

## LOCATION & PARKING

**LOCATION:** Six miles north of Dodgeville. From Highway 23, turn east on County ZZ for 1.8 miles, then north on Weaver Road. The trailhead is on the northwest corner of this junction.

**PARKING:** A strip of mowed grass connecting Weaver Road and County ZZ accommodates 3-4 vehicles. If that is full, park on the east shoulder of Weaver Road near the trailhead.

## 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](http://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](http://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

[info@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:info@driftlessconservancy.org) • 608-930-3252

The Driftless Trail:

# WEAVER ROAD

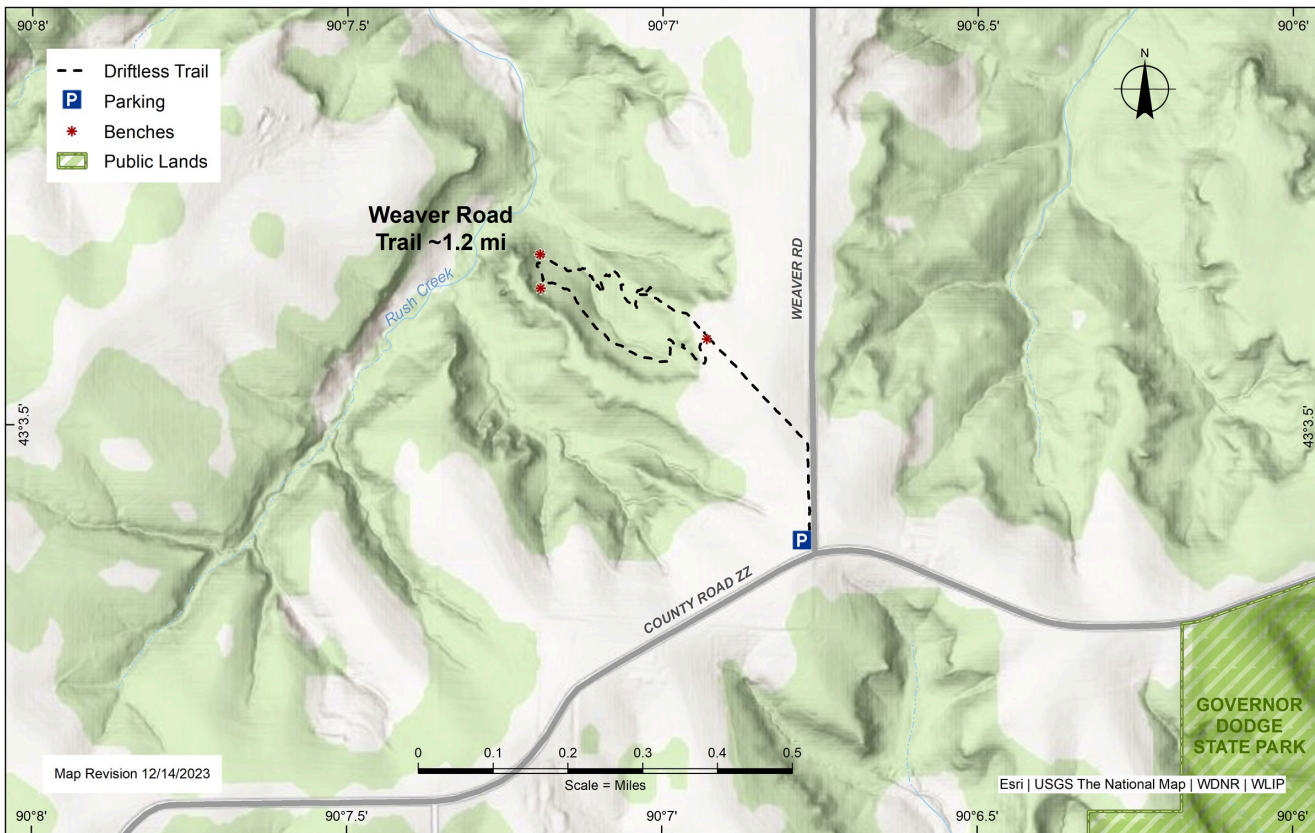


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**Enjoy your hike and leave no trace - the best way to preserve this trail forever!**

Before you go, check current trail notes at [driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail](http://driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail) or by scanning the QR code.





In 2014, a strong tornado ripped through this area. Salvage logging followed, so part of the loop follows a logging road. Much of it hugs the base of a **large pine relict** – a narrow ridge that is topped with pines and vegetation that are typical of cooler northern forests. The steep, rocky slopes have kept fire from reaching the ridge as often as the surrounding area. Pine relicts are rare and are a classic feature of the Driftless Area.

During spring and early summer, listen for **deep-forest birds**, like Wood Thrush, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Keep an eye out for Great Horned Owls that nest near the pine relict.

Other rare wildlife and plants live in the fragile environment around the pine relict and rock outcrops, so **hikers must stay on the trail – thank you!**



## THE HIKE

**DIFFICULTY:** MODERATE

**LENGTH:** 1.2 MILES ROUND-TRIP

The trailhead sits at **one of the highest points in the region**, offering vistas north to the Wisconsin River, southeast to Blue Mound, and west across the Rush Creek valley.



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From the trailhead to the valley floor, this trail winds through **four geologic formations** - Decorah Dolomite (trailhead), Platteville Dolomite (farm field), St. Peter Sandstone (wooded hillsides), and Prairie du Chien Dolomite (valley floor). It is a trip through the 41.6-million-year Ordovician period.

The agricultural field is farmed by Seven Seeds Organic Farm using **contour strip cropping**, a technique that helps to hold the soil of these hills in place.

As you enter the woods, you will be in a stand of **walnuts and oaks that are 80-90 years old**. Flat, stretched bark on the walnuts and red oaks here indicate the trees grew rapidly in open conditions. This was likely pasture in the 1930s. Deeper into the valley, note the older and larger trees.

### SPECIAL NOTES:

- There are no toilets or water available at this trail.
- **Wild parsnip** is common along the edge of the farm field. This plant contains photo-toxins that can cause a severe rash, so look up how to identify this plant and please avoid it.
- This trail is **closed during the nine-day gun deer season**, which is the week of Thanksgiving including both weekends.
- **Pets are welcome but MUST remain on a leash.**