



## LOCATION & PARKING

**LOCATION:** The trailhead is the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, just south of Spring Green at the junction of State Road 23 and County C.

**PARKING:** Use the upper parking lot of the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center. Off-road parking for a few cars is available in front of Unity Chapel, on County T.

**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.



## 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).



**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.



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The Driftless Trail

# WELSH HILLS





**The Welsh Hills showcase how the Driftless Area was formed.** Rock outcrops display layers of sediments laid down by an ocean that covered the Driftless Area for millions of years. Later, meltwaters from surrounding glaciers formed streams that carved these valleys, exposing ancient limestone, sandstone and dolomite. On the north end of the ridge, you will find a quarry of relatively small rubble. On the south slope, look for a large, flat rock near a switchback that displays seafloor nodules from the Jordan Sandstone formation. Please look from the trail, but do NOT touch.

**These hills are also an ecological treasure trove.** The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation has spent 20 years restoring the west-facing slope to the lush prairies and oak savannas they once were. As a result, you will walk through some of the highest quality remnant prairie and savanna in the region. You will also find a variety of birds, particularly during migration. Bald eagles are common during winter.



**Looking across this valley,** you see managed grazing, agroforestry, diverse perennial crops, a Class 1 trout stream, and more restored natural areas. All are signs of how this community works together on land and water conservation through the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative.

# THE HIKE

**DIFFICULTY:** EASY to MODERATE  
**LENGTH:** 2.0 OR 2.6 OR 2.8 mile loop

Starting from the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, you can hike a **2-mile easy Unity Chapel Loop, 2.6-mile Ridge Loop, or 2.8-mile Perimeter Loop.** A moderate ascent to the ridge provides outstanding views plus a mile of flat, wooded trail. The Unity Chapel loop bisects the three Welsh Hills, visits the historic chapel and cemetery, and follows a paved state trail back to the Visitor Center.

**Frank Lloyd Wright treasured the view of the Welsh Hills from his Taliesin home and studio.** He roamed these hills as a boy when they were part of the Lloyd Jones family farms. With a nod to their beloved Welsh roots, Wright's grandparents named the hills, north to south, Bryn Mawr (Big Hill), Bryn Canol (Middle Hill), and Bryn Bach (Little Hill).

**This trail provides a rich snapshot of recent human history,** starting with the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center. Designed by Wright as a restaurant in 1953, it opened as The Spring Green in 1967 and has served as a visitor center and café since 1993.



Much of this segment overlooks **farms settled primarily by Irish and Welsh immigrants in the mid-1800s,** including Richard and Mallie Lloyd Jones, Wright's grandparents. In 1886, the Lloyd Jones family built Unity Chapel as a community and Unitarian gathering place, next to the family cemetery. It was recently restored and modernized for public and private events.

## SPECIAL NOTES:

- Due to the quality and fragility of this site's ecology, it is extra important to **STAY ON THE TRAIL.**
- Pets are welcome but **MUST** remain on leash.
- This trail is open during the gun deer season.