

# WISCONSIN

## BIKING GUIDE



*Seventh Edition*

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# Using the Guide

**W**isconsin and biking were made for each other! The Badger State is recognized as a national leader in recreational biking. An excellent road system, coupled with outstanding off-road terrain, make Wisconsin a true biking adventure for everyone.

The *Wisconsin Biking Guide* gathers a sampling of the wonderful biking experiences Wisconsin has to offer. Rides are divided into three categories, based on riding interest: on-road tours, mountain bike trails, and bike touring trails.

Often, a geographic area offers more than one type of ride. The map on page 3 shows the location of ten on-road tours, ten mountain bike trails, and ten bike touring trails. Pick a destination, then check out the many ride options along the way.

This is the seventh edition of the *Wisconsin Biking Guide*. The thirty trails and tours on these pages are a part of more than 100 in our on-line collection. You can access the collection and their accompanying maps at [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). (On the landing page, click on "The Great Outdoors," then "Biking," choose your favorite ride category.) You can also click on "Maps & Guides" at the top of the page and flip-through an electronic version of the Wisconsin Biking Guide. Or, you can key in one of the "Other Tours" suggested in the "Just The Facts" listing for each ride in this guide.

## SAFETY FIRST

When riding, always act in the best interest of yourself and your companions. Be sure to:

- Obey specific bicycle and general traffic regulations.
- Use off-road riding etiquette, (see IMBA trail rules on page 27).
- Show courtesy to all road or trail users.
- Wear appropriate gear, including a well-adjusted helmet.
- Maintain your bicycle in excellent operating condition.
- Choose routes within the ability of you and your companions.
- Carry sufficient food, drink, first aid supplies, and tools.

## Map Legend

-  Interstate Highway
-  US Highway
-  State Highway
-  County Highway
-  Town Road (Paved)
-  Town Road (Gravel)
-  Bike Route: on State Highways
-  Bike Route: on County Highways
-  Bike Route: on Town Roads (Paved)
-  Bike Route: on Town Roads (Gravel)
-  Bike Touring Trail (Paved)
-  Bike Touring Trail (Unpaved)
-  Off-road: Easy
-  Off-road: Moderate
-  Off-road: Difficult
-  Off-road: Single-Track
-  Hiking Trail/Other Trail
-  ATV Trail
-  County Lines
-  Railroad
-  Park Boundary
-  Parking Lot
-  Mileage Indicators
-  Trailhead
-  Trailhead with Parking Lot
-  Trailhead with On-Street Parking
-  Parking Lot
-  All Services
-  Some Services
-  Tavern
-  Bicycle Service
-  Shelter
-  Point of Interest
-  Unincorporated Town
-  Incorporated Town
-  Telephone
-  Lodging
-  Public Campground
-  Private Campground
-  Food Service
-  Grocery
-  Showers
-  Water
-  Flush Toilet
-  Pit Toilet
-  Hiking Only Trail
-  Wayside Park
-  Playground
-  Historical Marker or Museum
-  Swimming
-  Underpass
-  State Park
-  County Park

## On-Road Tours

Enjoy scenic routes that enhance the adventure of the open road. Quiet, lightly traveled roads are used wherever possible. Most tours can be ridden in a single day. Some are easy cruises, others take-on tough hills. All are exceptional experiences.

<b>1</b>	<b>Around the Horn Tour</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sand Lake Tour</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Marinette-Peshtigo Tour</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Cave Point Tour</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Buena Vista Tour</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Top of the World Tour</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Prairie du Chien Tour</b>	<b>18-19</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Merrimac Ferry Tour</b>	<b>20-21</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Waterloo Tour</b>	<b>22-23</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Lima Center Tour</b>	<b>24-25</b>

## Mountain Bike Trails

Give off-road riding a try. Pedaling natural terrain can be a challenging test or a pleasant roll through the woods. Ride to beautiful places you'd never see on the road. This section includes trails for novices and experts; now everyone can enjoy off-road adventure.

<b>1</b>	<b>Rock Lake CAMBA Trail</b>	<b>28-29</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Nicolet Roche Trail</b>	<b>30-31</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Peninsula State Park Trails</b>	<b>32-33</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lowes Creek Trail</b>	<b>34-35</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Greenbush Trails</b>	<b>36-37</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Devil's Lake State Park Trails</b>	<b>38-39</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Human Powered Trails</b>	<b>40-41</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Cam-Rock Trails</b>	<b>42-43</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Milwaukee Alpha Trail</b>	<b>44-45</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>John Muir &amp; Emma Carlin Trails</b>	<b>46-47</b>

## Bike Touring Trails

Sample a Wisconsin original. By converting an abandoned rail bed into the Elroy-Sparta Trail, the state kicked-off a nationwide boom in motor vehicle-free trails. They aren't physically demanding; novices and families love them.

<b>1</b>	<b>Three Eagles Trail</b>	<b>50-51</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Mariners-Rawley Point Trails</b>	<b>52-53</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Elroy-Sparta State Trail</b>	<b>54-55</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Pine River Trail</b>	<b>56-57</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Military Ridge State Trail</b>	<b>58-59</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Eisenbahn State Trail</b>	<b>60-61</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Interurban Trail</b>	<b>62-63</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Oak Leaf Trail</b>	<b>64-65</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>White River State Trail</b>	<b>66-67</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Badger State Trail</b>	<b>68-69</b>





# On-Road Bike Tours



DON ABRAMIS

**B**icycle speed is just right for taking in all Wisconsin has to offer; fast enough to get you there, slow enough so you won't miss a thing.

Wisconsin's secondary road system is among the best in the nation. In this section, we've selected a variety of on-road tours. We'll take you down country lanes where wild flowers grow to the edge of the pavement; through forests that canopy the roadway; along the sandy shores of the Great Lakes; and along the banks of the St. Croix and Wisconsin Rivers.

Wisconsin's extensive rural road system was born of necessity – as a means to move product from farm to market. With the advent of divided highways and high-speed travel, many of these rural byways are nearly forgotten; perfect for relaxing biking.

The map on this page locates and indexes all the on-road tours in this section. We've made a real effort to select lightly-trafficked roads and scenic byways for your enjoyment. But always keep in mind that safety in shared-roadway situations depends on alertness, obeying the rules of the road, and courtesy.

For more information about bicycling on Wisconsin roadways, consider purchasing the Wisconsin State Bike Map, (details on the inside back cover of this guide).



		Pages
<b>1</b>	<b>Around the Horn Tour</b>	6-7
<b>2</b>	<b>Sand Lake Tour</b>	8-9
<b>3</b>	<b>Marinette-Peshtigo Tour</b>	10-11
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## On-Road Bike Tours Legend

- Trailhead
- Trailhead with Parking Lot
- Trailhead with On-Street Parking
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Paved Town Road
- Recommended Route Paved
- Recommended Route Gravel

For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

### Pay attention to these on-road biking tips:

- All the on-road tours follow public roadways open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use.
- Obey all general and bike-specific traffic regulations.
- Wear a helmet and layered, comfortable bike clothing.
- Make sure the route you select is suited to the ability of everyone in your group.
- Make sure your bike is in excellent working order.
- Bring water and bike tools.

# Around the Horn Tour

BAYFIELD COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 53 miles

**DIFFICULTY:** Very difficult, but a moderate out-and-back route is an option.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** In Washburn at Thompson's West End Park at the end of 8th Ave, .4 miles south of Hwy. 13/Bayfield St.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Big Top Chautauqua, Madeline Island Historical Museum, Bayfield Maritime Museum, Washburn Historical Museum, Madeline Island Ferry, Big Bay State Park, boat tours, sea kayaking.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roadways open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Be sure to use the paved shoulder on Hwy. 13 between Cty. K and Washburn. Some slopes are long and steep; take care to control your downhill speed.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Chequamegon Bay Tour, Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Tour, or Tiger Cat Tour.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bayfield Chamber of Commerce  
800/447-4094, 715/779-3335  
[www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org)

Bayfield County Tourism & Recreation  
800/472-6338, 715/373-6125  
[www.travelbayfieldcounty.com](http://www.travelbayfieldcounty.com)

Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce  
888/475-3386, 715/747-2801  
[www.madelineisland.com](http://www.madelineisland.com)

Washburn Area Chamber of Commerce  
800/253-4495, 715/373-5017  
[www.washburnchamber.com](http://www.washburnchamber.com)

**H**ere's a chance to test your legs on a challenging route "around the horn" of the Bayfield Peninsula. It pays off with a jackpot of scenery and attractions at the very top of the state.

The course profile shows some tough hills on this ride. If you 'round the horn clockwise, the last eight miles into Cornucopia are one of the best downhill runs anywhere; pedaling is purely optional on some stretches. But, be prepared: there are no services available on the long hauls between Washburn and Cornucopia or on to Red Cliff.

If that payoff doesn't seem worth the considerable effort of the long climb on Cty. C, you might consider a more modest 26-mile ride out-and-back on Hwy 13 between Washburn and Bayfield. There are plenty of great views along that part of the route too.

The "Around the Horn" tour is from a collection of 19 great on-road routes presented in the Ashland & Bayfield County Bicycle Map available from the area contacts listed. The map includes tours as short as 11 miles, some on easy terrain, to premier challenges like this tour.

Summer fun in this neck of the Northwoods is often defined by the performance schedule of Big Top Chautauqua. For more than two decades the "Carnegie Hall of tent shows" has brought a series of national headliners and original productions to their blue canvas tent atop Mt. Ashwabay (performances June-LD+, 888/244-8368 or [www.bigtop.org](http://www.bigtop.org)).

No visit to the Bayfield Peninsula would be complete without getting out on the lake. Boat tours and sea kayaking are popular and readily available. A ride on the Madeline Island Ferry to La Pointe with your bike, car or on foot is an easy way to take in the sights (operating Apr-Jan 15, 715/747-2051 or [www.madferry.com](http://www.madferry.com)).

Just a few steps from the ferry dock is the palisade of the reconstructed fur trading post that houses the Madeline Island Historical Museum (open daily MD-early Oct; 10am-5pm; 866/944-7483 or [www.wisconsinhistory.org/madelineisland](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/madelineisland)). Six miles east of La Pointe the quiet beauty of Big Bay State Park beckons (715/747-6425 or [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)).

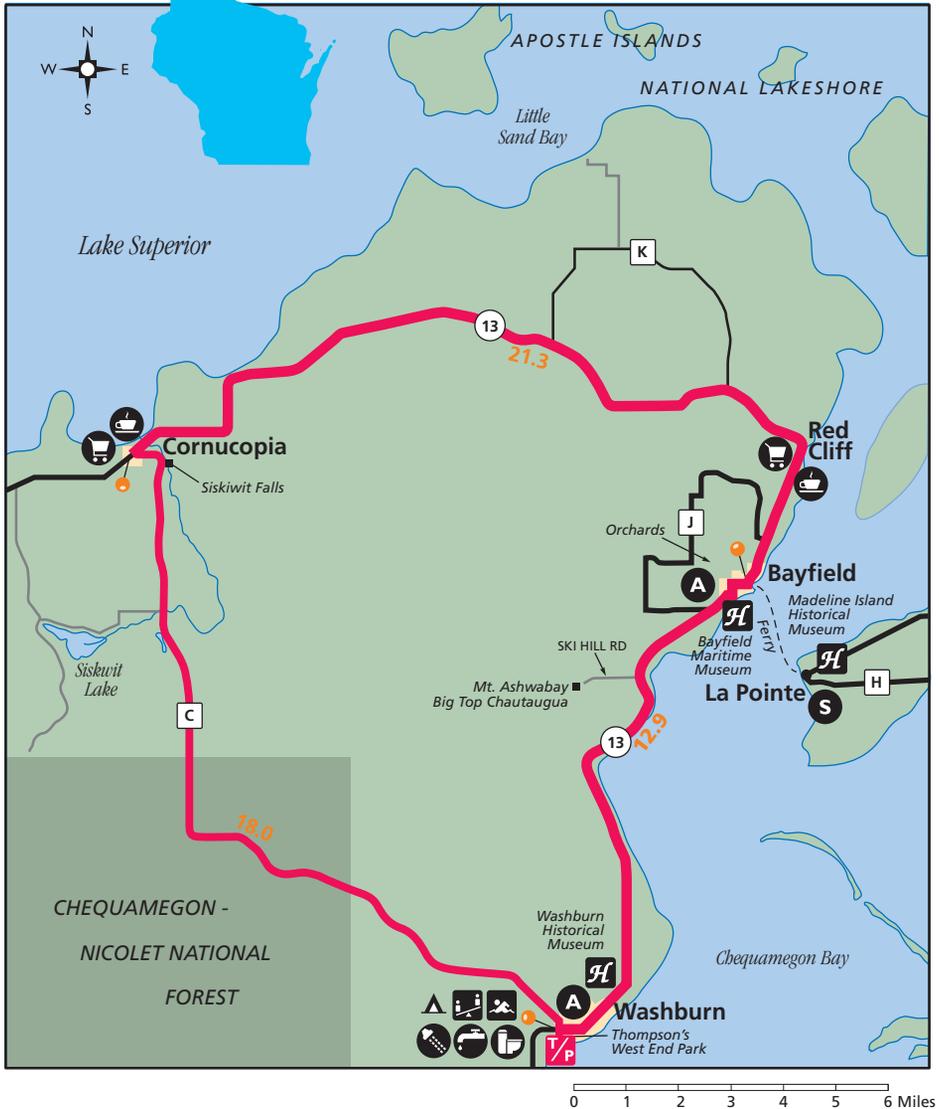
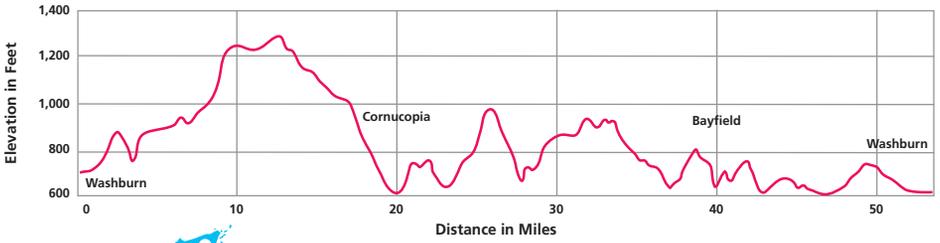
Back on the mainland in Bayfield you can visit the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Visitor Center in the old county courthouse (open daily May-Oct, 8am-5pm, 715/779-3397 or [www.nps.gov/apis/](http://www.nps.gov/apis/)) and

the Bayfield Maritime Museum (June, Sep & Oct daily, 10am-5pm; July & Aug 10am-7pm, 715/779-9919 or [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org)).

The lore and legend of the area's native Ojibwe, French fur traders and missionaries, sailors, shipwrecks and lumberjacks is displayed at the Washburn Historical Museum (Open daily, Apr-Aug 10am-4pm; Mon-Sat,

Sep-Dec 10am-2pm, 715/373-5591). The museum is located in a striking 19th Century bank building built with locally quarried sandstone, the same stone used in many of New York City's famous brownstones.

At the end of the day you'll agree that the beautiful Bayfield Peninsula is indeed a horn of plenty.



# 2

## Sand Lake Tour

BARRON COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 23 miles.

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** At Cumberland Tourist Park & Beach three blocks west of Hwy 63 on Lake St.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Lake, river and woodland scenery.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Chetek Tour or Tiger Cat Tour.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Cumberland Chamber of Commerce  
715/822-3378

[www.cumberland-wisconsin.com](http://www.cumberland-wisconsin.com)

Healthier Cumberland Coalition  
[www.healthiercumberland.org](http://www.healthiercumberland.org)  
(for Bike Cumberland map pdf file)

**J**ust because pedaling around Sand Lake is an easy ride, doesn't mean it's flat. There's just enough elevation - nearly 100 feet - to keep the riding interesting and give your legs a work out. The Sand Lake Tour is one of four scenic and lightly trafficked routes shown on the Bike Cumberland map that was produced by the Healthier Cumberland Coalition (see left). They also have another map that shows easy, shorter rides in-town.

As you pedal across the rolling landscape west of Cumberland, you'll catch glimpses of Beaver Dam Lake and Sand Lake through the trees. They were once channels in the course of a mighty glacial river. The legacy of that old river is Cumberland's moniker as "The Island City." Most of the town is situated on an island that once split the river into two channels. That ancient ice sheet also left the surrounding land spotted with lakes that give the town its "vacationland" character. There are more than fifty lakes within a ten-mile radius of Cumberland. The town is right on the edge of Wisconsin's great Northwoods.

At the north end of the route you can ride up to the Hilltop Retreat Restaurant, the only service of any type you'll find along the route (open weekend evenings). This short side trip is worthwhile anytime for the scenic



Moonrise over a Barron County Lake.

TOURISM PHOTOFILE

views of the Sand Creek valley. Following the numerical streets and avenues, as the town roads are named, is an adventure in itself. Don't bother adding them up.

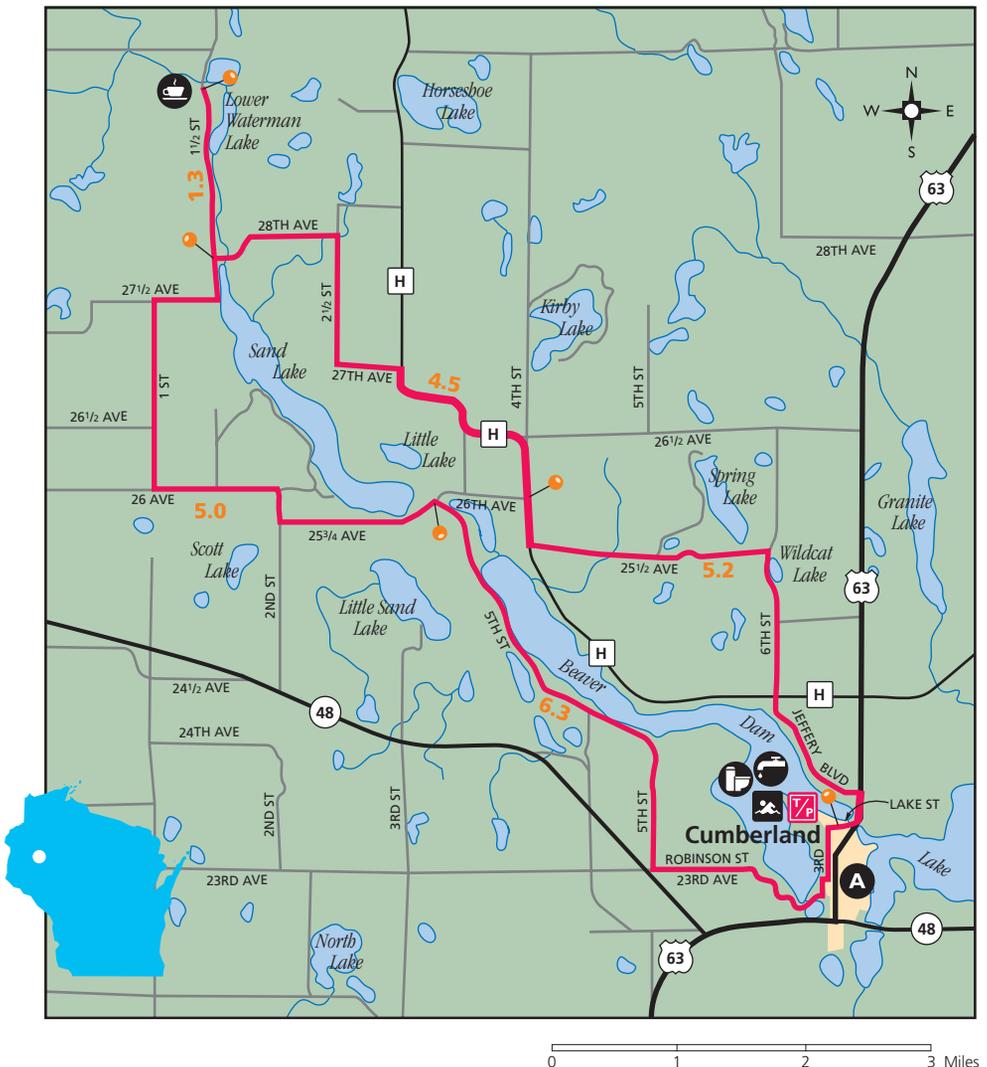
The humble rutabaga has become Cumberland's official symbol for its annual festival held the weekend before Labor Day. Probably brought to the area by Scandinavian settlers, the rutabaga is a kind of turnip. Rutabaga Fest is a community celebration; a chance to have some summer fun with a hot pepper eating contest, children's' Olympics, a carnival, run/walk/race, and a Sunday parade.

In town, stately Victorian homes and an imposing classical revival opera house that is now an apartment house testify to Cumberland's prosperous early years. The river and great stands of pine made it an ideal location for sawmills. The railroad arrived in 1878 and soon added to its importance.

This once rough-and-tumble lumbering town began to clean up its image a hundred years ago. According to local lore, the town's toughest saloonkeeper touted himself as the "King of Cumberland." The town fathers imported a marshal who challenged the saloonkeeper to a fistfight with the condition the loser left town. The saloonkeeper lost and he left.

Today, Cumberland is a thriving community of 2,300 that combines industry with quality of life. Its full-service downtown combines with area cafés, restaurants, antique shops, and motels to make your stay enjoyable. The city operates an eighteen-hole golf course with lounge and restaurant, a swimming beach at Tourist Park, and a campground at Eagle Point with 23 sites, electricity and showers.

Cumberland makes it easy in and out of the saddle.



# 3

## Marinette-Peshtigo Tour

MARINETTE COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 30 miles.

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** Red Arrow Park, 2.5 miles east of Hwy 41.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Marinette Historical Museum, Peshtigo Fire Museum, river, lake and farmland scenery.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

#### OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:

Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter High Falls Tour or Shore-to-Shore Tour. Or, in this guide see the Cave Point Tour (pages 12-13).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Marinette County Tourism Alliance  
800/236-6681  
[www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com)

Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce  
800/236-6681, 715/735-6681  
[www.marinettechamber.com](http://www.marinettechamber.com)



Peshtigo Fire Museum.

**H**ere's an easy ride sandwiched between two interesting communities and two rivers. Expansive views of Green Bay dotted with sailboats, pleasure boats and huge freighters add to an enjoyable day of riding. It's just one of the routes shown on the Marinette County Official Bicycle Routes Map which you can request from their tourism office. Other rides showcase the county's fourteen scenic waterfalls, bolstering Marinette County's claim as the "Waterfalls Capital of Wisconsin."

