



FACT SHEET
**HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING ON
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVANCY LAND**

MVC LAND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR
HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING

All land owned by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy is open to the public. Hunting, trapping and fishing is permitted on all lands owned by Mississippi Valley Conservancy to the extent such activities are not contrary to state law or local ordinances. **MVC has opened up more than 2,000 acres of formerly private land to public recreation, including hunting**, with the help of the DNR's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, grants from private foundations, and private donations, and many more huntable acres and stretches of trout streams are on the way.

MVC encourages the public to use MVC lands, and encourages hunting, trapping and fishing. MVC recognizes that hunting is an important wildlife management tool, and the excise tax dollars generated from the sale of guns, ammunition and outdoor equipment, although not part of the Stewardship Fund, has nevertheless benefited natural habitats for all wildlife species.

Examples of properties owned by MVC that are open to hunting, trapping and fishing, subject to applicable state laws and local ordinances, which in some cases prohibit the discharge of firearms and/or bows:

- Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area (Ferryville, Crawford County) - 241 acres
- Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area (Grant County) - 244 acres
- Holland Sand Prairie (Holmen area, La Crosse County) - 61 acres
- Tunnelville Cliffs State Natural Area (La Farge, Vernon County) - 150 acres
- La Crosse Blufflands Project - 897 acres
- La Crosse River Conservancy (bow) - 202 acres
- Fish Creek Tract (La Crosse County) - 75 acres
- Devil's Backbone/ Chase Creek Bluff (Bagley, Grant County) - 28 acres
- New Amsterdam Grasslands - 310 acres (Note: restrictions during grassland bird nesting season)
- Romance Woods (Vernon County) - 35 acres

(Please review page 2 for information about restrictions and limits imposed by ordinance or otherwise.)

Properties with conservation easements only:

Please note that when MVC acquires a *conservation easement* on property (in contrast with MVC becoming the fee title owner of the land), the original private owner retains ownership, and it is generally up to the private owner to manage hunting and access issues. MVC does not impose any restrictions on hunting, trapping or fishing in its conservation easements.



For any land you intend to hunt or fish on, please verify the requirements or restrictions of any applicable ordinances, and verify the ownership and boundaries of adjacent properties. It is critically important that people not trespass onto neighboring properties while utilizing MVC lands. See the *NRA Hunter's Code of Ethics* at www.nrahq.org/hunting/nraethics.asp for further guidance.

Please note that *unoccupied* tree stands and tree steps are prohibited on MVC land.

For maps and MVC's Recreational Use Policy see www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/rec.html
Check out MVC's hunting and other nature videos at www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/videos.html

SUMMARY OF EXCEPTIONS & RESTRICTIONS FOR HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS

Mississippi Valley Conservancy seeks to maximize opportunities for low-impact outdoor recreational activities on MVC-owned lands to the extent those activities do not adversely affect the ecology of the properties or violate state law or local ordinances.

CERTAIN PROPERTIES HAVE HUNTING RESTRICTED DUE TO LOCAL ORDINANCE OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, AS A HUNTER, TO KNOW WHAT LAWS APPLY TO YOUR ACTIVITIES AND TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE WITHIN THE APPLICABLE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES. MVC DOES NOT AND CANNOT GUARANTEE THE STATUS OF APPLICABLE SEASONS, LAWS AND ORDINANCES. ALWAYS VERIFY APPLICABLE LAWS WITH THE DNR AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS. HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING ON MVC LAND IS AT YOUR OWN RISK.

Following are some restrictions on the discharge of firearms and bows that MVC is aware of:

Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area (Ferryville, Crawford County) - 241 acres

Portions of the land are located within the Village of Ferryville, where the discharge of guns is prohibited, but bow hunting is allowed. It is your responsibility to determine the location of municipal boundaries.

La Crosse Blufflands and La Crosse River Conservancy Projects - 1,099 acres

MVC currently owns approximately a dozen bluffland and wetland tracts of land which are within either the Townships of Shelby or Medary or the Cities of La Crosse or Onalaska.

MVC lands located in the Town of Medary include the Lenox Tract, Medary Quarry, Gerrard-Staff Tract, Miller Bluff (Beck Tract), the Fitzpatrick Tract (now owned by the City of La Crosse but not within city limits), and the Skemp I and Skemp II Tracts. Town of Medary Ordinance 6.01 provides that no person shall shoot or discharge or carry uncased any firearm in or within 1,000 feet of any platted subdivision or assessor's plat in the Town of Medary; or within 500 feet of any residence or building inhabited by any person; or within any public park or public area.

MVC lands located in the Town of Shelby include the Welch Tract (now owned by the city, but not within city limits).

MVC lands within the City of La Crosse include the Hass Tract (now owned by the city and within city limits), Juniper Partners Tract, Frank Tract, and parts of the La Crosse River Conservancy. City ordinances currently prohibit the discharge of firearms and bows within city limits, although the city has a policy of waiving the bow hunting restriction with permission of the Chief of Police on select properties. MVC is advocating for the amendment of those ordinances to broaden hunting opportunities.

New Amsterdam Grasslands - 310 acres

The entire preserve is open to the public throughout the year except during the bird nesting season during the months of May, June, and July. During these months, only the southwest 40-acre portion of the preserve will be open to the public (map available from MVC). All legal hunting and trapping will be allowed in open portions of the preserve. Fall bird hunting will be allowed on the entire preserve. Due to the desire to maintain a remnant population of Northern Bobwhite on the property, bird hunters will be asked to voluntarily refrain from shooting that species. Use of dogs for hunting or training is not allowed. The Town of Holland currently allows deer and small game hunting, and trapping on the property.