

About the property

Acquired in 2022 by Mississippi Valley Conservancy, the Plum Creek Conservation Area (PCCA) is a 1,611-acre property located just north of Wauzeka in Crawford County. This property includes over five and a half miles of frontage along the west bank of the Kickapoo River, and over two miles along both banks of Plum Creek, a Class 1 trout stream.

Adjacent to the DNR's 1,927-acre Kickapoo Wildlife Area-Wauzeka Unit, these combined protected areas support one of the highest concentrations of rare forest-interior breeding birds in southern Wisconsin, including many considered high conservation priorities in eastern North America. The land will be protected and restored to achieve conservation goals that include healthy habitats, water quality protection, and resilience to climate change.

Restoration projects, including the planting of over 11,000 native trees and the creation of a 172 acre prairie, began in 2024 and will improve habitat for nesting birds, reduce erosion, improve soil health, and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Parts of the land are still leased and farmed, and future efforts will incorporate habitat restoration in conjunction with agricultural operations. The protection of this property also provides space for a wide range of recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.

Activities allowed:

The property is open for hiking, hunting, birding, fishing, trapping, and cross-country skiing.

Activities NOT allowed:

The property is closed to camping, dog-walking, biking, motorized vehicles, and horseback riding.

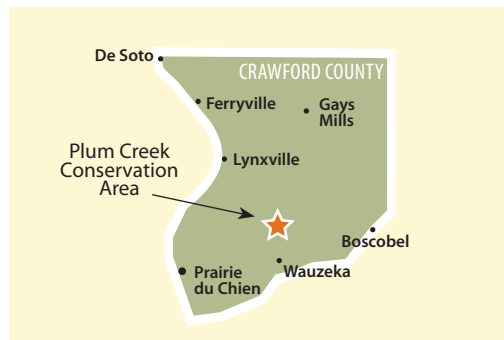
Please respect landowners near Conservancy tracts by observing property boundaries.



The state threatened cerulean warblers use the Plum Creek Conservation Area to raise their young. (Image by Bruce Bartel)

Notable species seen here

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean warbler (state threatened) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acadian flycatcher (state threatened) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasqueflower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered hawk (state threatened) | <input type="checkbox"/> Great waterleaf (state special concern) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper sparrow (state special concern) | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking fern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada yew | <input type="checkbox"/> Green dragon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Brook trout |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown trout |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Boreal chorus frog |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Flamed tigersnail |