Red Arrow Park at the outlet of the Menominee River is a pleasant place to start and finish your ride. A bike/ped path follows the channel back into town. There, on Stephenson Island, you can learn more about the area's past at the Marinette Historical Museum (open MD-Sept Tue-Sat 10am-4:30pm, Sun & hol noon-4pm; 715/732-0831). Museum exhibits illuminate the area's Native American history, early trading posts, lumbering, and maritime legacy. Nearby on Bridge Street, stop at the Wisconsin Welcome Center for more things to do and see in the Badger State (open Apr-Oct daily 8am-5pm; 715/732-4333).

You get three changes of scenery on this ride. Pedaling south from Marinette you'll catch big-water views of Green Bay. You'll see that water levels have dropped recently giving shoreline owners an extra fifty meters of property. Turning inland, lake scenes turn to river scenes as the route follows the Peshtigo River as it meanders through the roadside woods. Cutting across on Rader Road, the terrain changes yet again as you pass through easy rolling farmland. This route is the shortest loop of the annual Menominee River Century ride. The June outing has been pleasing cyclists for more than a quarter century with a formula of easy pedaling and post-ride fun.

The Menominee River, the boundary between Wisconsin and Michigan, offers a clue to the form of the land before the last glacial epoch. Today it empties into Green Bay. But in pre-glacial times geologists believe it continued east. Look at the state map and you can see that directly across the bay is the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal. It was once part of the river channel before huge glacial ice sheets, split by the Door Peninsula, gouged out the bay and Lake Michigan.

A much more tragic history lesson lies at the west end of the route. The city of Peshtigo is forever linked to the worst forest fire in North America. It is little known, however, because it occurred on the same day as

GARY KNOWLES



ALAN ORR

**White Pelicans on the shore of Green Bay.**

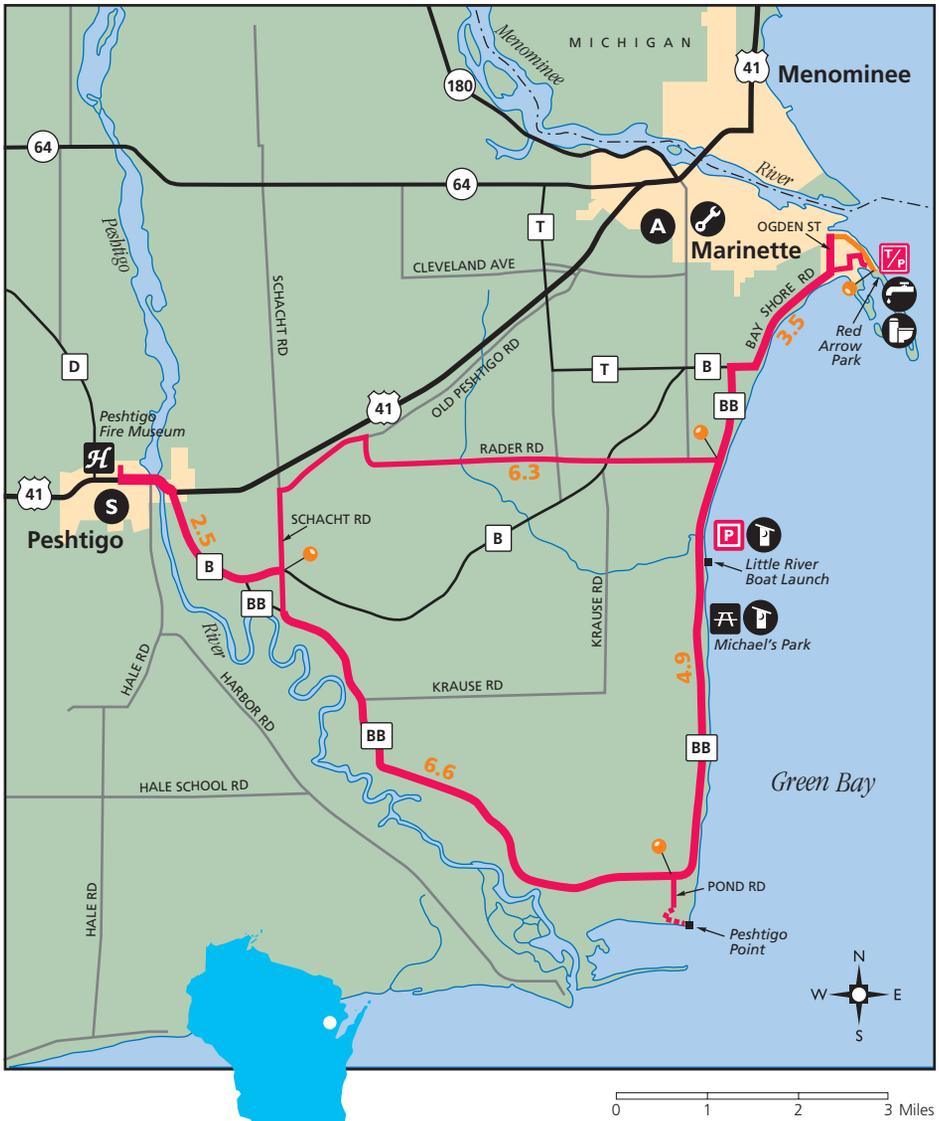
the great Chicago Fire. On October 8, 1971 conditions were ideal for both conflagrations. A prolonged drought and a cyclonic wind-storm were key ingredients. In Chicago, buildings fueled the fire; in Peshtigo is “slash” left by pervasive lumbering.

The Peshtigo firestorm raged through parts of Upper Michigan, down to Green Bay

and over most of the lower part of the Door County Peninsula. Millions of dollars worth of property and timberland were lost as well as an estimated 1,200-2,400 lives; five to ten times as many perished in Wisconsin as in Chicago.

The fire was named for Peshtigo since it bore the greatest loss of life with as many as 800 victims. An old church, the first rebuilt after the fire, is now the Peshtigo Fire Museum (open daily MD-Oct 8 9am-5pm; 715/582-3244). There are few artifacts from the fire as hardly anything survived. The adjoining cemetery has a mass grave holding hundreds of unidentified fire victims.

The actual origin of the fire is unknown, but if there was a culprit the equivalent of Mrs. O’Leary’s cow, it didn’t survive to tell the tale.





# Cave Point Tour

DOOR COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 40 miles

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** In Sturgeon Bay at Sunset Bay Park on County B (N. 3rd Ave.).

**ATTRACTIONS:** Door County Maritime Museum, Door County Historical Society, Miller Art Museum, Third Avenue Playhouse, Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal & Lighthouse, Whitefish Dunes State Park, Cave Point County Park, Door Peninsula Winery.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public streets and roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Shore to Shore Tour, Czech Heritage Tour, or Two Rivers Tour.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Door County Chamber of Commerce 800/527-3529, 920/743-4456 [www.doorcounty.com](http://www.doorcounty.com)

**T**here's no place like Cave Point, especially when the wind is strong off the lake. Then you'll hear Cave Point before you actually see it. It may be a cloudless day, but a sound like thunder will filter through the woods as you pedal towards the point. Reaching the park you'll understand the power of Lake Michigan as waves pound against the shore shooting spray high above the bluff's edge. Over eons, the waves have hollowed-out caves in the point increasing both the hydro-dynamics and the noise level. You can feel the rock shudder beneath your feet.

Cave Point County Park is one destination on this pleasant tour of the lake-edge forest and quiet farm roads of Door County. You won't find better biking anywhere. And, you start and finish the tour in the fascinating ship building city of Sturgeon Bay. You'll see every type of vessel there from tugboats, to sleek sailing yachts, to huge ocean-going ships.

The trailhead at Sunset Bay Park is right next to Bay Shipbuilding Company, the only facility on the Great Lakes that can handle gigantic 1,000-foot freighters. In fact, Bay Shipbuilding built many of these monstrous boats. The enormous steel crane in the shipyard gives some idea of the scale of the operation.

Located at the mid-point of the Door County peninsula, the bay of Sturgeon Bay was once the channel of the Menomonee River – before glacial ice sheets carved out Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Check it out on a state map; you can easily see the alignment. In 1882 a mile-long canal was cut from the bay to Lake Michigan saving ships from the perilous journey around the tip of the peninsula called by the French, *Porte des Morts* – “Death’s Door” - the term which gave the county its name. The tour route takes you along the canal levee where a stop at Overlook Trail will give you a great view of the boats plying the channel between the lake and bay. Where the canal meets the lake, the Coast Guard’s North Pierhead Lighthouse is a wonderful photo opportunity.

Riding north, the route winds through fragrant lakeside cedars before arriving at Whitefish Dunes State Park which invites you to spend some time off the bike on its three-mile, crescent-shaped sand beach. Just beyond is Cave Point County Park. An excellent interpretive display will explain the forces that formed this wonder of nature.



RU & LINDA MILLER

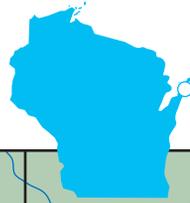
Cave Point County Park.

Heading back to Sturgeon Bay you'll cross the scenic gently rolling farmland that is still a big part of Door County's prosperity. Evidence of this agricultural bounty can be found just a few miles off-route at the Door Peninsula Winery where the product of local orchards is turned into wines and juices (open daily 9am-5pm; 800/551-5049, [www.dcwine.com](http://www.dcwine.com)).

In Sturgeon Bay you can immerse yourself in the lore of the lake at the Door County Maritime Museum. Learn about shipbuilding, see the history of the county's many lighthouses, and even survey the harbor through a submarine periscope (open daily 10am-5pm year-round, MD-Oct 31 9am-6pm; 920/743-5958, [www.dcomm.org](http://www.dcomm.org)). The museum is on the south side of the ship channel and can be reached from the tour route via the ped/bikeway along the east side of the bridge.

The Door County Historical Museum traces the county's history from the Paleo Indians and early settlement to the present (open daily May-Oct 10am-4:30pm; 920/743-5809). Nearby, the Miller Art Museum displays a permanent collection of Wisconsin art as well as changing exhibits (open Mon-Thur 10am-8pm, Fri & Sat 10am-5pm; 920/746-0707). For performing arts, local and professional performances are staged year-round at the Third Avenue Playhouse in Sturgeon Bay's historic downtown (920/743-1760, [www.thirdavenueplayhouse.com](http://www.thirdavenueplayhouse.com)).

Door County – a perfect blend of nautical and nice.



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

# 5 Buena Vista Tour

BUFFALO COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 19 miles.

**DIFFICULTY:** Very difficult.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** Buena Vista Park, 2.5 miles east of Hwy 35 via Cty E and Park Road.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Buena Vista Park, Alma Museum, Wings Over Alma, Lock and Dam No. 4, Upper Mississippi Wildlife & Fish Refuge, river, valley and farmland scenery.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Be sure to use the paved shoulder on Hwy 35. All descents are extremely steep; make sure your bike is in safe working order and control your downhill speed.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Great River Road North Tour, Great River Road South Tour, or Black Hawk's Retreat Tour.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alma Chamber of Commerce  
608/685-4445  
[www.almawisconsin.com](http://www.almawisconsin.com)

The view from Buena Vista Park is awesome. From atop the 550-foot bluffs, the Mississippi River below is a broad ribbon of black. To the south it courses among islands of emerald green; to the north it pools still and dark behind Lock & Dam No. 4. Hugging the bluff bottom, the city of Alma and a pair of railroad tracks race the river in either direction. For man, machine and bird, this is one of the busiest transportation corridors in the world.

The river valley here is part of the 261-mile Upper Mississippi Wildlife & Fish Refuge that stretches from Wabasha, Minnesota to Rock Island, Illinois. Created in 1924 to preserve the great migratory flyway, it is used by 40% of the waterfowl in the U.S. and now encompasses more than 240,000 acres. It welcomes 2,700 bald eagles, harbors 167 resident eagle nests, 5,000 great blue herons, and 15 egret colonies.

In the middle of town, Lock & Dam No. 4 muscles the river. Viewed from the water's edge, it's an engineering marvel; from atop the bluff, it's downright majestic. Built in 1934, the lock is 600 feet long by 110 feet wide. It raises and lowers river traffic seven feet. The dam is 6,867 feet long, including 1,367 feet of moveable gate sections. Dam keepers use bikes to traverse the mile-and-a-quarter structure.

River traffic is a busy mix of pleasure craft and working "tows" – multiple river barges tied together and pushed by five thousand horsepower towboats. They wind through the channel and squeeze into the lock, often unhitching half the barges to do it. Each barge holds 1500 tons, the equivalent of 15 railroad cars or 58 semi trailers.

On the paired tracks that parallel the river, the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad runs as many as 40 freight trains a day. The roadway running through town is Highway 35, the Great River Road, an increasingly popular scenic highway. This is a very busy transportation corridor indeed. As you ride Hwy 35, stick to the paved shoulder. Remember, you're the slowest thing out there.

There's no question that this route is one tough climb. Ride counterclockwise and you'll pay later with a knee-busting ending climb back up to the park. Better to go clockwise and begin by enjoying the sweeping downhill curves into Alma where you'll appreciate good brakes. Then your legs will have plenty of easy riding before the necessary, but gentler climb up the valley of Fimian



Buena Vista Park.

CAROL KIMMARE

Creek. You may not think it's so easy when you round the last curve and see what looks like a wall. But conquer that and you're in for easy rolling on top of Alma Ridge.

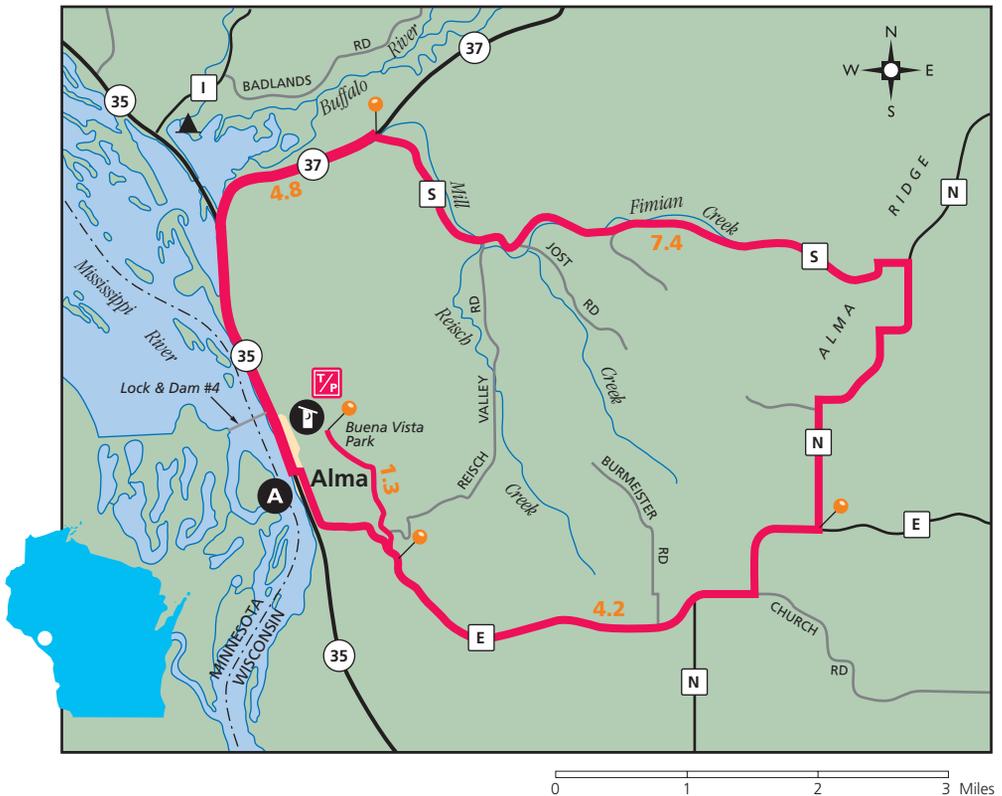
You'll want to spend time exploring the city of Alma. This is fairly easily done, as the town is only two streets wide. Alma is tucked so tight against the bluffs there's only room for Main Street and, one block east and up, Second Street. Both are lined with the historic homes and buildings of this nineteenth century river town.

Access to Second Street is often via stairways rather than side streets. Perched up there you'll find the Alma Museum where you can learn about the town's colorful history including its early Swiss settlers (open May-Oct Sat 1-3pm, Sun 1-4pm; 608/685-4013). They were pioneers who knew how to build on hill-sides. There's even a walking trail from Second Street up to Buena Vista Park.

Just south of the locks, Wings Over Alma provides a 50-foot-high viewing deck in back of a storefront building (open daily 10am-5pm; 608/685-3303 [www.wingsoveralma.org](http://www.wingsoveralma.org)). The building is a gallery for local artists. The deck is a great spot to see an eagle swooping down to grab a fish in its talons. Binoculars and spotting scopes are provided.

If the weather holds in late October or early November, you'll be treated to the annual tundra swan migration. Thousands of these great white birds congregate in Beef Slough where the Buffalo River joins the Mississippi. There's an observation deck at Rieck's Lake Park just north of town ([www.almaswanwatch.org](http://www.almaswanwatch.org)).

Yes, Alma's a great place for birds. As you pedal up the neighboring bluffs, you'll wish you had wings too.



# 6 Top of the World Tour

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 23 miles

**DIFFICULTY:** Very difficult, but a moderate out-and-back route is an option.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** Municipal parking lot across from historic Whitehall Train Depot at the intersection of Hwys. 53 & 121 in Whitehall.

**ATTRACTIONS:** St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Independence City Hall and Opera House, Perrot State Park, Loc & Dam No. 6.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roadways open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Be sure to use the paved shoulder on Hwy. 121. Some slopes are long and steep; take care to control your downhill speed.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Peaceful Kingdom Ride, Great River Road South Tour or Great River Road North Tour.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Trempealeau County Tourism Council  
800/927-5339, 608/534-6615  
[www.trempealeaucountytourism.com](http://www.trempealeaucountytourism.com)

Bicycle Club of Trempealeau County  
715/538-2311, ext 205.  
[www.ridebctc.com](http://www.ridebctc.com)

**Y**ou'll feel like you're on top of the world when you pedal this high-flyin' route in one of the most bicycling-friendly parts of the state. The route is part of the course for an annual event of the same name held each August and part of the welcome mat Trempealeau County rolls out for bicyclists.

Trempealeau County is rural and folksy. Its largest town barely tops 2,000. So, when someone says "Hi, we're glad you came" they really mean it. The county's unique Trail Steward Program links hundreds of places you're welcome to stop for water, fix a mechanical problem, use a phone, or just take a break. Marked by a blue circle/bike silhouette Trail Steward sign, these sites are a nice touch that says "welcome."

In another nice touch, the Bicycle Club of Trempealeau County has produced a system of 383 on-road miles in 14 loop tours that showcase the best the county has to offer. Appealing routes like "Ride with the Eagles," "The Peaceful Kingdom," "Big Sky Country," and "The Daydream Trail" put plenty of bikes on car racks headed back to Trempealeau County. The route names only hint at how good your experience will be. To help you choose a route, handy color-coded bar graphs show the amount of easy, moderate and difficult riding as well as mileage.

In a rural county like Trempealeau the attractions are mainly pastoral. Pleasant small towns augment the superb scenery. In Whitehall the old train depot is being restored as the cornerstone of its Main Street revival that now features a café/deli in the old bank building. At the south end of town the Oak Park Inn, an incredible garden spot and Classic Revival mansion, is now a B&B.

While a quick glance at this course's profile makes it clear that it's not an easy ride, you can lower the bar a bit by riding out-and-back between Whitehall and Independence. That 14-mile round trip is a pleasant roll through the flat bottomland of the Trempealeau River valley.

As in Whitehall, architectural gems are a highlight of your ride through Independence. St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, noted for its glorious stained glass windows, has been a linchpin of the community's Polish population for more than 100 years. The spectacular City Hall and Opera House has been refurbished as a community center.

Following the loop south of Independence, it's up, up and away as you climb nearly 400 feet to Cty. N & D. The four



Coffee break, downtown Whitehall.

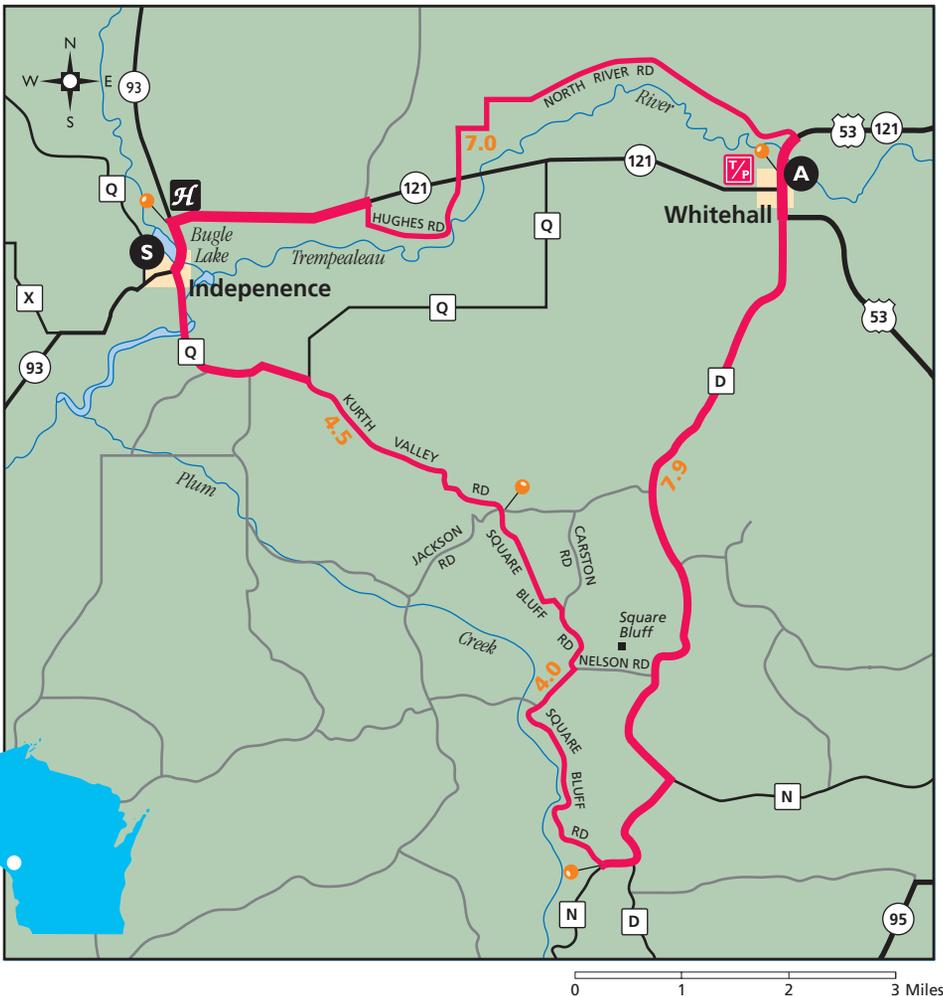
PHIL VAN VALKENBERG

miles you ride atop Square Bluff bring some of the best views anywhere; literally a new vista around every bend. Of course, the descents are plenty of fun too. At the intersection of Cty. N & D, Fagerness Church stands out as a picturesque ridge-top beacon.

