

Miller Bluff Trail Design Concept

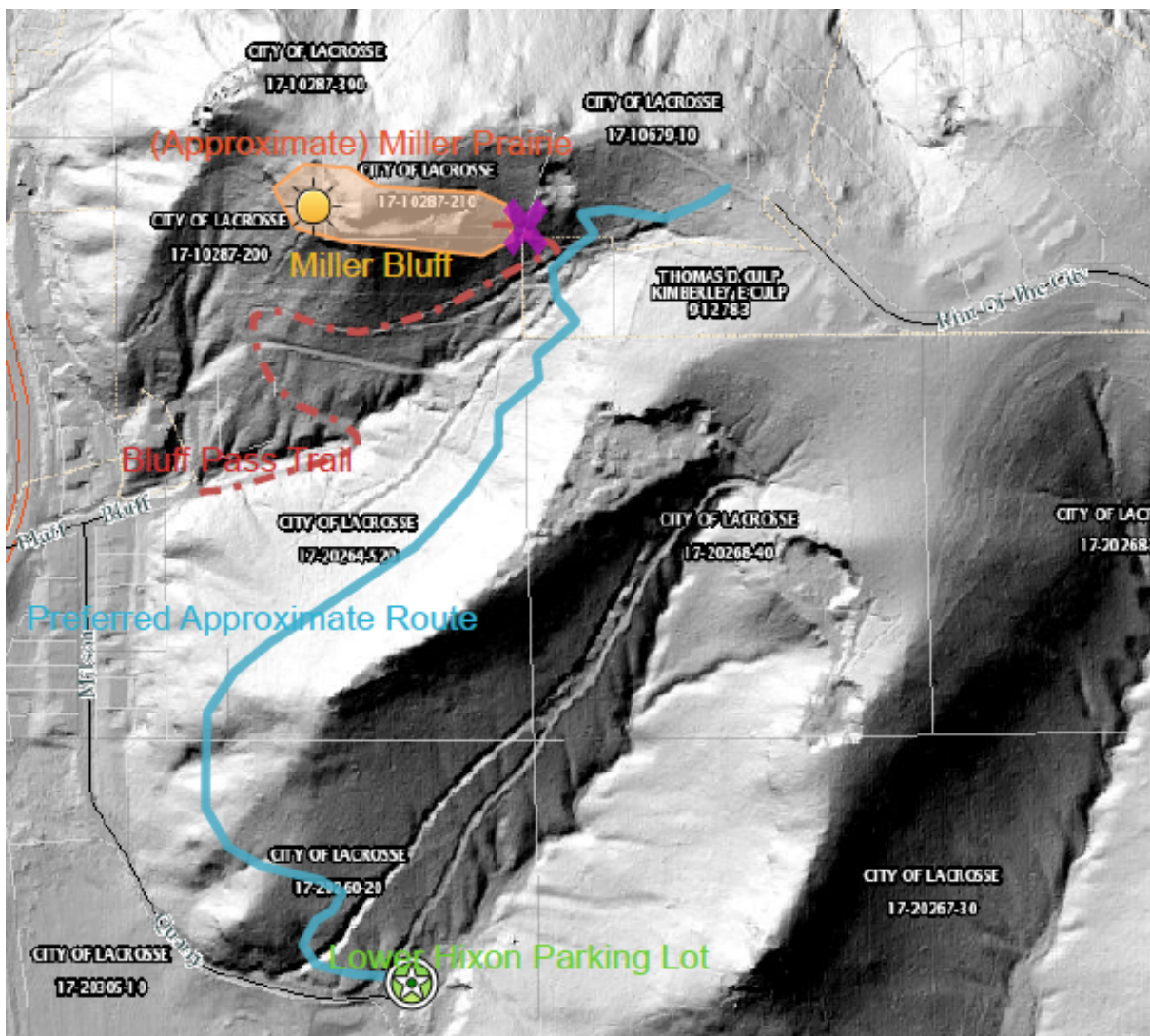
Final Design Plan

04/21/2021

The planning team for the Miller Bluff Trail has gathered data, community input and geographic information to assemble a *Design Plan* for the City of La Crosse's Miller Bluff Trail. The details of those findings along with a proposed trail concept are found throughout this *Design Plan*.

The property in scope lies between the Miller Bluff Lookout Vista and Lower Hixon Parking Lot. There is one main area of constraint for this project, being Miller Prairie. The aim is to provide the best experience for trail users and avoid disturbance of the native species found within it. The reroute and repair of the Bluff Pass (Road) Trail will be another focus of the project.

Miller Bluff Preferred Route - Noted in Blue



Preferred Route

- The route
 - The trail begins at the Lower Hixon Trail Head. It crosses the gully just below the Vista trail before wrapping below the Milson Prairie rock point. The route continues to skirt below the Milson Prairie ridgeline to the North, crossing the swapped parcel (previously the Culp Family private property), ending with a connection to the Miller Bluff lookout trail.
 - This is located entirely within City of La Crosse property boundaries.
 - This intersects and ties into the existing Bluffpass Trail.
 - This route does not utilize the Vista Trail bridge.
 - The route is approximately 1 mile in length.
 - In conjunction with repairing the Bluff Pass Trail, this will create a bidirectional loop for hikers.
 - The Miller Prairie boundaries would be avoided along with any protected species present within.
 - Revegetation in the section that enters the Miller prairie (Noted with a purple X on the map).
- Constraints
 - It's important to avoid damage to native plants found within the Miller Prairie.

Additional Areas of Opportunity

Bluff Pass Trail

Shown on the map as a dotted red line. The community's input shows the importance of the Bluff Pass Trail as a steadily used path from the City to the top of the bluff. It's location and existing dimensions makes it a possibility for an EMS route to Hixon Forest. This is a high priority focus as restoration is very necessary to make this a sustainable trail that withstands erosion and weathering. It's current condition does not meet modern trail standards. It's our suggestion this trail be repaired in conjunction with the construction of the new Miller Bluff Trail.

- Recommendations Include:
 - Adding approximately 350ft of new construction
 - Addition of drainage features every 100-150ft in the for of rolling grade dips (grade reversal)
 - Terminate old route sections and restore with revegetation, including the section that enters the Miller prairie (Noted with a purple X on the map)
 - Make a connection to the new Miller Bluff Trail to create a bidirectional loop for hikers