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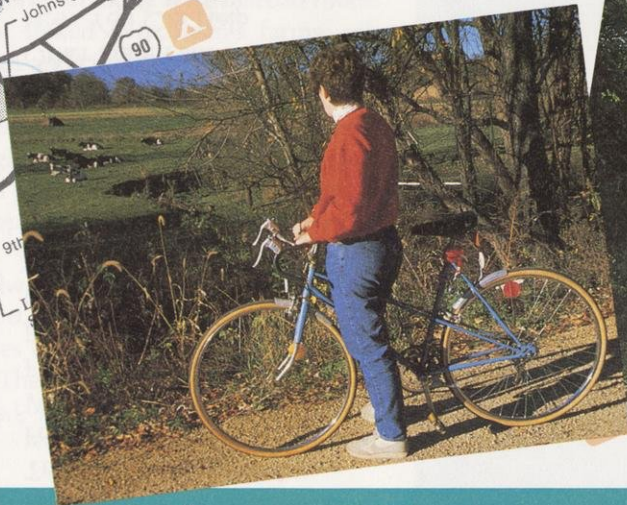
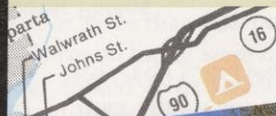
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Biking Wisconsin's State Park Trails

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Cover Photos

(left) A country view on the Military Ridge trail. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Division of Tourism Development.

(right) The only way to travel. Photo courtesy of the Red Cedar trail



Legend

-  major highway
-  county trunk highway
-  town road
-  bike trail route
-  picnic area
-  private campground
-  public campground
-  bike trail closed
-  tunnel

Coordinated by Bonnie Gruber,
DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation.
Text by Bonnie Gruber and Jeff L. Welsch.
Maps by Robert W. Lehrman

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

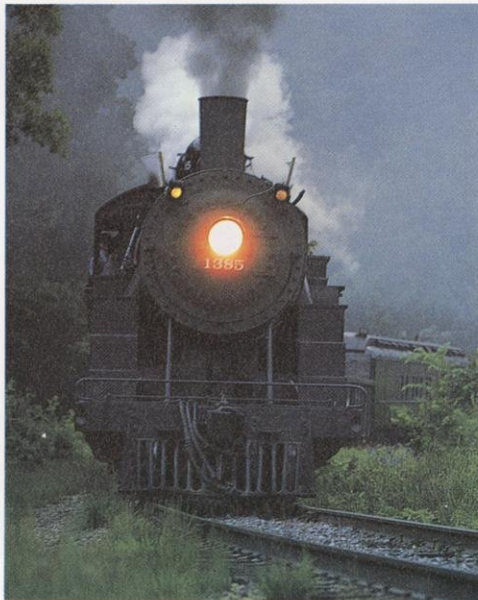
From Rails to Trails



For more than 100 years, the trails we bike on today were railroad routes that linked Wisconsin's farms, villages and cities.

Nineteenth century roads were primitive at best. Steel rails and steam engines offered smooth rides, speed and power to move large numbers of people and tons of goods and materials. Wisconsin's first railroad, from Milwaukee to Waukesha, was built in 1850. By 1920, there were over 7,500 miles of railbed.

The railroad's heyday was short-lived, however. With the advent of



Bikers roll where the iron horse used to — on abandoned railroad right-of-ways.

Photo by John Gruber

airplanes, automobiles and improved highways, people and businesses relied less on trains. The number of train passengers in Wisconsin fell from 20 million in 1920 to 125,000 in 1977. Railroads abandoned unprofitable lines; in 1985 the miles of roadbed had dropped to 4,480 miles.

Bike Trail Pioneers

Wisconsin has been a pioneer in converting former railroad right-of-ways into trails for bicycling and hiking in the spring, summer and fall, and snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in winter.

Currently, the state maintains eight trails — a total of nearly 200 miles — for bicycling and four other


Trails for everyone



trails for hiking and snowmobiling. Two of the four trails not surfaced for bicycling (Buffalo River and Tuscobia) allow horses and all-terrain vehicles.

For the safety of bicyclists and hikers, no motor vehicles are allowed on bicycle trails during the spring, summer and fall.

Opportunities For Everyone

 When the railroads were built more than a century ago, workers built up the low areas, cut away the hills, and built bridges and tunnels so steam engines could easily and effi-

ciently pull heavy loads on level rails, even through the rolling Wisconsin terrain.

Slopes or “grades” on the trails do not exceed two to three percent. This makes the trails enjoyable for bicyclists of all ages. People with physical disabilities may use mobility aids including motorized wheelchairs on the bicycle trails. Most bike trails are surfaced with crushed limestone which is compacted to provide a firm surface for all types of bicycles.

Time for a break along the Red Cedar trail.
Photo by Jim Janowak

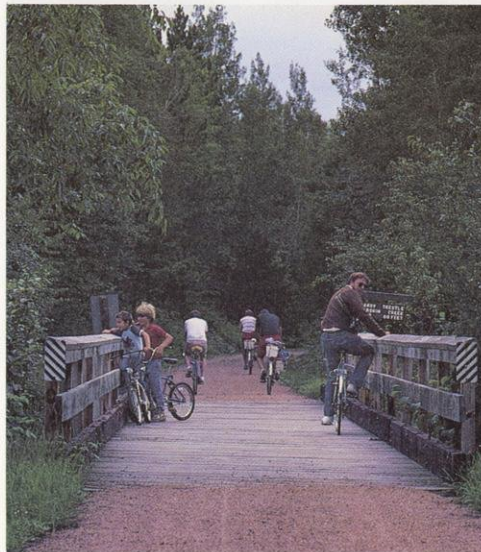
Trail Development and Fees



We've invested almost \$5.3 million acquiring rail corridors and converting them to bicycle trails. Just as it was back breaking work to build the rails, taking out abandoned rails is tough, physical work — rails and ties must be removed, bridges planked and guard rails erected, crushed limestone has to be laid and graded, and safety and directional signs installed. There are ongoing costs to keep the surface smooth, maintain bridges and signs, pick up litter and enforce rules.

To recover part of these costs, bicyclists age 18 or older must pay a trail admission fee. An annual admission card can be used on any of the Wisconsin state trails.

You may buy admission cards by mail or in person from Department of



Along the Bearskin trail, bikers pause on the Brandy Trestle to view Bearskin Creek.

Photo by Bonnie Gruber

Natural Resources district and area offices, trail headquarters, some businesses near the trails or from trail rangers.

The trails are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Pets are allowed, but must be on a leash no longer than eight feet.

State Bike Trail Admission Fees (for people age 18 or over)

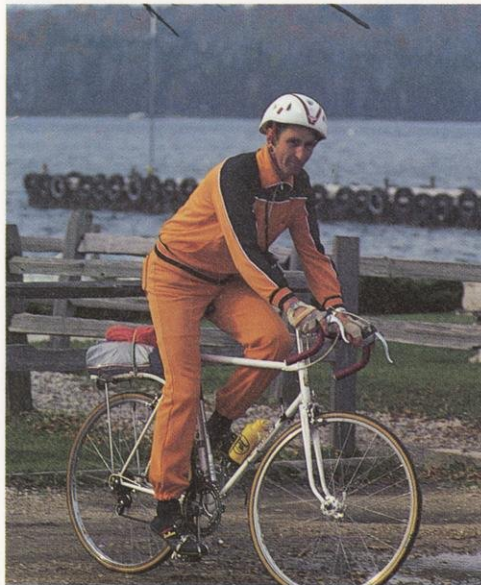
Resident Season Fee	\$5.00
Resident Daily Fee	\$1.50
Nonresident Season Fee	\$7.00
Nonresident Daily Fee	\$2.00

For Your Safety

Bike clothing (reflective for night riding), shoes, pantleg clips and helmets are recommended.

The trails are not designed for high-speed travel. They can become soft and wet, can erode quickly during heavy rains, and are subject to animal damage. Be cautious in areas of loose gravel or sand, wet leaves or other loose material.

Ride under control at all times. Be alert to traffic at intersections and obey all stop signs. Pull off to the side of the trail to view wildlife, flowers or scenic views. Keep at least two bike lengths between riders, and alert others when passing.



Wisconsin Bike Maps

The *Wisconsin Bicycle Escape Guide* details more than 10,000 miles of bicycle routes throughout the state. To get your free copy of the guide, write the Wisconsin Department of Development, Division of Tourism Development, P.O. Box 7606, Madison, WI 53707; or phone 1-800-ESCAPES.

A perfect ride begins with the right safety gear and supplies.

Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Division of Tourism Development

Future State Park Bike Trails



Some day you may be able to pedal on bicycle trails from the shore of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. The Department of Natural Resources is working with the Department of Transportation and various local and county governments to link existing trails.

One proposed link would connect the Glacial Drumlin Trail to the New Berlin Recreation Trail, which runs to Springdale Road, Milwaukee. Another would connect the Glacial Drumlin and Military Ridge trails, possibly using City of Madison bikeways.

Chippewa River Trail

The Red Cedar Trail may be extended from the Chippewa River to

Eau Claire, where it would tie in with the city's existing river trail, and, perhaps, eventually to Brunet Island State Park in Cornell. The state bought most of the right-of-way between the Red Cedar Trail and Eau Claire in 1980, but some of the land rights reverted to adjacent landowners.

Fond du Lac to Clyman Junction

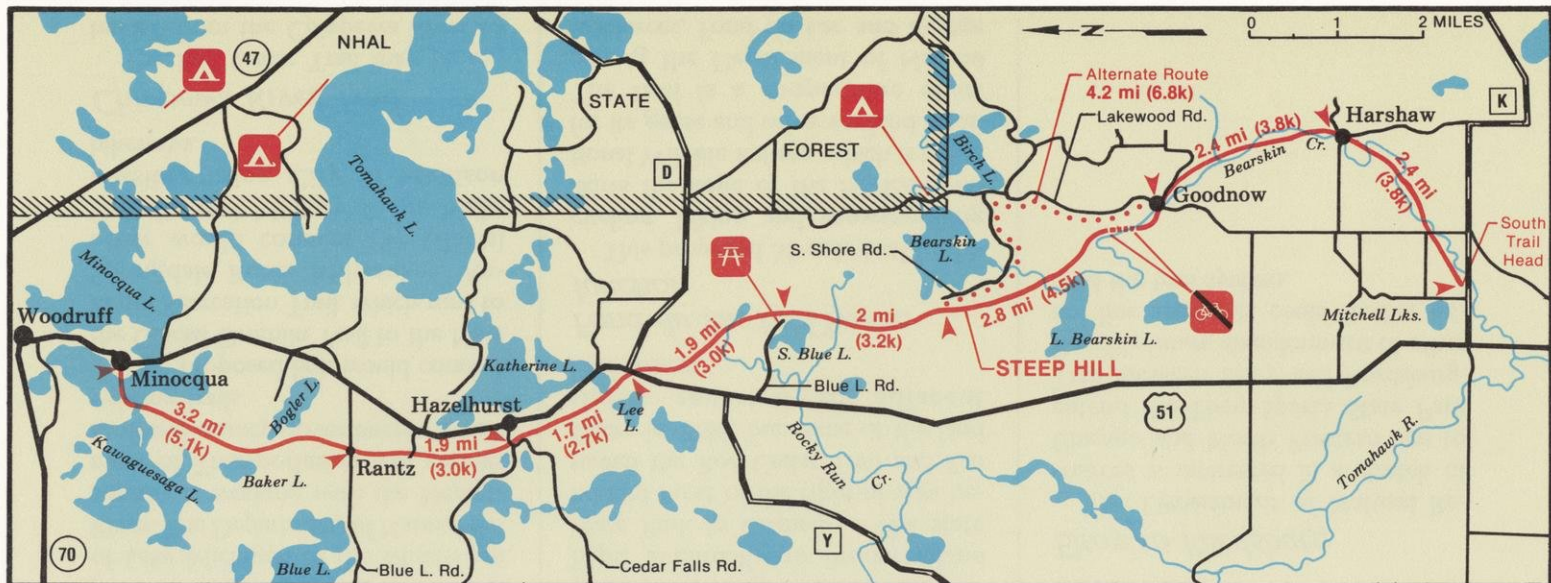
This proposed 35-mile trail for bicycling, hiking and snowmobiling skirts the edge of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, which is noted for its geese and other wetland birds. The trail is a cooperative effort among the Department of Natural Resources, Fond du Lac and Dodge

counties, and the Friends of the Recreational Trail.

Elroy to Reedsburg

The Department of Natural Resources is interested in a stretch of Chicago and North Western line to extend the Elroy-Sparta State Park Trail between Elroy and Reedsburg. Possible future abandonment of other rail line segments could further extend the trail system.

Bearskin State Park Trail



Minocqua

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Bike Rental/Repair
City Park w/Beach
Lodging
Restaurants

Groceries

Hospital (Woodruff)
Rantz
Parking
Hazelhurst
Lodging
Restaurants

Groceries

Hwy 51 & Trail Crossing
Information
Food
Lodging
So. Blue Lk. Rest Area
Drinking Water

Restrooms

Picnic Area
South Trail Head
Parking
Hwy 51 & CTH K
Info/Trail Passes
Groceries



Bearskin State Park Trail



The Bearskin State Park Trail runs for 18.4 miles (19.8 with detour) from Minocqua, a popular vacation community, south to County Highway K northeast of Heafford Junction. The trail passes through Harshaw, Goodnow and Hazelhurst. It crosses Bearskin Creek 10 times and Rocky Run Creek twice. Both are excellent trout streams. There are also many springs and spring-fed ponds along the trail.

You'll likely see deer, eagles, hawks, grouse and other wildlife — but probably no bears. You may also see beaver dams and lodges. Trestles keep your feet dry while going through bogs. Orchids and other flowers bloom in the wetlands each spring.

The trail is closed for a short distance just north of Goodnow. An alternate bypass route at the top of a steep hill follows Lakewood Drive and South Shore Road for about 4.2 miles.

Private campgrounds and resorts are located near the trail. There are many public campgrounds in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, including Clear Lake and Carroll Lake campgrounds near County Highway J, about 12 miles north of Minocqua, and in the Chequamegon National Forest, about 15 miles to the west.

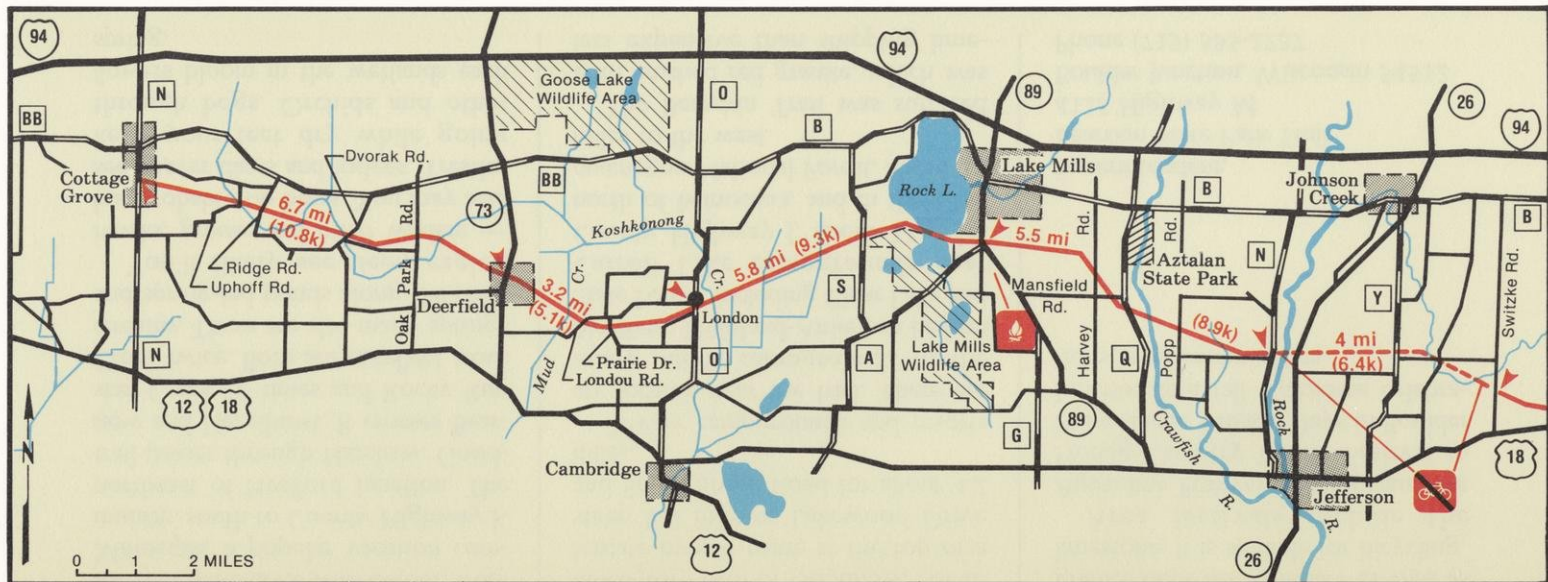
The Bearskin Trail was surfaced with crushed red granite, which was less expensive than shipping lime-

stone to northern Wisconsin. While granite does not compact as well as limestone, it is suitable for bicycling.

