



DRIFTLESS
AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

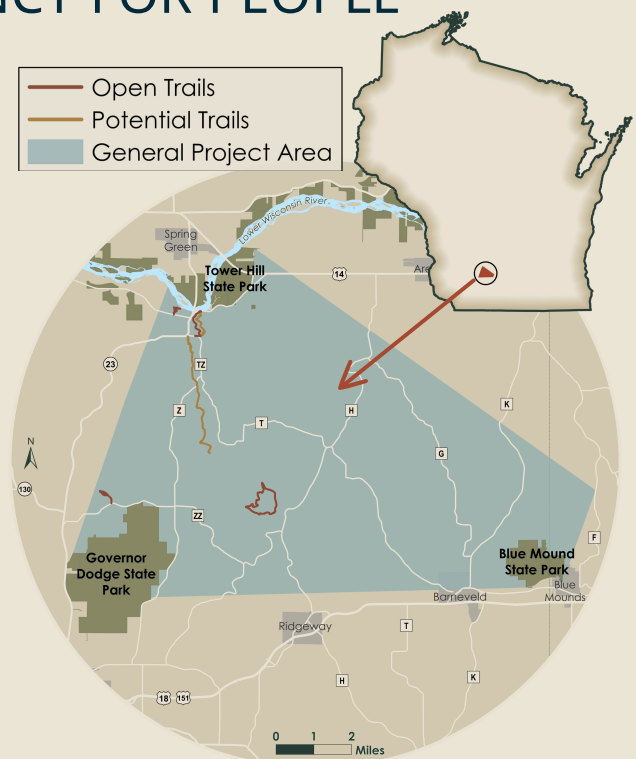
HOSTING THE DRIFTLESS TRAIL



If you're thinking about hosting the Driftless Trail on your property, we'd love to chat! We'll start with a conversation to understand your needs and goals while giving you an overview of trail hosting and easements. If you decide to move forward with a verbal commitment, we'll mark a potential route for your approval. Once you're happy with the plan, we'll work with you to create easement documents that fit your needs while ensuring the trail is protected.

A CORRIDOR OF RESILIENCY FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

Imagine hiking a footpath that wanders through the woods, prairies, farms, bluffs and streams of Iowa County's Driftless landscape. This 50-mile trail will connect the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway to Governor Dodge and Blue Mound State Parks. It will take you through hidden nooks and crannies owned by people who want to share the beauty of their land with you.



WHY HOST THE DRIFTLESS TRAIL?

Hosts of public-access trails on private lands often find great satisfaction in sharing their land with others, fostering a sense of community and appreciation for nature.

They benefit from having more eyes on their property, as visitors can help identify issues, alert them to potential problems, and make new discoveries and observations.

Additionally, partnering with a land trust, like Driftless Area Land Conservancy, provides valuable resources for property management and connects them with a network of like-minded landowners.

Many hosts enjoy interacting with trail users, creating meaningful connections and fostering stewardship. For organizations, hosting public-access trails also increases awareness of their mission and activities, helping to further their goals and outreach efforts.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

HOW IS THE TRAIL ROUTE DETERMINED?

DALC understands the importance of placing trails in a way that minimizes any impact on how you use and enjoy your property. We work closely with landowners to ensure that the trail's location aligns with their needs and preferences, preserving the natural flow of their land use.

WHO MAINTAINS THE TRAIL?

DALC takes responsibility for the long-term maintenance of the trail tread and surrounding vegetation. Our commitment to upkeep ensures that the trail remains in good condition without adding extra work for landowners.

HOW DO YOU PROTECT IMPORTANT RESOURCES?

For properties containing sensitive natural or cultural resources, we route the trail so as not to impact these important features. Protecting the integrity of the land is a priority, and we are committed to working with landowners to ensure these resources remain undisturbed.

DO TRAIL USERS RESPECT THE PROPERTY?

Users of these trails tend to be highly respectful of private property, and signage along the trail emphasizes that hikers are privileged to have permission to be on private land. This helps foster a culture of respect and appreciation among trail users. Regular communication is essential to making trail hosting a positive experience. By staying in close contact with landowners, we can address any concerns and ensure that the partnership benefits everyone involved.

WHAT ABOUT HUNTING?

We recognize that your relationship with your hunters is significant. To support this, we will close your trail segment during the deer gun season and, if desired, for part of the bow hunting season. This approach helps maintain positive relationships and ensures that both hunters and trail users can coexist safely.





I'm Interested in Hosting the Trail!

What's Next?

As a trail host, your key responsibilities would include working with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy to develop an easement that ensures the trail remains in place permanently, even if property ownership changes. This can be either a whole-property conservation easement or a trail corridor easement ranging from 30 to 100 feet. Maintaining open communication with DALC staff is also essential so that any issues or concerns can be promptly addressed.

CONTACT US!



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"From the first time that I climbed to the hilltop behind the house and saw Lowery Creek and all the buildings of Taliesin spread before me, I knew that this was a special place with a special view. And how unreasonable that I should be the only person to enjoy it! When DALC began dreaming up the Driftless Trail, I knew that I wanted this farm to be a part of it. I've been inviting people to walk the farm for ten years now, and I'm thrilled to invite the public to experience this landscape, which "picks you up in its arms and so gently, almost lovingly cradles you" - as my famous former neighbor, Frank Lloyd Wright, once wrote.

- Patrick Michaels, Twin Crix