Back in Whitehall, you're only 38 miles from Trempealeau and the Mississippi River. There, Perrot State Park offers riverside camping, fishing, boating and mountain biking among the park's scenic 500-foot bluffs

(608/534-6409 or [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)). In town, you can watch river traffic lock-through Lock & Dam No. 6. The observation platform is a perfect vantage to see river tug push rafts of 110-foot barges through the lock.

This "Top of the World" tour is typical of the quality of the bicycling opportunities in Trempealeau County. If it's your first ride here, it won't be your last. You'll return again and again to this quintessentially bicycle-friendly part of the state.



# 7

## Prairie du Chien Tour

VERNON COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 23 miles

**DIFFICULTY:** Very difficult, but easy out-and-back riding is possible north and south of Prairie du Chien.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** On Feriole Island off of Washington St. a half-mile west of Hwy 35.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Villa Louis, Mississippi River Sculpture Park, Fort Crawford Museum, Wyalusing State Park, exceptional river and farmland scenery.

**CAUTION:** Almost the entire route is on public roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Be sure to use the bike path on the south side of Hwy 18/35 and the paved shoulder to the east. Some slopes are long and steep; take care to control your downhill speed.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

#### OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:

Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Great River Road South, Black Hawk's Retreat Tour, or Westby Amish Tour.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce  
800/732-1673, 608/326-8555  
[www.prairieduchien.org](http://www.prairieduchien.org)

Long before the invention of bicycles, trains or automobiles, Prairie du Chien was a crossroads of travel in the heart of the continent. Located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, Prairie du Chien was a popular trading or rendezvous spot for the Native Americans who used the rivers as canoe highways. All the early French explorers – Marquette, Joliet, LaSalle and Perrot – passed here.

Several effigy mounds from the area's pre-European era are preserved in Wyalusing State Park located just south of the city across the Wisconsin River. Wyalusing is one of the state's most popular parks with stunning, bluff side overlooks, 109 family campsites, and 2,600 acres of fun (608/996-2261, [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)).

Founded in 1673, Prairie du Chien is Wisconsin's second oldest community. The British ceded it to our new nation at its birth, some say due to a distorted map that made the area stretching west to the Mississippi look much smaller than it actually was. The British realized their mistake and returned to build Fort Shelby here during the War of 1812. Americans attacked and burned the fort in 1814 in the only battle of the war fought in Wisconsin. In 1816, the US Army built Fort Crawford on the ruins of Fort Shelby.

Both forts were built on St. Feriole Island, the city's most historic district. The ruins of both forts were leveled in 1843 to construct Villa Louis, the home of Wisconsin's first millionaire fur trader, Hercules Dousman. Rebuilt in 1871, Villa Louis is today one of the premier Wisconsin State Historical Society sites (open daily May 5–Oct 31, 10am-5pm for one-hour guided tours; 608/326-2721 or [www.wisconsinhistory.org/villalouis](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/villalouis)). Historic military, carriage and fur trade rendezvous reenactments are popular annual events on the Villa's grounds. Nearby, the Mississippi River Sculpture Park, which will eventually feature two-dozen life-size historic figures, displays several bronze statues including a likeness of Sauk Chief Black Hawk.

The city is also home to the Fort Crawford Museum (open daily May-Oct, 10am-4pm; 608/326-6960). The museum tells the story of Dr. William Beaumont, who was able to study the human digestive process via an unhealed bullet hole in the stomach of a young voyageur. Also stationed at the fort were two future American presidents: Colonel Zachary Taylor would go on to become the 12th President of the United States while his son-in-law, Lieutenant



Scenic Vernon County.

PHOTO BY RALPH & LINDA MILLER



PHOTO BY LINDA MILLER

**Wyalusing State Park.**

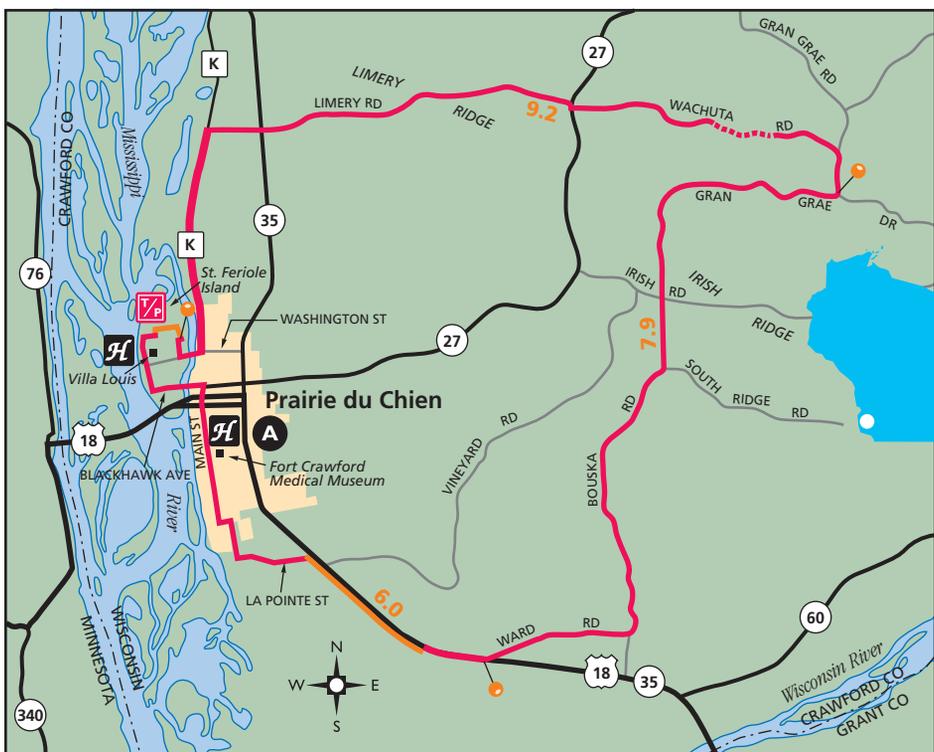
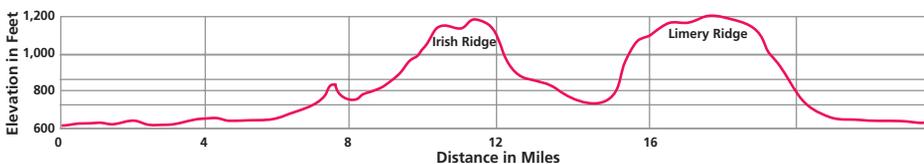
Jefferson Davis, ended up being the first and only President of the Confederate States during the Civil War.

Riding east from Prairie du Chien you can take advantage of the paved bike path on the south side of Hwy 18/35 before veering up a side valley of the Wisconsin River on Bouska Road. At the top of the climb you'll have a fantastic view of the river valley to the southeast. You'll plunge off the ridge into the deep, narrow valley of Gran Grae Creek before an even steeper climb back up to the

bluff-top farmland on Wachuta Road. The short unpaved stretch on Wachuta Road is nearly dead flat and should pose no riding problem for any type of bike.

Contour farming, where the crops are planted in horizontal bands to prevent erosion, takes advantage of the scarce tillable land here. It makes for scenic agrarian photo-ops as the ridges fall away in every direction into steep forested valleys. After an initially steep descent on Limery Road you can relax a bit and enjoy the view as an ever-widening scene of the valley of America's mightiest river unfolds.

Riding around historic Prairie du Chien is not only fun and scenic, it's great exercise too. If your legs are up to it, there are more routes to choose from than those shown here. The Crawford County Bicycle Map includes eight more loops from 14 to 44 miles in length. You can download it at [www.crawfordcountywi.com](http://www.crawfordcountywi.com). The county is known for its incredible system of lightly traveled, super-scenic back roads.



0 1 2 3 Miles

# 8

## Merrimac Ferry Tour

SAUK & COLUMBIA COUNTIES

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 45 miles total; 26 for the north loop, 19 for the south loop.

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate to difficult. The northern loop has long, steep climbs.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In Baraboo at the Circus World Museum parking lot on Water Street (Hwy. 113); and at the Merrimac Ferry parking lot at Hwys. 188 & 113.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Baraboo Range scenery, Circus World Museum, Al Ringling Theatre, International Crane Foundation, Devil's Lake State Park, plus the many nearby amusements of Wisconsin Dells.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public streets and roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Riding the separate bike trail along Hwy. 123 south of Baraboo is advised.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Baraboo Range Tour or Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Tour. Or, in this guide check-out the Waterloo Tour (pages 22-23).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce 800/227-2266, 608/356-8333 [www.baraboo.com](http://www.baraboo.com)

Lodi Chamber of Commerce 608/592-4412 [www.lodiwisconsin.com](http://www.lodiwisconsin.com)

If you're ready to take on the tough cycling terrain on this tour you'll be rewarded with some of the most outstanding scenery in Wisconsin.

Do you think you can climb more than half a mile on your bike? Ride all 45 miles of this tour and you'll pedal up 2,944 vertical feet. The 26-mile northern loop has the lion's share with 1,827 feet. That's where you'll cross the Baraboo Range - the remnant core of an ancient mountain - twice. Blessedly, one of the crossings will be through the gap at Devil's Lake State Park where you'll enjoy some of the best scenery east of the Rockies. Of course, what goes up must come down; there's more than a half-mile of thrilling downhill riding too.

The southern loop will be a bit easier on your legs, but there's not much flat road until you near the pleasant town of Lodi. Along the way you'll have a great view of Gibraltar Rock, a sandstone monolith popular with area climbers. You may even spot ant-like climbers working their way across the rock's Amphitheater Wall or up the Rhombus Head. With a variety of eating options and a pleasant main street, Lodi makes a good rest stop.

You'll cross the Wisconsin River aboard the Merrimac Ferry, in operation since 1848. The ride is free. The ferryboat is the ColSac III, named for the counties on either side of the river - Columbia and Sauk. While cars and trucks queue up and may have to wait several trips for the 5-minute crossing, there is always room for bikes and pedestrians. If you need a sugar boost, there's an ice cream stand on either shore.

The real nasty grades are on the northern loop. If you ride it clockwise, you'll face a half-mile climb as you leave Devil's Lake on a twisting 8% slope. Circling the other direction you'll pedal up for 2.5 miles and climb 650 feet at an average grade of more than 5%. The first half-mile from the entrance to Devil's Head Resort is a whopping 10% pitch. These are the sorts of grades you'd find in the Alps.

A visit to Baraboo is a big part of riding the northern loop. Baraboo was the boyhood home of the Ringling Brothers - five Wisconsin youngsters with circus in their blood.

On the tour route you'll pass Circus World Museum sited on land that was once the winter headquarters of the Ringling Brothers Circus. Today it celebrates American circus heritage with live Big Top performances, animal acts, exhibits and memorabilia,



The Merrimac Ferry.

PHOTO BY LINDA MILLER

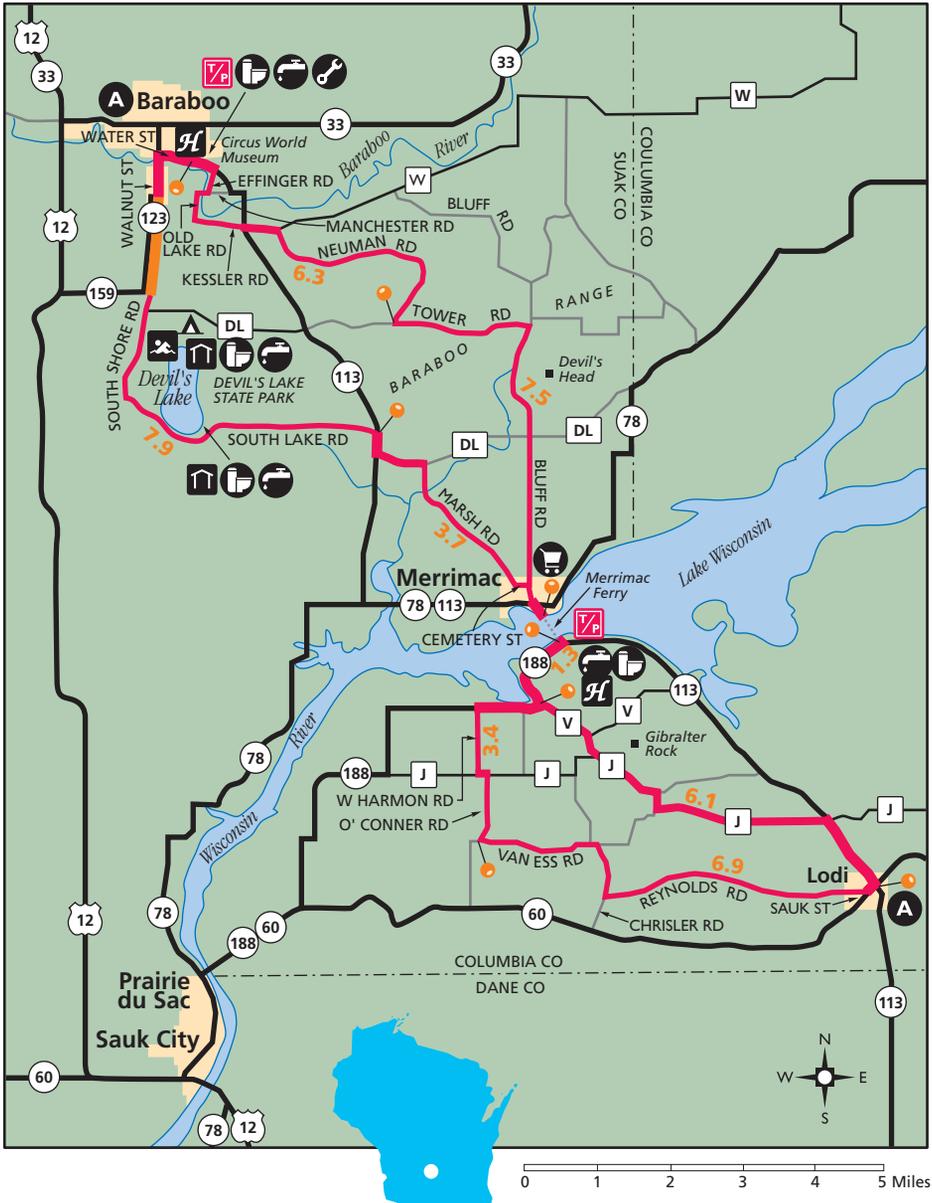
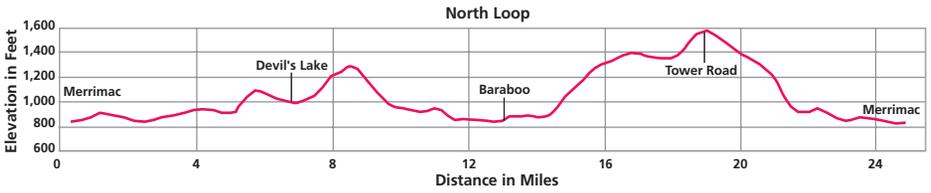
and a fabulous collection of 150 restored circus wagons, (open MD-LD daily 9am-6pm; LD-MD Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 11am-4pm; 866/693-1500, [www.circusworldmuseum.com](http://www.circusworldmuseum.com)).

Downtown, the Al Ringling Theater was once the most opulent in the state. It's unique oval interior hosts movies and a performing art series.

The International Crane Foundation

(open Apr 15-Oct 31, 9am-5pm daily; 608/356-9462, [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)) is just north of Baraboo. On a guided tour (offered MD-LD at 10am, 1 & 3pm) you can learn about all fifteen species of these ancient birds.

You may not soar like the cranes as you pedal the steep Baraboo bluffs, but riding these tough roads is a real feather in your cycling cap.



# 9 Waterloo Tour

DODGE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 33 miles

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In Lake Mills at Commons Park at N. Main St. (Hwy. 89) & W. Madison St. (County B).

**ATTRACTIONS:** TREK USA bicycle factory, Tyranena Brewery, Aztalan State Park.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roadways open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Be sure to use the paved shoulders on Hwy. 89 and County B.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Kettle Moraine Tour, Sharon to Fontana Tour, Freedom Heritage Tour, Baraboo Range Tour, Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Tour, or Covered Bridge Tour. Or, in this guide check-out the Merrimac Ferry Tour (pages 20-21).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Lake Mills Area Chamber of Commerce 920/648-3585 [www.lakemills.org](http://www.lakemills.org)

**T**his pleasant roll through the farm fields of Jefferson County combines a great bike tour with the chance to tour a great Wisconsin bike manufacturer – TREK USA.

You can start from the parking lot of charming Commons Park in Lake Mills. This shaded village green with its gleaming white bandstand is surrounded by small town businesses, including interesting eateries.

Riding east of town you'll soon come to Aztalan State Park, one of Wisconsin's most significant archeological sites. Once the northernmost outpost of the Middle Mississippian Culture, Aztalan was a fortified village whose culture thrived from 1000 to 1300AD. But by the time of Columbus, the site was deserted leaving only its pyramid-shaped ceremonial mounds. While many of its mysteries remain unsolved, recent studies conclude that at least some of its people came from the Cahokia area, a large mound city near East St. Louis and the center of the culture.

Today Aztalan is a peaceful spot to take a rest from pedaling and enjoy a picnic lunch. You can exercise your arms pumping cool fresh water from an iron hand pump or climb to the top of a restored diamond-shape pyramid, a great spot for kite flying.

Back on the tour, the gently rolling farmland yields easily to your pedal strokes. Scenic roads lead you past picture-perfect farms where cows and horses graze, through marshlands where waterfowl take wing, and by wood lots with glimpses of darting songbirds. Just east of Waterloo, along Island Church Road you see tiny St. Wenceslas Church, about as simple and picturesque a place of worship as you could imagine.

Waterloo is the Wisconsin home of TREK USA, manufacturer of the sleek racing bicycles that Lance Armstrong and the Discovery Channel Team have ridden to victory in the Tour de France. TREK has been building top-quality bikes in Waterloo since 1976. If you visit on Wednesdays or Fridays you can tour the TREK plant (801 W. Madison Street, 920-478-4678); tours start at 10am.

West of town, the tour loops south through a thin slice of Dane County before turning southeast back to Lake Mills. North of town, at Tyranena Park, you can swim in the spring-fed waters of Rock Lake. The lake hides a local mystery; stories going back to pioneer days tell of strange stone pyramids beneath its waters.



Waterloo is the home of Trek USA.

TREK USA

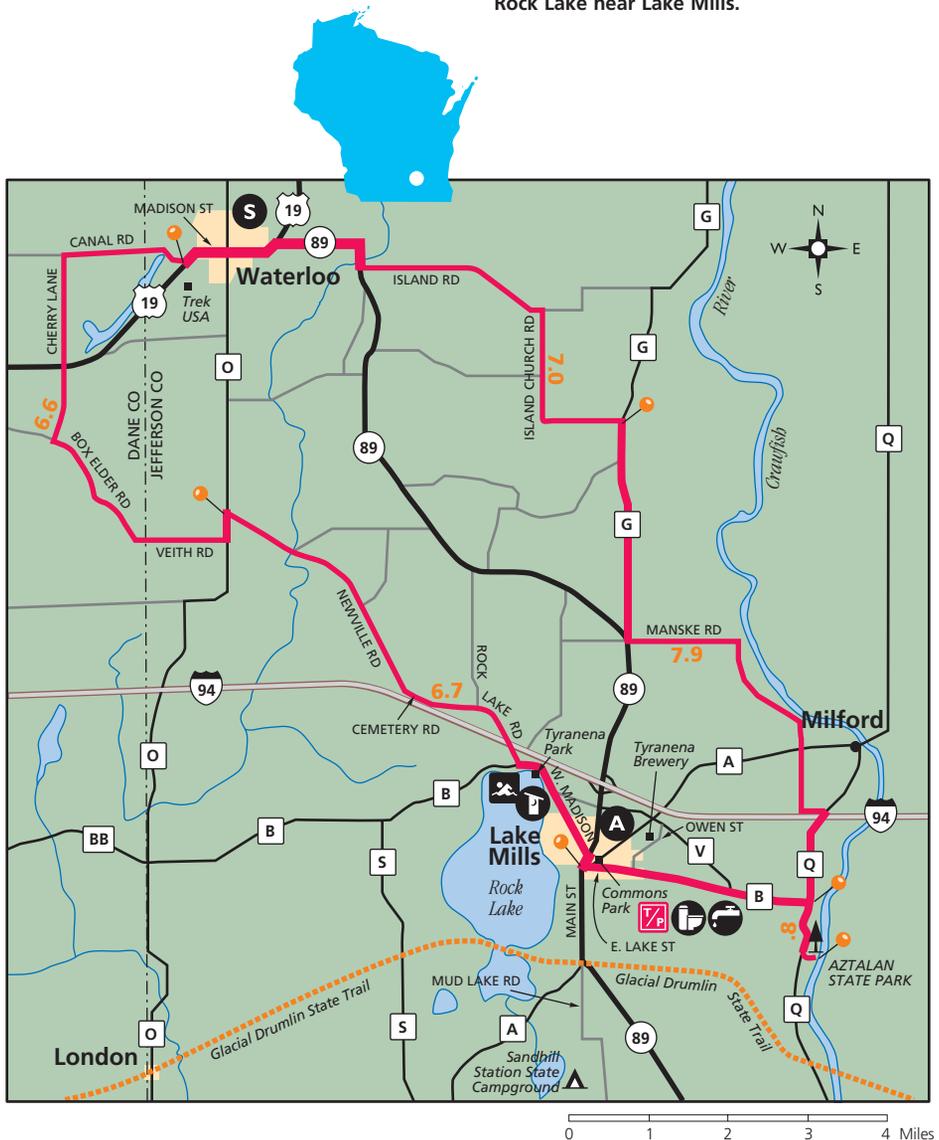
In town, you can toast the end of your ride at the Tyrarena Brewery. The brewery is open for touring and tasting on a regular basis (tasting Wed & Thurs 4:30-mid, Fri & Sat 3pm-mid, tours Sat at 1:30pm; 920/648-8699). On the first weekend of October, beer and bicycles blend on the Tyrarena Oktoberfest Bike Ride. Starting and finishing at the brewery, riders choose from three different routes, all leading to the TREK factory in Waterloo where they can tour the plant before returning to the brewery for the Oktoberfest celebration, (see Wisconsin Biking Events, page 72).