Area festivals include the Aquarama Festival in Minocqua, the Hodag Country Music Festival in Rhinelander, Muskie Days in Boulder Junction and fall Colorama celebrations in all communities.

Superintendent,
Bearskin State Park Trail
4125 Highway M
Boulder Junction, Wisconsin 54512
Phone (715) 385-2727

Glacial Drumlin State Park Trail - Cottage Grove to Jefferson



Cottage Grove
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Bike Repair
 Village Park
 Restaurants
 Groceries

Deerfield
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Village Park
 Restaurants
 Groceries

London
 Info/Trail Passes
 Food
Lake Mills
 Info/Trail Passes
 Bike Repair
 Parking

City Park
 Private Campground
 Lodging
 Restaurants
 Groceries
Aztalan State Park
 Parking

Picnic Area
 Historic Site
Jefferson
 Bike Repair
 Private Campground
 Lodging
 Restaurants



Glacial Drumlin State Park Trail



The Glacial Drumlin State Park Trail is 47.2 miles long, running from Waukesha to Cottage Grove through the communities of Wales, Dousman, Sullivan, Helenville, Lake Mills (where the historic railroad depot still stands), London and Deerfield. It follows a former Chicago and North Western railway line that began operating in the 1880s.

The trail gets its name from the long hills left behind by melting glaciers thousands of years ago. The drumlins are especially visible in Jefferson County where bicyclists also can see woodchucks, foxes, egrets and a variety of wildflowers.

The trail's scenery also includes wetlands, farmlands and numerous



A little berry picking can break up a long ride.

Photo by Bonnie Gruber

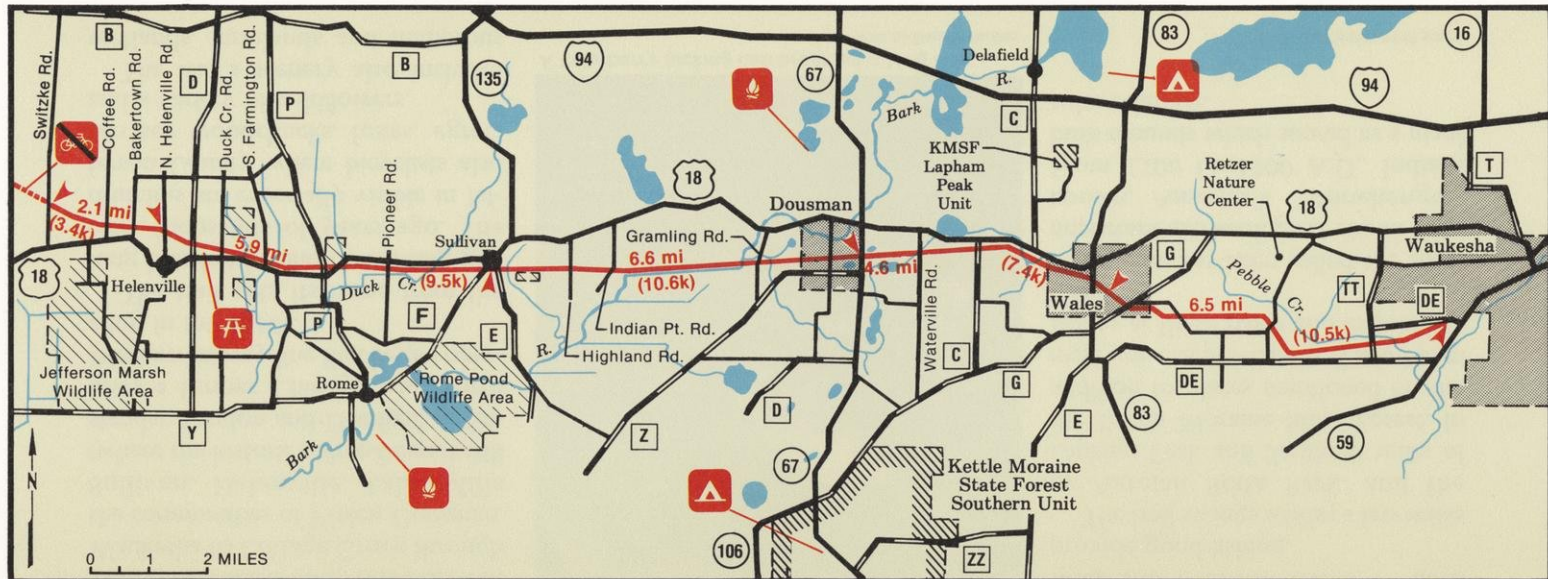
prairie remnants. The trail crosses the Rock and Crawfish rivers — both provide good fishing.

The trail swings within a few miles of Aztalan State Park, and the Lapham Peak and Southern units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. In addition to places mentioned on the map, you can purchase trail admission passes at these parks and in Johnson Creek.

Aztalan has been called the most important archaeological site in Wisconsin, America's "Stonehenge." From 1100 to 1300 A.D., Indians built mounds which served as a giant solar calendar.

Trail continues next page.

Glacial Drumlin State Park Trail - Waukesha to Jefferson



Waukesha
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Bike Repair
 Historic Site
 Lodging
 Restaurants

Groceries
Hospital
Wales
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Village Park
 Historic Site

Restaurants
Groceries
Dousman
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Village Park
 Private Campground

Restaurants
Groceries
Sullivan
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Restaurants
 Groceries

Helenville
 Info/Trail Passes
 Village Park
 Restaurant
 Groceries



Glacial Drumlin State Park Trail continued

The trail is closed for a four-mile gap between County N and Switzke Road near Jefferson. During summer months, portions of the trail between County O in London and County Road S near Lake Mills may be closed. This is a safety measure to allow herbicide application on lands adjoining the trail.

You can picnic in village parks along the trail in Wales, Dousman, Deerfield, near Lapham Peak and at the Retzer Nature Center, west of Waukesha.

Many area lakes provide good fishing and boating. You can camp at Kettle Moraine and Lake Kegonsa state parks, and at Nagawaukee County Park.

Dousman is noted for the Wisconsin State Frog Jumpin' Championship, a part of the Dousman Derby Days usually held the second weekend in August.

When financing permits, future plans call for adding a horse trail alongside the bike trail for about 10 miles between Cottage Grove and London.

The Waukesha end of the trail is at McArthur Road, one-quarter mile west of St. Paul Avenue (County Highway X). To get to St. Paul Avenue from Interstate 94, exit south onto Highway 164 (North Street) and turn right on St. Paul Avenue. From the south, take Highway 59 to Highway X.

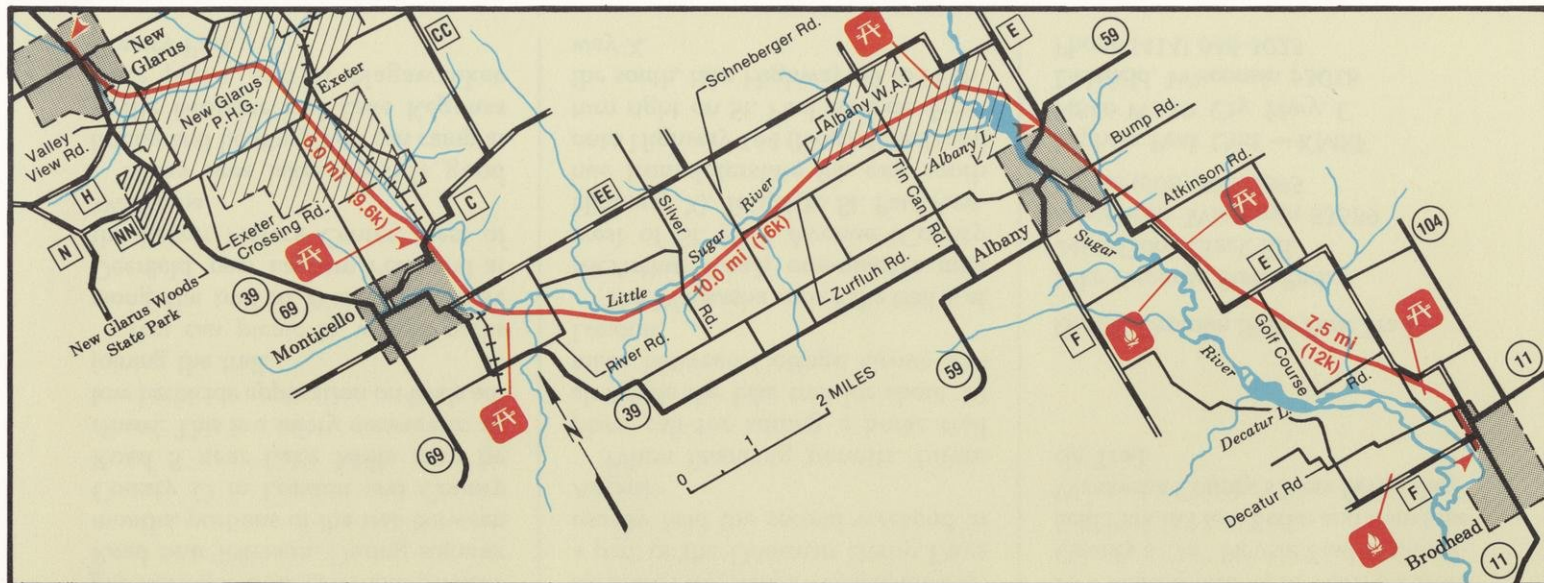
From Milwaukee, you can bicycle to Waukesha via Milwaukee County's "76" Bicycle Trail to Greenfield Park in New Berlin and then take Waukesha County's New Berlin Bicycle Trail.

