

A high-angle, first-person perspective shot of a person climbing a dark, textured rock face. The climber is wearing a grey helmet with a yellow sticker, an orange t-shirt, and black pants. They are secured by a green rope and a blue rope. The background shows a lush green forest, a sandy path, a road, and a river flowing towards a distant town under a clear sky.

Climbing in La Crosse

A valuable and
untapped
community
resource for all

Coulee Region Climber's Coop

Photo: Sugarloaf in Winona

Types of Climbing

Climbing Disciplines

```
graph TD; A[Climbing Disciplines] --> B[Free Climbing]; A --> C[Aid Climbing]; B --> D[Ropes]; B --> E[No Ropes]; D --> F[Lead Climbing]; D --> G[Top Rope Climbing]; F --> H["Trad"]; F --> I[Sport Climbing]; E --> J[Bouldering]; E --> K[Free Solo];
```

Free Climbing

Aid Climbing

Ropes

No Ropes

Lead Climbing

Top Rope Climbing

Bouldering

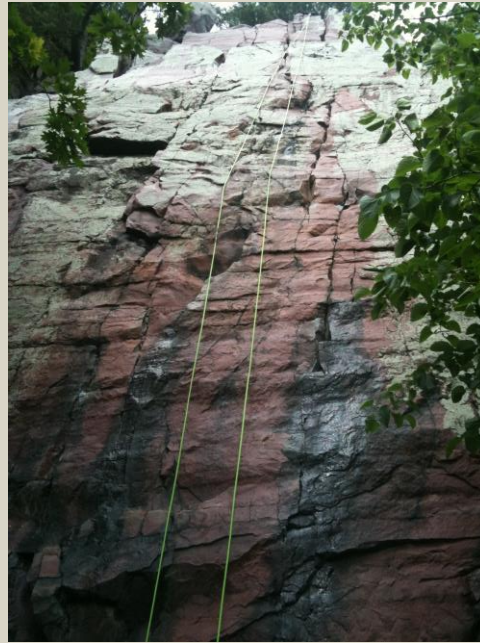
Free Solo

“Trad”

Sport Climbing

Climbing Disciplines





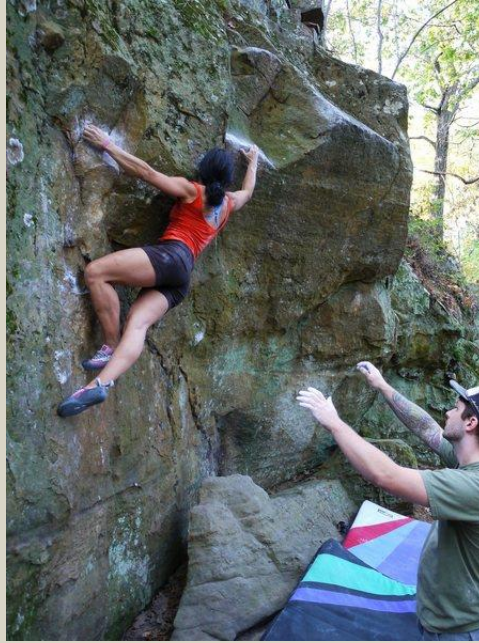
Top Rope Climbing

A safe form of **climbing** where the climber is protected from a fall; by the rope above, passing through **fixed anchors** and back down to the **belayer**. Most people's exposure to climbing is top roped climbing in controlled environments.



