

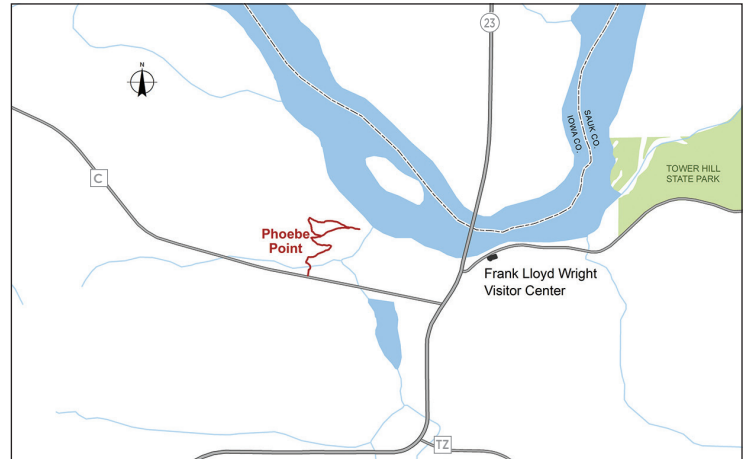


THE DRIFTLESS TRAIL: PHOEBE POINT TRAIL

LOCATION & PARKING

LOCATION: This trail is on the Taliesin property south of Spring Green along the Wisconsin River, owned by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. From the junction of State Highway 23 and County C, just south of the Wisconsin River, turn west on County C and drive a half mile.

PARKING: The mowed and plowed parking area is on the north side of the road. Do not park on County C.



THE HIKE

DIFFICULTY: **MODERATE**

LENGTH: **1.1 MILES ROUND-TRIP**

This trail is a 1.1 mile-long “lollipop loop”, part out-and-back with a loop in the middle. It offers stunning views up and down the Wisconsin River, across the Taliesin property, and across much of the Lowery Creek watershed. This segment of the Driftless Trail is a collaboration between Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, and Taliesin Preservation.

Phoebe Point was a special place to Frank Lloyd Wright and he was selective in giving others permission to go there. Where he got the name Phoebe remains a mystery. It could be Phoebe, the bird. Or it could be a particular person. We will likely never know.

We do know that much of the stone used to build Taliesin was quarried at the west end of the ridge. You will come upon a flat area there where you see evidence of quarrying on all sides.

