



# Cardinal Bluff

## Directions

**From La Crosse, WI:** Follow Hwy. 35 (Great River Road) south to De Soto, turn left/east onto State Highway 82, and turn right onto Mill Park Dr. Turn left on to Cheney St. and watch for the MVC sign north of the road.

## Description

The Cardinal Bluff nature preserve is 14 acres of scenic bluffland, located within the village limits of De Soto, WI in Crawford County. The preserve overlooks the Mississippi River and includes not only scenic wooded blufflands, but also steep cliffs and dry prairie. Dry prairie is a globally rare natural community and includes conservative prairie species of



hoary puccoon, leadplant and birdsfoot violet. On the north side of the preserve, a native oak and hickory stand dominates the landscape. The property also provides habitat for the State threatened migratory songbird, the cerulean warbler and a variety of other species.



## Stewardship

This property was generously donated to MVC by the McDowell family in 2011. Prior to their donation, it was in the McDowell family for over 100 years. The 14 McDowell siblings donated the land to become a public nature preserve and outdoor classroom. It was named for all of the cardinals one of the McDowell brothers saw there. Now a memorial bench along the hiking trail honors those McDowell siblings no longer with us. Cardinal Bluff is open to the public.



*Conserve. Enjoy. Explore.*

## What Can I do at Cardinal Bluff?

- ◆ Open to the public for hunting, hiking, wildlife observation, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. (See trail map)
- ◆ Hikers are encouraged to take precautions during hunting seasons.
- ◆ Provide environmental education to area school groups.
- ◆ You can help keep our preserve beautiful by carrying out your trash.

## 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

[info@MississippiValleyConservancy.org](mailto:info@MississippiValleyConservancy.org)

