



Rim of the City Quest:

A treasure hunt above La Crosse

HOW TO GET THERE: Take Highway 33 to County Road F. Follow County Road F to County Road FA. Take FA to Rim of the City Road, and then travel on Rim of the City Road to the end. Do not park in the cul de sac; rather turn around in the cul de sac and park along the south side of the street.

Begin your Quest on foot in the cul de sac!



CLUES

You've passed the estates; now round the gate.
Down this drive, what species thrive?
With rounded leaves, poplars quiver in the breeze.

Find a surprise soon in the middle of the road.
From a tiny acorn a mighty oak does now grow. Some may be slow!
Red, White, Black and Burr their names be.
See how many different ones you can see.

From the oak in the road, head straight for the next gate.
Where the path starts to narrow and many changes await.
Keep your eyes to the left, in search of a well.
Where once-upon-a-time someone thought they would dwell.

An ancient burr oak leans over the site
Where a house might have been -- oh, what a fright!
Now in this clearing baby oaks grow
Taking their time...so so so slow!

As a site for a home, it had the goods
But up spoke the people who saved the woods.
Step past red pines all standing in rows
To the magnificent opening where wind strongly blows.

As up the hill you climb, there explodes a view sublime.
At your feet lies a struggle between prairie and wood:
Who will prevail? The prairie should!
The bluff is windy, hot and dry...

Perfect conditions for a prairie to thrive.
Prairies were here in pre-settlement times
The woods have encroached due to humankind.

From hilltop head down the trail to the right
The trail continues all day and all night.
At the fork in the path head up and not down
To a place where far below you see wet, mushy ground.
Several stumps you will see - where trees used to be
Cut down to make room so the prairies can bloom.

Climb up the backbone of the ridge
Off in the distance you will see a blue bridge.
Continue on the narrow trail along the ridge through the birch trees and then down a smidge
Go out to the bluff's tip
For some, scary is the lip.

You are standing on sea bed that's millions of years old
Gazing out the Mississippi Valley so bold.
Five miles wide, six hundred feet deep
Carved over a million years, as water back & forth creeped.

Now look down beneath your feet to see dolomite.
Can you see the fossil of the ancients? You might!
And look up too: you might see turkey vultures in flight.

Move further right
To the second bluff point.
There you will be
In a small space between drop-off, edge of woods and former quarry wall for all to see.

Turn away from the cliff edge, for behind you is a steep ledge.
Travel the path to the right.
Scanning the rock face at a few feet's height.
Cracks in the rocks
Conceal the treasure box.

Open the plastic box. Take an impression of the stamp in any book or paper you might have.
Sign our guest book and note anything interesting you've seen!
Put everything back to keep it all clean.

Mississippi Valley Conservancy hopes you enjoyed the Quest!
Visit us online at www.MississippiValleyConservancy.org
and become a member today!