



Legend

- P Parking
- Cassville_Bluffs
- Rivers & Creeks
- Trails
- DNR Land

Address: End of Sand Lake Rd Cassville, WI

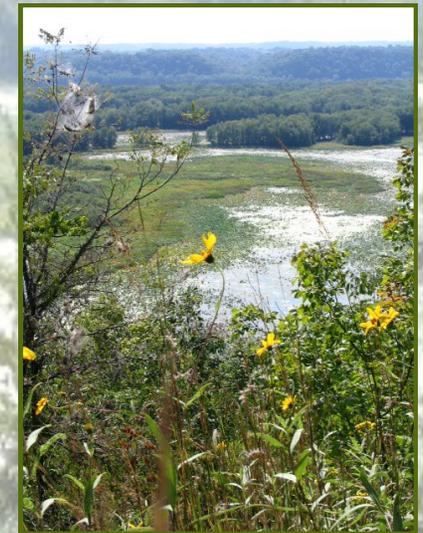


0.075 0.0375 0 0.075 Miles



**Grant Co
Cassville TWP
T3N R5W
Sec 26,27**

Map Created By: A Johnson, MVC 5-13-2010 -2006 Aerial Photo-
Mississippi Valley Conservancy - 608-784-3606 - www.MississippiValleyConservancy.org



Directions

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 acres and the Wisconsin DNR owns the remaining 53 acres (primarily the bluffland goat prairies and savannahs along the River).

Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area

History of the Roe Tract

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



Lawrence & Kathryn Roe

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.



Roe Family at the farm in 1952 (above)

What Can I do at Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area?

- ◆ Open to the public for hiking, wildlife observation, cross county skiing, and hunting. (See trail map)
- ◆ Hikers are encouraged to take precautions during hunting seasons.
- ◆ 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).

Mississippi Valley Conservancy

Mississippi Valley Conservancy was formed by a group of local citizens that responded to growing development in the blufflands of southwestern Wisconsin by organizing a land trust to ensure conservation of the remaining special places in this region.

MVC works with willing landowners to protect our region's beautiful and natural areas for the enjoyment of current and future generations. We focus on areas of scenic, biological, agricultural and cultural importance throughout nine counties of southwestern Wisconsin (Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, Richland and Grant). Our various tools for land conservation include:

- ◆ Conservation Agreements
- ◆ Land Donations & Purchases
- ◆ Land Acquisition

You can help! Please become a contributing member by sending a tax-deductible donation to:

Mississippi Valley Conservancy
1309 Norplex Dr., Suite 9
P.O. Box 2611
La Crosse, WI 54602
(608) 784-3606

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