

About Kickapoo Bottoms

Kickapoo Bottoms is an 85-acre tract along the Kickapoo River and adjacent to the Crawford County fairgrounds. It includes scenic southern sedge meadow, wet prairie, sloughs, ponds, and floodplain forest. Open grasslands on the property provide valuable habitat for waterfowl and declining grassland nesting birds, such as meadowlarks and bobolinks. The property also provides 4,700 feet of frontage along the Kickapoo River, one of the Conservancy's most ecologically significant priority areas.

According to the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, the Kickapoo River is described as "one of the most diverse assemblages of natural communities in the state," supports breeding populations of birds and provides habitat for many rare species of plants and animals.

Public Access

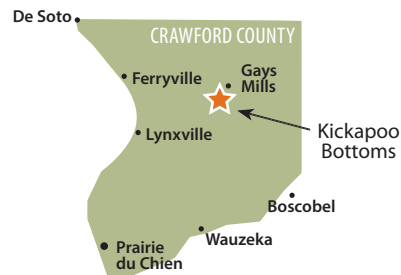
Dogs and bikes are NOT allowed on this property. Visitors must follow our **Recreational Use Policy** as well as all federal and state laws and local ordinances. Use either link to see the policy: mississippivalleyconservancy.org/resources/policies



Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.

Plants and wildlife seen at Kickapoo Bottoms

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American bellflower | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange jewelweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bergamot/bee balm | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowy campion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue vervain | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia bluebells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boneset | <input type="checkbox"/> Wool grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bur sedge | <input type="checkbox"/> American basswood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common evening primrose | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern cottonwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great blue lobelia | <input type="checkbox"/> Swamp white oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazelnut | <input type="checkbox"/> Belted kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monkey-flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedge wren |



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TRAIL MAP

Kickapoo Bottoms

Crawford County, Wisconsin



Key to Symbols

- P** Parking
- Tract boundary
- 1** Point of interest
- Entrance trail
- Main trail
- Side trail

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2025-0221

Kickapoo Bottoms

(17725 State Highway 131, Gays Mills, WI—southwest of fairgrounds)

A 1.8-mile (round trip) mostly flat mowed out-and-back hike through Kickapoo River bottoms.

How to get to the property from La Crosse (approximately 47 miles from the intersection of Hwys 14 and 61 at the south end of La Crosse): Head south on Hwy 35. Pass Ferryville (31 mi), go approximately 3 more miles and turn left on Hwy 171. Go approximately 13 miles to Gays Mills. On the east side of town, turn right on Hwy 131 and drive about 1 mile to the Crawford County Fairgrounds. Park at the southwest corner near the corral.

- 1** Start at the southeast corner of the fairgrounds and head south and then west. At **2** go around a gate.
- 3** Veer left when you reach the Kickapoo Stump Dodger Campground.
- 4** Take a side trail to the right to hike closer to the river. Rejoin trail at **5**.
- 6** Trail ends. Retrace your steps to the parking area.