Where else but Wisconsin could you combine a great road tour, a great bike manufacturer and a great beer?

PHIL VAN VALKENBERG



Rock Lake near Lake Mills.



# 10

## Lima Center Tour

JEFFERSON, ROCK & WALWORTH COUNTIES

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 33 miles.

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** Cravath Lakefront Park at South 2nd St & Whitewater St, two blocks south of Main Street (Bus Hwy 12) in Whitewater.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Kettle Moraine State Forest, Old World Wisconsin, Whitewater Historical Society, farm scenery.

**CAUTION:** The entire route is on public roads open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TOURS IN THIS REGION:**

Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Kettle Moraine Tour, Freedom Heritage Tour or Sharon to Fontana Tour. Or, in this guide check out the Waterloo Tour (pages 22-23).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Whitewater Tourism Council  
866/499-8687, 262/473-4005  
[www.discoverwhitewater.org](http://www.discoverwhitewater.org)

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit  
262/594-6200  
[www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)

Explore quiet country roads in three counties as you roll across the flat expanse of a great outwash plain, skirt the edge of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and wind through distinctive drumlin fields. This tour is one of six rides of 15 to 45 miles detailed in the Whitewater Area Biking Map available from the Whitewater Tourism Council. The map includes route cue sheets, plus interesting information on local history and points of interest.

The Historic Train Depot at Cravath Lakefront Park is the starting point for this and all of the Whitewater rides. The ornate depot is home to the Whitewater Historical Society that showcases the past of this quaint community (open May-Oct, Thurs & Sun, hours vary; 262/473-6820). The setting on the edge of Cravath Lake is idyllic.

The picturesque town is a collection of distinctive cream brick homes and storefront buildings that testify to its nineteenth century prosperity. The first cross-state railroad, the Milwaukee & Mississippi, brought commerce and industry. Whitewater Normal School, founded as a teacher's college but now the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, added to the town's prestige.

Heading south from Whitewater on Clover Valley Road, you'll roll across the nearly flat outwash plain left from a flood of melting glacial ice. Ahead, the dark silhouette of the Kettle Moraine State Forest stretches across the horizon. Thirty miles long and encompassing more than 20,000 acres,



Autumn along a Walworth County road.

DON ABRAMS

the forest offers remarkable scenic and recreational opportunities. On your way there you'll pass a flowing artesian well hand-dug to a depth of 55 feet in 1895 by Adam Channing. To this day, it gushes with cold, clear water.

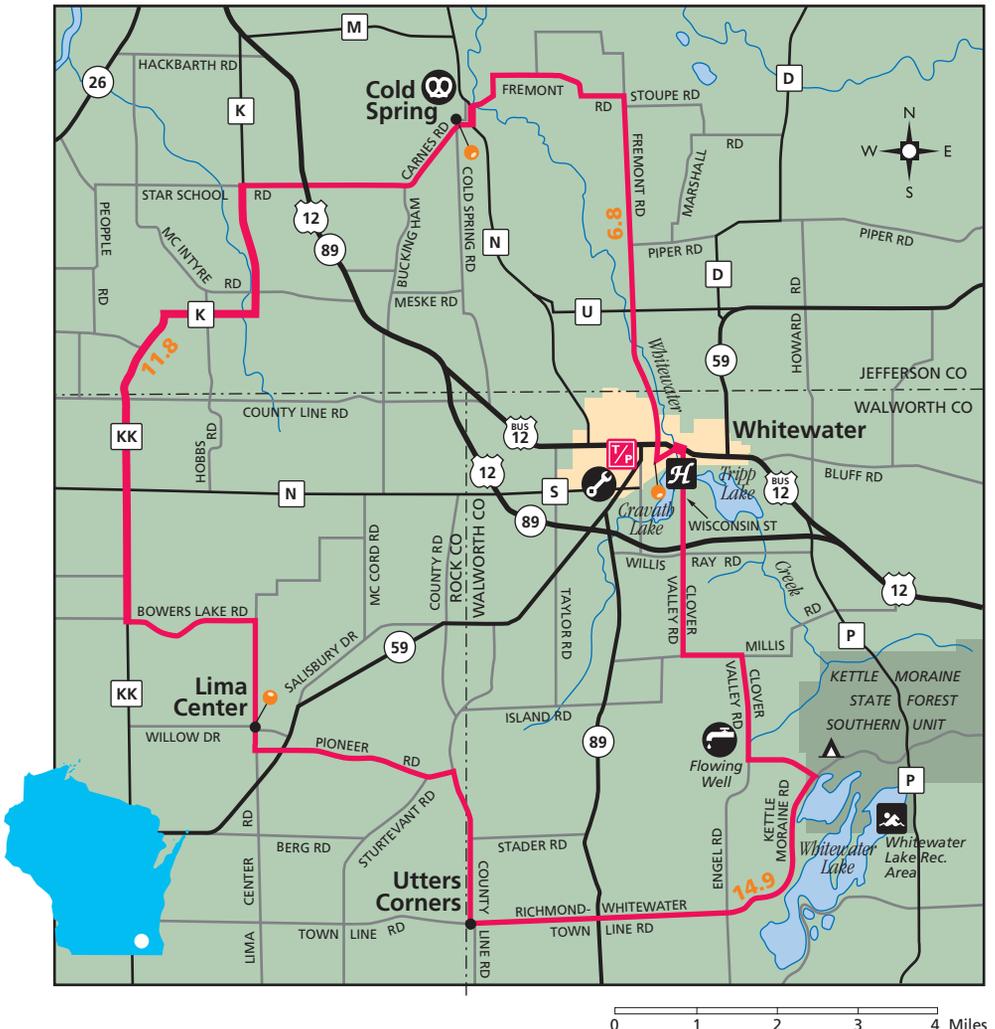
At the end of Clover Valley Road you'll follow the edge of Rice and Whitewater Lakes. Nearby is the state forest's Whitewater Lake Recreational Area offering camping, picnic areas and a clean swimming beach.

On the other side of the Kettle Moraine's ridge is Old World Wisconsin, the largest outdoor museum of historic rural life in the nation. Here, more than sixty historic buildings built by Wisconsin pioneers of almost every ethnic hue serve as a living museum where crafts and skills of the past come alive (open daily May-Oct, hours vary; 262/594-6300, [www.wisconsinhistory.org/oww](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/oww)). The rustic octagonal Clausing Barn serves as the Visitor Center and a cafeteria.

Just as the terrain really starts to roll along Kettle Moraine Drive, the route turns west across gentler terrain to the crossroads villages of Utters Corners and Lima Center. Around these towns you'll be treated to Wisconsin farm scenery at its best.

As you approach Cold Spring, you'll wind your way through a drumlin field. Characterized by their teardrop-shape, these hills are all oriented in the direction of the flow of Wisconsin's last glacial ice sheet. Cold Spring has one major claim to fame. In July of 1832, future president Abraham Lincoln was a captain in the Illinois Militia that had come north to pursue the Sauk leader Blackhawk and his band. When hostilities ceased and it was time to go home, Lincoln had to walk the 200 miles back to Illinois. His horse had been stolen. The incident is commemorated at Cold Spring Creamery Park.

When you visit, be sure to bring your bike lock.



# Mountain Bike Trails



KETH OLSEN

People have pedaled the snowmobile trails and lumber roads of Wisconsin since the mountain bike was invented a short three decades ago. Now, well-marked and maintained mountain bike trail systems throughout Wisconsin allow you to enjoy the beautiful outdoors in a traffic-free environment.

In this section, we've chosen a variety of trails to ensure wonderful adventures for riders of every ability. You can explore beautiful Northwoods lake country; ride the roller coaster landscape of the Kettle Moraine State Forest; take-on the challenge of hills and bluffs in the state's rugged "driftless" area; and get acquainted with fantastic northern trail systems offering hundreds of miles of fun.

Fat tires are always appropriate for off-roading. Some trails will require excellent bike handling skills to deal with rocks, roots, loose surface, steep grades and narrow trails. Others offer an easy roll. Find your comfort level, then enjoy!

The map on this page locates and indexes all the trails in this mountain bike trail section.



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<b>5</b>	Greenbush Trails	36-37
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<b>7</b>	Human Powered Trails	40-41
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<b>9</b>	Milwaukee Alpha Trail	44-45
<b>10</b>	John Muir & Emma Carlin Trails	46-47

## Mountain Bike Trails Legend



**Trailhead**



**Trailhead Parking Lot**



**Trailhead On-Street Parking**

**Easy Off-Road Trail:** Requires few off-road skills. Gear changing, braking, and the ability to ride soft surfaces are necessary.

**Moderate Off-Road Trail:** Requires the ability to change gears under pressure and control speed by braking. Rougher surfaces.

**Difficult Off-Road Trail:** A real challenge to physical riding ability. Gear changes under great pressure; braking safely on steep surfaces, handling a bike at high speeds. Very rough surfaces.

**Extreme Off-Road Trail:** Requires advanced riding skills. Extremely rough surfaces; very steep grades; requires physical strength and maximum bike handling skills.

**Off-Road Trail Single-Track:** All the caveats above, plus a very narrow track.

**On-Road or Paved Trail Segment:** On-road sections are shared with motor vehicles.

For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

Pay attention to these mountain biking tips:

- Always wear a helmet, eye protection, and ride with a companion.
- Call ahead to make sure specific trails are open.
- Control your bike; don't ride "over your head."
- Ride on open trails only; others may be illegal.
- Always yield the trail; most trails are shared.
- Never spook animals.
- Leave no trace; be sensitive to trail surfaces.

# 1 Rock Lake CAMBA Trail

BAYFIELD COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 12.1 miles for entire loop, 10.1 miles via the Emerson Cutoff, also 6.6 Mile Cutoff & 5 Mile Cutoff.

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate to extreme. The Hildebrand Lake Loop has the most extreme sections with some purpose-built rock gardens and a narrow plank bridge.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Hardpack forest floor, rocks, roots, some soft surface and narrow passage.

**SIGNAGE:** Blue and white CAMBA trail signs and frequent “you-are-here” map signs. Forest Service roads are marked with small, low brown signs with yellow lettering.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** 7.5 miles east of Cable/Hwy. 63 on Cty. M.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The Cable Natural History Museum, CAMBA mountain bike trail system, and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

**FEES:** Daily or annual National Forest motor vehicle parking fee is required. Donations or memberships for CAMBA accepted.

**NOTE:** Ride on trails signed for mountain biking only. Cross-country ski trails are now off limits to mountain biking unless marked.

**CAUTION:** The trail is also used by hikers; always yield to pedestrians and don't spook animals.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Chequamegon Area Trails, CAMBA Single-Track Trails, CAMBA Namekagon Trail, or Copper Falls State Park Trails.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Cable Area Chamber of Commerce 715/798-3833; 800/533-7454 [www.cable4fun.com](http://www.cable4fun.com) or [www.cambatrails.org](http://www.cambatrails.org)

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest 715/762-2461 [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/)

Get ready for some of the best off-road riding the Northwoods has to offer. Part of the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association's (CAMBA) 300-plus mile system of trails, the Rock Lake Trails have been a favorite for a decade.

The forest is so dense that you often ride in a tunnel of trees. The mix of pines, spruce, birch, oak and maple fill the air with a fragrance as pure as creation. When you burst into the open at Rock Lake, the panorama will surely bring a “Wow!” to your lips. In autumn, the changing colors against the blue sky and lake are truly spectacular.

It's a good spot to listen for the eerie call of the loon. These ancient birds love pristine, isolated places. They survive through their fishing ability and, unlike most birds, have dense bones that allow them to swim swiftly underwater. Mother loons can be seen carrying their little ones on their backs. Bald eagles are another fishing visitor to the lake. Expect to hear some loud squawking from mother loon if one comes along.

The Rock Lake trail system was originally a cross-country ski trail that became popular with mountain bikers in the 1980s; too popular as it turned out. Never designed for wheeled vehicles, overuse soon caused erosion problems. Attempts to solve the rapid water runoff with rubber water bars produced mixed results and a less-pleasing ride. Then, a few years ago, CAMBA undertook an extensive project to create a single-track trail system that would replace the erosion-prone ski trail sections. These are the trails you now enjoy.

Single-track riding on the Rock Lake system varies from moderate to extreme. For most riders it's actually less demanding than the cross-country ski trails that often took the most direct ascents and descents – the “fall lines” the terrain offered. The new trail design switches back on slopes at relatively low grades making riding easier and keeping water from building erosion-producing speed.

That doesn't mean there isn't plenty of challenge here. Rock Lake riding is full of twists and turns, rocks, roots and frequent grade changes. On the furthest loop around Hildebrand Lake, the CAMBA trail design-demons chose to pitch some warp-10 difficulty at riders tough enough to get that far. As if there weren't enough rocks in the original trail, designers strategically placed more

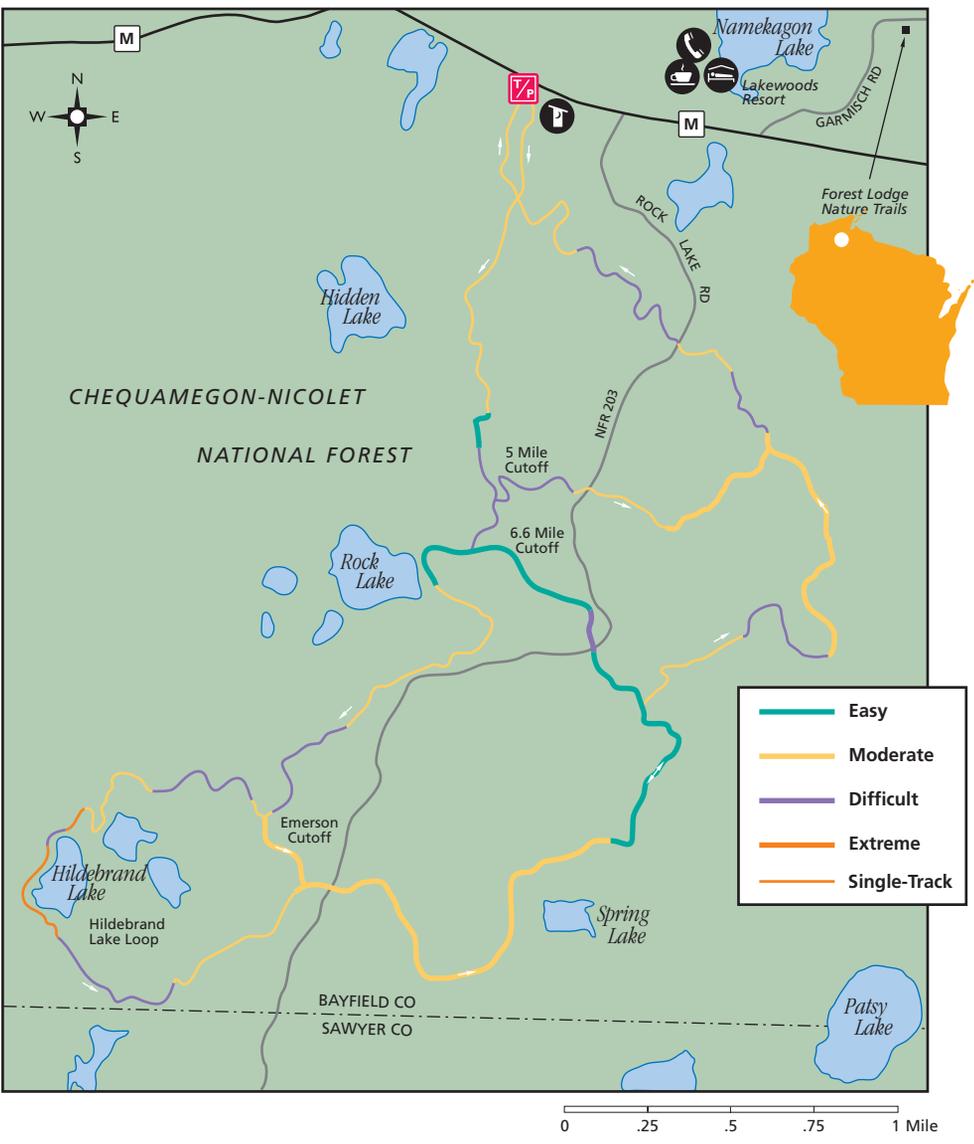


PHIL VAN VALKENBERG

Cruisin' the CAMBA Trails.

stone to increase the difficulty. In places you'll find multi-step drops, narrow passages, thread-thin side hill sections, and the crowning glory, a single-plank bridge at the lake's outlet. Now that's taking single-track riding to the extreme.

The Cable area is known for its comfortable resorts and fine restaurants. You'll want to allow some time to enjoy them. The Cable Natural History Museum is an amazing resource to find in a tiny community (open Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm in summer; 715/798-3890 or [www.cablemuseum.org](http://www.cablemuseum.org)). Their award-winning original exhibits will help you appreciate the magnificent wilderness you just rode through.



# 2 Nicolet Roche Trails

LANGLADE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 14 miles total with 13 miles of single-track.

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate to difficult.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Mostly loamy soil, some sand, rocks and roots.

**SIGNAGE:** Brown mountain bike silhouette and "You are here" map signs.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** On the south end at Boulder Lake Campground & Boat Landing 1.8 miles northeast of Hwy 55 via Cty WW and Forest Road 2116. On the north end on Hwy 64, 3.3 miles east of Langlade.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Nicolet National Forest, Depot Museum, paddling opportunities.

**FEES:** None, but donations to LAMBA can be made at Bear Paw Inn.

**NOTE:** Salvage logging in the blow-down area may be going on at times. Check with the Forest Service for possible trail section closings.

**CAUTION:** The trails are two-way. When extreme obstacles are encountered obvious bypasses exist. Hikers may also use the trails; always yield to pedestrians and don't spook animals.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Washburn Lake Trails, Reforestation Camp Trails, or Ed's Lake Trail.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce  
888/526-4523, 715/623-4134  
[www.antigochamber.com](http://www.antigochamber.com)

Wolf River Territory Tourism Association  
715/493-0922  
[www.wolfriverterritory.com](http://www.wolfriverterritory.com)

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
715/362-1300  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf)

There's a bit of a French connection in this part of the state. The Nicolet unit of the vast Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is named for Jean Nicolet, the French explorer acknowledged as the first European in Wisconsin. Fur trader Sieur Charles Michel de Langlade is the county's namesake. Fitting then that when LAMBA (Langlade Area Mountain Bicycling Association) members chose a name for their new trail's most distinguishing characteristic they decided on "roche," the French word for rock.

The rocks you'll find here are not just any stones, though there are plenty of those too. Expect encounters with megaliths in a half-dozen trail sections. One section is even named MOAB – "Mother Of All Boulders" – what a treat! These huge boulders dot the forest floor and offer high skill, low consequence challenges. If you're riding technique is not up to tackling these stone monsters there are always obvious bypasses.

Beyond the boulder fields you'll find more fun riding with short steep sections traversing 20 to 50 feet of elevation. The riding here is a bit easier. Even though trail section names like Beast, Gravity Cavity and Psycho Path suggest a certain amount of whimsy in choosing titles, there may be more than a bit of truth in them as well. For beginners, or just an easy warm-up, mountain biking is allowed on the Boulder Lake Campground Trail, a mile-and-a-half ride around a bog on the soft forest floor and boardwalks.

The Nicolet lobe of the Chequamegon-Nicolet is gigantic. It encompasses more than 660,000 acres. That's more than 1,000 square miles. It covers the most thinly populated part of the state, perfect for getting away from it all. The nearest sizable town is Antigo, more than 20 miles to the west. There are services available at the tiny towns of Langlade and White Lake. In White Lake you can learn more about local history at the Depot Museum (open MD-LD Sat 9am-3pm, Sun noon-3pm; 715/882-8581).

