

History of the Roe Tract



The Roe Family at the farm in 1952 (above) and Lawrence & Kathryn Roe today (right).

The 244-acre bluffland farm had served as a nature retreat for the Roe family for over 50 years. The Roe property was conserved through a joining effort by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and the Wisconsin DNR. The Conservancy's portion was purchased through a combination of grants from the DNR's Stewardship Fund, the McKnight Foundation's Land & Water Protection Fund, the Paul E. Stry Foundation, and donations from Conservancy members, as well as a generous land value donation from Lawrence & Kathryn Roe, the previous owners of the Preserve.

What can I do at the Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area?

The Cassville Bluffs State Natural is open to the public for hiking, wildlife observation, cross country skiing, and hunting. (See trail map)

Hikers are encouraged to take precautions during hunting seasons.

Please do not collect anything from the Preserve including plants and mushrooms.

You can help keep our Preserve beautiful by carrying out your trash.

Features of Cassville Bluffs

The Cassville Bluffs contain a variety of habitats including upland and lowland oak-hickory forest as well as the rare savannas and goat prairies along the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Because the preserve is adjacent to the Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge, it provides critical habitat for species that need large areas of connected forest such as neo-tropical migrants. In the spring, the forests are alive with vibrant color and song from the many warblers. There is also a large eagle roost in the oldest area of the forest on the bluff (best viewed in late fall or early winter).

The goat prairies overlooking the River contain a host of prairie species throughout the spring and summer.

These rare prairies, once covering the bluffs of the Driftless Area, are threatened by encroaching brush that is the result of removing fire as a natural process. The lower slopes contain Chinquapin oak, typically a more southern species and unusual in Wisconsin. Another key feature of the preserve is a wonderful symbol of this region's cultural heritage. The preserve has a large, bird-shaped effigy mound at the top of the bluff overlooking the River. With a wingspan of 270 feet, this bird effigy is one of the largest in the area. (Burial mounds are protected by law in Wisconsin.)



A. Sheldon



Mississippi Valley Conservancy [MVC] was formed by a group of concerned local citizens that responded to the growing development in the blufflands of the Coulee Region by organizing a land trust to ensure conservation of the remaining special places in this region. MVC works voluntarily with individual landowners, community-based partnerships, local units of government and state and federal agencies on land conservation projects. Our various tools for land conservation include:

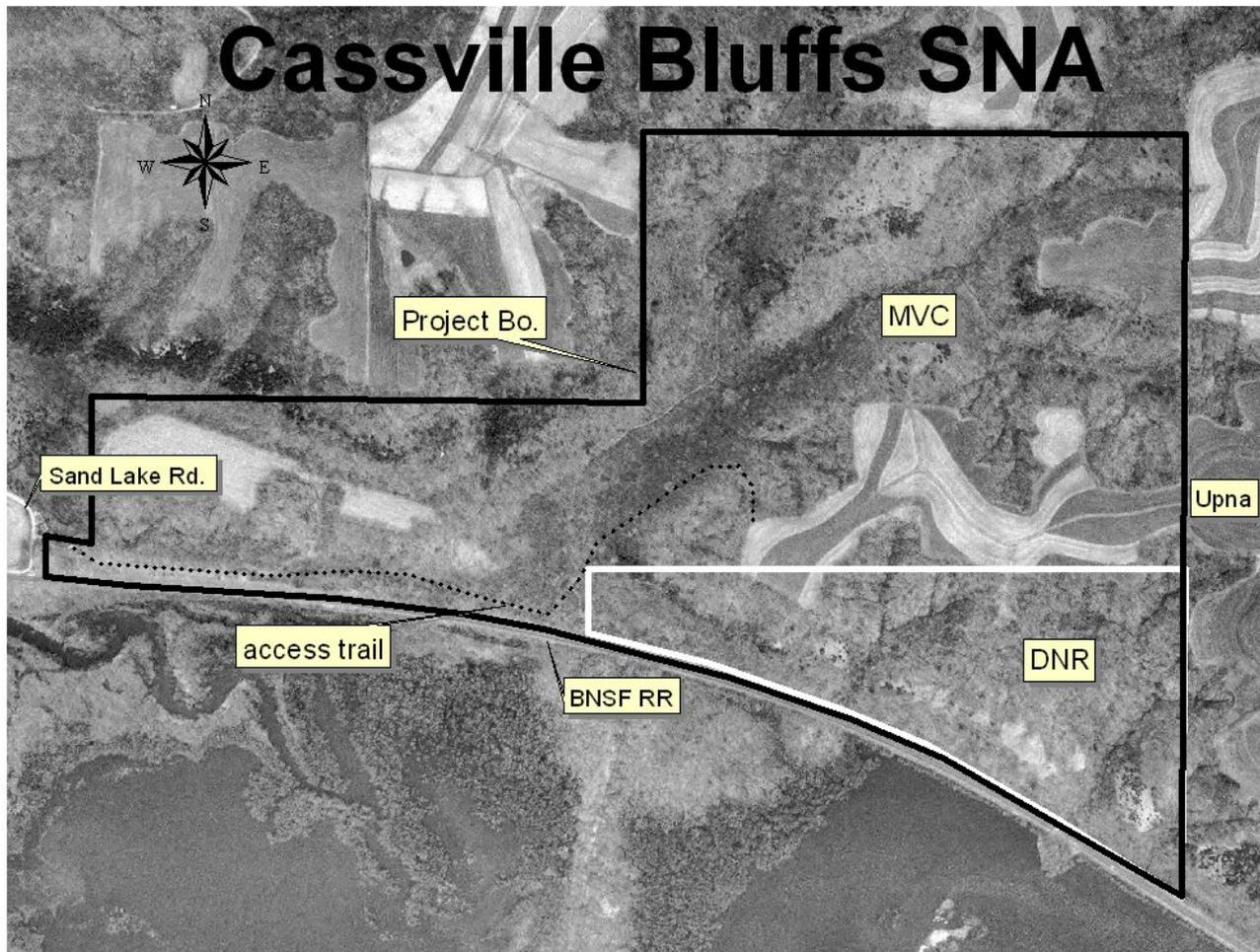
- Landowner Registry Program
- Land Donations
- Conservation Easements
- Land Acquisition