Glacial Drumlin State Park Trail

Lake Kegonsa State Park
2405 Door Creek Rd.
Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589
Phone (608) 873-9695

Lapham Peak Unit —KMSF
N846 W329, Cty. Hwy. C.
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018
Phone (414) 646-3025

Sugar River State Park Trail



New Glarus

Trail Headquarters
Info/Trail Passes
Bike Rental/Shuttle
Private Campgrounds
Historic Sites
Picnic Areas w/Parking

Lodging

Restaurants
Groceries
Health Care

New Glarus Woods State Park

Info/Trail Passes
Camping

Picnic Area

Monticello
Picnic Area w/Parking
Historic Site
Swimming Pool
Restaurants
Groceries

Health Care

Albany
Picnic Area w/Parking
Restaurants
Lodging
Brodhead
Picnic Areas w/Parking

Private Campgrounds

Historic Sites
Restaurants
Lodging
Groceries
Health Care



Sugar River State Park Trail



The Sugar River State Park Trail runs for 23.5 miles between New Glarus and Brodhead in south central Wisconsin. It passes through gently rolling hills, the Sugar River Valley, the Albany Wildlife Area, and the communities of Albany and Monticello.

The trail headquarters at New Glarus, a 100-year-old former Milwaukee Road depot, offers nature and history displays and a driver-only shuttle service. For this service, you must have your own vehicle and bike carrier. A driver will take you, your vehicle and your bicycles from New Glarus to Brodhead and return your car to New Glarus.

The 28-page *Guide to the Sugar*

River State Trail describes trail history and points of interest, including the New Glarus Public Hunting Grounds, an old woolen mill, Albany Wildlife Area, prairies, pine plantings, quarries and a covered bridge.

For bikers who like tackling hills, there are additional marked bicycle routes on secondary roads near the trail.

The local communities hold numerous festivals throughout the summer: Yesteryear Day and Country Western/Bluegrass Music Festival in Albany, Summerfest in Monticello, and Wilhelm Tell drama, Heidi Festival, and Volksfest in New Glarus.

There are public swimming pools in New Glarus and Brodhead, and

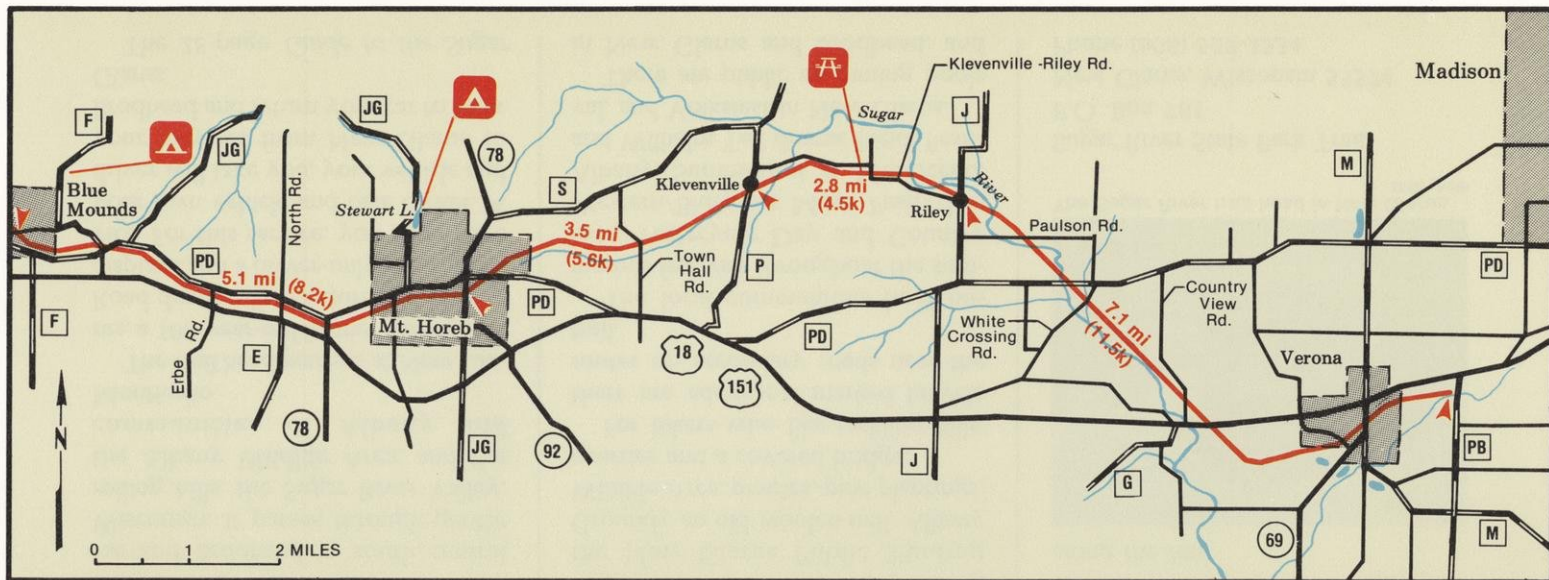
parking and picnic facilities in all four communities and at five other spots along the trail.



The Sugar River trail head in New Glarus.
DNR photo

Sugar River State Park Trail
P.O. Box 781
New Glarus, Wisconsin 53574
Phone (608) 527-2334

Military Ridge State Park Trail - Verona to Blue Mounds



Verona

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Bike Repair
Picnic Area
Swimming Pool
Lodging

Restaurants

Groceries

Riley

Rest Area

Mt. Horeb

Info/Trail Passes
Parking

County Park w/Parking

Swimming
Picnic Area
Historic Site
Lodging
Restaurants
Groceries

Blue Mounds

Info/Trail Passes
County Park w/Camping
Picnic Areas w/Parking
National Landmark
Restaurants

Blue Mounds State Park

Info/Trail Passes
Camping
Picnic Area
Swimming Pool
Observation Tower

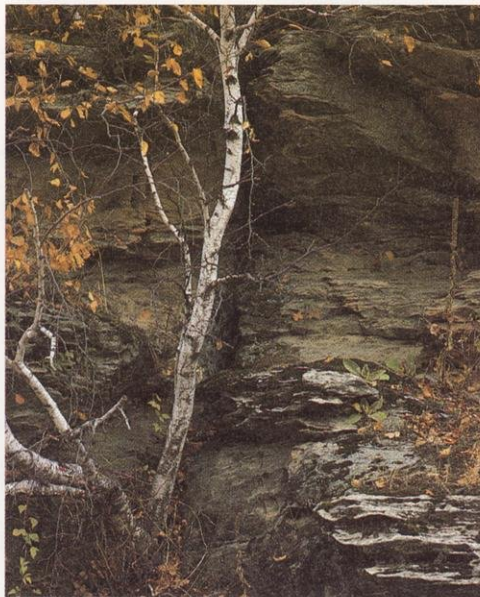


Military Ridge State Park Trail



The Military Ridge State Park Trail runs for 39.6 miles from Verona west to Dodgeville, passing through the communities of Mt. Horeb, Blue Mounds, Barneveld and Ridgeway. The trail includes 48 bridges as it wends through farmland, woods, wetlands and prairies, following the former Chicago and North Western railway line.

The railway was completed in the 1880s. For many years the “Canonball” freight and passenger train traveled the ridge daily between Lancaster and Madison. When the Department of Natural Resources purchased the abandoned rail line in 1983, the recently-formed Wisconsin Conservation Corps immediately be-



gan working on the trail. The first portions of the trail ready for use were dedicated in 1985.