More recent history has challenged LAMBA members and local residents. On June 7, 2007 an F4 tornado sliced through the forest. The satellite photos of the damage are amazing. They show a 35-mile long, half-mile wide slash running southwest to northeast across the emerald green forest. It looks like a gigantic bowling ball rolled through, flattening everything. This "mother of all strikes" tracked right across the trail's central loop. The good news is the boulders

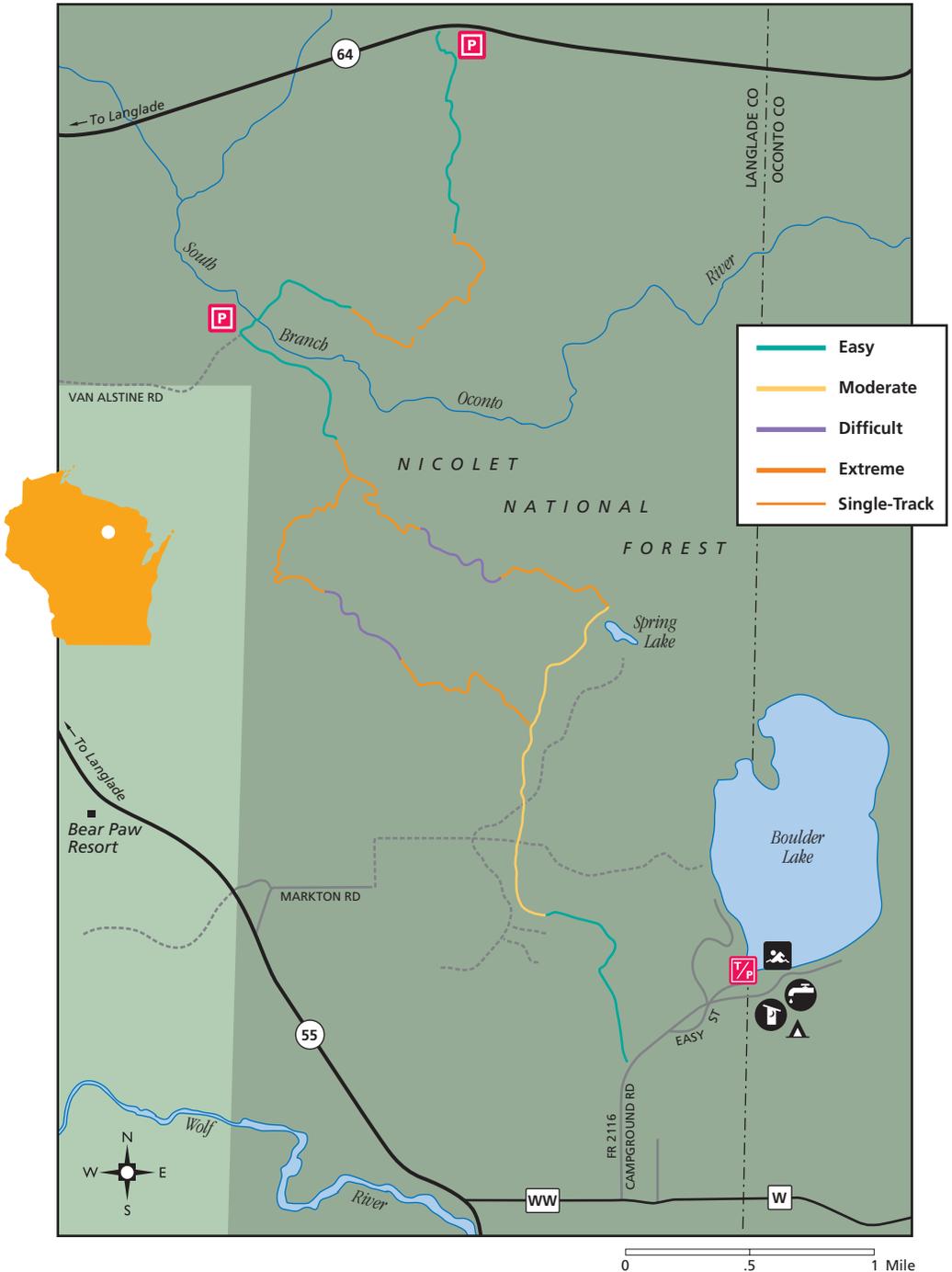
came through just fine and some nice overviews are expected.

The tornado destroyed the nearby Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort, a popular rider hangout (715/882-3502, [www.bearpawoutdoors.com](http://www.bearpawoutdoors.com)). The resort's lodge, campground, restaurant and store have been rebuilt and opened for business in April 2008. Bear Paw also caters to paddlers attracted to the Wolf River, known as one of

the best whitewater rivers in the Midwest.

In the area, you'll find a number of rafting outfitters and other paddling schools. If easy paddling is your thing, you can put in on placid Boulder Lake that is sheltered by the forest and 100-foot-high bluffs. No matter how much fun the biking is, it would be a shame to visit and not enjoy the water too.

Future LAMBA plans call for 10 to 15 miles of new trail near Bear Paw. Rock on!



# 3

## Peninsula State Park Trails

DOOR COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 12.5 miles total including the .3-mile out-and-back section on the Sunset Trail between the park office trailhead and the mountain bike trail.

**DIFFICULTY:** Mostly easy on the wider trails with a few rocky stretches, easy or moderate on the single-track section.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Hard pack forest floor with some rocks and roots.

**SIGNAGE:** Well marked with green & white bike silhouette signs. White & red no biking signs on hiking trails. Periodic "you are here" maps.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** At the Sunset Trail parking lot across Shore Road from the Park Office; and a second trailhead one-quarter mile north of Hwy. 42 on Highland Road.

**NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:** Eagle Bluff Lighthouse Museum, Eagle Observation Tower, Peninsula Players Theatre in a Garden, American Folklore Theatre, Historic Noble House, Anderson Barn Museum, Anderson Store Museum, Pioneer School House.

**FEES:** A daily or annual State Park Vehicle Admission sticker is required, as well as a daily or annual State Trail Pass.

**NOTE:** Fines apply for riding on hiking-only trails.

**CAUTION:** Hikers also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians and don't spook animals.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Potawatomi Trail or Reforestation Camp Trails.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Door County Chamber of Commerce 800/527-3529, 920/743-4456 [www.doorcounty.com](http://www.doorcounty.com)

**W**isconsin's Door County has more state parks than any other county in the nation. And, when it comes to natural beauty,

Peninsula State Park can match any park anywhere. Fragrant white cedars line the shore and bright Niagara Dolomite cliffs rise in the background to a forested bluff top. At 3,775 acres the park is huge, as is its enchantment. Inland the hemlock, white birch, basswood, beach and oak forest is home to a profusion of wild critters and birds. An aroma that can only be experienced in a midwestern upland forest floats through the air.

A mountain bike is your ticket for exploring the easy riding trails that wind through the quiet interior of the park. Most of the trails are on old paths and roads that allow you to enjoy the scenery as you pedal. Old stone fences mark the edges of early pioneer efforts to farm the thin soil.

The 4.4-mile Sunset Trail offers another opportunity for easy pedaling and some great views of the bay. But don't expect the solitude of the mountain bike trails; the Sunset Trail is very popular.

The challenge on the park's mountain bike trails comes shortly after leaving the Sunset Trail. A short, steep climb of 50 feet up the rocky edge of the limestone bedrock sets you up for miles of easy riding on well-marked trails. Another challenge comes on the new single-track loop north of Middle Road. There the trail twists and undulates over rocks and roots through dense stands of hemlock, birch and oak.

The park's trails are great for a workout, but a visit doesn't have to be all panting and gear grinding. There are lots of things to do off the bike. The 75-foot Eagle Observation Tower is a breathtaking chance to enjoy a panoramic view of the park, the islands in the bay and the harbor at Ephraim. Touring the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse explores the history of this 1868 beacon built to guide sailors to safe harbor (open Sat & Sun only May 19-Jun 10, 10am-4pm; then daily June 12-Oct 22, 10am-4:30pm; guided tours every hour and half-hour). In the park the American Folklore Theatre presents professional musical theater under the stars (performances mid-June to mid-Oct; 920/854-6117 or [www.folkloretheatre.com](http://www.folkloretheatre.com)).

A few miles south of Fish Creek the Peninsula Players have performed original and classic plays in the Theatre in the Garden since 1935 - the oldest professional resident summer theater in the country (performances

mid-June to mid-Oct; 920/868-3287 or [www.peninsulaplayers.com](http://www.peninsulaplayers.com)).

Fish Creek and Ephraim are treasure troves for art lovers. The two villages have more than a dozen galleries between them and host several summer music festivals. Food - bicycling fuel - is part of the ambience too with everything from ice cream shops to fine dining. A stroll through these communities is a great way to soak it all up; the high volume of tourist-season motor vehicle traffic and the quaint character of the streets may convince you to lock your bike and enjoy a walking tour.

In Fish Creek you can visit Historic Noble House, an 1875 restored Victorian home of one of the village's founders (open daily mid-May to mid-Oct 11am-4pm; 920/868-2091).

Ephraim has its share of historic sites too. The Anderson Barn Museum displays the past with artifacts, photos and stories as well as a hands-on children's exhibit titled "A Year in the Life of Ephraim." At the Anderson Store Museum visitors can tour an 1858 general store. On hilly Moravia Street you can visit Pioneer School House used from 1880 to 1949. These three attractions are all open 10:30am-4pm mid-June through the summer season.

Peninsula State Park and Door County - sure to draw you back again and again.



# 4

# Lowes Creek Trail

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 9 miles of single-track and 5 miles of X-C ski trails.

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to difficult.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Mostly hardpack with some sand, roots, rocks, log obstacles and narrow wooden bridges.

**SIGNAGE:** Black & white signs with trail names.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** At Lowes Creek County Park just south of Eau Claire. From the I-94 & Hwy 93 interchange, travel south on Hwy 93 two miles to Cty II, west one mile to Lowes Creek Road, then north 1.5 miles to the park.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Carson Park, Chippewa Valley Museum, Chippewa Valley Railroad, Carson Park Stadium, James Newman Clark Bird Museum, woods and steam scenery.

**FEES:** Daily or annual county park parking fee.

**NOTE:** Hikers also use the trails; always yield to pedestrians.

**CAUTION:** All single-track is two way with the exception of a few steep sections.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Black River State Forest Trails or Levis Mound Trails.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Chippewa Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau  
888/523-3866, 715/831-2345  
[www.chippewavalley.net](http://www.chippewavalley.net)

Eau Claire County Parks and Forests Dept.  
715/839-4783  
[www.co.eau-claire.wi.us](http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us)

Chippewa Off Road Bike Association (CORBA)  
715/839-7178  
[www.chippewaoffroad.org](http://www.chippewaoffroad.org)

Riders always come away with smiles after biking the trails at Lowes Creek. With its miles of cross-country ski trails, this pleasant little 250-acre county park has long been a great place to pedal a mountain bike. In recent years it's gotten even better with the creation of fun and challenging single-track trails for all abilities.

Local mountain bikers got together and formed CORBA (Chippewa Off Road Bike Association) and with the support of the county parks department clocked nearly 1,000 hours in the last several years building trails to IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) standards. COBRA might have been a more descriptive name for their group the way the trails snake around. But when you cram this many miles into such a small footprint, there's bound to be a lot of twists and turns.

The payoff has been kudos from visitors near and far. Riders like the true, fast-riding single-track in the heavily wooded area. Narrow turns and tight up-and-down pitches add to the challenge. The "cluster" arrangement of the trail sections and two-way travel allow riders to vary their experience almost infinitely. You can almost completely avoid the double-track cross-country ski trails, or use them to take a break from the concentration needed on the single-track.

There's only fifty feet of elevation relief in the park. The CORBA trail builders made maximum use of every foot by winding trails up and down the valley side and creating side cut sections and off-camber turns. Riders rave about the "flow" of the trails and the technical skills involved in pedaling here. A beginner skills area is in the works next to the parking lot.

The Lowes Creek trails have been featured as the top system in the state by a national mountain bike magazine. The annual Chippewa Valley Firecracker race, held here on the weekend nearest July 4th, draws the highest attendance of any WORS (Wisconsin Off-Road Series) event, (see page 72).

Another great thing about riding at Lowes Creek is that all the fun and attractions of Eau Claire are just a short distance away. Lowes Creek Road overpasses I-94 and takes you right there. You're not far from Carson Park with its beautiful limestone baseball stadium. Hank Aaron began his professional career on a minor league team at the park. A statue out front honors him.



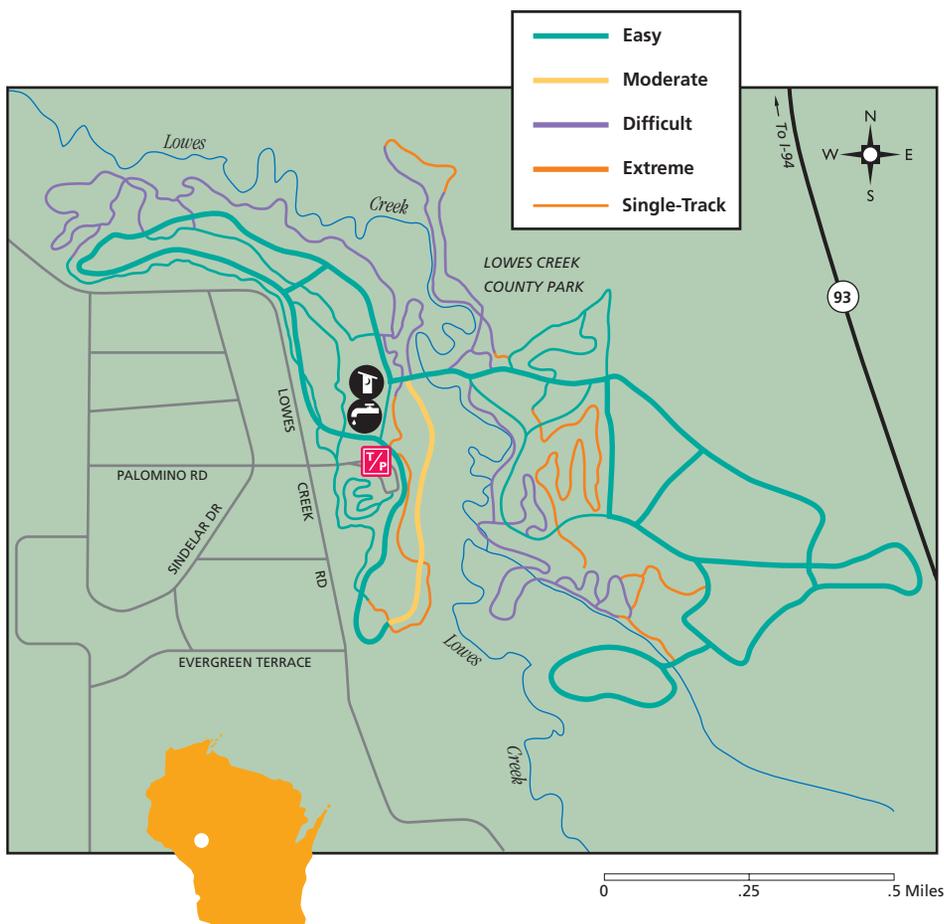
TOURISM PHOTO FILE

**Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, Eau Claire.**

Also in Carson Park, the Chippewa Valley Museum (open daily, hours vary; 715/834-7871 or [www.cvmuseum.com](http://www.cvmuseum.com)) and the Paul Bunyan Camp (open daily Apr thru Sept 10am-4:30pm; 715/835-6200 or [www.paulbunyan.org](http://www.paulbunyan.org)) showcase the Native American, European and logging heritage of the area. The statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox are popular photo opportunities. On summer Sundays the Chippewa Valley Railroad hauls kids on miniature steam train rides.

The UW-Eau Claire is also on the south side of the city. There you can visit the James Newman Clark Bird Museum (open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-noon; 715/836-3523, [www.uwec.edu/biology](http://www.uwec.edu/biology)). This remarkable circular museum displays more than 500 bird species.

The riding at Lowes Creek is hard to match, but with Eau Claire's amenities at its doorstep, there's a lot more to do when you visit than pedal your bike. No wonder everyone's smiling.



# 5

## Greenbush Trails

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** Currently 4 miles of single-track are in place (Loops 1 & 2) and an additional 5 miles are being constructed (Loops 3 & 4).

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to very difficult.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Mostly hardpack with some rocks, roots and log obstacles.

**SIGNAGE:** Is pending completion of the trail system.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** On weekends, you can use the parking area at the group campground shelter 2.5 miles south of Greenbush via Cty T & Kettle Moraine Drive; or use the picnic area 0.5 mile further at anytime.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the Wade House, Plymouth Historical Society, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, forest scenery and interesting towns.

**FEES:** Daily or annual State Trail Pass is required for riders 16 and older. Self-pay stations are located at trail-head parking lots.

**NOTE:** Riding on the existing 8 miles of cross country ski trails is currently legal, but discouraged and will be prohibited when all the single-track is in place.

**CAUTION:** The trail loops are intended for one-way travel. They cross the Ice Age Trail used by hikers, and a horse trail. Always yield to pedestrians and don't spook animals.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Hartman Creek State Park Trails or Calumet Park Trails.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Plymouth Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Information Center 888/693-8263, 920/893-0079 [www.plymouthwisconsin.com](http://www.plymouthwisconsin.com)

Sheboygan County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
920/457-9495  
[www.sheboygan.org](http://www.sheboygan.org)

Kettle Moraine State Forest, Northern Unit  
262/626-2116  
[www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)

**T**he Northern Unit of Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine State Forest has everything a mountain biker could want – exciting terrain, plenty of room to expand, and a beautiful forest setting. All that was lacking was a first-rate, purpose-built trail system. Now you'll find that here too. Four miles of single-track are already in place and another five are in the works.

When off-road riding boomed in the mid-'80s there were no restrictions; you could ride almost anywhere on public lands. But conflicts with other trail users soon changed that policy. Bikers were restricted to only those trails explicitly designated. Cross-country ski trails seemed to be ideal. But that concentrated throngs of riders on relatively few miles of trail never designed to handle the impact of knobby-tired bikes. Erosion problems became endemic.

IMBA (the International Mountain Bicycling Association) solved the erosion puzzle with demanding design standards coupled with new trail building materials and techniques. In the Kettle Moraine, scores of volunteers and dedicated Wisconsin DNR staff pitched in. Now you can enjoy exciting, challenging riding on sustainable single-track trails without harming the environment. The trails take full advantage of the relief of the famous steep-sided "kettles" that range from 20 to 70 feet deep.

When you ride, visit the Wade House in the village of Greenbush (open daily mid May-mid Oct 10am-5pm; 866/944-7483, [www.wisconsinhistory.org/wadehouse](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wadehouse)). This 1850 stagecoach inn served travelers on the plank road between Sheboygan and Fond du

DOH ABRAMS



Fall color in the Northern Kettle Moraine.



PHIL VAN VALKENBERG

**Off-roading through the Kettle Moraine.**

Lac. The white, three-story Greek Revival inn has a two-story veranda and 27 period-furnished rooms.

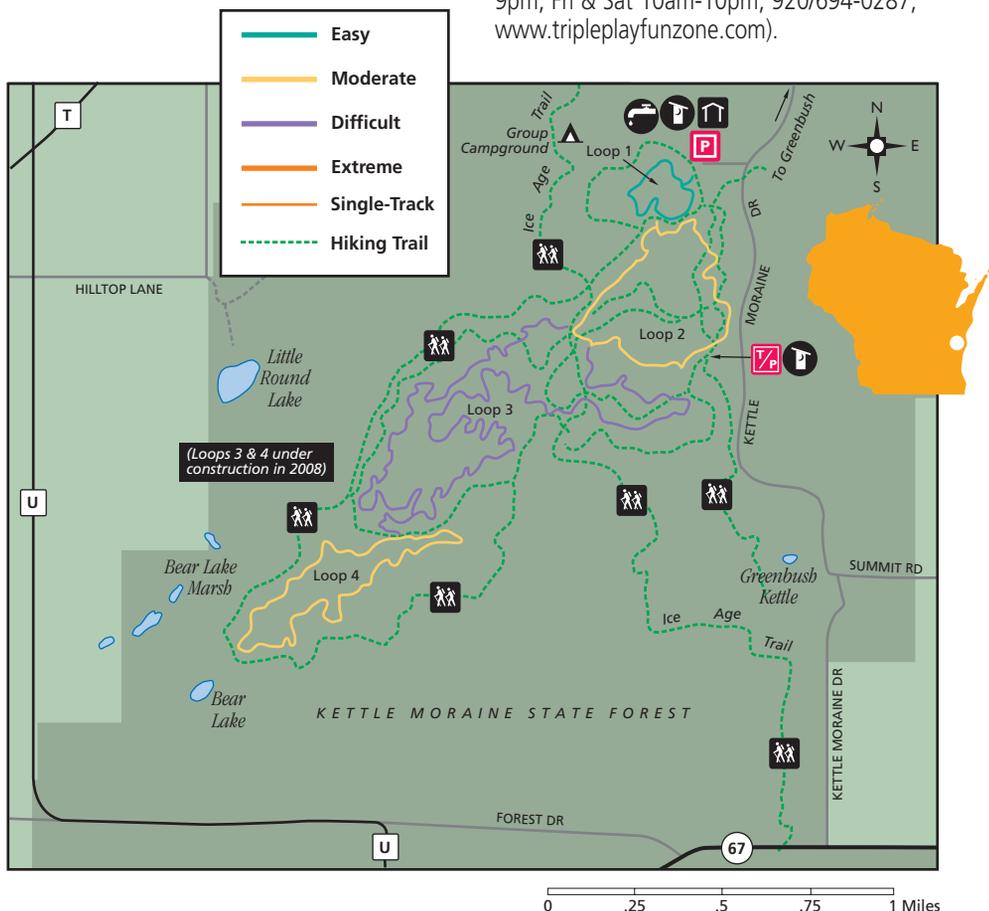
Operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Wade House complex includes the Wesley Jung Carriage Museum, a blacksmith shop and a water-powered sawmill. The carriage museum displays nearly 100 carriages, wagons and sleighs. Annual events at Wade House include a spectacular Civil War re-enactment, an historic trades weekend,

and monthly baseball games played with 1860's rules and equipment.

On the east side of Greenbush you can access the Old Plank Road Trail that runs 17 miles east to Sheboygan. This paved trail parallels Hwy 23. In just four miles you'll come to Plymouth, a pleasant community with dozens of restaurants and cafes, charming B&Bs and a half-dozen antique shops. The Plymouth Historical Society displays the town's heritage (open Thur-Sat 10am-2pm; 920/893-1876).

If you make it all the way to Sheboygan you can visit the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (open Mon-Wed-Fri 10am-5pm, Tues & Thur 10am-8pm, Sat & Sun 10am-4pm; 920/458-6144, [www.jmkac.com](http://www.jmkac.com)). The JMKAC houses one of the country's largest collections (5,000 pieces) of artist-environment builders. These folk artists transform their homes and yards into complex works of art. The Center's bathrooms will amaze you.

If you've brought the kids, check-out the Above & Beyond Children's Museum (open 10am-5pm Mon-Sat; 920/458-4623, [www.abkids.org](http://www.abkids.org)), or the Triple Play Fun Zone (open Mon 3-9pm, Sun-Tue-Wed-Thur 10am-9pm, Fri & Sat 10am-10pm; 920/694-0287, [www.tripleplayfunzone.com](http://www.tripleplayfunzone.com)).



# 6

## Devil's Lake State Park Trails

SAUK COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**Distance:** 6 miles including out-and-back on the trail to the amphitheatre.

**Difficulty:** The trail section between the amphitheatre and the main loop is difficult, and there is one difficult climb on the loop.

**Surface type:** Grassy XC ski trails with a hardpack track, bare forest floor, old gravel road, and rocks and roots on steep slopes.