MVC is dedicated to the protection of lands in seven counties in western Wisconsin - Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe, Crawford, and Grant. For more information or to join in our efforts, please contact us at:

Mississippi Valley Conservancy
205 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 511
La Crosse, WI 54602-2611
(608) 784-3606

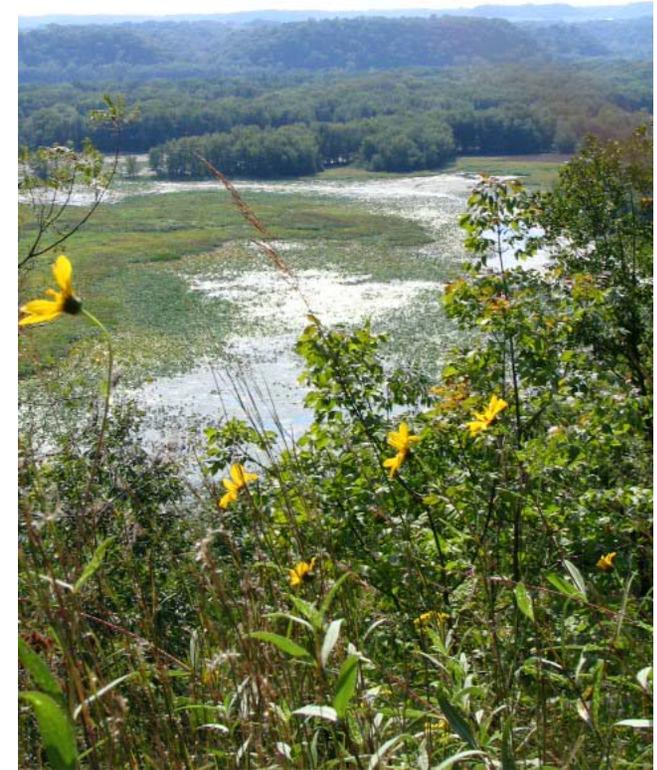
MississippiValleyConservancy.org

Cassville Bluffs SNA



Cassville Bluffs

State Natural Area



How to get there...

The Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area is located at the end of Sand Lake Lane about 2 miles south of Cassville, WI in western Grant County along the Mississippi River. Cassville can be reached from Hwy 81 from Lancaster, or by Hwy 133 from points north or south. From Cassville go southeast on Hwy 133. You will pass a sign that says "Potosi-18 miles". Two miles beyond that sign, turn right onto Sand Lake Lane. There is a large white building just before Sand Lake Lane. Follow Sand Lake Lane to its

end. The Cassville Bluffs gate will be on your left. Please park inside the gate if it's open, or else on Sand Lake Lane, taking care not to block any of the residences nearby. Mississippi Valley Conservancy owns 190.6 acres and the Wisconsin DNR owns the remaining 53 acres (primarily the bluffland goat prairies and savannas along the River.)

The Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area is 244 acres of blufflands, lowland forest and prairies along the Mississippi River near Cassville, Wisconsin owned by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.