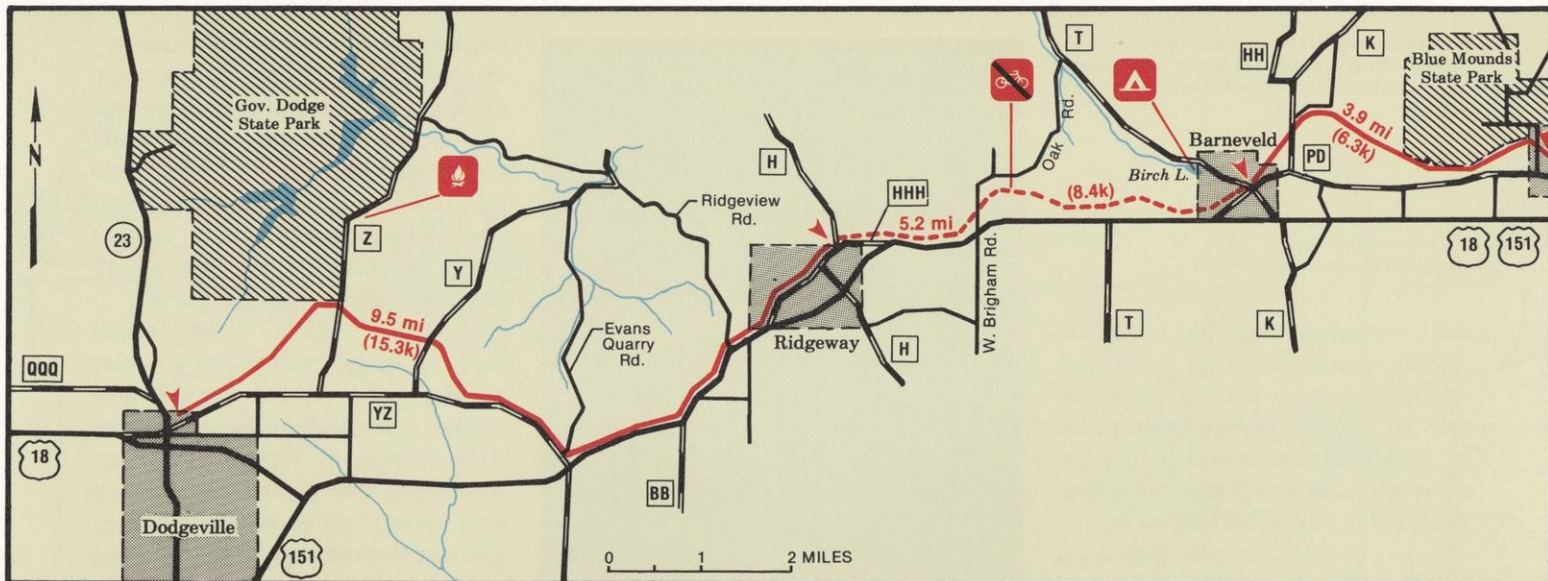
The eastern part in the Sugar River Valley includes glacial moraines and a number of prairie remnants with an assortment of wildflowers. You may see great horned owls, woodcock, pheasant, killdeer, marsh hawks, songbirds and other wildlife.

Trail continues next page.

A birch and rock outcropping east of Klevenville, along the Military Ridge trail.

Photo from DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Military Ridge State Park Trail - Blue Mounds to Dodgeville



Dodgeville

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Private Campground
Picnic Area
City Parks
Historic Site

Swimming Pool

Lodging
Restaurants
Groceries
Hospitals

Ridgeway

Info/Trail Passes

Village Park w/Parking

Food
Groceries
Barneveld
Info/Trail Passes
Village Park
Community Park

Public Campground

Swimming
Observation Tower
Restaurants
Groceries

Blue Mounds State Park

Info/Trail Passes
Camping
Swimming Pool
Observation Tower



Military Ridge State Park Trail continued

The western part of the trail between Mt. Horeb and Dodgeville follows the crest that retraces the route of the historic 1835 Military Road. Colonel Zachary Taylor (later President Taylor) supervised road construction. It linked the lead-mining region of southwestern Wisconsin with Lake Michigan.

The ridge enjoys broad, sweeping vistas of farmlands and wooded slopes. Camping is available at Blue Mounds and Governor Dodge state parks and several nearby county parks.

The 32-page *History and Guide: Military Ridge State Park Trail* details 38 points of interest along the trail which are marked with orange-num-

bered posts. Some of the features are the terminal moraine, prairies, fen and sedge meadow, springs, quarries, limestone cliffs, ghost towns and the path of a 1984 tornado.

The trail's two parts are separated by a 5.2-mile stretch between Barneveld and Ridgeway that's not open for biking. Although Highway 18-151 travels between these two communities, the highway is not considered safe for bicycle travel. Given the traffic speed, car volume and rough road shoulders, cyclists should shuttle their bikes via car between Barneveld and Ridgeway. The Department of Natural Resources is negotiating to purchase right-of-ways that reverted to adjoining property

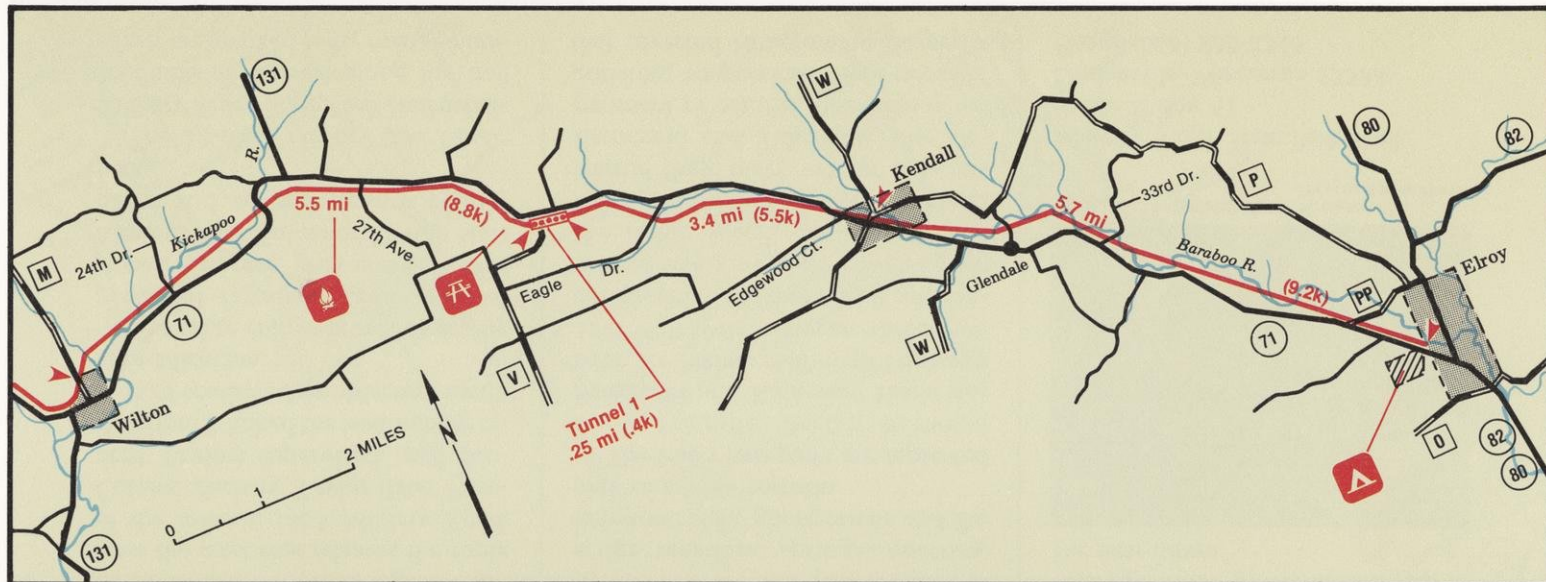
owners when the railroad stopped running, and hopes to fill this gap in the near future.



Wild plums trailside near Klevenville.
Photo by Bonnie Gruber

Military Ridge State Park Trail
Route 2, Box 41
Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533
Phone (608) 935-2315

Elroy-Sparta State Park Trail - Elroy to Wilton



Elroy
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Bike Campground
 Private Campground
 City Park
 Swimming Pool

Lodging
 Restaurants
 Groceries
Kendall
 Trail Headquarters
 Parking
 Shuttle Service

Bike Rental
 Bike Repair
 City Park w/Camping
 Historic Site
 Lodging
 Restaurants
 Groceries

Wilton
 Info/Trail Passes
 Parking
 Public Campground
 Private Campground

Picnic Area
 Swimming Pool
 Lodging
 Restaurants
 Groceries



Elroy-Sparta State Park Trail



The Elroy-Sparta Park Trail, established in 1965, is the state's oldest recreational trail. It runs for 32 miles through the unglaciated hills and valleys of west central Wisconsin, passing through the communities of Kendall, Wilton and Norwalk. The entire corridor is a wildlife refuge.