**Signage:** Periodic green & white or brown & white mountain bike signs. White & red no-biking signs on hiking trails.

**Trailhead locations:** On the bluff top on Cty. DL 1.5 miles east of the north shore park entrance. Or, use the north shore trailhead at the beach/concession building parking area; follow signs to the Ice Age Campground.

**Fees:** A daily or annual State Park Vehicle Admission Sticker, and a daily or annual State Trail Pass for riders 16 & older are required.

**Note:** Fines apply for riding on hiking-only trails. Always phone ahead to make sure trails are open for riding.

**Caution:** Downhill sections are fast and rough. Control your speed at all times. Hikers also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians and don't spook animals.

**Attractions:** Devil's Lake State Park, Circus World Museum, the Al Ringling Theater, and the many attractions of Wisconsin Dells.

**Legend:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**Other trails in this region:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Blue Mound State Park Trails, Governor Dodge State Park Trails, Kickapoo Valley Reserve Trail, or Black River State Forest Trails.

**For more information:**

Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce  
800/227-2266, 608/356-8333  
[www.baraboo.com/chamber](http://www.baraboo.com/chamber)

Devil's Lake State Park  
608/356-8301  
[www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)

Wisconsin Dells VCB  
800/223-3557, 608/254-4636  
[www.wisdells.com](http://www.wisdells.com)

A visit to Devil's Lake State Park is a trip deep into our planet's history. The pale quartzite bluffs that cradle the lake in a purple-silver glow have their tales to tell. So do the animal-shaped effigy mounds Native Americans left along the shore - sure signs that they held sacred this place of incredible beauty.

Quartzite is one tough rock. It's the product of a billion-year-old ocean bottom thrust up and morphed into mountains. Eons of erosion wore down the peaks leaving the fantastic terrain and stone sculptures that are the hallmark of Devil's Lake today. All this translates into some wonderful riding for mountain bikers.

If pedaling uphill for nearly a mile is your idea of fun, start riding near the north shore beach. You'll climb more than 200 feet in a mile to get to the bluff top. If uphill isn't for you, begin your ride on top at the Cty. DL trailhead. The trails up there aren't all flat either, but the longest climb you'll make is a half-mile midway on the loop through the deep pine, maple and hickory forest. At the top, your reward will be a breathtaking overlook.

The Wisconsin River once flowed where Devil's Lake now lies. In its last gasp, the continental glacier blocked both ends of the river's quartzite gorge with moraine (rocks and boulders). The clean blue lake and rocky bluffs left behind make Devil's Lake one of

PH & LINDA MILLER



Fall color in Devil's Lake State Park.



BOB QUINN

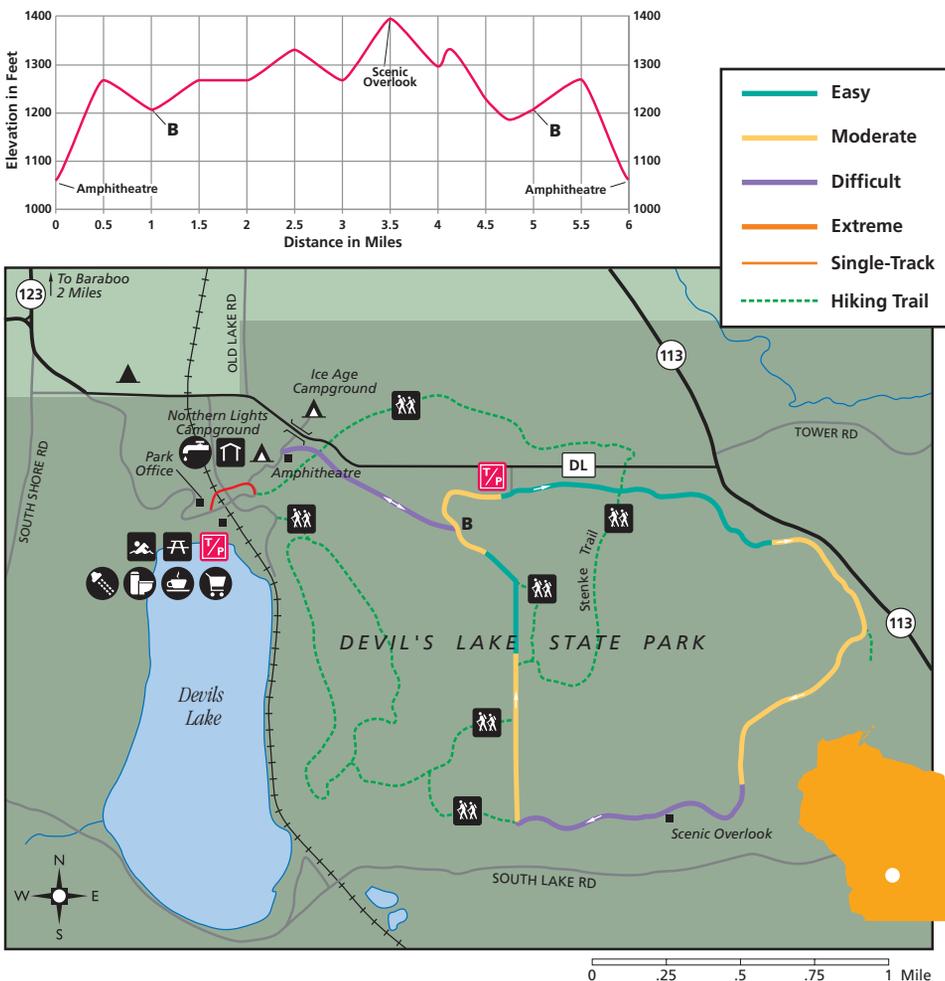
**Devil's Lake State Park.**

the most scenic spots in the state. Looking to the right at the overlook, you can clearly see the rising plug of moraine that contains the lake. Bet you wish you could patch a tire that well!

Another thing you'll like about Devil's Lake is the easy biking access to nearby Baraboo. A paved bike trail connects the park's north shore entrance with the town. A pleasant two-mile ride is all it takes to get to the shops, restaurants and attractions of this historic circus town.

Baraboo was once the winter headquarters for the Ringling Brothers Circus. You can relive those "Big Top" days at Circus World Museum, (open MD-LD daily 9am-6pm; LD-MD Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 11am-4pm; 866/693-1500, [www.circusworldmuseum.com](http://www.circusworldmuseum.com)). Ten miles west of Baraboo, at the classic 1894 North Freedom Depot, you can board a vintage diesel for a 45-minute round-trip train ride at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum (open May 8-Oct 17, call for train times; 800/930-1385, [www.midcontinent.org](http://www.midcontinent.org)).

For on-road riding in the Baraboo area, see the "Merrimac Ferry Tour" on pages 20-21.



# 7

# Human Powered Trails

LA CROSSE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 11 miles of trails including the TNT connector trail to the Hixon Forest trailhead.

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to very difficult.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Grass with hard pack on the easy trail. Hardpack with some rocks, roots and obstacles on the single-track trails.

**SIGNAGE:** Locator map signs and color-coded trail-name arrows.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** Main trailhead on Cty FA, currently reached via Hwy 33 and Cty F (pending reconstruction of Bliss Road). Or, on Milson Court at the Hixon Forest trailhead 1 mile east of Hwy 16.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Grandad Bluff, Hixon House, Myrick Park Zoo, Hixon Forest, bluff, river valley and city scenery.

**FEES:** Donations encouraged at main trailhead or on website.

**NOTE:** No riding on hiking trails in the Hixon Forest.

**CAUTION:** Obstacles and narrow passage on the advanced trails require high technical riding ability. The TNT and easy trails are two-way. Horses may be encountered on the easy trails. All trails are open to hikers and runners. Be careful not to spook animals and always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Kickapoo Valley Reserve Trail and Black River Falls State Forest Trail.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

La Crosse Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
800/658-9424, 608/782/2366  
[www.explorelacrosse.com](http://www.explorelacrosse.com)

Human Powered Trails  
[www.humanpoweredtrails.com](http://www.humanpoweredtrails.com)

**H**uman powered trails - what a concept! La Crosse mountain bikers were looking for a place to ride. In 2000, they convinced the city fathers to turn them loose on public land on the city's east side to create a trail system for riders, runners and hikers. Horse riding by permit would also be allowed on the easier trails. The purpose-built system that resulted is remarkable; trails that meet local demand and attract riders from Minnesota and Iowa.

Mountain bike trails constructed using IMBA design standards (International Mountain Bicycling Association) minimize erosion, a common problem on many popular trails. In 2007, La Crosse was deluged with a very wet year... the proverbial 300-year rain. Despite the rain and steep terrain, the impact on the HPT Trails was hardly noticeable. By comparison, Bliss Road – the paved road leading up to Grandad Bluff and the HPT Trails – washed out.

Consequently, until the road is fixed – and this is not necessarily imminent – you'll have to take a rather roundabout way up the bluff to the trailhead. An alternate route via Hwy 33 and Cty F adds about four miles to the direct route up Bliss Road. Or, you can tackle things on a bike by riding the two-way TNT Trail from the Hixon Forest trailhead at the bottom of the bluff. But be ready for a very tough climb of 500+ feet.

If you check the weather for La Crosse before your ride, you'll know exactly what the conditions on the Human Powered Trails will be. The trailhead is right next to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather station. In fact, the big white radar dome is an easy way to find the trailhead.

When local bikers started to build the HPT system, city officials were amazed at how fast they got trail mileage online. The trail builders were like kids in a candy store and the bluffs were their playground. They made a facility that's fun for everyone. Beginners can ride on wide-open, grassy trails on moderate slopes. Riders with more skill are challenged with narrower intermediate and somewhat hillier trails. Advanced riders can knock their sprockets off with steep slopes, obstacles, narrow bridges and technical trail with some passages barely wider than their handlebars.

The mostly one-way system is so compact that bailing out onto an easier trail is almost always an option. While there are some challenging sections and fast stretches, typical average speeds are about six miles per



PHOTO BY R.J. & LINDA MILLER

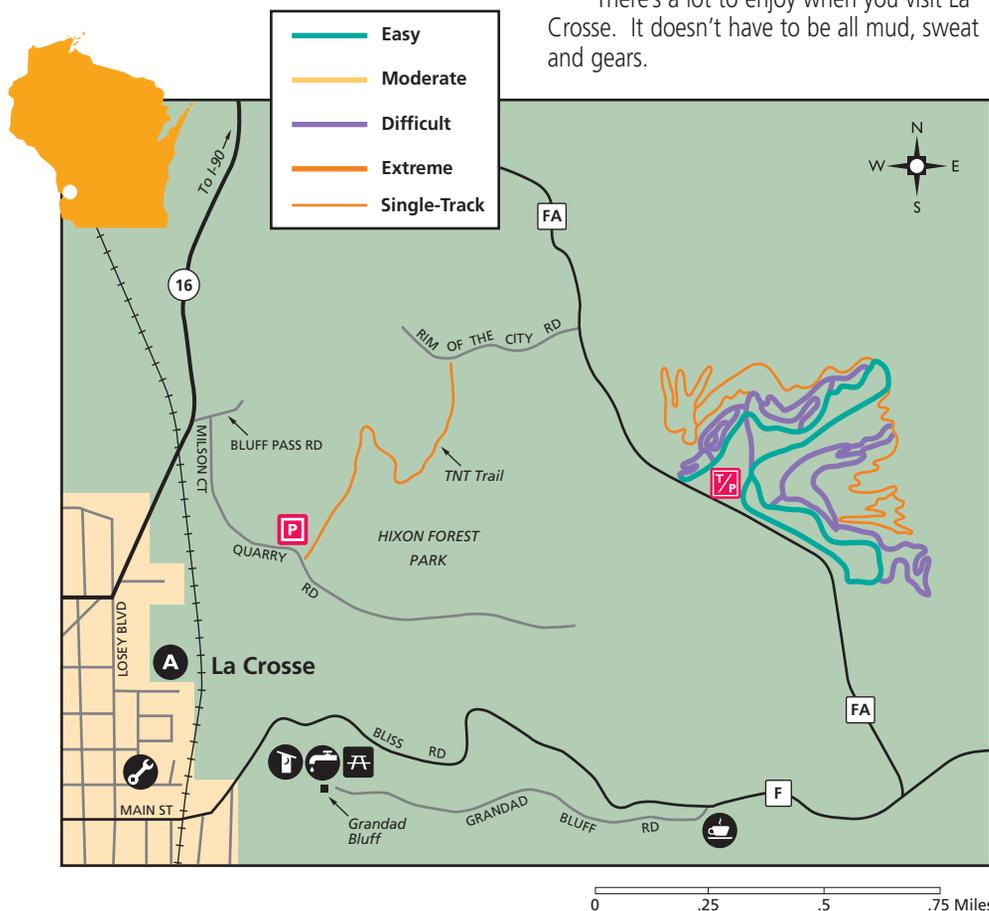
**Grandad Bluff.**

hour, which adds a big safety net in the free-fall world of bluff country.

Grandad Bluff has long been a must for visitors to La Crosse. With the city laid out 540 feet below, the view takes in three states. The bluff is less than two miles from the HPT trailhead. Along the way, the Alpine Inn is a popular rider's hangout. At the base of the bluff, Myrick Park Zoo displays eighteen species of animals (open daily May-Oct 8am-8pm; 608/789-7190).

Historic downtown La Crosse has undergone a major revitalization in recent years. With architecture from Victorian to Art Deco, it's a great destination for shopping, dining and entertainment. In town you can also visit Hixon House, the classic Victorian home of Gideon Hixon, the lumber baron who once owned the forest that now bears his name (open daily MD-LD 10am-5pm, LD-mid Oct Sat-Sun 1-5pm; 608/782-1980, [www.lch-sweb.org](http://www.lch-sweb.org)).

There's a lot to enjoy when you visit La Crosse. It doesn't have to be all mud, sweat and gears.



# 8

## Cam-Rock Trails

DANE COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 1.8 miles at Cam-Rock 2; 2.6 miles at Cam-Rock 3; and 2.3 miles for Cam-Rock 1 and the connector to Cam-Rock 3.

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to very difficult.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Grassy with hardpack track at Cam-Rock 1 & 2; Grassy with hardpack track on wider trails and hardpack, rocks, roots and logs on single-track at Cam-Rock 3.

**SIGNAGE:** Brown-and-white mountain bike signs.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In Cambridge at Westside Park on Cty PQ. Also, 1 mile south of Cambridge on Cty B for Cam-Rock 1, and 1.9 miles south for Cam-Rock 2. For Cam-Rock 3, follow Cty B to Rockdale and take Jones Street 0.4 miles north immediately after crossing Koshkonong Creek.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Cambridge Historic Museum, Matt Kenseth Museum, Cam-Rock County Park, Ripley Park, crafts tourism, marsh, creek and woodland scenery.

**FEES:** A daily or annual Dane County Parks trail fee is required for Cam-Rock 2 and 3. Self-pay stations are located at their trailheads.

**NOTE:** These trails are also used by walkers and hikers, particularly Cam-Rock 1; always yield to pedestrians.

**CAUTION:** Be cautious of some deep rutting in the grassy section of trail at Cam-Rock 3. Single-track trails at Cam-Rock 3 and the trails at Cam-Rock 2 are one-way. The connector trail at Cam-Rock 1 is two-way.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** See the John Muir & Emma Carlin Trails (pages 46-47).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Cambridge Chamber of Commerce  
608/423-3780  
[www.cambridgewi.com](http://www.cambridgewi.com)

If there was ever a something-for-everybody mountain bike trail system, it's Cam-Rock County Park. From an easy riding railbed trail at the north end to loop systems on moderate cross-country ski trails at Cam-Rock 2 to extreme single-track at Cam-Rock 3, it's an area for novice and expert alike.

On the north end of Cam-Rock County Park, Cambridge is a picturesque community known for its pottery works and small town charm. Cafes, a bakery, B&Bs and antique stores make visitors feel welcome. The town has been a summer destination for a century thanks to the clean waters of Lake Ripley. The Davidsons of Harley-Davidson once had a summer home here.

A railbed trail runs south from town to Cam-Rock 1. It's an extension of a spur line originally built to connect Cambridge to the village of London three miles north where a larger rail line connected Chicago to the Twin Cities along what is now the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. There, the "Cambridge Cannonball" picked up vacationers and brought them to Lake Ripley. Future plans call for a bike/hike trail to London and a connection to the Glacial Drumlin.

Located just south of the park, Rockdale is the smallest incorporated town in Wisconsin. With just 235 residents, it may lead the nation in mountain bike trails per capita. The trails at Cam-Rock 2 present riders with a few short steep slopes. It's a fun ride that can introduce novices to handling gears and brakes on climbs and descents.

Things really get interesting at Cam-Rock 3 where trail builders had more than 100 feet of relief to work with. Single-track always challenges riding ability, but here the WORBA (Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association) trail designers had rock outcroppings, gullies and other obstacles as well. They made the most of it. Expect to use all your skills and plenty of body English to get around with out dabbing a foot. On the newest and northernmost loop, riders will find an extreme six-foot drop and totally wacko spin cycle.

The area around Cambridge, known as the Koshkonong Prairie, was once the largest Norwegian settlement in the country. You can learn more about the area's early settlers at the Cambridge Historic Museum (open Tues-Sat 10am-3pm; 608-423-3327, [www.cambridgehistoricmuseum.org](http://www.cambridgehistoricmuseum.org)).

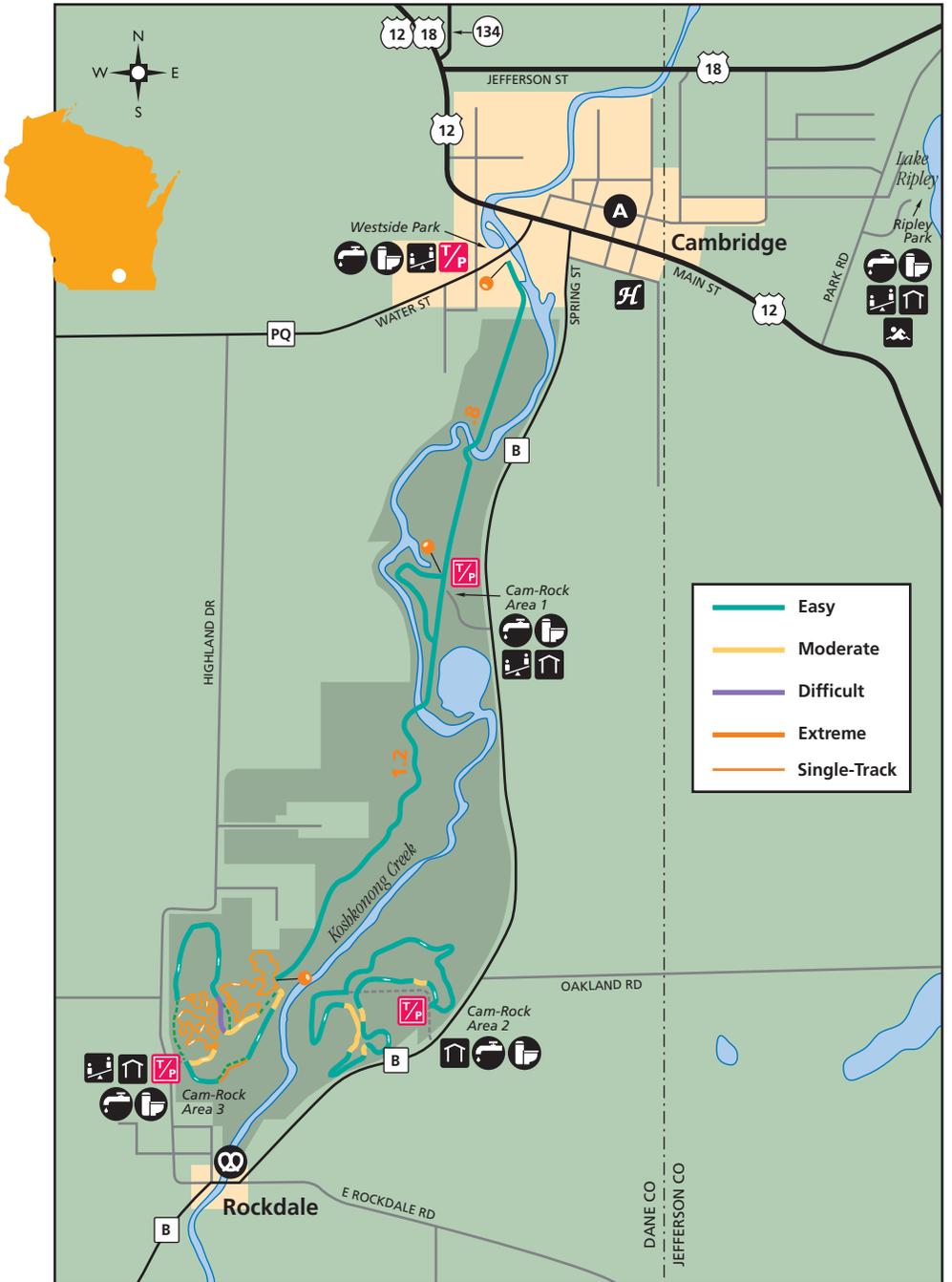
Downtown, visit the Rowe Pottery Works Company Store (open Mon-Thur 9am-5pm, Fri & Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm;

608/423-3935, [www.rowepottery.com](http://www.rowepottery.com)). The store offers Rowe's full line of renowned handmade salt-glazed stoneware and red-ware pottery.

You may notice lots of yellow #17 flags around Cambridge. They're for NASCAR racing hero Matt Kenseth, former Rookie of the Year and Winston Cup Champion. He's a local boy, one of few northerners to make it big in the good-old-boy racing world of

NASCAR. You can learn all about it, and get your own #17 flag, at the Matt Kenseth Museum and Fan Headquarters on the north side of town (open daily, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm; 866/878-1717, [www.mattkenseth.com](http://www.mattkenseth.com)).

If you're a NASCAR wannabe, just clothespin a baseball card to your spokes and whisper "Vroom-vroom."



# 9 Alpha Trail

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 5.5 miles for all trails: 3 miles in the river bottom, 2.5 miles on the ski hill.

**DIFFICULTY:** The river bottom trail is easy aerobically and moderately difficult due to narrow passage and tight turns near the river. The ski hill is difficult both aerobically and technically.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Hardpack forest floor, some soft surface, some grassy surface, roots, and some rocks.

