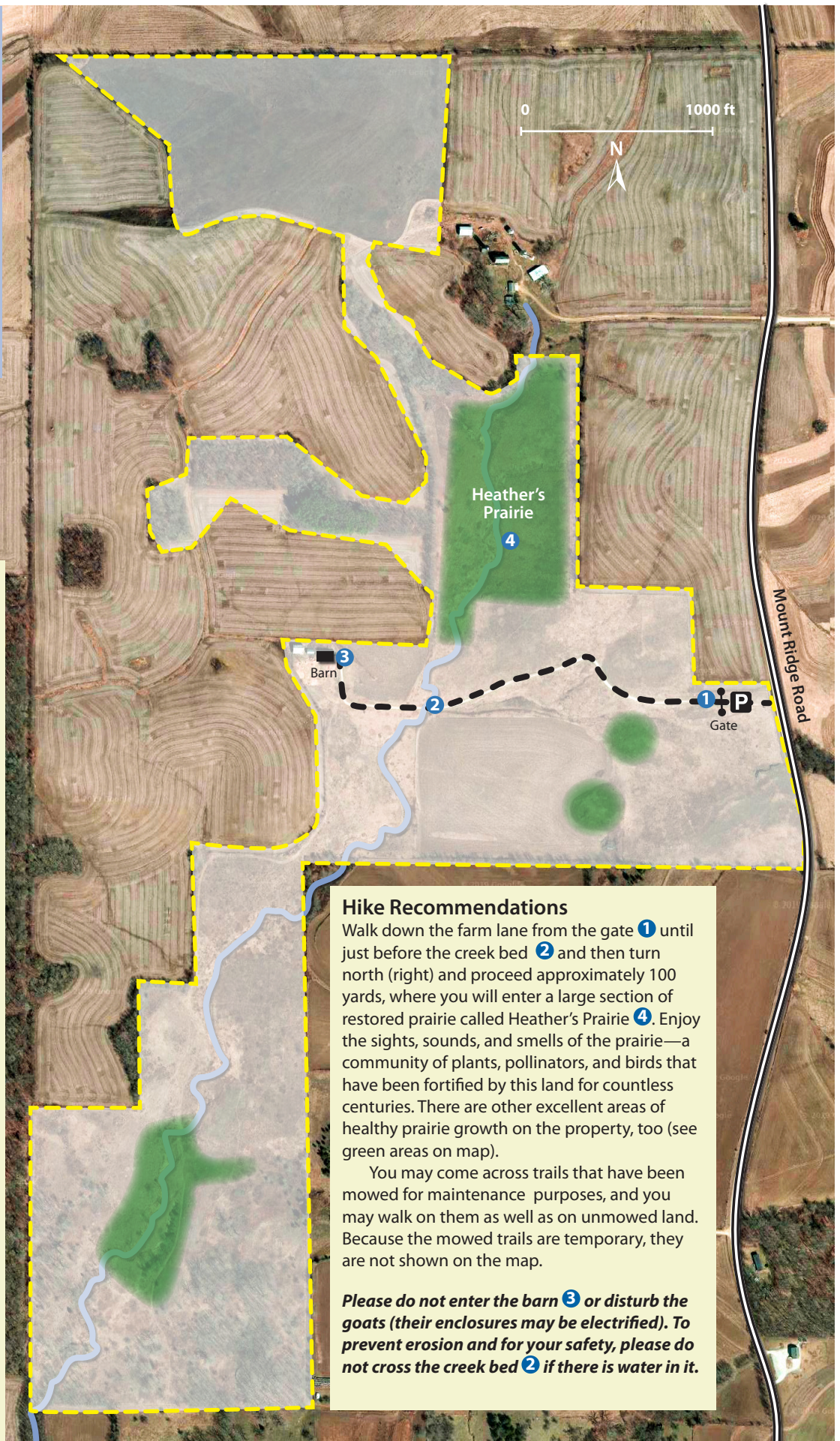
(11949 Mount Ridge Road, Grant County, Wisconsin)

While there are no permanent trails except for the farm lane that goes down to the barn, this property offers an excellent opportunity to walk across native prairie that is rarely more than knee-high. The gate at **1** is typically locked, but an opening next to it allows access to hikers.

Access & directions: From Fenimore head west on US Hwy 18. Turn left onto Cemetery Rd and right onto Mount Ridge Rd for about 3 miles. The access road into Borah Creek Prairie is on the right at 11949 Mount Ridge Rd. Parking for 6 to 8 cars is available by the property gate. For larger events, the gate is unlocked and parking along the access road is allowed.

- 1** Gate across access drive off Mount Ridge Rd.
- 2** Driveway crosses Borah Creek.
- 3** Barn. **DO NOT ENTER**—may be **STRUCTURALLY UNSAFE**.

CAUTION: If goats are grazing on the property, keep away from their enclosure fences—they may be electrified.



Hike Recommendations

Walk down the farm lane from the gate **1** until just before the creek bed **2** and then turn north (right) and proceed approximately 100 yards, where you will enter a large section of restored prairie called Heather's Prairie **4**. Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the prairie—a community of plants, pollinators, and birds that have been fortified by this land for countless centuries. There are other excellent areas of healthy prairie growth on the property, too (see green areas on map).

You may come across trails that have been mowed for maintenance purposes, and you may walk on them as well as on unmowed land. Because the mowed trails are temporary, they are not shown on the map.

Please do not enter the barn **3 or disturb the goats (their enclosures may be electrified). To prevent erosion and for your safety, please do not cross the creek bed **2** if there is water in it.**