

LOCATION & PARKING

LOCATION: This trail is on the Taliesin property south of Spring Green along the Wisconsin River, owned by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. From the junction of State Highway 23 and County C, just south of the Wisconsin River, turn west on County C and drive ½ mile.

PARKING: The mowed parking area is on the north side of the road. Use caution in wet conditions as this area can get slick and soft.

Enjoy your hike and leave no trace – the best way to preserve this trail forever!

Before you go, check current trail notes at driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail or by scanning this QR code.



WHAT IS THE DRIFTLESS TRAIL?

Imagine a hiking trail that wanders through the woods, prairies, farms, bluffs, and streams of Iowa County's Driftless landscape; through public parks, cultural sites, and special places owned by people who want to share the beauty of their land with you - all while creating a corridor for land conservation, climate resiliency, exercise, and education. This is our vision for the Driftless Trail.

Though this project will take many years to fully complete, multiple trail segments are open now! Explore them all, learn more about the trail, find volunteer opportunities, and get involved at driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail.



Barb Barzen

Our sincere thanks to the landowners, volunteers, donors, and partners who make this trail possible.

Be a part of the Driftless Trail! Donate by visiting driftlessconservancy.org/give-today, scanning the QR code, or mailing a check or cash to Driftless Area Land Conservancy, 206 S. Iowa St, Dodgeville, WI 53533.



DRIFTLESS
AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

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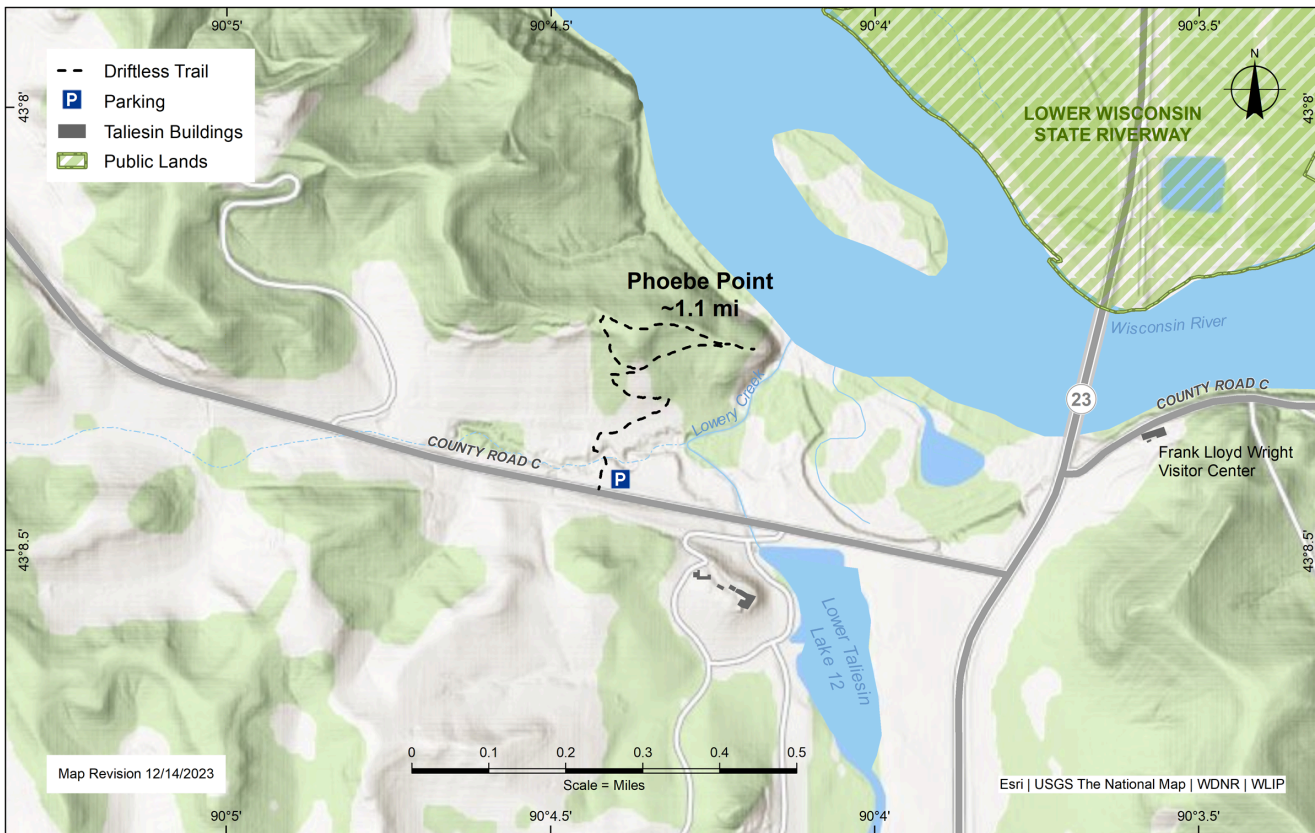
The Driftless Trail:

PHOEBE POINT



Barb Barzen





The beautiful views you see from Phoebe Point and the ridge have impressive credentials. Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin home was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976 and a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019. The 92-mile-long Lower Wisconsin State Riverway was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2020. And in 2015, local residents and organizations here formed the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative to continually improve the land, water, aesthetics, and livelihoods of this area long into the future.



We encourage you to **return to this trail over the seasons and over the years** to witness the ongoing habitat restoration, and to experience the feelings Wright described in his eloquent 1930 essay, *Why I Love Wisconsin*:

*And I come back from the distant, strange, and beautiful places that I used to read about when I was a boy...; yes, every time I come back here it is with the feeling **there is nothing anywhere better than this is**. More dramatic elsewhere, perhaps more strange, more thrilling, more grand, too, but nothing that picks you up in its arms and so gently, almost lovingly, cradles you as do these southwestern Wisconsin hills.*

SPECIAL NOTES:

- There are no toilets or water available at this trail.
- This trail is open during gun deer season.
- **Pets are welcome but MUST remain on a leash.**

THE HIKE

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE

LENGTH: 1.1 MILES ROUND-TRIP

This trail is a “lollipop loop”, part out-and-back with a loop in the middle. It offers stunning views up and down the Wisconsin River, across the Taliesin property, and across much of the Lowery Creek watershed. This segment of the Driftless Trail is a collaboration between Driftless Area Land Conservancy, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, and Taliesin Preservation.

Phoebe Point was a special place to Frank Lloyd Wright and he was selective in giving others permission to go there. Where he got the name Phoebe is a mystery. It could be Phoebe, the bird, or it could be a particular person. We will likely never know.

We do know that **much of the stone used to build Taliesin came from the west end of the ridge**, where you can still see evidence of quarrying.

A 1937 aerial photo of this site shows it to be open prairie or pasture from the parking area to the ridge, with scattered trees (likely oaks) on the top third of the slope. The river side of the ridge was wooded, as it is today. Due to the loss of historic fire regimes, the open spaces became overgrown with shrubs and trees. Starting in 2017, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation began **prairie and savanna restoration activities at this site**, clearing brush and carrying out prescribed burns.