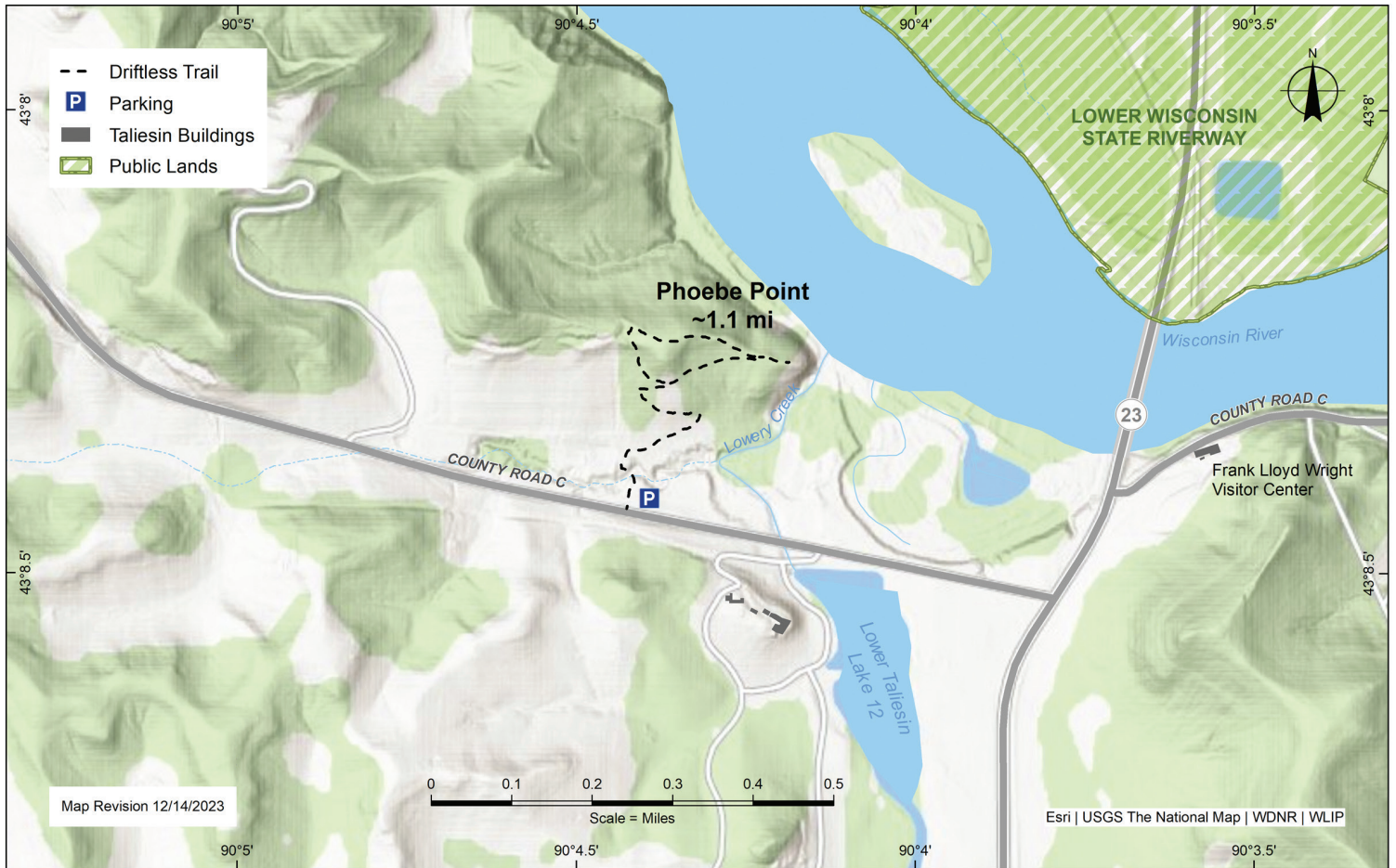
The 1937 aerial photo of this site shows it to be open prairie or pasture from the parking area two-thirds of the way to the ridge, with scattered trees (likely oaks) on the top third of the slope. The river side of the ridge was wooded, as it is today. At the time of Wright’s death in 1959, this area likely had more shrubs and trees, but was not the walnut-dominated woodland with cedar-covered prairies and honeysuckle-choked ground layer that it developed into by the 2010s.

Starting in 2017, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation began prairie and savanna restoration activities at this site so it can return to the way it was prior to invasive species and fire suppression. Undesirable shrubs and trees are cleared during winter months when the ground is frozen, and prescribed burning occurs in spring or fall most years. The ultimate goal is to restore the slope from the parking area to the ridge and beyond.

The beautiful views you see from Phoebe Point and the ridge have impressive credentials. Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin home was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976 and a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019. The 92 mile-long Lower Wisconsin State Riverway was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2020. And in 2015, local residents and organizations formed the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative to continually improve the land, water, aesthetics, and livelihoods of this area long into the future.

We encourage you to return to this trail over the seasons and over the years to witness the changes and to experience what Wright described in his eloquent essay, *Why I Love Wisconsin*, quoted below.

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Frank Lloyd Wright's 1930 essay, *Why I Love Wisconsin*, described his reverence for the Driftless landscape:

And I come back from the distant, strange, and beautiful places that I used to read about when I was a boy, and wonder about; yes, every time I come back here it is with the feeling there is nothing anywhere better than this is.

More dramatic elsewhere, perhaps more strange, more thrilling, more grand, too, but nothing that picks you up in its arms and so gently, almost lovingly, cradles you as do these southwestern Wisconsin hills.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- There are no toilets or water available at this trail.
- This trail is open year-round including during the gun deer season.
- Pets are welcome but MUST remain on a leash.



**Enjoy your hike and leave no trace – the best way
to preserve this trail forever!**

Learn more and donate at driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail

Our thanks to those who have made this trail possible: Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Taliesin Preservation, John C. Bock Foundation, Alliant Energy Foundation, James E. Dutton Foundation, WisCorps program, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, and many individual volunteers and donors.