ABOUT THE PARK

Established in 1961, Blue Mounds State Park protects sheer quartzite cliffs and over 1,500 acres of highly diverse prairie. Here you have the opportunity to see more rare prairie species than in any other park in southwestern Minnesota. Management programs restore native grasses and wildflowers, resulting in a panorama of prairie colors in late summer. Amid this rich landscape, you may also spot bison. The herd you see today began with the introduction of three bison from Nebraska in 1961. New calves are born each spring.

VISITOR TIPS

• Bison can move very fast. Keep out of the enclosure fence!
• Looking for the bison? Start by looking from one of the three Bison Observation areas on this map.
• Stay on trails. Prickly pear cacti are common here and their spines can pierce shoes and clothes. Even their yellow flowers have small spines.
• Pack a water bottle for your hike.
• In an emergency call 911.
• Non-emergency sheriff’s number: 507-283-5000

ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

• Look for bison from the viewing platform or Mound Trail.
• Hike the short Quarry Trail to explore the quartzite cliffs.
• Visit Eagle Rock, the park’s highest point. Take the Mound Trail from the Eagle Rock Vista parking lot.

LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE?

VISIT MNDNR.GOV/BLUEMOUNDS

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

Bur Oak Trail
Steep terrain • Bare rock • Packed dirt
This narrow trail leads through a bur oak forest and large quartzite boulders and cliff faces.

Mound Trail
One long, gradual hill • Mowed grass
Hike along the western edge of the bison range and over the top of the Mound. You’ll be rewarded with abundant views of tallgrass prairie. Loops can be made by returning on the Upper Cliffline Trail.

Upper Cliffline Trail
One long, gradual hill • Mowed grass
Travel along the upper edge of the cliffline and old quartzite quarry to experience the unique, pink rock.

Lower Cliffline Trail
Mostly flat • Mowed grass • Some paved segments
Take this trail to skirt around the base of a cliffline and join the bike trail. Connecting trails lead up the cliff to the Upper Cliffline Trail.

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

• Bike along three miles of paved park trails and continue onto trails that lead to Luverne, MN.
• Bring your own gear and go rock climbing.
• Stay overnight in a park tipi. This is a popular option, so make a reservation well in advance.

Experience a stunning prairie landscape.