

Weister Creek Flats

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Weister Creek Trail	5 miles		32

Mowed hiking trails are maintained along Weister Creek. To find the trail, start at the 24 Valley Road Bridge that crosses Weister Creek, the mowed path follows the stream on each side, up and down the stream bank.



Photos courtesy of Erica Cronk

Kickapoo Valley Reserve

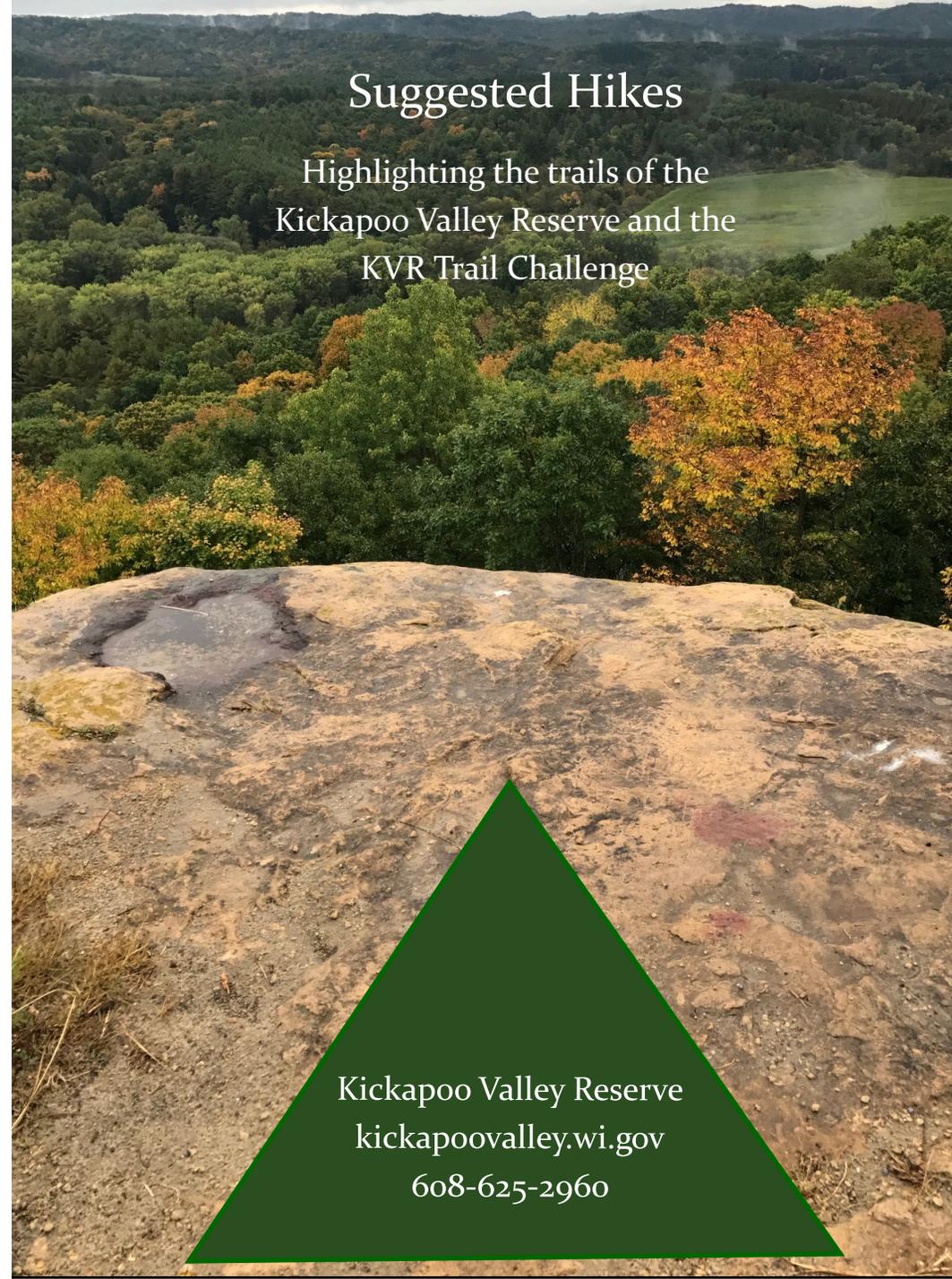
S3661 State Highway 131
La Farge, WI 54639
www.kickapoovalley.wi.gov
608-625-2960