Sport Climbing

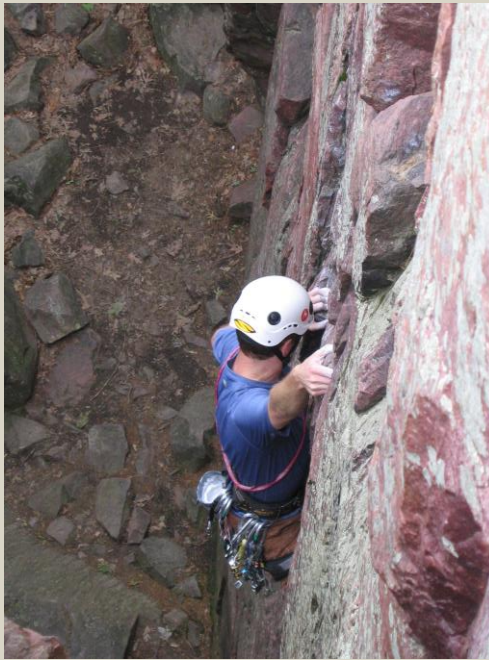
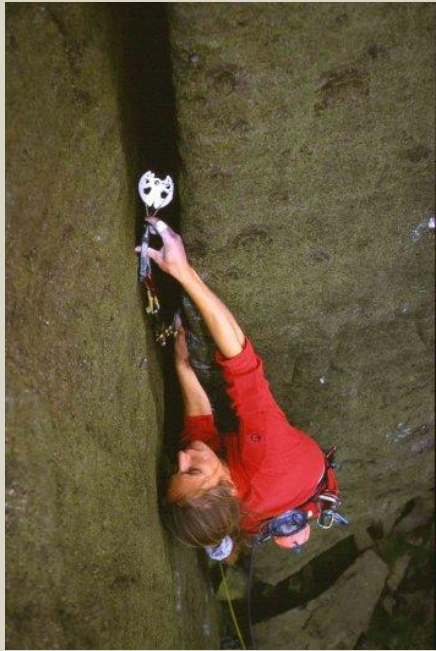
A type of **climbing** that relies on permanent anchors fixed to the **rock** for protection. **Fixed anchors** are used to **mitigate climber impact**, and offer improved safety for climbers across many skill levels. An advanced, pure recreational, low equipment aspect of climbing.



Bouldering

A style of climbing emphasizing gymnastic movement, performed without equipment on short boulders, objects, or routes. Landing mats (“crash pads”) and spotters provide safety.





“Trad” Climbing

Traditional Free Climbing is a method of protecting a climber from falls without fixed anchors.

Protection is removable, normally by the belayer upon completion of a pitch. This advanced discipline requires broad understanding of technical aspects of the sport, as well as **accepting higher risks** involved.

Climbing has evolved...

It's no longer outside the
mainstream

TOKYO●2020



Art by Constant Climbing

2016~**7,200,000**



22 Years

1994 ~**350,000**

Estimated number of US climbers



More about climbers

- Estimated **7.2 million** climbers in US (Outdoor Foundation)
- 1.5 million American youth, 6-17 yrs old climb
- Highest concentration of climbers between 26-36 yrs old.
- Generally college educated & professionally driven.
- Professional median household income: ~\$75,000
- 2015 Red River Gorge Economic Survey: \$3.6m annually
- 2015 Chattanooga Economic Survey: \$7m annually
- On the look out for new places and local experiences.



Indoor Rock Climbing participation on the rise

Steady growth of new climbing gyms, 10% growth annually since 2010

5000+ new climbers fill out digital waivers each day in American climbing gyms.

517 commercial gyms in USA (2018)

Colleges & Universities, outdoor clubs, community centers, City park walls are all on the rise.



Why support climbing?

