

## Partners in the Preservation

### The Mississippi Valley Conservancy

([www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org)) -

MVC is a local non-profit land trust that spearheaded the preservation effort by developing the partnership and negotiating the purchase scenario. MVC will purchase the property and oversee all restoration.

### The Town of Holland -

The Town of Holland made a crucial commitment to help fund the project through local property taxes. Town residents place great value on having this unique natural area close to home.

### The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

([www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)) -

The DNR recognizes how rare the Holland Prairie is and will provide matching funds for purchase and designate it a "State Natural Area."

### The Prairie Enthusiasts

([www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org)) -

TPE is a non-profit organization committed to protection and management of native prairie and savanna of the Upper Midwest. TPE will assist with restoration and management.



Silky Prairie Clover, one of the rare sand prairie plants found at the Holland Prairie.

## Friends of the Holland Sand Prairie

([www.hollandsandprairie.org](http://www.hollandsandprairie.org))

Local residents formed the FHSP organization with the following mission:

*"To protect and restore the Holland Sand Prairie as a natural river terrace prairie for future generations"*



FHSP assists with:

- Management policy
- Field-work parties
- Fund raising events
- Public education

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## Please Help Us Preserve the Holland Sand Prairie!

Donations to help with purchasing and restoring this precious natural area are being accepted. Please send donations to:

Holmen Area Foundation  
Holland Sand Prairie Fund  
P.O. Box 432  
Holmen, WI 54636

Make checks payable to:

Holmen Area Foundation-Holland Sand Prairie Fund

**Thank you for your support!**



*Once part of a vast series of sand prairies on terraces of the Upper Mississippi River, the Holland Sand Prairie is one of the last large sand prairie remnants of its kind remaining.*



- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Natural History
- ◆ Community



Town of Holland Hall  
W7937 County Road MH  
Holmen, WI 54636  
608-526-3354

## What makes the Holland Sand Prairie so unique?

The Holland Sand-Prairie sits atop an expansive Mississippi River Terrace, created about 12,000 years ago during the last ice-age, that stretches nearly 30 miles from south La Crosse to Galesville, WI. Once home to a great expanse of native sand prairie and natural dunes, the La Crosse-Galesville Terrace is now almost completely developed into cities, towns, and farms. The dunes and hollows on the Holland Prairie are the only undisturbed Aeolian (wind-formed) landforms in the entire area. The Sand Prairie extends to the edge of the Mississippi River Terrace, which rises up over 100 feet from the floodplain below.



The land of the Holland Sand Prairie is sandy, well drained, and dry. This gave native prairie plants a decided advantage in survival after



European settlement and the introduction of many exotic species. The Holland Sand Prairie was part of a larger farm for many years that was

primarily grazing land and fields of hay in lower areas. The remaining dune ridges contain large colonies of sand-prairie plants that appear to have been undisturbed since European settlement.

The most impressive attribute of the Holland Sand-Prairie is the tremendous biodiversity existing on the site. Roughly 150 species of plants have been identified to date, some of which are State

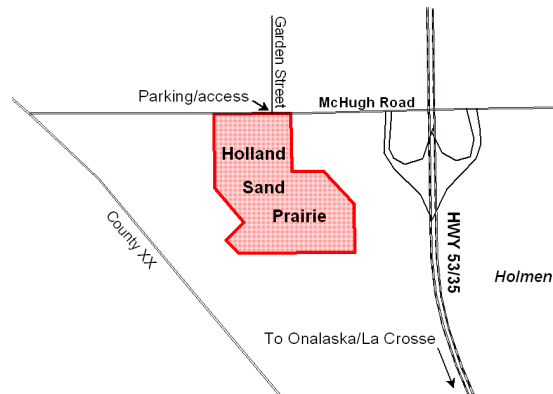


threatened species or species of special concern. Large, mature patches of relatively rare plants such as prairie smoke, silky prairie clover, and sand

dropseed are scattered throughout the prairie.

George Varnum, a local prairie enthusiast who lives near the Holland Prairie, was the first person to begin documenting the rich diversity of native plants existing at the site. He contacted the WI-DNR about the prairie in 1997, and soon afterwards, efforts were underway by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) to preserve this site. It wasn't until December of 2004 that a deal was finally reached to preserve 61 acres of the Holland Sand Prairie.

## Location of the Holland Sand Prairie W7781 County Road MH, Holmen, WI



## Prairie Activities

**Recreation:** Non-destructive recreation, such as observing and photographing flora and fauna, is encouraged. Activities not allowed are seed collection, taking of flora or fauna, non-pedestrian travel, camping, and other activities leading to site degradation.



## Education:

Scheduled hikes are offered to the public for the purposes of education. Hike participants can share knowledge and discuss aspects of prairie ecology and plant and animal identification. The prairie is open for use by school groups as a field classroom.



## Restoration:

The public is invited to join in scheduled work events. Activities include tree and brush removal, seed harvesting, fence building, trail maintenance, and conducting prescribed burns.