Explore – Experience – Enjoy

Suggested Hikes

Highlighting the trails of the
Kickapoo Valley Reserve and the
KVR Trail Challenge



Kickapoo Valley Reserve
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Visitor Center Hikes

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Visitor Center Trail Upper	.4 miles	 	1
Visitor Center Trail Lower	.13 miles		2
Old Harris Trail	.63 miles	  	3
Wintergreen Bluff Trail	.93 miles		4

Visitor Center & Old Harris Trail Loop

This short loop is considered to be part of the Visitor Center, so no trail pass is required. Start from the KVR Visitor Center. Follow the Visitor Center Trail either from the north side of the building or from the deck. At the far west end, find the trail near the large white pine trees that lead you down railroad tie steps, to the river bottom. Cross small foot bridge. Continue to reach Old 131 trail. A short walk to the south (left) will bring you to Bridge 18, for a view of the Kickapoo River. Walk north on Old 131 to Campsite A. A bird blind is located at the far end of campsite A for wildlife viewing. Continue north on Old Hwy 131 Trail to Old Harris trail. Follow the Old Harris Trail back to the Visitor Center.



Wintergreen Bluff Trail

The trail head is east of the Visitor Center between the garage and parking lot. Situated between State Highway 131 and the Kickapoo River, the trail leads through mixed hardwoods and conifer stands. Several views of the river exist along the route. The trail will descend upon a series of rock ledges, of which were cut in during for the dam project. These stone ledges would have been the east side of the dam berm. A steep climb up stone steps leads to an intersection. Follow the trail towards the right through a stand of pines and hemlocks along a narrow ridge. At the trail end is an overlook of the Kickapoo River. For the return trip, at the intersection, one can head to the right to come out near State Highway 131 and either follow the shoulder back to the Visitor Center or dip back into the woods and return along the trail as you came.



Warner Creek Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Cut Off Trail	3.27 miles	  	53, 54
Hoot Owl Trail	3.03 miles	  	50, 51, 52
Big Valley Trail	2.42 miles	  	49

Cut Off Rd Trail to Big Valley Trail to 9-10 Trail (5 + miles)

There are several starting points for this loop, such as Big Valley Rd, or Landing 10. Here we will start at the trail head on Cut Off road....from County Hwy P turn south on Cut Off Rd, cross small bridge and look for trail on left, about 300 ft from the bridge.



The trail leads along the edge of a wetland and rock ledges, followed by a gradually climb in to hardwood forest. A small opening is at the top of the ascent, then back into the woods. Continue until you come to intersection 8, keep left through another open

stretch. You come to County Hwy P.

Cross the road and head right/east to Big Valley Rd. A short walk along Big Valley Rd leads across Warner Creek, and look for trail on left. Follow this trail for 2.5 miles eventually coming to STH 131. Cross Hwy 131 and head north/right a short bit and find 9-10 Trail (snowmobile trail) along the south/left side of a field. Follow this through woods until you come to Hwy 131 again, at Bridge 10. Cross the STH 131 and head east on CTH P for about 0.5 miles, until you reach Cut Off road, turn right and return to the start.



Blackhawk Woods

From Old 131 Gate at CTH P (4 miles round trip)

This loop/route involves about 0.6 miles of walking along County Hwy P. There are several options for start/parking such as Landing 14, Rodger Rd., or Old 131 Trail.

