

About Boscobel Bluffs State Natural Area

Boscobel Bluffs is a scenic 475-acre property in Grant County east of Boscobel. It is within the Wisconsin River Valley and includes unique wind-blown features and rare dry prairie habitat, as well as oak savanna and oak woodlands. According to the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory, dry prairie is considered globally rare and oak savanna is considered globally imperiled. This is a great site for birding enthusiasts, as it is home to the elusive and state threatened hooded warbler.

The property was purchased in June 2013 from the McNamee family with the support of the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and Endow-Bio, Inc., the first national endowment for biodiversity. The purchase fulfilled the wish of the late Dr. J. R. McNamee to preserve the bluffland he owned "as a wilderness and a permanent habitat for the many rare, and in some cases, endangered, species of flora and fauna who call it home."

On December 29, 2025 the site was expanded with the addition of Bald Bluff and a generous donation from the previous owners Jim and Rose Sime. For more than 40 years, Jim and Rose Sime cared deeply for Bald Bluff and its three diverse bluff prairies by burning, removing invasive species, and learning every plant by name. Their generosity has made it possible for this land to be protected forever and open to the public. Sign up online to be a part of volunteer events which protect these unique habitats: MississippiValleyConservancy.org/events.

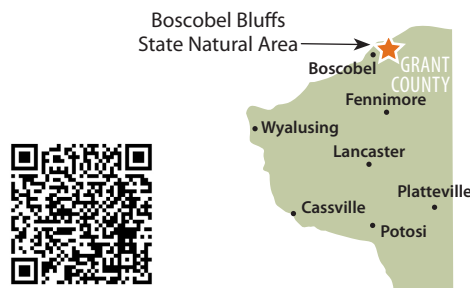
Public Access

Dogs, bikes and camping 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.

Some plants and animals seen here

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bee balm | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged warbler (special concern) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly milkweed | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harebell | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigo bunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maidenhair fern | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern hognose snake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upland boneset | <input type="checkbox"/> Pale purple coneflower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black billed cuckoo (special concern) | |



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2026-0121



TRAIL MAP

Boscobel Bluffs State Natural Area

East of Boscobel, Wisconsin



Hiking Boscobel Bluffs State Natural Area

(East of Boscobel, WI)

The main trail, approximately 1.5 miles one-way, climbs 400 feet from the trailhead along an old logging road through forests and clearings.

How to get to the trailhead/parking lot from La Crosse: From La Crosse follow US-14/61 south to Readstown. Turn right/south onto US-61 and follow for approx. 40 miles until you reach Elm St/US-61 in Boscobel. Go 2 blocks past the Udder Brothers Creamery in Boscobel and then turn left/east onto Mary Street which becomes County Road MS. Destination parking is on the left, 1.1 miles east of the intersection of Mary Street and US-61. (43°07'50.9"N 90°41'21.1"W)

- 1 Start east of the parking lot on an old logging trail.
- 2 A short side trail heads north.
- 3 Short side trails go east and west while the main trail continues northeast.
- 4 A side trail heads east to a small prairie.
- 5 The trail enters a long, narrow prairie and shrubland.
- 6 Turn around and retrace your steps.

Black billed cuckoo



Key to Symbols

- P** Parking and kiosk
- Main trail
- Side trail
- 1** Point of interest
- Stop! (Entering private property)
- Tract boundary
- == Road

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