

What is a State Natural Area?



State Natural Areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape, significant geological formations and archeological sites. The designation was made cooperatively with Rock County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The land management is also a cooperative venture.

Wisconsin's more than 600 SNAs encompass over 330,000 acres. SNAs are important for research and education, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity, and providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals. More than 90% of the plants and 75% of the animals on Wisconsin's list of endangered and threatened species are protected in SNAs.

Why was Magnolia Bluff Chosen?

One of the reasons that Magnolia Bluff County Park was designated is because of its unique landscape. The topography is quite different than the surrounding area. The limestone and sandstone bluff marks the second highest point in Rock County. Magnolia Bluff County Park contains a significant population of remnant savanna plant species, including the state threatened kitten tails. The park also contains old growth trees and a variety of native forest floor plant species.



Natural Resource Land Management:

Land management plans outline specific restoration work to complete; Magnolia Bluff's plan includes:

- Invasive species removal, specifically buckthorn, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, sweet clover and spotted knapweed.
- Controlled burns in the oak savanna restoration area.
- Restore the kitten tails area to a short grass savanna. Seeds will be collected from this site and from surrounding SNAs.
- Trail maintenance to County Park standards.

State Threatened Plant Species - Kitten Tails:

Kitten tails (*Besseyia bullii*), a state threatened plant, can be found in small woodland openings or near bluff edges, and often in sandy soils. It is identified by its flat oval leaves and yellow flowers. A small population can be found on the west outlook of Magnolia Bluff County Park. This part of the park will be undergoing restoration, starting in 2011... so watch for an expanded short grass savanna area.



How the SNA Affects Park Users

Park users should always treat the natural community with respect. Now that Magnolia Bluff is designated as a SNA, it is even more important. Please observe the following:

- Stay on marked trails that are designated for your use.
- Do not use trail shortcuts.
- Do not collect flowers, plants or animals.
- Do not pull bark off of, cut, or otherwise damage trees.
- Observe wildlife from a distance and do not follow or approach animals. Do not feed wildlife.
- Do not litter, place all trash in dumpsters.
- Horses and dogs are not allowed in picnic areas.
- Dogs must be on a 6 foot leash at all times.

For More Information on State Natural Areas:

Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna/>

**Leave only the sound of your footsteps,
hoofprints or track of your skis, take only
memories and photos.**

Rock County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in accommodations provided to persons using our parks.

For additional information or if special accommodations are required, please contact:

Rock County Parks
3715 Newville Road
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone (608) 757-5451
Fax (608) 757-5470
www.co.rock.wi.us

Magnolia Bluff State Natural Area

**4002 North Croak Road
Evansville, WI 53536**



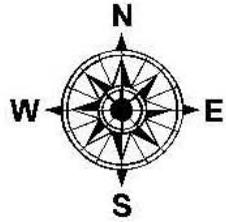
Magnolia Bluff County Park
was designated as a
Wisconsin State Natural Area
in November 2010



Magnolia Bluff Park

Rock County Parks Division
112.1 Acres. purchased 1965-66

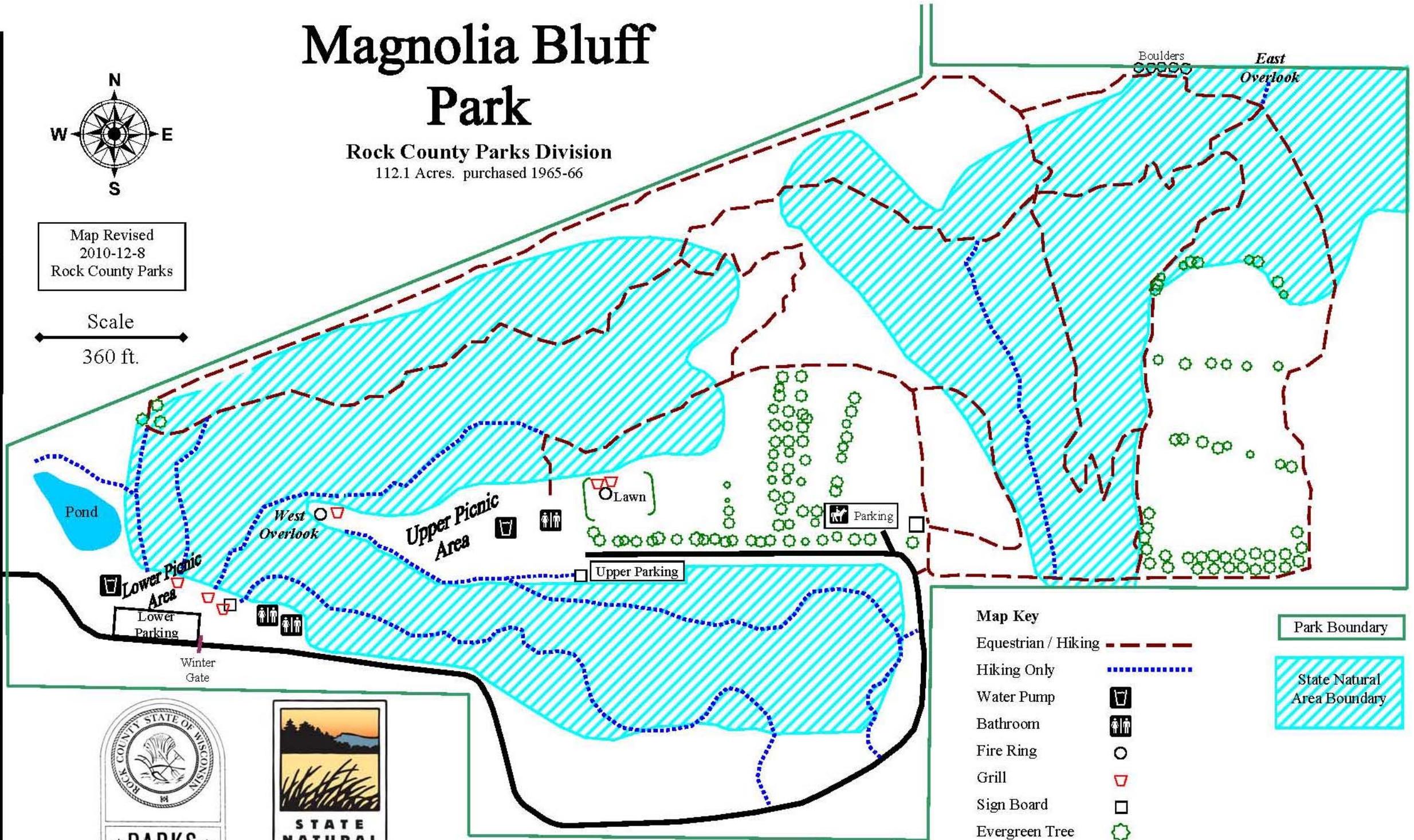
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59
To



Map Revised
2010-12-8
Rock County Parks

Scale
360 ft.

N. Croak Rd.



- Map Key**
- Equestrian / Hiking - - - - -
 - Hiking Only
 - Water Pump 
 - Bathroom 
 - Fire Ring 
 - Grill 
 - Sign Board 
 - Evergreen Tree 

-  Park Boundary
-  State Natural Area Boundary