Park at the gates at Old 131 Trail and County Hwy P. Walk north on Old 131, cross Bridge 13, continue to Indian Creek Trail, a gravel road on the left. Follow this to the snowmobile trail on left turn, keep following, through a small open area, back into woods.... look for horse tie lines on right (if you start heading downslope you missed the tie lines). Find the gap in the wood fence, towards the right of the tie lines. Follow this trail to the base of the rock face. The trail continues to the left/west of the face, and eventually makes a steep climb. Not so steep you need climbing gear, but a climb just the same. At the top, turn right to reach the

overlook. Return the way you came. Please note that the top of Black Hawk is fairly close to the property line. Following the ridge to the Northwest will quickly result in crossing into private property and trespass laws will apply.

Descend off Black Hawk back to the snowmobile trail. Turn right and head downhill to Rodgers Rd., turn left to reach CTH P. Keep left and walk along the highway (about 0.6 miles) to the start at Old 131 Trail.



To return via Black Hawk Trail, Indian Creek trail and Old 131 Trail and avoid walking along the highway, the full trip will be about 5 miles.



Old 131 Trail

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Old 131 Trail (Entire Trail)	4.5 miles		6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
South Gate to Star Valley	1 mile		6, 7
Star Valley To County P	1.7 miles		8, 9
County P to North Gate	1.8 miles		10, 11

Old Hwy 131 Trail

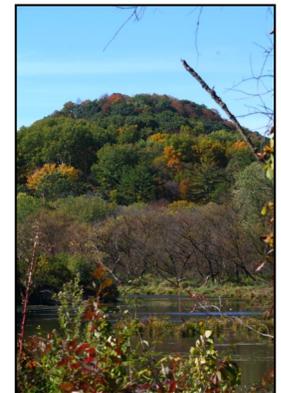


As the name suggests, this is the Old State Hwy 131 road. The trail surface consists of asphalt and short intermittent segments of gravel screenings. Equestrians should use the gravel/unpaved edge of the trail. Old 131 Trail remains open in wet weather for all users during the summer trail season. The only exception to this is if the river has flooded over the trail, naturally closing it.



Highlights include:

- Trail Bridge 18 - Covered Bridge
- Native Prairies
- Star Valley Memorial (1 mile from South gate)
- Schroeder's Pond & Dock (1.3 miles from South gate)
- Trail Bridge 16 (1.8 miles from South gate)
- Trail Bridge 15 (2.3 miles from South gate)
- Warren Truss Bridge 13 - Historical Marker (3.1 miles from South gate)
- View of Blackhawk Rock
- Ho-Chunk Nation Covered Bridge (3.4 miles from South gate)



West Ridge Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
West Ridge Trail	5.09 miles	  	17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
Hanson Rock Trail	1.71 miles	 	23, 24
Hanson Rock Loop	.67 miles	 	25

Hanson Rock from Corps Rd (8 mile round trip).

Start from Maintenance Building, off Corps Rd. Follow West Ridge Trail (Snowmobile trail) to the west. The trail begins in grass/open areas through prairie plantings, eventually entering woods. Follow the trail as it winds through woods. Trail descends into Hanson Hollow, near Campsite F. Find the horse trail (Hanson Rock Trail) once you enter a stand of red pines, on left. Follow horse trail up to the ridge top (about 500 ft elevation gain). At trail junction (#4) turn left on the “Hanson Rock Loop”, for



overlook. After the loop, continue along Hanson Rock trail as it follows the ridge line, providing additional overlooks. These overlooks are on short spurs off the main trail (they can be missed if not looking for them). Continue along the trail as it descends off the ridge returning to West Ridge trail (#2). Turn right (south) on the snowmobile trail to return to the maintenance building.