The trail is noted for its three tunnels; the longest, Tunnel Three, will take you on a three-quarter mile walk. The tunnels are cool and dark, so take along a jacket and flashlight. (A generator light won't do — you have to walk your bike through the tunnels.) The tunnels are closed from November 15 until April; snowmobile routes go around them.

The tunnels were built in 1873 by

the Chicago and North Western railway. Tunnel Three took about three years to complete. Water from overhead springs forms a waterfall that flows down the inside wall of the tunnel. An aqueduct parallel to the trail diverts storm runoff from the tunnel entrance.

For a fee, a shuttle service is available at Kendall for bikers who only want to ride the trail one way.

Anglers may want to stop between Tunnel Three and Sparta to try their luck in Farmer's Valley Creek, which holds brown and brook trout.

The trail headquarters is located at Kendall in a former train depot which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The restored depot is

adorned with historic pictures and railroad artifacts.

Kendall's annual Labor Day weekend celebration features a parade, a dance, and plenty of barbecued chicken and sweet corn.

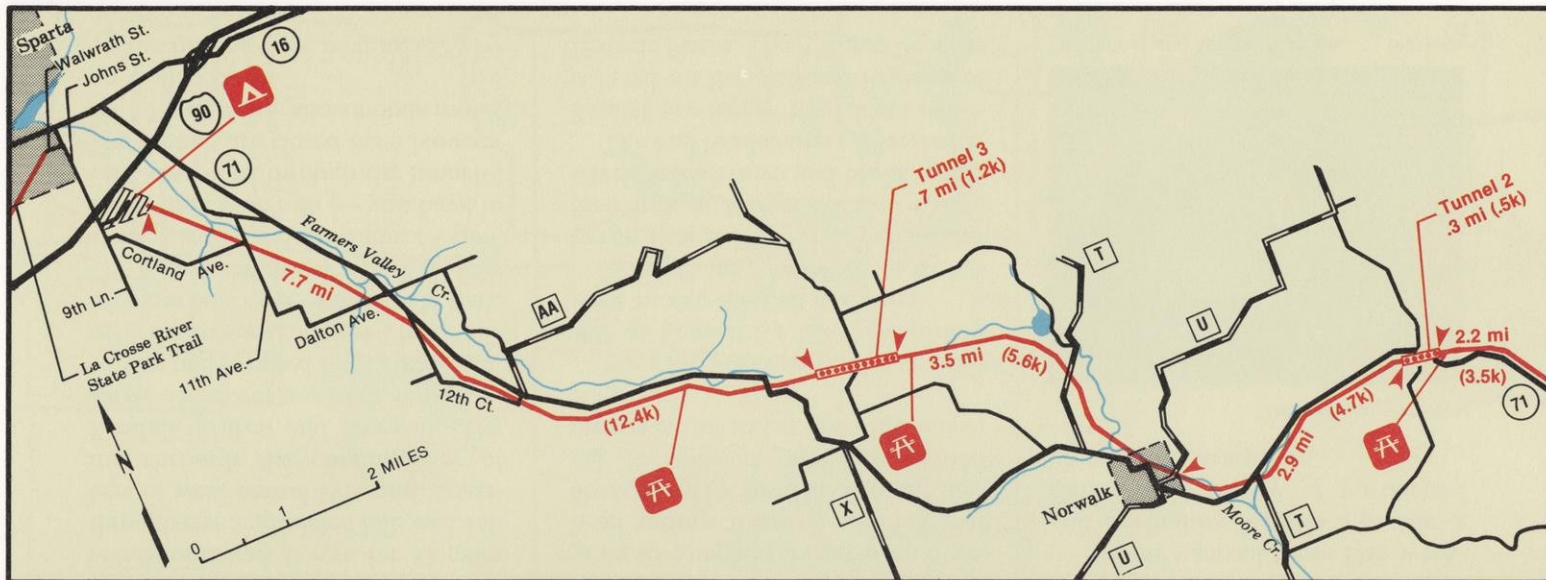
Trail continues next page.



Old tunnel and keeper's shack.

DNR photo

Elroy-Sparta State Park Trail - Wilton to Sparta



Norwalk
 Info/Trail Passes
 Bike Rental
 City Park
 Lodging

Restaurants
 Groceries
Sparta
 Info/Trail Passes

Parking
 Bike Rental
 Bike Repair
 Bike Campground

Private Campgrounds
 City Park
 Historic Sites
 Swimming Pool

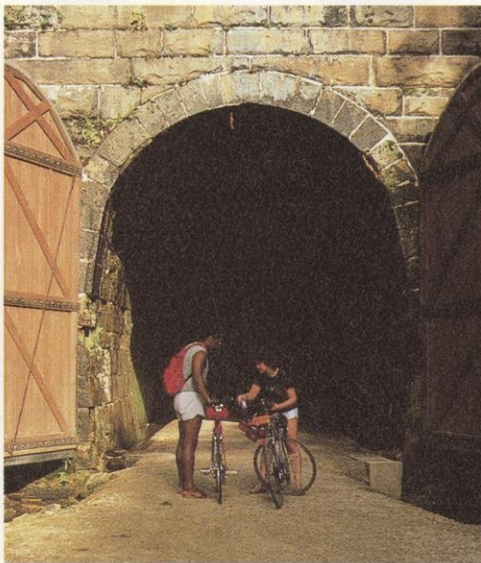
Lodging
 Restaurants
 Groceries
 Hospital



Elroy-Sparta State Park Trail continued

In Wilton, the Lions Club serves pancake breakfasts — all you can eat — in the municipal park Sunday mornings from June through September. Their annual Fun Fest is celebrated the weekend after Memorial Day, and it's just 10 miles from Wilton to camping facilities at Wildcat Mountain State Park.

The Norwalk Lions Club sponsors a tractor pull the second Sunday in August. Sparta's annual Butter Celebration, held the second weekend in June, includes a carnival, parade and cow-milking contest. Sparta also has tennis courts, a swimming pool, a 34-acre lake, picnic areas with shelters and a golf course.

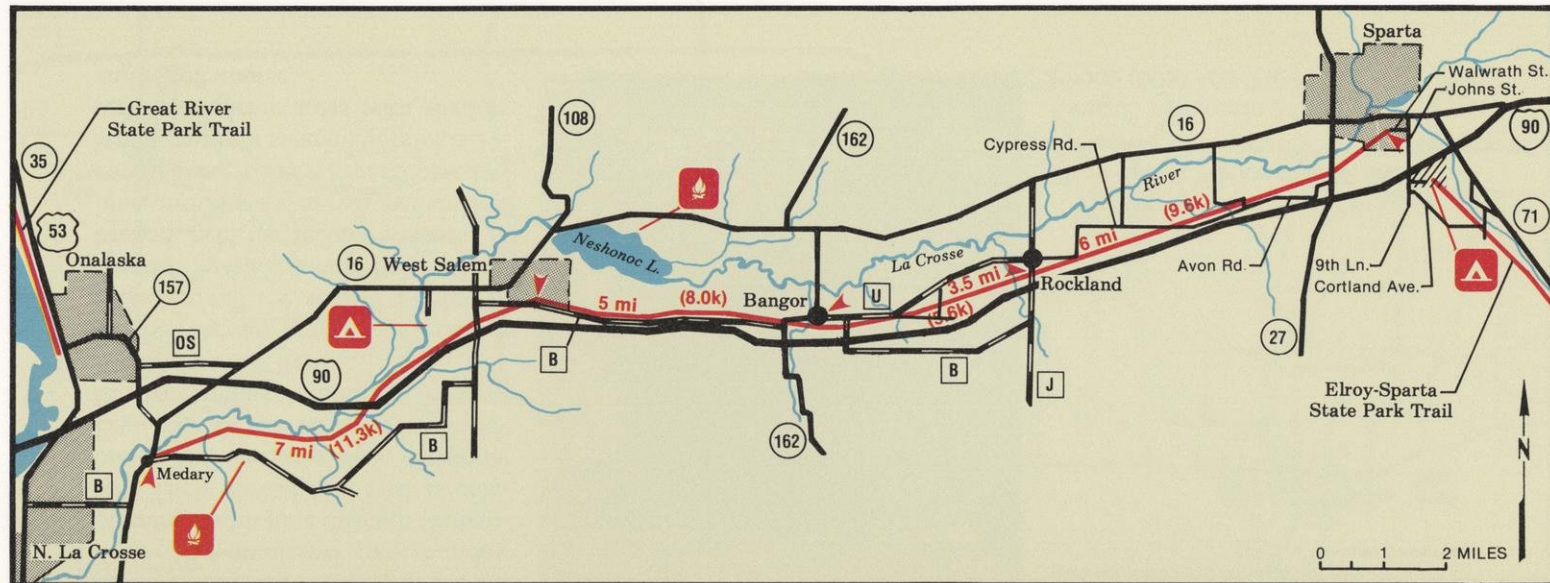


Readying flashlights for the long, cool walk through Tunnel Number Three. It's a three-quarter mile respite on a hot day.

