

TODAY

Hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, picnicking, berry and nut picking, and nature appreciation are just a few of the activities that can be enjoyed at the park. Primitive camping and horse camping are available. Picnic tables have been placed at various location for picnicking or relaxing after a hike. Hiking trails and bridle trails crisscross the park. Views of the Mississippi and Wisconsin river bluffs are available from the park. Remnant prairies, grasslands, hardwood forests and wildlife inhabited edge make up the park's varied habitat. The park barn is available for indoor activities. A nature center is open with limited hours.

TOMORROW

Long-range plans call for this area to remain as wild as possible, as dictated by Dan La Riviere's will. Wildlife habitat improvement work will continue. Forestry practices, including tree and shrub plantings, aimed at improving wildlife habitat for the benefit of upland game species, will be undertaken. Grassland will be managed for restoration of prairie remnants and for providing nesting and rearing habitat for ground-nesting birds and mammals needing open grasslands. A continuing effort will be maintained to provide trails, vistas, educational and viewing areas for people to enjoy the birds, mammals, vegetation and panoramic views of this unique park.

INFORMATION

Much volunteer activity goes into what you see today at the park. Many civic and service organizations, along with single volunteers, put numerous hours into maintenance or special projects. Visitors to La Riviere Park are asked to observe all signs and to respect the rights of others enjoying the park. A copy of the park regulations is posted in the kiosk at the barn and at the horse camp. Please be careful with fire. Litter should be properly disposed of in containers provided or taken home. Vehicle traffic is limited to maintained roads. Enjoy the park as Dan and Elsie would want you to!

LA RIVIERE PARK



LOCATION

La Riviere Park is located on Vineyard Coulee Road one mile east of U.S. Highway 18. The park is a 320-acre tract of hills, woods, open fields and limited agricultural land on the geological feature called the Bridgeport Terrace. The terrace is actually the old riverbottom of the prehistoric Mississippi River. When the glaciers melted, some of the sand carried by them was deposited here. Over top of this sand, wind-blown dirt from the west settled. The high ground is limestone bluff typical of the unglaciated/driftless area of southwest Wisconsin.

YESTERDAY

La Riviere Park is a gift to the people of Prairie du Chien from the late Daniel La Riviere. Dan and his wife, Elsie, farmed the property for many years. In his will, Dan directed that the farm be used and maintained in perpetuity as a public park and recreational area and kept in a natural state. Dan further stated, "It is my desire and purpose to make available for . . . present and future generations . . . an area of unspoiled wooded hills and wildlife." Many conservation practices, relatively new and innovative ideas of that time were put to use by Dan. These practices can still be observed at the park doing what they were intended to do. The terraces, tree planting, and contours still protect the fragile soil of this unique area. Dan not only believed in good conservation practices, but he also put them to use.

La Riviere Park Information and Regulation Summary

This summary is provided to ensure the enjoyment and safety of park users.

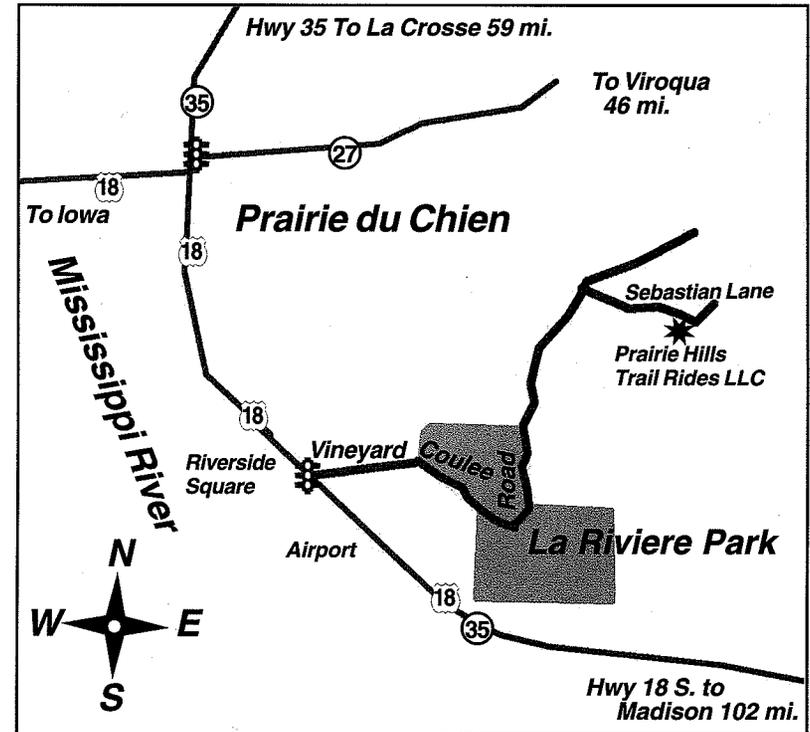
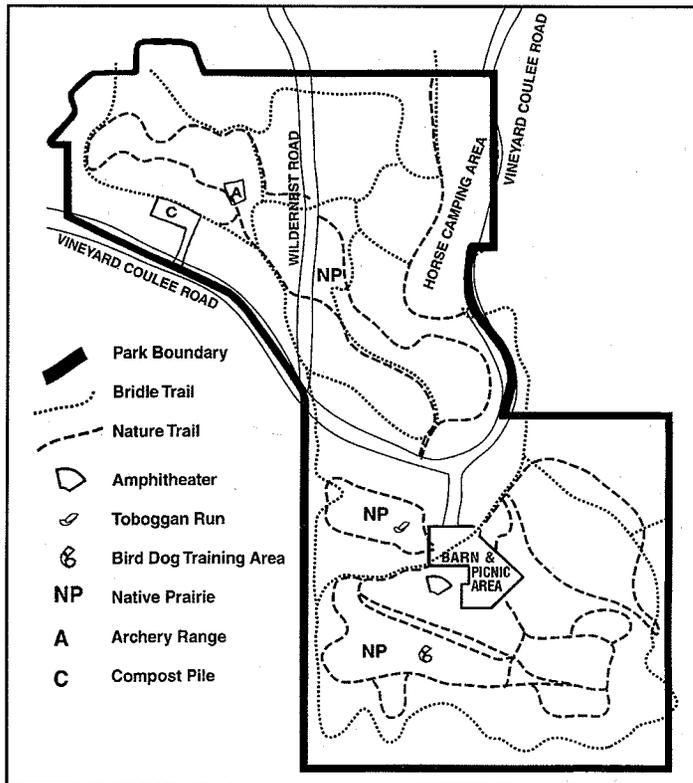
There is no entrance fee to enter La Riviere Park.

Camping in the park is limited to no more than a 7 day stay in each 14 days.

The park is closed to all but registered campers from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Horse camping is allowed in the horse camp. There is no fee. Electrical hookups are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A donation would be appreciated. Water is also available in the camp.

Primitive, walk-in only, campsites are available south of the barn shelter.



Off road use of all vehicles is prohibited.

Pets shall be on a leash or under voice control. All fecal material deposited in a human use area (trail, parking lot, etc.) shall be removed. No pets are allowed in the picnic grounds.

Horses shall stay on marked bridle trails.

Native prairie plants and seeds shall not be harvested without a permit from the park committee.

The barn shelter will be left unlocked and available for use except when reserved. Reservations for the barn can be made at the Prairie du Chien City Hall. Water and restrooms are available near the barn and picnic grounds.

Special use permits, issued by the La Riviere Park Committee, are required for any activity contrary to park regulations.