Hanson Rock from Potts Corner/Campsite P (6.5 mile round trip)

Start on the Multi-Use West Ridge Trail (Snowmobile trail) near Campsite P on Weister Creek Rd. Follow trail to Hanson Rock Trail (#2). Follow trail up to ridge and to overlooks. At Intersection #4, continue straight on to Hanson Rock Loop to additional overlook. Upon returning to #4, head down slope (right) to Campsite F (Hanson Hollow). Upon meeting West Ridge Trail, turn left, pass along river and continue until returning to Campsite P.



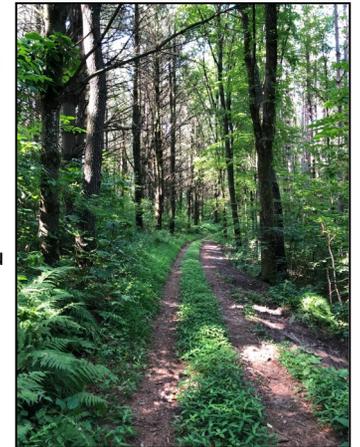
Hay Valley Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Ma & Pa’s Trail	1.31 miles	  	29
Bailout Trail	0.59 miles	  	40
Washout Trail	1.30 miles		44
9—10 Trail	0.72 mile	  	43

West Ridge Trail to Ma and Pa’s Trails, County Hwy P (3 mile round trip)

This loop includes about one mile walking along County Hwy P.

Start at Campsite P. Follow West Ridge Trail (snowmobile trail) to Ma and Pa’s Trail, on the left side of the trail. Follow through woods and a gradual descent, eventually coming to Weister Creek (completed 2 miles of the loop). Here you can either get your feet wet and cross the creek (DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS DURING HIGH WATER), or return the route you came. If crossing the creek, follow the trail on the opposite side to Campsite O, and follow County Hwy P to the left leading you to Weister Creek Rd and back to Campsite P. Of course, the route can be taken the opposite direction.



West Ridge Trail to Ice Cave Trails to Little Canada to West Ridge (5 mile round trip)

Start at West Ridge trail at Potts Corner, campsite P. Follow the trail past intersections 1, 2, 3 and then at 5 take Ice Caves Trail up to Intersection 6 and take upper Little Canada Trail back to intersection 3 then turn right and head back out West Ridge to your starting point at Potts Corners.



West Ridge & Weister Creek Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
County P to Little Canada	0.46 miles	  	9
Little Canada to Inter. 6	0.96 miles	  	27
Inter. 6 to Inter. 3	0.32 miles	  	28
Inter. 3 to Inter. 5	0.61 miles	  	19
Ice Caves Trail	0.86 miles	  	26

Old 131 Trail - Little Canada - West Ridge- Ice Cave Trails (4 mile round trip)

Start at the gate at County Hwy P-West and the Old 131 Trail. Head south on Old 131 across Bridge 15. Turn west/right on Little Canada Trail. Follow the trail up to Intersection 6. Heading to the right, continue up slope to the West Ridge Trail (snowmobile



trail). Turn to the south/left and follow West Ridge Trail down slope, eventually

reaching the “semi open” valley bottom. The trail becomes grass covered. Look for the Ice Cave trail on the north/left (if the West Ridge trail makes a right turn you have passed the Ice Cave Trail). Follow the Ice Cave trail up slope to a wooded over-look of the Kickapoo River. The next deep narrow



valley has a rock shelter at its head...look for it. Continue on the trail until you return to Intersection 6 at Little Canada trail. Continue to the right to return down Little Canada Trail to Old 131 Trail. Of course, the loop can be followed in the opposite direction.

West Ridge Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
County P to Little Canada	0.46 miles	  	9
Little Canada to Inter. 6	0.96 miles	  	27
Inter. 6 to Inter. 2	1mile	  	20, 28
Inter. 2 to Inter. 4	1.04 miles	 	24
Hanson Rock Loop	.67 miles	 	25
Inter. 4 to Campsite F	.67 miles	 	23
Campsite F to Inter. 5	0.74 miles	  	18
Ice Caves Trail	0.86 miles	  	26

Hikes to Hanson Rock

Hanson Rock from County P Gate (7 mile round trip).