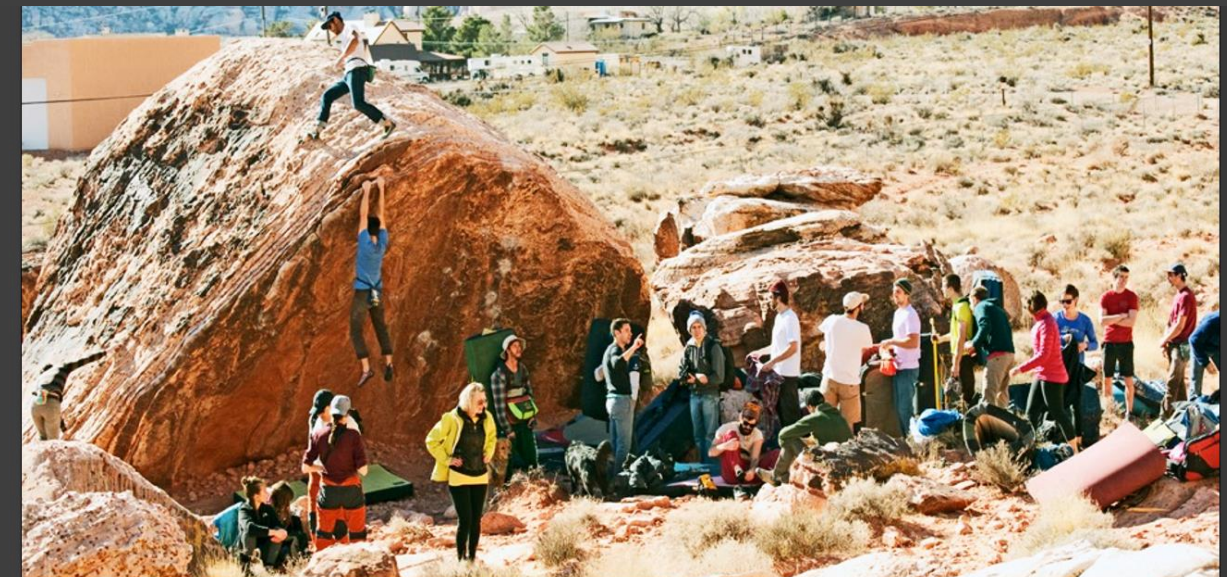
climbing provides

Numerous physical benefits, such as building endurance, strength, and flexibility.

Benefits both the brain and mental health; known to increase confidence, reduce stress and have positive outcomes on mental strength.

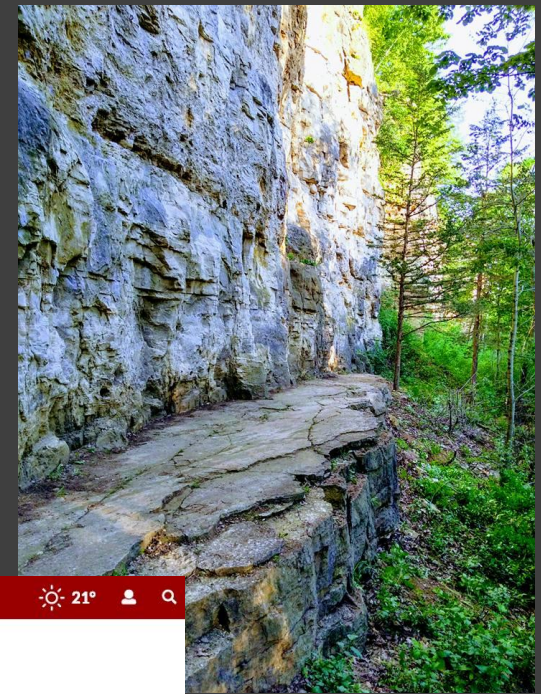
It helps build a community revolved around a positive outdoor recreation activity

Increases environmental awareness



Climbers are stewards

- National organization Access Fund routinely sponsors “Adopt-A-Crag” days for trail maintenance, waste removal, and educating local climbers about best ethics.
- American Alpine Club runs stewardship days during “Craggin’ Classic” events, most recently at Devil’s Lake State Park.
- State organizations (Wisconsin Climber’s Association, Minnesota Climber’s Association) host regular meet-and-clean dates.
- Leave No Trace ethics are hard-wired into the sport.
- Sport Climbing seeks to minimize impact through best practices.



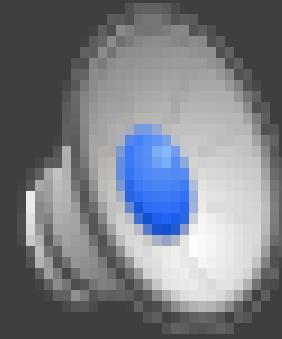
Why Grandads?

