

## About Greens Coulee— Savanna Oaks Tract

Greens Coulee nature preserve is a scenic bluffland located in the City of Onalaska and the Mississippi River valley. Acquired in 2009 with the assistance of DNR stewardship funds and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, this was the first purchase made under a cooperative agreement between the City of Onalaska and MVC. The property rises over 400 feet above the adjacent valley bottom, and hiking trails run from the wetlands area at the lower end of the park through areas of oak savanna to rock quarries at the summits of the two bluffs. The southern bluff, in Greens Coulee Park, rises to 1212 feet and is one of the highest points in the Coulee Region.

Greens Coulee Park is owned by the City of Onalaska, and the northern parcel, the Savanna Oaks Tract, is currently owned by MVC. The land is managed as natural habitat and is part of the larger City Greenway Project.

Greens Coulee nature preserve protects a scenic ridgeline peak described in Hamlin Garland's Son of the Middle Border as well as high quality dry prairie communities in three locations. These remnant prairies are important because less than one tenth of one percent of the prairie present 200 years ago remains today. The dry cliffs feature numerous fissures, crevices, and honeycombing.

"The land includes rare natural communities such as dry bluff prairie and globally imperiled oak savanna," said Abbie Church, MVC Conservation Director. "The variety of blooming plants, the massive oak trees, the mushroom-shaped rock formations, and fabulous views from the prairies are all spectacular."

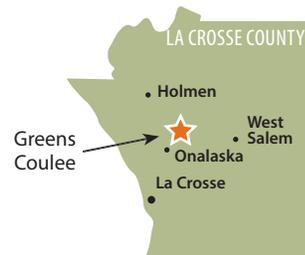
**Allowed activities:** hiking, skiing, snow-shoeing, bird-watching, hunting according to local regulations

**Not allowed:** dog-walking, biking, motorized vehicles

Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.

### Some plants and wildlife seen here

- |                                             |                                                |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bergamot (Monarda) | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine grass       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bloodroot          | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie smoke         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly weed     | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple prairie clover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flowering spurge   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive fern        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Alexanders  | <input type="checkbox"/> Silky aster           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harebell           | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern wood pewee    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian hemp        | <input type="checkbox"/> Catbird               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadplant          | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed hawk       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little bluestem    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood thrush           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern bedstraw  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern towhee        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasque flower      |                                                |



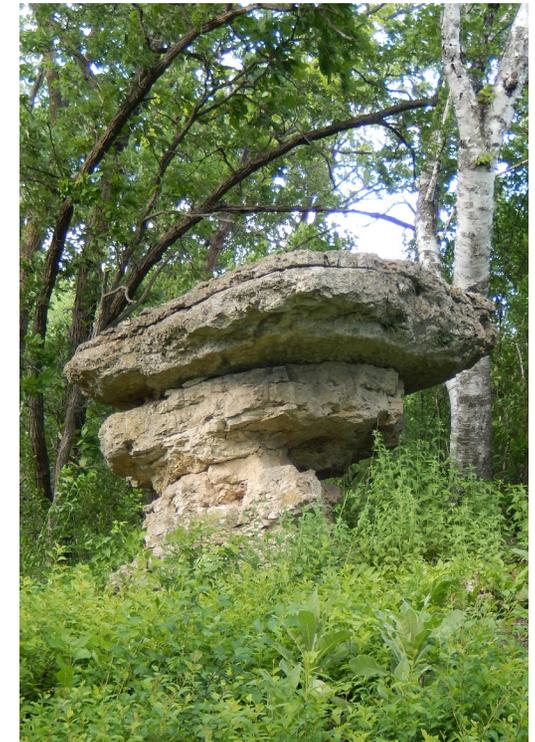
1309 Norplex Drive, Suite 9  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-784-3606  
[www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org)



### TRAIL MAP

## Greens Coulee— Savanna Oaks Tract

Onalaska, Wisconsin



# Hiking Greens Coulee— Savanna Oaks Tract (Onalaska, WI)

Two parking areas allow access to many trails in Greens Coulee.

**Stonebridge Ave parking area:** Take Hwy 16 north to Hwy 157. Turn left and continue on Hwy 157/Hwy 53 North to the Main St exit. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right at the light and then immediately left onto Green Coulee Rd.\* Go .6 mi to Clearwater Dr. Turn right and go .2 mi to Stonebridge Ave. Turn left and go .25 mi to a small parking lot on the right.

**Clifford Dr parking area:** Follow the directions above to \*. Then go 1.25 mi and turn right on Clifford Dr. You may park at the Clifford Dr cul-de-sac from May through October.

### Three interesting hikes:

**1 2 3 5 3 2 1** An out-and-back 1.2-mi (round trip) route that climbs 300 feet to an overlook at **5**.

**1 2 3 4 6 7 6 10 2 1** This sometimes-challenging 1.4-mi lollipop-plus route takes you past a mushroom-shaped rock formation at **4**, a lovely view of the valley nearby, past another interesting rock formation north of **6**, and along a ridge to a beautiful overlook at **7** (the highest point on the property at 1212 feet). Retrace your steps to **6** and then go to **10** and take a lower route back to **2** and the beginning.

**8 9 10 6 7 6 11 9 8** This 1.2-mi loop-plus route takes you up a steep trail to an overlook at **7**, the highest point on the property, then down a gentle slope to the beginning.

### Key to Symbols

<b>P</b>	Parking	- - - -	Owned by MVC
- - - -	Main trails	- - - -	Owned by City of Onalaska, conservation easement by MVC
.....	Side trails	—	Road
<b>1</b>	Point of interest		
★	Overlook		

Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.

2020-0407

