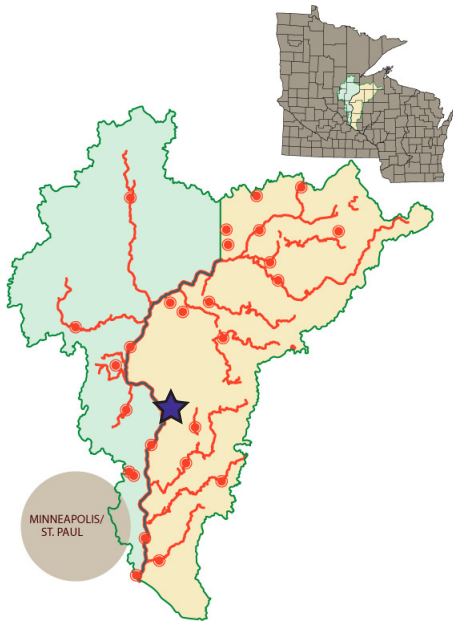


Site #17 - Simonsen Bluff

The Simonsen Bluff is 448 acres of property in Polk County north of St. Croix Falls, now known as the Wert Family Nature Preserve. The site provides opportunity for public recreation, adds a natural area buffer to the city, connects several state-important trail networks, while protecting forestlands, and protects the water quality of the St. Croix River as well as the scenic quality of the National Scenic Riverway.

Quick Facts:



State & Country:

Wisconsin, Polk County

Habitat Types:

Maple-Basswood woodland, Forested Seeps, Oak Woodland

Important Plant(s):

Fragrant Fern

Important Wildlife:

Red Shouldered Hawk

Protection Designations:

Conservation Easement by West Wisconsin Land Trust and Grant and Management Contract by WDNR
- Pending

Ecological & Cultural Significance:

The ecological communities present on the property include Northern Mesic forestland with Oak woodland, bedrock glades, forested seeps, springs, creeks, and Maple-Basswood woodland.

The City of St. Croix Falls is known as “The City of Trails”. The St. Croix Falls area is the western-most terminus for both the National Ice Age Trail and the WI State Gandy Dancer Trail. Other Trails, or trail segments, in the area include: Pothole Trail, Summit Rock Trail, River Bluff Trail, Esker Trail, Riegel Park Ice Age Trail Segment, Mindy Creek Ice Age Trail Segment, Indian-head Flowage Trail, Rock Creek Trail, Ridge View Trail.

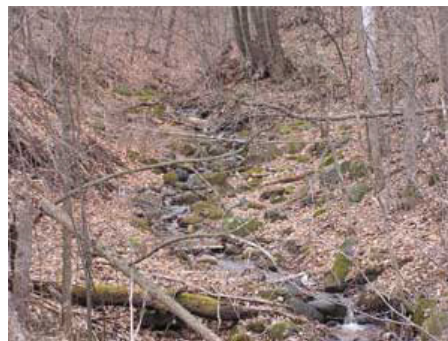
The Wert Family Nature Preserve will provide for additional trail lands and complete the IAT at its western terminus.

Potential Threats:

Fragmentation of the large 450-acre tract, and invasion by exotic and/or invasive species

Current Activities:

The property has been purchased from Wedgewood Capital, LLC by West Wisconsin Land Trust. West Wisconsin Land Trust will transfer the property to the City of St. Croix Falls following the anticipated reception of a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant to recover the cost of purchase.



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Working Partners



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*The City of
St. Croix Falls*