It needs help

- Buckthorn and Honeysuckle are a significant issue for the prairie.
- Graffiti is a growing problem.
- Trash, glass, and construction debris litter the Quarry.
- Climbers, Hikers, Bird Watchers, and other enthusiasts cannot keep up with the waste.



Continuing Stewardship



- ORA Grand Cleanup removed roughly two tons of trash, with more work to do.
- High-risk areas do not have adequate signs or warnings.
- No markers for trails, boundaries, or EMS contact information.
- Erosion from improper trails.
- Invasive species overrun former quarry floor.
- Former industrial site was never reclaimed or made suitable.



It has potential




- Favorable distance from metro areas; one-day or 3-day weekend trips.
- Connection to ORA and Parks projects mutually enhances environment.
- Opportunity for youth outreach through guided programs.
- UW-La Crosse Exercise and Sport Science, Recreation Management, Outdoor Connection and other programs would be able to utilize an added resource in La Crosse.
- Climbing is a lifetime of fun!





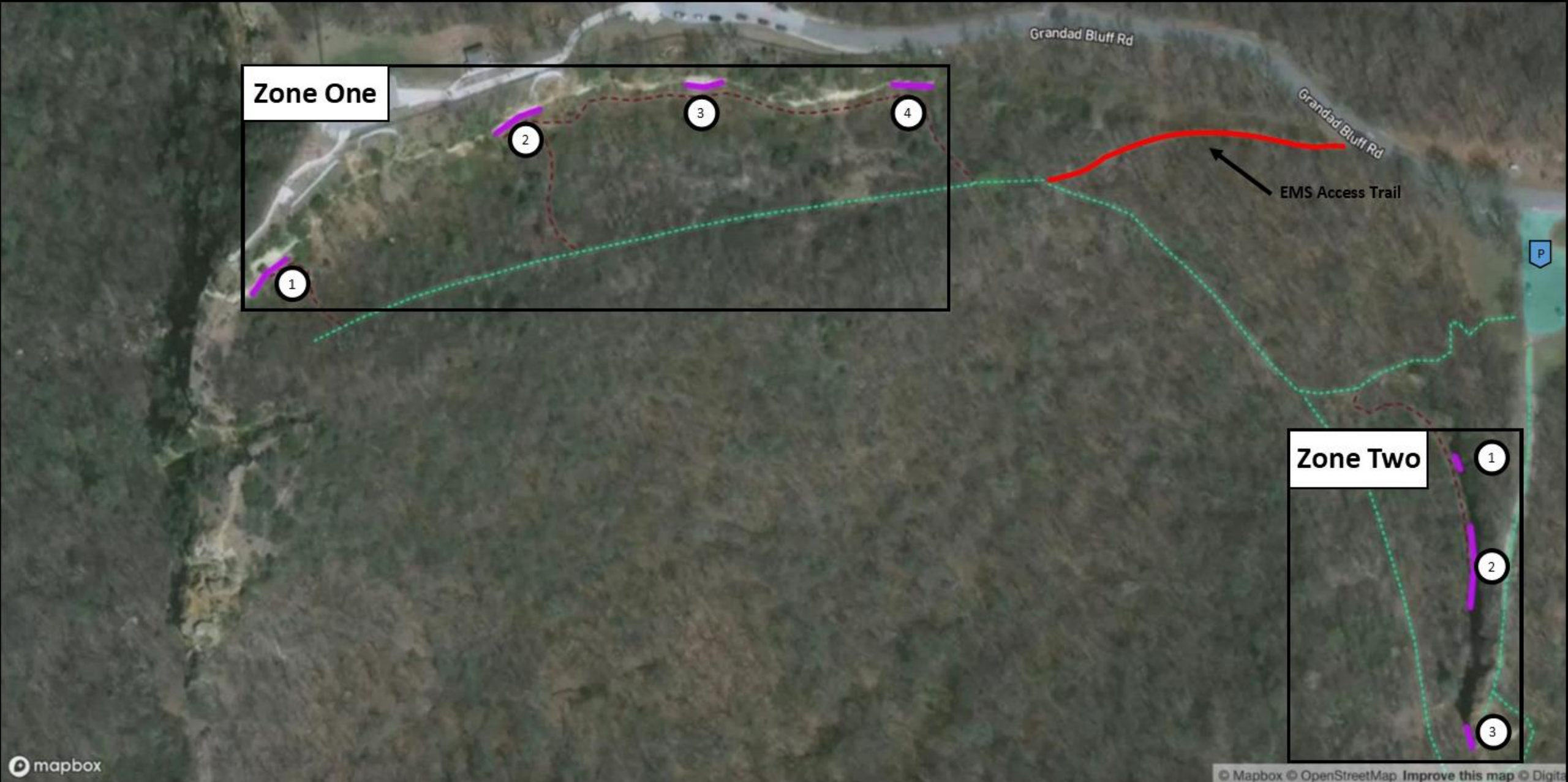
Grandad's Bluff Climbing

[click for details](#)

-  Crag (Climbing Walls)
-  Nature Trails
-  Climber's Trails

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap [Improve this map](#) © DigitalGlobe

It's partially developed



It's partially developed

CLIMBING THE RIVER BLUFFS

Other Bluffs

La Crosse's Grandad Bluff is another

Don't Ask, Don't Tell



All Locations > Wisconsin

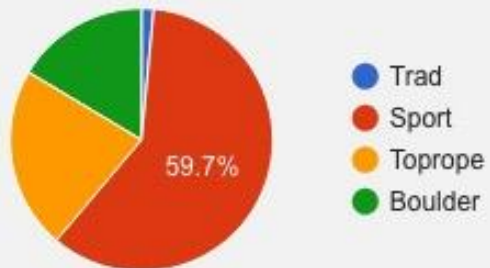
Grandad's Bluff Climbing

Elevation: 1,016 ft

GPS: 43.811, -91.21 [Google Map](#) · [Climbing Area Map](#)

Page Views: 71,552 total · 504/month

63 Total Climbs



It's partially developed

The future... **Grandad's** **Quarry** **Park**

An exemplary resource for the La Crosse community and recreation visitors to the Driftless Region

Activity for the whole family, participating and spectating

