

About Greens Coulee

Greens Coulee nature preserve is a scenic bluffland located in the City of Onalaska and the Mississippi River valley. Acquired in 2000 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 savannah 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 Savannah 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 savannah," 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."

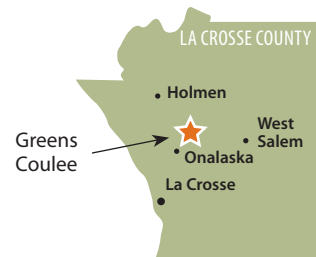
Allowed activities: hiking, skiing, snow-shoeing, bird-watching, hunting according to local regulations

Not allowed: dog-walking, biking, motorized vehicles

Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by staying on the trail and turning back when signs indicate private property.

Some plants and wildlife found in the Savannah Oaks Tract

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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"/> Death camas | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive fern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flowering spurge | <input type="checkbox"/> Silky aster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Alexanders | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood lily |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harebell | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow lady's slipper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian hemp | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern wood pewee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadplant | <input type="checkbox"/> Catbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little bluestem | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed hawk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern bedstraw | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood thrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasque flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern towhee |



1309 Norplex Drive, Suite 9
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-784-3606
www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org



HIKING MAP

Greens Coulee— Savannah Oaks Tract

La Crosse County, Wisconsin



Greens Coulee— Savannah Oaks Tract

How to get to the trailhead/parking lot from La Crosse: From Losey Blvd & Main St, go north on US 16 to WI 157 (Valley View Mall intersection). Turn left and go about 1 mile to the exit on the right to Main St in Onalaska. Turn right and almost immediately turn left onto Greens Coulee Rd. Drive about 1.25 miles to Clifford Dr. Turn right. The trailhead is at the cul-de-sac about 0.25 miles ahead.

P Parking: You may park at the top of Clifford Dr near the kiosk or along the north (downhill) side of Clifford Dr. **Please do not block driveways or park where there are NO PARKING signs.**

Description: This out-and-back hike is approximately 1.2 miles round trip. The trail climbs about 300 feet to an overlook at **5**.

The hike: 1 2 3 5 3 2 1 [Note: numbers are on map only, not on trail.] Start **1** to the right (south) of the kiosk and walk east into the woods.

At point **2** a side trail heads south to another part of the park. You should head left.

At point **3** another trail turns sharply right and uphill. You should keep going straight.

Continue to point **5**, the end of the trail, where a rocky point overlooks neighborhoods, woods, and bluffs.

Turn around and follow the same trail back to the kiosk.

When you have time, try hiking some of the other trails in this community park. You'll find interesting rock formations, wildflowers, and overlooks.

Find a guide to all of this property's trails at mississippivalleyconservancy.org.

Key to Symbols

P	Parking	- - - -	Owned by MVC
- - - -	Main trail	- - - -	Owned by City of Onalaska, conservation easement by MVC
•••••	Side trail	—	Road
1	Point of interest		
★	Overlook		

Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by staying on the trail and turning back when signs indicate private property.