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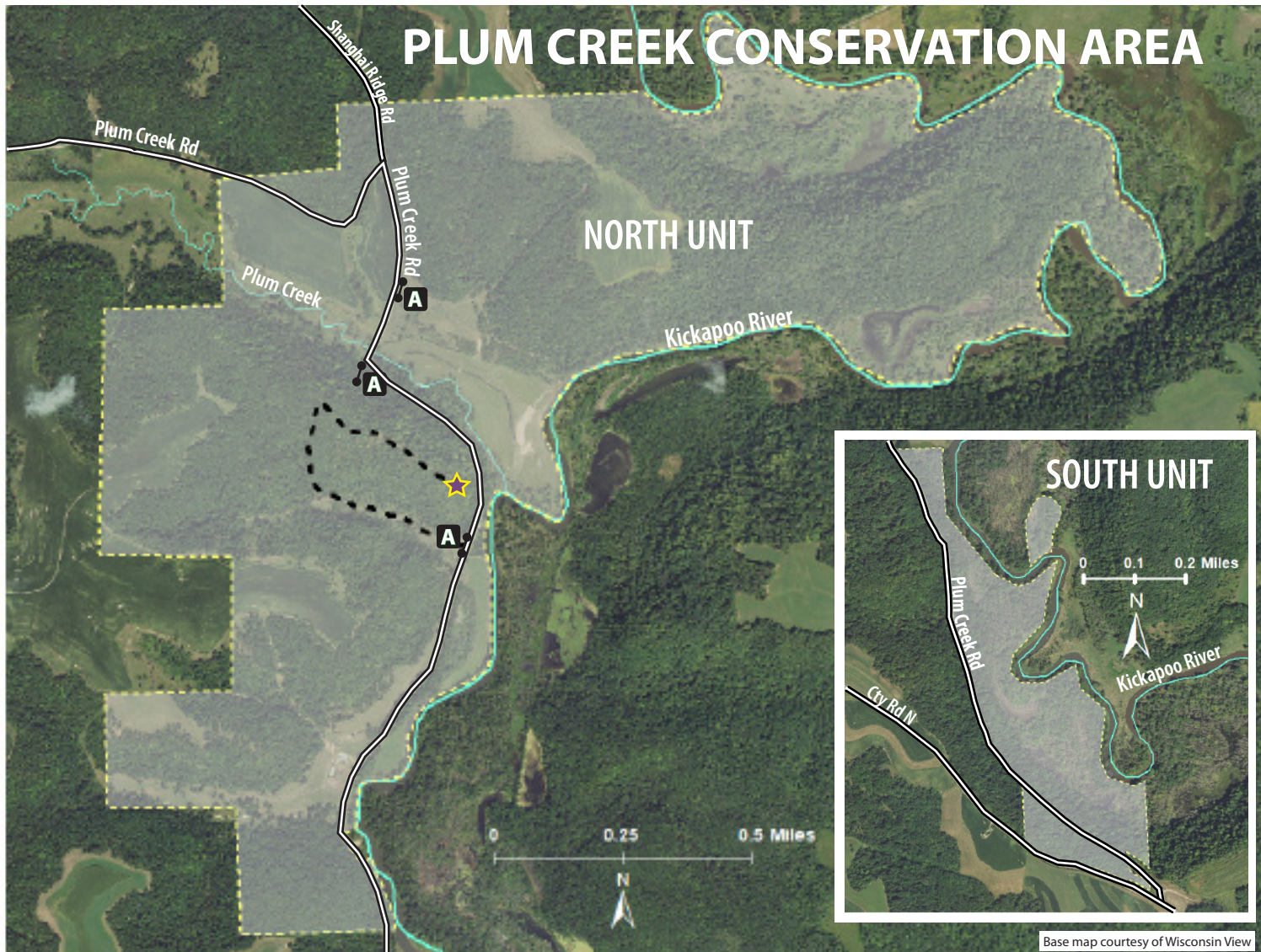


PROPERTY MAP

Plum Creek Conservation Area

Crawford County, Wisconsin





PLUM CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

NORTH UNIT

SOUTH UNIT

Key to Symbols

- A** Access
- Tract boundary
- == Road
- - - Hiking trail
- Gate
- ★ Overlook

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Ovenbird (Image by Bruce Bartel)



Things to Know:

This property is managed for conservation and agriculture, and there may be livestock grazing on site. All gates must remain closed at all times. **Do not block gates.**

There are no official parking areas. Please park on the shoulder of the road, and if there are multiple vehicles, please all park on one side.

In order to access the property, you will need to be physically able to climb over a gate.

Plum Creek Conservation Area (GPS Coordinates for Overlook Trailhead Gate: 43.122432, -90.908406, near Wauzeka, WI)

Trail Description: This challenging 1.8 mile out-and-back trail goes through steep and rugged terrain in grasslands and oak woodlands to reach the best view on the property, which overlooks Plum Creek, the Kickapoo River, and the surrounding bluffs. Long pants, boots, sunscreen, and bug spray are recommended. Use the GPS above or directions below to visit the property.

From Prairie du Chien: Take Hwy 27 N for 9.3 miles and turn right onto Cty Rd N. Drive 2 miles and go left onto Mill Rd. Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto Plum Creek Rd. Drive 3.9 miles and go right onto Plum Creek Rd/Shanghai Ridge Rd. In approximately 1 mile, you will see the Overlook Trailhead on your right.

From La Crosse: Take Hwy 35 S to Lynxville (45 miles) and go left onto Cty Rd F. Drive 3.5 miles and go right onto Hwy 27 S. Drive 3.4 miles and follow Shanghai Ridge Road to Plum Creek Road for 7.6 miles. The Overlook Trailhead will be on your right.

From Wauzeka: Take Hwy 60 W out of town and immediately turn right onto Cty Rd N. Go 0.8 miles and turn right onto Plum Creek Rd. In 2.5 miles, you will see the Overlook Trailhead on your left.

Find guides for other MVC properties at MississippiValleyConservancy.org.