**SIGNAGE:** Red & white direction signs.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** In Hales Corners on 92nd St. .6 miles north of Cty. BB (Rawson Ave.). Park in the Whitnall Golf Course parking lot on the west side of 92nd St. Then, cross 92nd St. to the toboggan hill where trail signage begins.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Whitnall Park, Boerner Botanical Gardens, Wehr Nature Center.

**FEES:** None required. WORBA membership encouraged ([www.WORBA.org](http://www.WORBA.org)).

**NOTE:** A Wednesday evening race series is held on these trails.

**CAUTION:** The trail is also used by hikers; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in New Fane Trails. Or, in this guide check out the Greenbush Trails (pages 36-37), Cam-Rock Trails (pages 42-43) or John Muir & Emma Carlin Trails (pages 46-47).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

VISIT Milwaukee

800/554-1448, 414/273-7222

[www.milwaukee.org](http://www.milwaukee.org)

Milwaukee County Dept. of Parks,  
Recreation & Culture  
414/257-7275

[www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov)

**M**ilwaukee mountain bikers are delighted to have high-quality single-track riding right in the metro area. The trails here are the result of the tenacity and energy of the Metro Mountain Bikers and the local WORBA (Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association) chapter. For the past ten years, they've worked to make legal, compatible and sustainable mountain bike riding a reality in the Milwaukee County Parks system. The Alpha Trail may be the first fruit of their labor, but it's certainly not the last.

You'll find two distinct terrain characteristics here. Flat riding in the bottomland of the Root River offers narrow passages, tight turns and occasional rocks and roots. There are some nice views of the river if you can take your eyes off the trail long enough to look. The wild critters love this isolated spot too.

In contrast, the Crystal Ridge ski slope makes you climb – up a 200-foot, steep, double-track road to the top where a variety of tricky trails await. As the highest spot in the county, the ski hill is worth the climb just for the views. Tucked in the southwest corner amid the tight loops in O'Malley's Woods, you might catch a glimpse of wildlife framed by the golden arches of a nearby McDonalds'.

From May to mid-September, the Metro Mountain Bikers host a Wednesday evening race series at Crystal Ridge that also uses the river bottom trails. In mid-July one of the most popular races of the WORS series is held on the trail system.

When you ride the Alpha Trail you're right next to two of Milwaukee County's showpiece attractions. The Boerner Botanical Gardens has delighted visitors for more than a half-century (open May-Oct 8am-sunset; 414/525-5600, [www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org)). This 50-acre formal garden offers eleven varying garden walks. On Thursday evenings in July and August, free concerts are held in this delightful setting.

The Wehr Nature Center is also located in Whitnall Park (open daily 8am-4:30pm; 414/425-8500, [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com)). Seven trails loop through woodlands, prairie, oak savanna, lake and marsh environments with habitat for a diversity of wildlife.

How can all this fun fit into one county park? Whitnall Park is an urban wonder. The park and adjacent Root River Parkway offer more than six square miles of public land. The late Charles Whitnall was instrumental in



PHIL VAN VALKENBERG

**A colorful ride on the Alpha Trail.**

the planning of the park system nearly 100 years ago. His goal was to make the serenity and beauty of nature accessible to city dwellers.

The Alpha Trail does just that offering one more piece of adventure to the city's recreational mosaic. It's a perfect fit with the mission of the Milwaukee County Parks.



## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 25 miles for the outer circuit of both trail systems and the connector trail. On the John Muir Trails: blue loop = 10 miles, red = 1.5 miles, white = 4 miles, orange = 5.3 miles, & green = 6.8 miles. On the Emma Carlin Trails: green loop = 4 miles, orange = 2.4 miles, & red = 2 miles. The Connector Trail is 5.1 miles one-way.

**DIFFICULTY:** Mostly moderate to difficult with some extreme sections.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Hardpack forest floor, rocks, roots and some soft surface. Occasional sections are crushed limestone over plastic trail-stabilizer.

**SIGNAGE:** Color-coded loop markers on posts & trees; frequent "you are here" map signs; white & red "no biking" signs on hiking and horse trails.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** For the John Muir Trails at the parking lot on the west side of Cty H, 1.5 miles north of La Grange/Hwy 12 with additional parking across Cty H in the Nordic Trails parking lot. For the Emma Carlin Trails at the parking lot on the west side of Cty Z, .6 miles south of Hwy 59.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Old World Wisconsin, and the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

**FEES:** Daily or annual State Park Vehicle Admission Sticker required, plus a daily or annual State Trail Pass for riders 16 and older. Self-pay stations at the trailheads.

**NOTE:** Fines apply for riding on trails other than those signed for biking.

**CAUTION:** There is two-way bike traffic near the parking lots and on the Connector Trail. A short on-road section open to motor vehicles is used to join the John Muir Trails to the Connector Trail. The trails are also used by hikers; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in New Fane Trails. Or, in this guide see Cam-Rock Trails (pages 42-43) or Alpha Trail (pages 44-45).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Kettle Moraine State Forest, Southern Unit  
262/594-6200  
[www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)

A pair of high-quality trail systems near both Madison and Milwaukee make these trails the most popular in the state. Add top-notch trail-head facilities, ample rider services in area communities, plus the attractions and hospitality of the region and you've got an unbeatable riding destination.

Over the years, the Muir and Carlin trails have been continually improved to cope with the intense use that fills their parking lots on any good riding weekend. A big part of the attraction is mostly one-way trails in the challenging terrain of the beautiful Kettle Moraine State Forest.

The one-way trails make the experience seem almost private. You may pass or be passed by a few people, but you won't believe you're sharing the trails with a thousand other riders. The rugged terrain, hills and kettle-like depressions make for some tough riding, and may not be for everyone. But for riders looking for challenging, technical riding - this is the place. (The red-signed loop near the John Muir trailhead does offer some easier pedaling for those just getting the hang of it.)

In recent years, local WORBA members have put in thousands of volunteer hours reworking the trails from erosion-prone cross-country ski trails to purpose-built, single-track trails. From a strength standpoint, they're now easier to ride because they traverse the elevation rather than attacking it. Much of the challenge now comes from tight turns, narrow passages and rough trail surface.

You can support the trail work and have even more fun by entering the annual Kettle Moraine Fall Color Festival ([www.FallColorFestival.org](http://www.FallColorFestival.org)), usually the last Saturday in September or the first in October. Riders compete individually in timed runs. This festive, limited entry event raises lots of money for trail improvements.

The conversion from XC ski trails to single-track is nearly complete. Included in the project was the construction of a parallel trail in the 5-mile Connector Trail section to eliminate two-way bike traffic. If you ride the outer loops of the Muir and Carlin trails and the Connector, you'll log 25 miles. Do it twice in one day and you'll become a mountain biking legend.

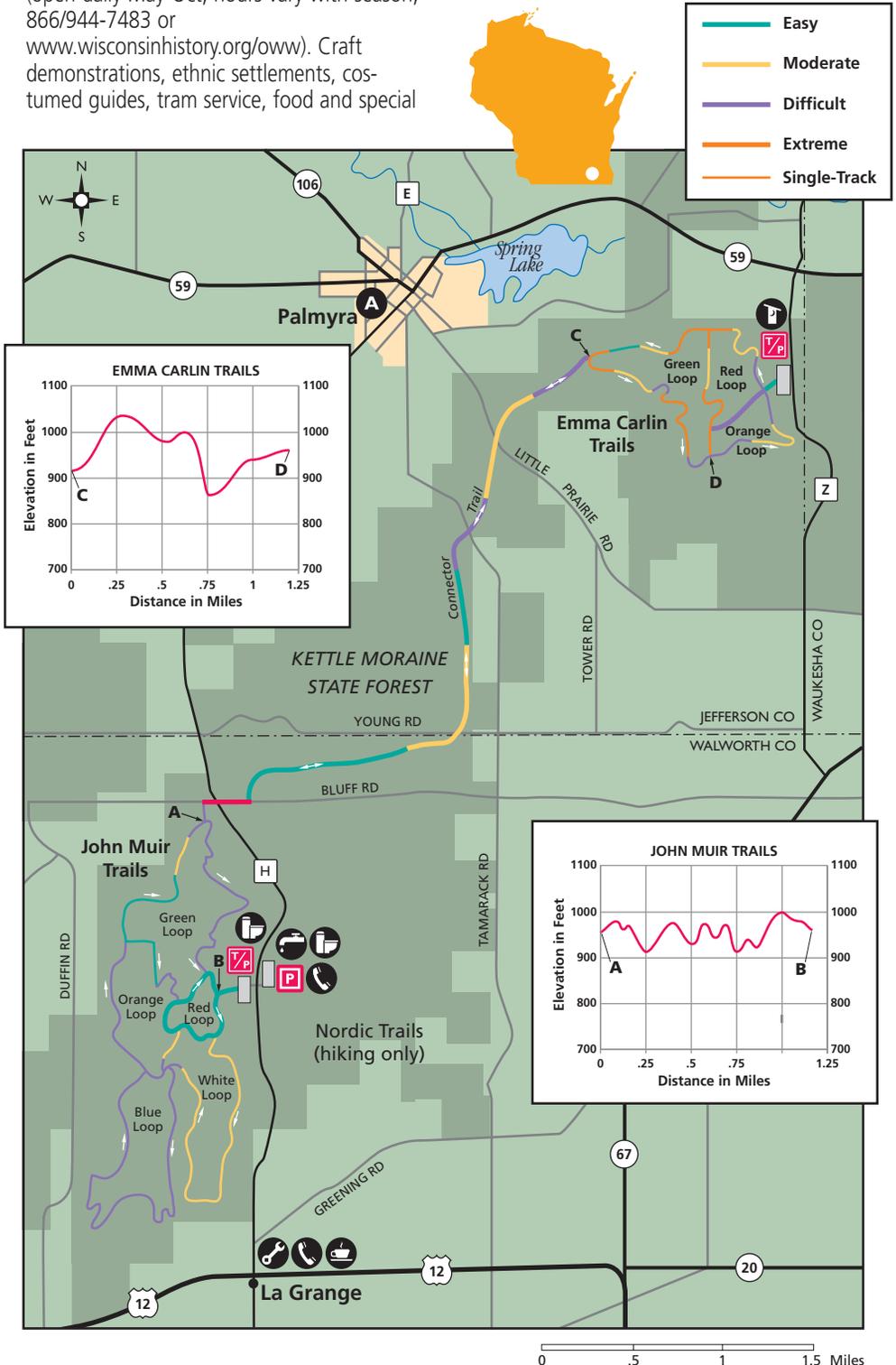
You'll want to save some energy to enjoy the area's hospitality and attractions. The tiny village of La Grange is a popular gathering place; its General Store caters to riders with food, beverages, bicycle service

and rentals. The nearby towns of Whitewater, Palmyra and Eagle are also great spots for R&R and dining.

Near Eagle you can visit Old World Wisconsin, the State Historical Society's showcase of pioneer architecture and culture (open daily May-Oct, hours vary with season; 866/944-7483 or [www.wisconsinhistory.org/oww](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/oww)). Craft demonstrations, ethnic settlements, costumed guides, tram service, food and special

events make this a fun peek into Wisconsin's pioneer past.

So there it is – challenging riding, popular spot, close at hand, lots to do. Sounds like a perfect Kettle Moraine weekend.



# Bike Touring Trails



**F**orty years ago, Wisconsin capitalized on two seemingly unrelated phenomena: The rebirth of an interest in bicycling and the abandonment of railroad lines. By the early '70s, the Elroy-Sparta railbed trail was attracting throngs of biking enthusiasts. Today, there are more than 1,000 miles of dedicated, motor vehicle-free state, county and municipal bike trails in Wisconsin. And the mileage grows each year.

Choose from ten touring trails offered here. All have attractive scenery and interesting towns or rest stops. Few have any significant grades, so riding is easy. Most have a finely-crushed stone surface; a good roll for medium or fat tire bikes. Some are asphalt-paved. We've even identified playgrounds along the way (see icon in legend) for trailered or bike-seat kids.

Wind, weather and distance are the only obstacles you might face. All aboard for fun on these reborn transportation corridors!

The map on this page locates and indexes all the trails in this bike touring trail section.



		Pages
<b>1</b>	Three Eagles Trail	50-51
<b>2</b>	Mariners-Rawley Point Trails	52-53
<b>3</b>	Elroy-Sparta State Trail	54-55
<b>4</b>	Pine River Trail	56-57
<b>5</b>	Military Ridge State Trail	58-59
<b>6</b>	Eisenbahn State Trail	60-61
<b>7</b>	Interurban Trail	62-63
<b>8</b>	Oak Leaf Trail	64-65
<b>9</b>	White River State Trail	66-67
<b>10</b>	Badger State Trail	68-69

## Bike Touring Trails Legend



**Trailhead**



**Trailhead Parking Lot**



**Trailhead On-Street Parking**

**Paved Bike Touring Trail:** Indicates a designated, motor vehicle-free trail with a hard surface which provides good all-weather riding. Trails may be shared with other users such as horseback riders, in-line skaters and hikers.

**Crushed-Rock Bike Touring Trail:** Indicates a designated, motor vehicle-free trail which will usually have a fine-screen limestone or rotten granite surface. These may be dusty when dry or somewhat muddy when wet. Watch for washouts, loose surface, or animal holes. Trails may be shared with other users such as horseback riders and hikers.

**On-Road Segments**



**Intermediate Distances**



**Railroad Tracks**

For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

Remember these bike touring trail tips:

- Trail fees often apply on these touring trails.
- Watch out for hikers, in-line skaters, runners and horseback riders; always yield to pedestrians.
- Stop at trail intersections — many cross busy thoroughfares.
- Some trail sections require travel on city streets or county highways — watch for traffic.
- Wear a helmet and comfortable clothing.
- Make sure your bike is in excellent working condition.

# 1 Three Eagles Trail

ONEIDA & VILAS COUNTIES

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 11 miles one-way.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Crushed limestone with a connector section on a paved road.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In Three Lakes at Don Burnside Park two blocks south of Cty A on Stanzil Street. In Eagle River on Sundstein Road (trail-head pending development).

**FEES:** None.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Three Lakes Winery, Three Lakes Historical Society Museum, Northwoods Petroleum Museum, Northwoods Children's Museum, Trees for Tomorrow, forest scenery.

**CAUTION:** A section is on public road open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Hikers also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter BATS-Crystal Lake Trail.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center  
800/359-6315, 715/479-6400  
[www.eagleriver.org](http://www.eagleriver.org)

Three Lakes Information Bureau  
800/972-6103, 715/546-3344  
[www.threelakes.com](http://www.threelakes.com)

**W**hile the odds of seeing three eagles on this trail are excellent, the trail takes its name not from any eagle count, but from a melding of the names of its two anchor communities.

The sight of our national symbol soaring gracefully above the pines is as inspiring as your trek through this Northwoods lake country. The Eagle River/Three Lakes Chain of Lakes is the largest system of freshwater lakes in the world. Twenty-eight lakes with more than six square miles of water surface and 68 miles of shoreline combine to make this unique natural wonder.

The Three Eagles Trail is getting raves from local riders and visitors. At present it consists of three distinct segments. The southern third is on an abandoned railbed running north from Three Lakes. The middle section winds through forests and bogs on smooth crushed limestone logging roads, crossing two long boardwalks with scenic overlooks. The northern section runs on asphalt-paved Sundstein Road to the outskirts of Eagle River. A final, short off-road connector trail between Sundstein Road and the town is in the planning stages.

Kids love the adventure and excitement of trails like the Three Eagles. In Eagle River they'll also enjoy the Northwoods Children's Museum (MD-LD, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm; LD-MD Tues-Fri 10am-3pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm; 715/479-4623, [www.northwoodschildrensmuseum.com](http://www.northwoodschildrensmuseum.com)). Here they can tackle hands-on exhibits including a mini-log cabin and a fishing pond. A stop at the Eagle River Historical Museum offers insight into local history (open June-Oct, 10am-3pm; 715/479-2396).

Near Eagle River you can also visit Trees for Tomorrow, an environmental education center that tells the fascinating story of the Northwoods' many ecosystems (open daily 8am-4:30pm, call for tour times; 800/838-9472, [www.treesfortomorrow.com](http://www.treesfortomorrow.com)). Tours include the campus, forest and wildlife trail.

On the southern end of the trail, you're not likely to miss the Three Lakes Winery; it's right on the connector trail to Burnside Park (open May-Oct Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 10am-4:30pm; 800/944-5434, [www.cranberrywine.com](http://www.cranberrywine.com)). Fruit wines are their specialty. Nearby is the Three Lakes Historical Society Museum where you can see artifacts from the area's bygone logging era in the reconstructed barracks of a 1930's CCC camp (open MD-LD, Tues-Sat 11am-3pm; 715/546-2295, [www.threelakes.com](http://www.threelakes.com)).



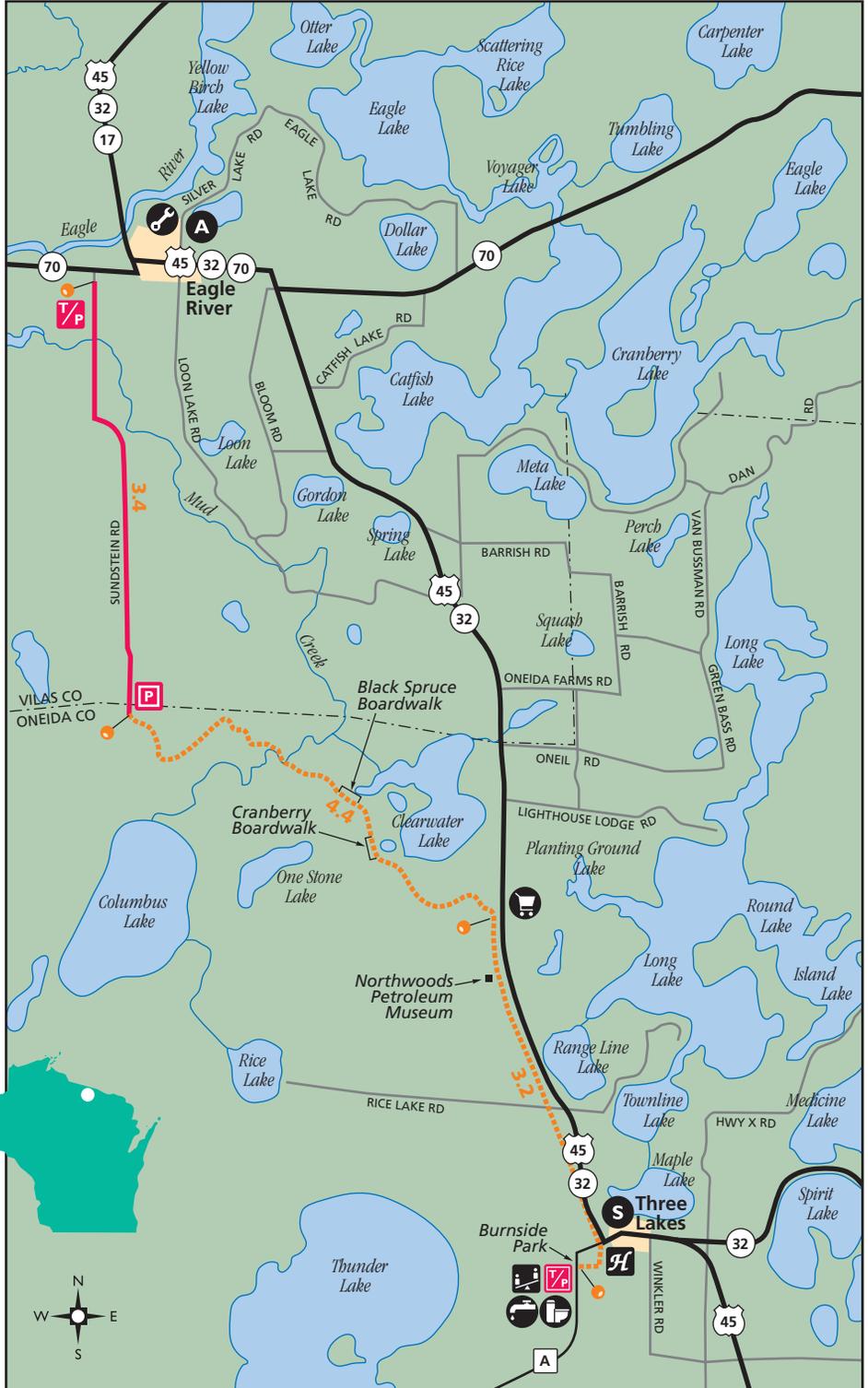
Fall color on a Vilas County Lake.

BRIAN MALLOY

Right along the trail north of Three Lakes is the Northwoods Petroleum Museum (open Mon-Fri noon-4pm, Sat 10am-2pm; 715/617-0566). You'll think you've stepped back in time among the colorful gas pumps,

signs and memorabilia from many long gone petroleum brands.

But your transportation is pedal-powered, not petro-powered. So, get back on the trail and keep counting those eagles.



# 2

## Mariners & Rawley Point Trails

MANITOWOC COUNTY

### JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 5.5 miles one-way for the Mariners Trail. 5.8 miles one-way for the Rawley Point Trail. 14 miles one-way from the Wisconsin Maritime Museum to the Point Beach State Forest concession building.

**SURFACE TYPE:** 5.5 miles of paved asphalt on the Mariners Trail. 5.3 miles of crushed limestone with several boardwalk sections and .5 miles of asphalt pavement on the Rawley Point Trail.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** At the Manitowoc Marina parking lot on Hwy. 42 (Maritime Drive) in Manitowoc. At Neshotah Park at Pierce St. and Cty O (22nd St.) in Two Rivers, or in Point Beach State Forest.

**FEES:** No biking fee is required for either trail, but a daily or annual Wisconsin State Park Vehicle Admission Sticker is required to park at Point Beach State Forest.

**NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:** Two Rivers History Museum, Historic Washington Hotel, Ed Berner's Ice Cream Parlor, Rogers Street Fishing Village. In Manitowoc, the S.S. Badger car ferry, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, and the Rahr-West Art Museum.