Photo by Karen Teed

Elroy-Sparta National Trail, Inc.
P.O. Box 153
Kendall, Wisconsin 54638
Phone (608) 463-7109

La Crosse River State Park Trail



Sparta

Bike Rental
Bike Repair
Private Campgrounds
City Park w/Parking
Historic Sites
Swimming Pool

Lodging

Restaurants
Groceries
Hospital

Bangor

City Park w/Parking
Lodging

Restaurants

Groceries

Rockland

Groceries

West Salem

City Park w/Parking
Private Campground

Public Campground

Historic Site

Lodging

Restaurant

Medary

Private Campground

La Crosse

Bike Rental
Bike Repair
City Parks
Lodging
Restaurants
Groceries
Hospital



La Crosse River State Park Trail



The La Crosse River State Park Trail is scheduled to be opened for bicycling in spring 1989.

From the western edge of Sparta, the trail follows the former Chicago and North Western railroad line about 23 miles west through the villages of Rockland and Bangor to Medary Junction east of La Crosse.

Farmlands, wooded hillsides, four trout streams and Neshonoc Lake adorn the trail. A prairie along the trail between Rockland and Bangor, containing native grasses and wildflowers, offers a view of the area landscape much as it appeared in pre-settlement times.

The trail links the Elroy-Sparta and Great River state park trails, provid-



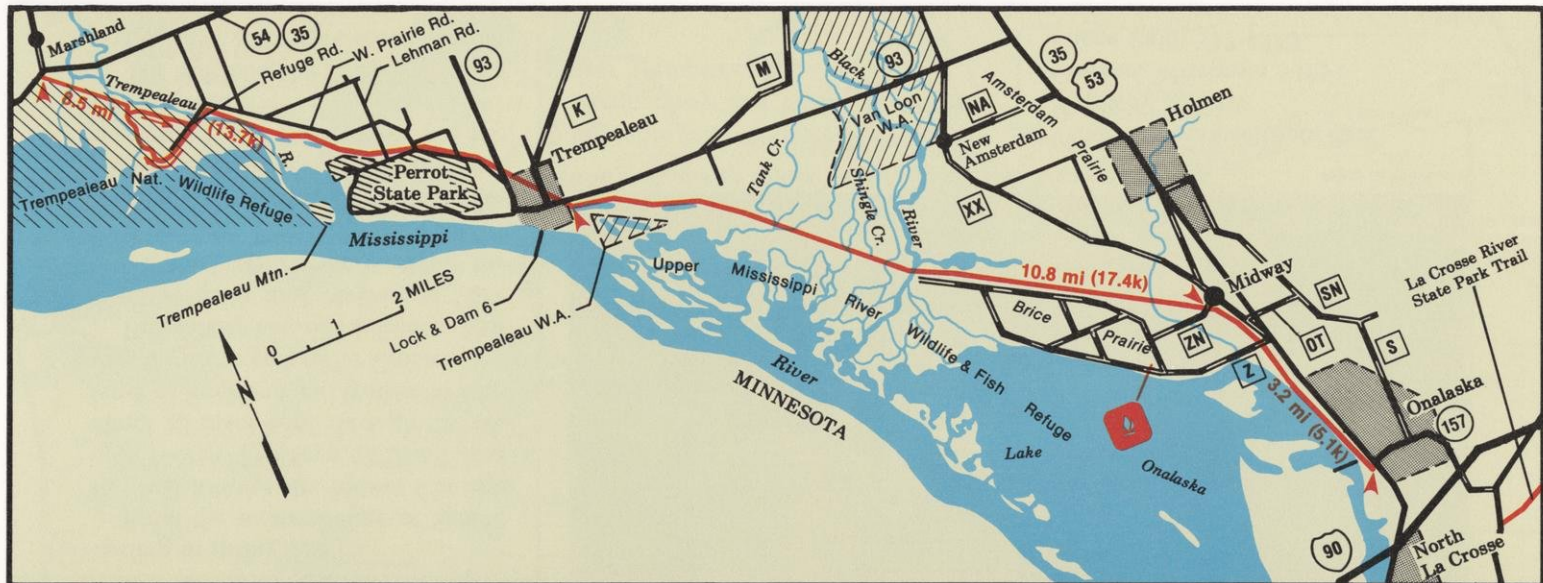
Bike trails provide a quiet, peaceful setting to catch up with friends.

Photo by Phil Norton

ing more than 75 miles of biking between Elroy and Perrot State Park near Trempealeau.

Wildcat Mountain State Park
Highway 33 East
Ontario, Wisconsin 54651
Phone (608) 337-4775

Great River State Park Trail



Onalaska

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Bike Repair/Rental
Private Campground
City Park
Lodging

Restaurants

Groceries
Hospital (La Crosse)

Midway

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Food

Trempealeau

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Bike Repair/Rental
City Park
Swimming Pool
Lodging

Restaurants

Groceries
Perrot State Park
Trail Headquarters
Parking
Camping
Historic Site

Marshland

Parking
Restaurant



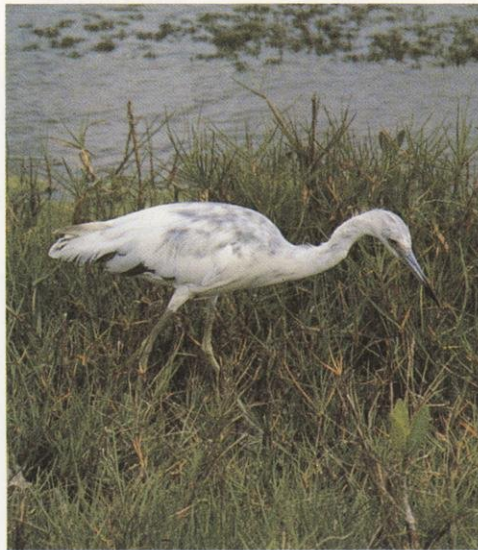
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Great River State Park Trail



The Great River State Park Trail passes through 22.5 miles of lowlands and sandy plains in the Mississippi River Valley. Distant bluffs with exposed rock faces and trees are visible from nearly all points along the trail. There are 18 bridges over the Black River, Shingle Creek, Tank Creek, Halfway Creek and other waterways.

Eighteen miles of the trail, from Onalaska through the communities of Midway and Trempealeau to Perrot State Park, were surfaced and opened for bicycling, hiking and snowmobiling in early 1988. The Wisconsin National Guard is volunteering its service to complete surfacing as far as the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge by August 1988.



