

About Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area

Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area, a 440 -acre bluffland preserve, is in Crawford County near the Mississippi River.

The first part of Sugar Creek Bluff was purchased by Mississippi Valley Conservancy in 1999 to permanently protect the habitat from future development. It is open to hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching and nature enjoyment. Since that time, MVC has more than doubled the size of the preserve through a series of acquisitions of adjacent parcels.

With the help of countless volunteers over the years, MVC has conducted extensive restoration of the prairie on top of the bluff. MVC's first prescribed burn took place here in 2006.

Please note that part of the land is located within the Village of Ferryville and part is in the Town of Freeman. Hunters must acquaint themselves with the location of municipal boundaries and applicable regulations. Visit www.ferryville.com for more information.

Activities allowed

Hiking, showshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife observation, hunting, trapping, fishing

Activities NOT allowed

Biking, dog-walking, horseback riding, camping

Plants and wildlife seen here

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bergamot | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple meadow-rue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdsfoot violet | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple prairie clover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-eyed Susans | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive fern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bloodroot | <input type="checkbox"/> White prairie clover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cup plant | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow coneflower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutchman's breeches | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown trout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harebell | <input type="checkbox"/> Otter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoary puccoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Acadian flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacob's ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> Bald eagle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadplant | <input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monkey-flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated woodpecker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie coreopsis | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered hawk |



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TRAIL MAP

Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area

North Buck Creek Rd., Ferryville, Wisconsin



Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.

Key to Symbols

- P** Parking
- — — Main trail
- Side trail
- 1** Point of interest
- ★ Overlook
- Stop! (Entering private property or dangerous area)
- Tract boundary
- ==> Road

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2020-0802

Hiking Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area (North Buck Creek Rd., Ferryville, WI)

Enjoy hiking on a slightly rolling .75-mi (one-way) trail along a woody ridgetop that ends at a beautiful goat prairie overlooking the Mississippi River.

How to get to the trailhead/parking lot from the intersection of highways 14/61 and 35 on the south edge of La Crosse: Go south on Hwy 35 approximately 32 mi (you'll be about 1.25 mi southeast of Ferryville). Turn left (northeast) on North Buck Creek Rd. Drive about 1 mi to a small parking area on the left with an MVC kiosk.

- 1** From the gate at the parking area, follow a wide path that goes through prairie for a short time and then through woods.
- 2** At a Y intersection, a side trail goes left and ends at a private property line. There is no view. Stay right to continue to the overlook.
- 3** About .75 mi from the parking area, you'll reach the overlook/goat prairie.