Start at the Old 131 Gate on County Hwy P. Head south on Old 131 and find Little Canada Trail. Continue to Intersection #6. Keep towards the right direction to West Ridge trail. Follow west ridge towards right, walking along ridge line to intersection #2. Turn left on Hanson Rock Trail. Follow trail up to ridge and to the overlooks. At Intersection #4, continue straight on to Hanson Rock Loop to additional overlook. Upon returning to #4, head down slope (right) to Campsite F (Hanson Hollow) and West Ridge Trail. Upon meeting West Ridge Trail, turn left, pass along river and continue until Intersection 5, Ice Cave Trail. Follow this to intersection #6 and turn right heading down Little Canada back to Old 131.



Jug Creek Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Jug Creek Trail	1.04 miles		45

Jug Creek Trail (1.5 miles round trip)

The trail begins from a gravel road access on the east side of State Highway 131, a bit south of Jug Creek Road, at Campsite KK. The trail starts with a steady, long climb. At the top of the hill, the trail splits. Here is the start of a loop. Heading straight/left, the trail leads through a stand of red pine, and then into maple forest. Shortly after the maples begin, look for trail markers directing to the right. The trail then follows along the edge of a steep hill (downslope to your left) in a west direction. Eventually the trail comes to an intersection; to the right leads back to the start, but first follow the trail straight/left-ish onto a narrow ridge, leading to an overlook; best viewed in the late fall into early spring when leaf cover is minimal. Return from the overlook following the trail back across the narrow ridge and then keep to the right, again with the downslope on your left, eventually bringing you to the start of the loop. Continue back down the hill to return to Campsite KK.



Hay Valley Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Bailout Trail	.59 miles	  	40
Washout Trail	1.30 miles		44

Bail Out Trail

The Bailout trail is a trail head to access the Hay Valley Trail at the mid-point. An old settlers driveway leads to the Hay Valley and Washout Trails. Old growth forests dot the landscape along this trail, making the understory quite viewable.



Highlights:

- Old Growth White Oak Stands
- Hidden Natural Prairies
- An old foundation “the Honey Shack”
- Secret Mystical Valleys
- Easily fordable stream crossings
- Views of the Kickapoo River from the bluffs
- Rock Shelters
- State Natural Area

Washout Trail

The Washout Trail is a Hiking Trail only. It climbs and falls from hidden valley floors to the tops of the ridges. Canopy dependent bird species abound in the area. Species of endangered and protected plants have been noted in this section as well. Hikers can use this trail to complete a loop in the Hay Valley Woods.

Warner Creek Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Hoot Owl Trail	3.03 miles		50, 51, 52

Hoot Owl Trail (3 mile loop)

Park on Big Valley Rd. Follow Big Valley to County P, and cross CTY P, turn right and look for trail on left/south side of Road. Follow through an open stretch until reaching intersection 8, turn left. Follow through woods, cross a small creek, until the



trail comes to Haugh Rd. Turn left and walk Haugh Rd (0.2 mile) to County P. At County Hwy-P cross and look for trail at field edge on left. Follow this around the field edge to Warner Creek. Unless you can jump great distances, your feet will need to get wet here (alternate route below). Cross the creek and continue

along the trail though fallow fields, woods and a small stream crossing. When you come to Scratch Ave, cross road to continue on the trail. Follow this segment to Big Valley Rd. Turn left at the road and find your vehicle.

****To avoid the Warner Creek crossing....**
from Haugh Rd, turn left on CTH P and then turn right on Scratch Ave. Head up the hill and look for the trail on left side of the road.



