

## History of the New Amsterdam Grasslands Tract

What is now called the New Amsterdam Grasslands was identified in 1997 by Craig Thompson, a founder of Mississippi Valley Conservancy, as one of our most important areas of conservation need. This 310-acre site in La Crosse County is significant enough in size that it provides critical nesting ground for rare grassland birds like the state-threatened Henslow's sparrow and Bell's vireo.

Northern Engraving Company saved the grasslands from bulldozers and later donated more than one million dollars in land value, which was combined with a nearly million-dollar grant from Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to make this protection effort possible.

This property provides an accessible outdoor recreational resource for residents and visitors. Thirty-five acres is open to the public year-round. The remainder is open from August through March but closed from April through July (as detailed in the map) to allow undisturbed nesting during breeding season.

### Activities allowed

Hiking, showshoeing, wildlife observation, hunting, trapping

### Activities NOT allowed

Biking, dog-walking

## Some birds seen at the New Amsterdam Grasslands Tract

2001–2006 by Jean Rusher and Craig Thompson

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American woodcock    | <input type="checkbox"/> Field sparrow            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore oriole     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper sparrow      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell's vireo         | <input type="checkbox"/> Great crested flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belted kingfisher    | <input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's sparrow        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed cuckoo  | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern harrier         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink             | <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine falcon         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown thrasher       | <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper sparrow           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping sparrow     | <input type="checkbox"/> Western meadowlark       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored sparrow | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow flycatcher        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's hawk        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel           |   |



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Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.



HIKING MAP

## New Amsterdam Grasslands Tract

La Crosse County, Wisconsin



# Hiking the New Amsterdam Grasslands Tract

W7900 Old NA, New Amsterdam, WI

The trails follow the boundaries of an open, rolling prairie. A short trail (a little over a mile) is open year-round. A longer one (2.8 mi) is closed during nesting season, April, May, June, and July.

**How to get to the main trailhead/parking lot from La Crosse:** Follow Hwy 53 north to exit MH. Exit right and follow to stop sign. Turn left onto MH and follow to XX. Turn right on XX and follow it into New Amsterdam. Turn right onto Old NA and follow it for approximately ½ mile to the trailhead and parking lot, which are on the left.

- 1 Start at the kiosk in the parking area and head north through a pedestrian gate.
- 2 Turn left here to complete a 1.1-mile loop, taking you back to the parking area. From August through March you may turn right (through a maintenance gate) and walk a 2.8 mi loop in either direction. This area is closed for bird nesting from April through July.
- 3 From August through March the longer trail is also accessible here. (Instead of turning on Old NA, continue northeast on XX to Prairie Woods St. Turn right, then left on Rotterdam Ave and park along the road near the fence gate.)



## Key to Symbols

- P** Parking and kiosk
- - - Trail open all year
- - - Trail open August–March
- 1 Point of interest
- - - Tract boundary
- ▬ Road

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