Potential economic driver for outdoor recreation within the region

Local resource developed and maintained by local climbers and volunteers



Photo credits: K. Gorny, Mountain Project, and Access Fund

Slides prepared by: N. Barnhart, B. Kuhn

Presentation possible through assistance from: D. Groth, Access Fund, American Alpine Club, and Outdoor Industry Association.

City of La Crosse Code of Ordinances Chapter 34, sec. 34-53

Sec. 34-53. - Trespassing prohibited.

No person shall enter upon any park land including, but not limited to, unauthorized areas of Grandad Bluff in disregard of signs or posted notices forbidding the same.

(Code 1980, § 10.03(l))

WI Statute 895.52 (1) (g)

(g) "Recreational activity" means any outdoor activity undertaken for the purpose of exercise, relaxation or pleasure, including practice or instruction in any such activity. "Recreational activity" includes hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, picnicking, exploring caves, nature study, bicycling, horseback riding, bird-watching, motorcycling, operating an all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle, operating a vehicle, as defined in s. 340.01 (74), on a road designated under s. 23.115, recreational aviation, ballooning, hang gliding, hiking, tobogganing, sledding, sleigh riding, snowmobiling, skiing, skating, water sports, sight-seeing, rock-climbing, cutting or removing wood, climbing observation towers, animal training, harvesting the products of nature, participating in an agricultural tourism activity, sport shooting and any other outdoor sport, game or educational activity. "Recreational activity" does not include any organized team sport activity sponsored by the owner of the property on which the activity takes place.

Thanks to volunteer efforts of the Wisconsin Climber's Association, the State of WI recognizes rock climbing as a permitted recreational activity.

THIS, STATEMENT, IS,
rock-climbing, c
animal training.