Blackhawk Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Indian Creek Gate to Blackhawk Trail from Rogers Rd	1.82 miles		33
Rockton Trail (Equestrian)	0.69 miles		34
Rockton Trail (Bike)	0.72 miles		35

From Indian Creek Gate (about 1.8 miles to the top of Black Hawk)

Park at the gate at the intersection of Indian Creek Rd. and Lisney Rd. Follow Indian Creek Trail across the Ho-Chunk Nation Covered Bridge. Turn right on horse trail, about 500 ft from the bridge. The trail meets up with Black Hawk shared use Trail. Follow across the open/ prairie into the woods, trail makes a hard left turn, keep following , through a small open area, back

into woods... look for horse tie lines on the right (if you start heading downslope you missed the tie lines). Find the gap in the wood fence, towards the right of the tie lines. Follow this trail to the base of the rock face. The trail continues to the left/west of the face, and eventually makes a steep climb. Not



so steep you need climbing gear, but a climb just the same. At the top, turn right to reach the overlook. Return the way you came. Please note that the top of Black Hawk is fairly close to the property line. Following the ridge to the Northwest will quickly result in crossing into private property and trespass laws will apply.

From Daines Valley - Campsite N/Rogers Rd. (0.5 miles one way, 350 feet elevation gain)

This is the shortest option for reaching the overlook on Black Hawk Rock. Park along side the gravel road (Rogers Rd.), near the chain gate and the start of the trail. Please do not block the gate or road. Parking is limited along Rogers Rd. Consider parking either near the intersection of Rogers Rd. or CTY P or at the dead end of Rogers Rd. From the chain/gate follow Blackhawk Trail (snowmobile trail) up the hill. As the trail levels off, look for horse tie lines on the left. Find the gap in the fence, towards the right of the tie lines. Follow this trail to the base of the rock face. The trail continues to the left/west of the face, and eventually makes a steep climb. Not so steep you need climbing gear, but a climb just the same. At the top, turn right to reach the overlook. Return the way you came. Please note that the top of Black Hawk is fairly close to the property line. Following the ridge to the Northwest will quickly result in crossing into private property and trespass laws will apply.

Hay Valley Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
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9—10 Trail	.72 miles		43

Hay Valley Trail

The Hay Valley Trail is the furthest most north trail segment on the KVR. It connects the north to the mid and southern trail segments. The Hay Valley Trail explores many different ecosystems as it meanders the 4 miles from Campsite U on the north to Dutch Hollow Trail near Rockton. Loops can be made by incorporating the Washout, Bailout and 9-10 Trails.



9—10 Trail

The 9—10 Trail connects Dutch Hollow to the east loop as well as the mid section of the Hay Valley Trail. This trail provides access to north and east trails while avoiding the highway.



Billings Creek Woods

Trail Name	Distance	Use	Trail Challenge #
Billings Creek Trail	2.1 miles		47, 48

Billings Creek Trail

For those willing to take on a more rugged, less maintained trail, we would suggest the Billings Creek Hiking Trail. Long pants are strongly recommended, since the trail can be brushy at times. To Access the trail, turn east on Winchell Valley Rd from State Hwy 131. After crossing Bridge 8, park along south side the road. Walk east along the road and look for the trail on the left side of the road (about 500 ft from bridge). The hike begins with a short steep climb, but for most of the hike the trail more or less follows a low wooded ridge. There are two small streams in deep valleys that need to be crossed before reaching Billings creek. An overlook of the Kickapoo river is found just past the short (~500 ft) “open” segment of the trail.

At Billings Creek you can roll up your pant legs and wade across the stream. (Note: if the creek is high and raging do not attempt to cross!). Tip: North of the creek is a fairly short segment (0.5 miles). Therefore, unless you have strong reason to cross, it is suggested at this point to have snack, soak your feet, and then return to Winchell Valley Rd, as you came.

Highlights:

- Billings Creek
- Views of the Kickapoo River from the bluffs
- Rare and endangered plants
- High Plant Diversity
- Truly remote and backcountry hiking