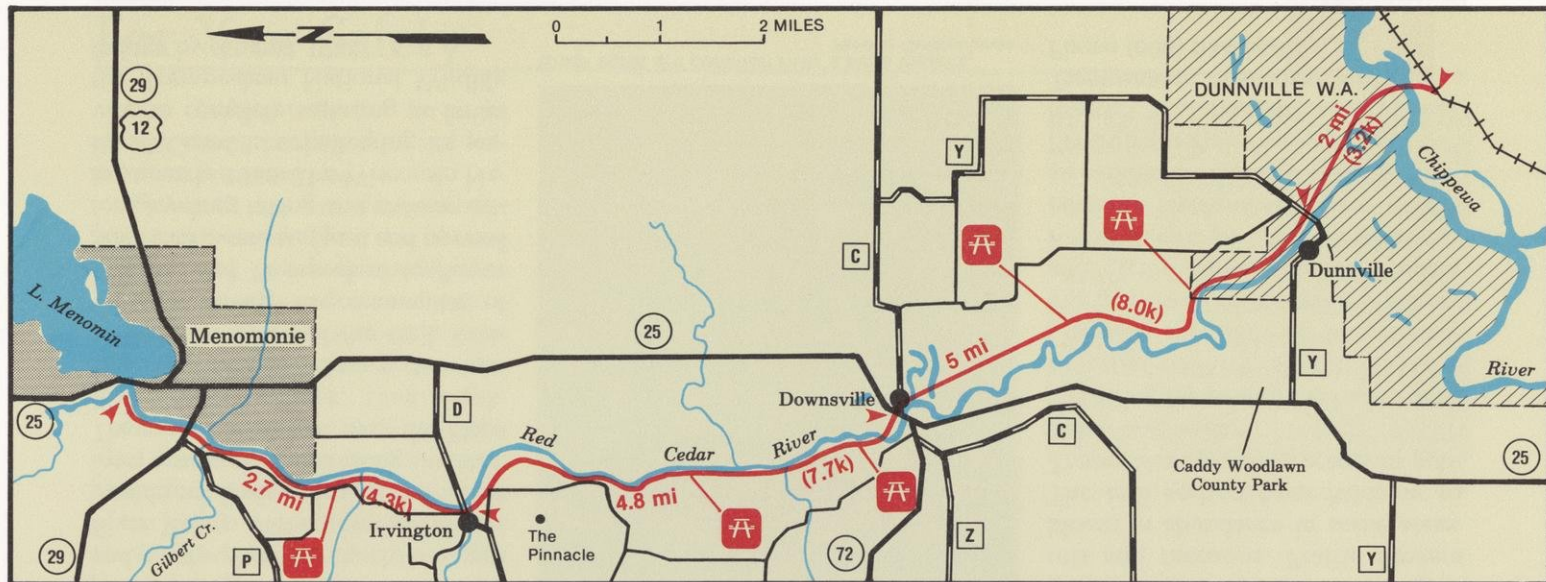
Great egret are common river's edge tenants.
Photo by Christine Linder

You may see American egrets, great blue herons, ducks, deer, squirrels and raccoons. Prairie flowers bloom in abundance in some areas. The trail section from Midway to Trempealeau provides access to public hunting lands.

During the winter, the trail is open to cross-country skiing between Onalaska and Midway. Snowmobiling is permitted between Midway and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, except in Trempealeau, where a designated route guides snowmobilers through the city.

Perrot State Park
Route 1, P.O. Box 407
Trempealeau, Wisconsin 54661
Phone (608) 534-6409

Red Cedar State Park Trail



Menomonie

Trail Headquarters
Bike Rental/Repair
Picnic Area w/Parking
City Park
Historic Sites
Private Campgrounds

Lodging

Restaurants
Groceries
Hospitals

Irvington

Parking
Food

Downsville

Info/Trail Passes
Parking
Historic Site
Lodging
Restaurants
Groceries

Dunnville

Parking
Wildlife Area
Canoe Landing

Caddy Woodlawn Co. Park

Picnic Area
Restrooms
Drinking Water
Historic Site



Roll

Red Cedar State Park Trail



The Red Cedar State Park Trail runs from the City of Menomonie to the Chippewa River, following the Red Cedar River for 14.5 miles through woodlands and prairies and past unique rock formations. A breathtaking 800-foot trestle carries the trail over the Chippewa River.

The railway grade was built in 1888 by the Milwaukee Road railroad to serve one of the largest white pine milling companies in the world, Knapp, Stout & Company of Menomonie, which flourished until the early 1900s.

Bald eagles and osprey frequent the area during their spring and fall migrations. Herons, kingfishers, ruffed grouse, owls, pileated woodpeckers,

songbirds, deer, mink and beavers may be seen along the trail. Wildflowers provide a constantly changing color scheme.

The Red Cedar River offers excellent smallmouth bass fishing. Trail users may choose to canoe down the river and return on the bike trail.

The Mabel Tainter Building in Menomonie houses one of the most beautiful old theaters in the country. Other historic buildings near the trail include the Empire in Pine Museum in Downsview, the Caddie Woodlawn Homestead in Dunnville, the John Holley Knapp Home and Wilson Place Museum, a colonial mansion, in Menomonie.

Menomonie events include the

Chautauqua, an old-fashioned fair and festival held in late June, the Boy Scout Cucumber Festival the third week in August, and the Tinman Triathlon on Labor Day weekend.

During the winter, 12 miles of the trail are groomed to accommodate striding and skating cross-country skiers. Snowmobiling is limited to two miles of the trail between Dunnville and the Chippewa River.

Department of Natural Resources
Route 6, Box 1
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751
Phone (715) 232-1242

Other State Park Trails



The following state park trails, also developed along former railroad grades, are open for hiking, snowmobiling and certain other uses. They are not surfaced for bicycling.

Ahnapee State Park Trail



The 15.3-mile Ahnapee Trail is part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. It goes from the southern outskirts of Sturgeon Bay past stands of cedar and pine, the quiet villages of Maplewood and Forestville, to the north end of Algoma. Maple trees along the trail provide some brilliant fall colors.

A wooden bridge spans the Ahnapee River, which is home to wa-

terfowl, trout and salmon.

Potawatomi State Park
3740 Park Drive
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235
Phone (414) 743-5123

Buffalo River State Park Trail



The Buffalo River State Park Trail passes 36.4 miles of wooded hills, marshes and farmlands, following the edge of the Buffalo River floodplain between Fairchild and Mondovi in western Wisconsin.

The trail, a former Chicago and North Western railway line, is open year-round for hiking. Horses and all-

terrain vehicles are allowed on the trail from May 15 through November 1 and snowmobiles from December 1 through March 15.

Anglers can take advantage of the many streams the trail crosses; the wooded corridor is also open for hunting.

Perrot State Park
Route 1, P.O. Box 407
Trempealeau, Wisconsin 54661
Phone (608) 534-6409



Pecatonica State Park Trail



The 9.6-mile Pecatonica Trail traverses the scenic Bonner Branch valley of the Pecatonica River between Belmont and Calamine. Twenty-four bridges connect the wooded corridor, once a Milwaukee Road branch line. Bonner Branch has smallmouth bass, catfish and other fish.

Local points of interest include Belmont, site of a state park containing the restored first Capitol and Supreme Court buildings of the Wisconsin Territory, and Belmont Mound, a 400-foot-high hill offering an unobstructed view of many miles of southwestern Wisconsin.

Pecatonica State Park Trail
c/o Yellowstone Lake State Park
Route 2, Box 48B
Blanchardville, Wisconsin 53516
Phone (608) 523-4427

Tuscobia State Park Trail



The 74-mile Tuscobia Trail, on an abandoned Chicago and North Western line, is Wisconsin's longest state trail. Running from near Rice Lake to Park Falls, the trail passes farmland, pothole lakes, marshes and parts of the Flambeau River State Forest and Chequamegon National Forest.

Hikers may see a variety of wildlife among the hardwood, aspen,

alder-willow and tamarack trees.

A portion of the trail is part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Parts of the trail that aren't included in the Ice Age Trail are open to all-terrain vehicles, horses, snowmobiles, deer hunters and trappers.

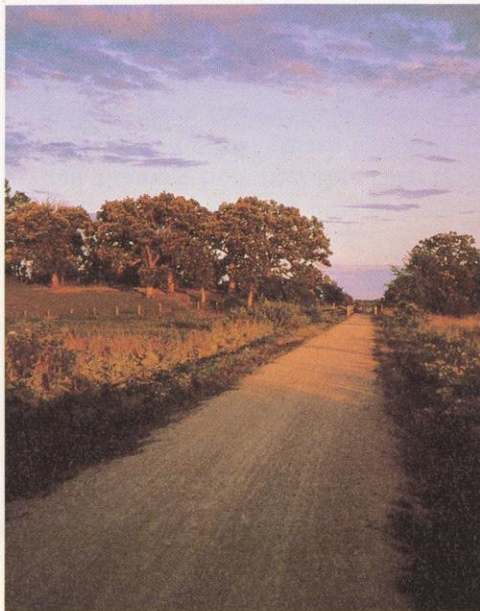
Department of Natural Resources
Ranger Station
P.O. Box 187
Winter, Wisconsin 54896
Phone (715) 266-3511

How You Can Help



The fate of these proposed trails depends largely on available money to buy, develop and maintain them. It costs the state about \$10,000 a mile to acquire bike trails and another \$12,000 a mile to develop them. Operating a trail costs about \$1,410 a mile per year.

The state park system welcomes gifts of money, materials and volunteer services for its trails. Volunteers have already pitched in to clean up litter, rebuild damaged bridges and raise funds.



Happy Trails! Twilight on the Military Ridge State Park Trail.
Photo by Greg Pittz

If you would like to contribute to Wisconsin's state park trails, send your donation to: State Parks Gift Fund, P.O. Box 7921, Madison WI 53707. Let us know if you'd like your gift to be applied to a specific trail. Your donations are tax-deductible.

To volunteer your services or donate materials or equipment, please call the trail superintendent.