**CAUTION:** Sections connecting the trails in Two Rivers are on public streets open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Hikers and in-line skaters also use the trails; always yield to pedestrians. The Rawley Point Trail has a steep section that may be prone to erosion. Wider tires are recommended.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Ahnapee State Trail, Fox River State Trail, Old Plank Road Trail, or Wild Goose State Trail. Or, in this guide check-out the Interurban Trail (pages 62-63).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau  
800/627-4896, 920/683-4388  
[www.manitowoc.info](http://www.manitowoc.info)

Manitowoc Two-Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce  
800/262-7892, 920/684-5575  
[www.manitowocchamber.com](http://www.manitowocchamber.com)

It's a tale of two cities and a tale of two trails. The cities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers have always been tied to the grandeur of Lake Michigan for both commerce and tourism. Now they are the location of two recently completed bike trails that link the cities with beautiful Point Beach State Forest.

The trails offer totally different bicycling experiences. The paved Mariners Trail runs between Manitowoc and Two Rivers hugging the shoreline where white gulls and black cormorants reel above the sand and rocks. By comparison, the Rawley Point Trail is mostly crushed limestone. It winds through the inland dunes and woods of the Point Beach State Forest.

As you pedal the Mariners Trail, you can focus on Great Lakes shipping; free telescopes at a wayside and an overlook allow you to zero-in on huge freighters, sailboats or bobbing commercial fishing boats plying the lake.

In Two Rivers you'll literally "bridge the gap" between the Mariners Trail and Rawley Point Trail; a pair of bridges along the well-signed on-street route take you across the West and East Twin Rivers to pleasant Neshotah Park with its beautiful sandy swimming beach.

Across County O from the park your ride on the Rawley Point Trail begins on a paved portion winding through fields and neighborhoods. Crossing County O again you'll plunge into the cedars, hemlock, pines and birches of the 2,900-acre Point Beach State Forest. Initially you'll cross half-a-dozen boardwalk bridges through cedar bogs. Further on, the crushed limestone trail rises and falls as it follows the ridges of inland dunes. When you hit the paved park road you're just a short haul from the lakeshore and the picturesque Rawley Point Lighthouse. The 113-foot light was built in 1881 to warn vessels of the dangers of the point that has claimed 26 ships.

On your return trip, you'll find plenty of fascinating attractions in Two Rivers and Manitowoc. You can sample the dessert that made Two Rivers famous at Ed Berner's Ice Cream Parlor in the Historic Washington Hotel (open May-Oct 9am-9pm daily, Nov-Apr 9am-5pm daily; 920/793-2490, [www.lhinn.com/history.html](http://www.lhinn.com/history.html)). The ice cream sundae was invented there in 1881. The Two Rivers History Museum (open daily, 10am-4pm; 920/793-1103, [www.lhinn.com/history.html](http://www.lhinn.com/history.html)) has seasonal art displays and historical exhibits. The Rogers Street Fishing Village

& Museum invites you to explore the vintage boats of French Canadian fisherman who settled Two Harbors (open May-Oct 10am-4pm daily; 920/793-5905, [www.rogersstreet.com](http://www.rogersstreet.com)).

In Manitowoc, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum (open daily MD-LD 9am-6pm, LD-MD 9am-5pm; 866/724-2356, [www.wimaritimemuseum.org](http://www.wimaritimemuseum.org)) displays the city's boat building past and offers a tour of the USS Cobia, a WWII submarine just like those built in Manitowoc during the war. Manitowoc is also the home port of the S.S. Badger, a ferry that takes passengers, bikes and cars on 4-hour lake crossings daily to Ludington on the

Michigan shore (operating mid-May to mid-Oct; 800/841-4243, [www.ssbadger.com](http://www.ssbadger.com)).

The Rahr-West Art Museum (open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Wed 'til 8pm, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm; 920/683-4501, [www.rahrwestartmuseum.org](http://www.rahrwestartmuseum.org)) exhibits contemporary American art in a 19th Century Victorian Mansion.

Two great cities – two great trails.



# 3 Elroy-Sparta State Trail

JUNEAU & VERNON COUNTIES

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 34 miles one-way between Elroy Commons and the Sparta Depot.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Crushed limestone.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** At the Elroy Commons at Main and Franklin Streets; or the Sparta Depot at 111 Milwaukee St. and S. Water St.

**FEES:** A daily or annual State Trail Pass is required for ages 16 & older.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bike Museum and "World's Largest Bicycle" sculpture in Sparta; trail tunnels, bluff & valley scenery, pleasant small towns.

**CAUTION:** Dismount and walk bikes through the tunnels. The tunnels are always cool and sometimes wet; wind-breakers, flashlights and caps are recommended. A short section near Sparta is open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Hikers also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**Other trails in this region:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Lacrosse River State Trail, Great River State Trail, Omaha Trail, "400" State Trail. Or, in this guide see the Pine River Trail (pages 56-57).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Elroy-Sparta Trail HQ-Kendall Depot  
608/463-7109

[www.elroy-sparta-trail.com](http://www.elroy-sparta-trail.com)

Elroy Commons Bike Trails and Tourist Information

888/606-2453, 608/462-2410

[www.elroywi.com](http://www.elroywi.com)

Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce

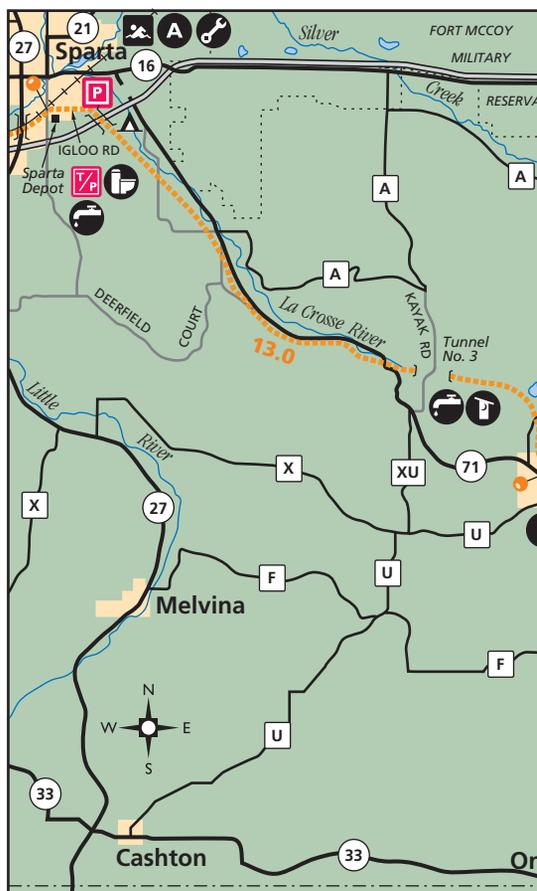
800/354-2453, 608/269-4123

[www.bikesparta.com](http://www.bikesparta.com)

This is the granddaddy of them all! The Elroy-Sparta Trail was the first rails-to-trails conversion in the country and it is perennially one of the most popular bicycling destinations in the state. Located in a scenic part of Wisconsin, the trail is one of the few flat surfaces in a land of narrow valleys and steep wooded bluffs.

Three tunnels are a big part of the trail's appeal. The longest, between Sparta and Norwalk, is more than three-quarters of a mile long. Walking through the tunnels, (you can't ride them), is an adventure in itself. The small towns en-route all have a bike-friendly atmosphere; after all, the trail has made them famous.

As you'd guess, railroad and bicycling history meld in trail communities. Historic depots and railroad buildings serve riders in Elroy, Kendall and Sparta. Elroy Commons is a pleasant village green with a visitor's center. It's a great place to base your ride. The restored Kendall Depot is the official trail headquarters and a museum of railroad his-





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**Elroy-Sparta State Trail.**

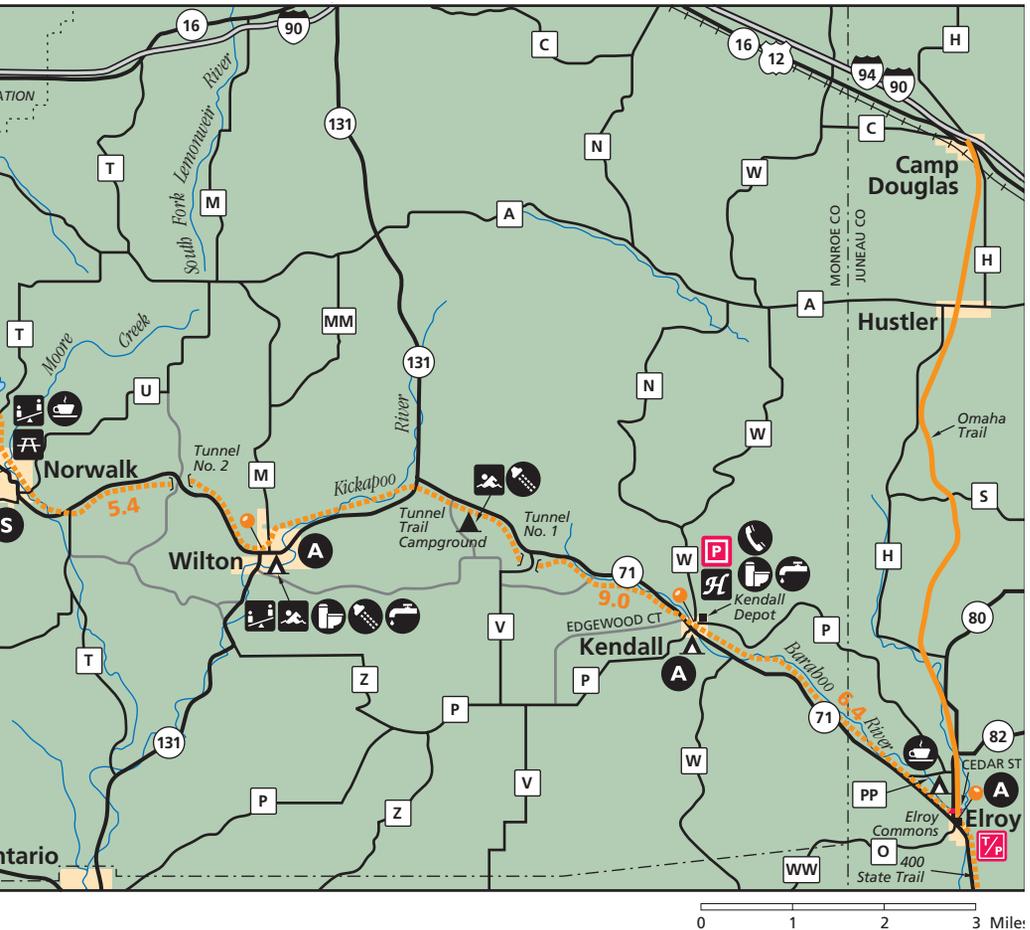
tory. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Wilton Lions Club's Sunday morning pancake breakfasts in the village park are a popular tradition for riders and campers.

In Sparta, there's a must-do photo op at the "World's Largest Bicycle," a giant sculpture of the mythical Ben Biken pedaling an

old high-wheeler. You can also visit the Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bike Museum, (open May-Sep, Mon-Sat 10am-4:30pm, Sun 1-4pm; Oct-Apr, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm; 888/200-5302, [www.dekeslayton.com](http://www.dekeslayton.com)). The museum honors Mercury astronaut Deke Slayton, a Sparta hometown hero. It displays Slayton's astronaut memorabilia and a collection of antique and historically significant bicycles.

The Elroy-Sparta State Trail is the mid-section of a terrific Wisconsin trail system. Three trails junction at Elroy: you can ride north on the Omaha Trail to Camp Douglas, or southeast on the "400" State Trail to Reedsburg. At Sparta you can connect with the La Crosse River State Trail west to Onalaska; then north on the Great River State Trail following the Mississippi to Marshland (visit [travelwisconsin.com](http://travelwisconsin.com) for maps and details).

From Reedsburg, just south of Wisconsin Dells, to Marshland on the Mississippi – that's a total of 101 miles of easy railbed ridin.'



# 4 Pine River Trail

RICHLAND COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 16 miles one-way.

**SURFACE TYPE:** The two miles nearest Richland Center is asphalt paved, the remainder is crushed limestone.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** Krouskop Park on Hwy. 14.

**FEES:** None.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Downtown Richland Center, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, House on the Rock, American Players Theatre, bluff and river scenery.

**CAUTION:** Some sections are on public streets open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Hikers also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter "400" State Trail. Or, in this guide check out the Military Ridge State Trail (pages 58-59).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Richland Center Area Chamber/Main Street  
800/422-1318, 608/647-6205  
[www.richlandchamber.com](http://www.richlandchamber.com)  
Spring Green Chamber of Commerce  
800/588-2042, 608/588-2054  
[www.springgreen.com](http://www.springgreen.com)

**W**isconsin scenery doesn't get any better than the bluff country around Richland Center. The Ocooch Mountains, "Spirit Mountains" to the Indians, are forested tapestries lining winding valleys. On this railbed roll, the valleys of the Pine and Wisconsin Rivers will unfold before your wheels. You'll cross 15 wood-planked bridges including a gracefully curved one that's 241 feet long. These crossings are prime spots to sight egrets, great blue herons and turtles.

Pre- or post-ride, downtown Richland Center is worth a look. The community thrived in the late nineteenth century, but suffered several disastrous fires that consumed its wooden buildings. They rebuilt with brick. Today that legacy is the lasting character of dozens of the city's historic homes and buildings.

Richland Center is the birthplace of Frank Lloyd Wright who went on to become one of the most celebrated architects in the world. Design components we take for granted like the picture window, the carport and the kitchen island were all Wright innovations.

In 1915 he designed a warehouse for Albert Dell German, a Richland Center merchant. The four-story AD German building is still the most imposing structure in town (tours by appointment only, 608/647-2808). Located at 300 S. Church Street, the top of the red brick building sports an impressive concrete frieze of geometric patterns. Wright built the warehouse with a cork base for shock absorption, a device he later used in the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, which survived the 1923 earthquake that leveled most of that city.

From the northern trailhead in Krouskop Park in Richland Center you'll start by riding a short distance on the Otto Bellman Trail. It runs on top of the river levee before crossing Hwy 14 to the Pine River Recreation Trail. A bit further on, you'll pass a unique cable-suspended wooden footbridge built in 1912 crossing the Pine River to the west. It's not meant for bikes, but you may want to venture out on foot for a chance to spot wildlife and feel the sway.

Along the trail you'll find pleasant town parks in Gotham and Lone Rock. At Fireman's Park in Lone Rock you can even swim in a backwater slough of the Wisconsin River. The river runs today as wild as it did when Marquette and Joliet first canoed it more than 300 years ago. The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway protects and pre-



Pedestrian bridge, Richland Center..

TOURISM PHOTO FILE

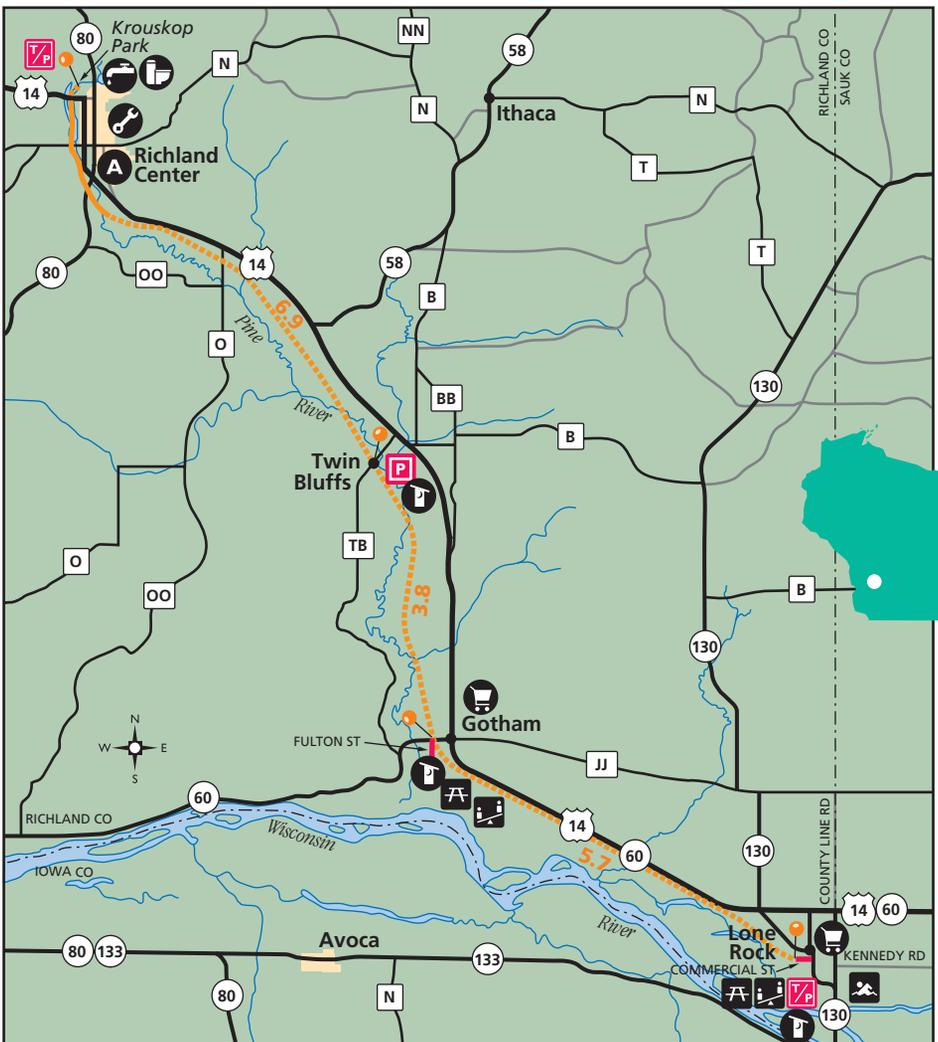
serves 93 free-flowing miles of the river and 80,000 acres of adjoining land between Prairie du Sac and the Mississippi River.

While Lone Rock is the end of the Pine River Trail, Spring Green and its many attractions are just another eight miles down the road. Wright made his initial fame in Chicago, but chose to settle near Spring Green. At a horseshoe bend in the Wisconsin River, Wright used two huge steel girders salvaged from a WWII aircraft carrier in the design of a restaurant that is today the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center and Riverview Terrace Restaurant (open daily May-Oct 9am-5:30pm; 608/588-4507, [www.taliesinpreservation.org](http://www.taliesinpreservation.org)). You can also tour his Wisconsin home, Taliesin, and other remarkable buildings on the 600-acre grounds.

Nearby is the House on the Rock and its extensive collections (open daily May-Oct, hours vary; 608/935-3639, [www.thehouse-ontherock.com](http://www.thehouse-ontherock.com)). Begun in the 1940's as a unique home on a chimney rock, it expanded into an eclectic exhibit that includes the world's largest carousel.

On summer evenings, you can enjoy American Players Theatre, which performs Shakespeare and other classic plays in a unique outdoor amphitheater. For nearly three decades they have introduced audiences to the timeless quality of great theater (shows June-Sept; 608/588-2361, [www.playinthewoods.org](http://www.playinthewoods.org)).

So, ride the Pine River Trail, and then see all the Wright stuff.



# 5 Military Ridge State Trail

DANE & IOWA COUNTIES

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 40 miles one-way.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Crushed limestone with some asphalt-hardened sections near Ridgeway.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** On the east end, on Cty PB just south of Hwy 18/151 east of Verona. On the west end, on Cty YZ 1/4-mile east of Hwy 23 on the north side of Dodgeville.

**FEES:** A daily or annual State Trail Pass is required for riders 16 and older. Self-pay stations are located at trail-head parking lots.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Blue Mound State Park, Governor Dodge State Park, Cave of the Mounds, Little Norway, Mount Horeb Mustard Museum, Folklore Village, overviews of farm and valley scenery.

**CAUTION:** The trail deviates from the old rail bed for several miles west of Ridgeway where it is partially hard surfaced and follows rolling terrain. The connector trails into the State Parks are very steep. The trails are also used by hikers; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Capital City Trail. Or, in this guide check out the Badger State Trail (pages 68-69) and the Pine River Trail (pages 56-57).

In Wisconsin's "Driftless Area" – the southwest corner of the state untouched by the great continental glaciers – the Military Ridge Trail was once the only way to go. In this land of up-and-down ridges and valleys, this ridge-top trail was the only level east-west route for migrating animals, Native Americans, streams of pioneers, the railroad and the automobile. It once connected a string of military forts in frontier Wisconsin, hence the name. Today, this former railbed trail is a 40-mile delight for bicyclists and hikers offering grand overviews of farmland and valleys to the north and south.

On its eastern end, the trail connects conveniently to the Capital City State Trail (via a few blocks on-street) and the heart of Madison. Pending development of the last segment of the new Badger State Trail, riders will be able to enjoy no-traffic bicycling all the way to Freeport in northern Illinois.

As a rule, railbed trails are usually flat and offer easy pedaling. That's true for most of the Military Ridge State Trail, but a three-mile section east of Mount Horeb is the exception. Here, the elevation changes 240 feet. But because the surrounding slopes are so steep, the grade change is difficult to see. If you're heading west you'll wonder if your tires are going flat, while riding east you'll question your new-found leg strength. Either way, there's the Riley Tavern at the bottom, or the Grumpy Troll brewpub at the top (Mt. Horeb) to brag about it.

In Mt. Horeb, they call Main Street the "Trollway." You'll spot colorful, hand-carved Norwegian trolls on nearly every block.



Downtown, Shubert's Old Fashioned Cafe and Bakery is a favorite stop (608/437-3393). The Mount Horeb Mustard Museum exhibits and sells a collection of 3,200 kinds of mustard (open daily, 10am-5pm; 608/437-3986, [www.mustardmuseum.com](http://www.mustardmuseum.com)). That's a Wisconsin original for sure. The Mount Horeb Area Museum features exhibits of local and Dane County history (open Fri & Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12:30-4pm).

Between Mt. Horeb and Blue Mounds you can access two more outstanding Wisconsin attractions. Little Norway is nestled in a lush side valley on Cty JG (open daily, hours vary; 608/437-8211, [www.litlenorway.com](http://www.litlenorway.com)). It is a reproduction of rural life in old Norway complete with a sod-roofed cabin and a Stavkirke, an old Norse church with dragonhead carvings on the gable peaks. Nearby on Cty F you'll find Cave of the Mounds, a fascinating, colorful show cave (open daily, hours vary; 608/437-3038, [www.caveofthemounds.com](http://www.caveofthemounds.com)). In a constant year-round temperature of 50 degrees you can take a guided tour through amazing stalactites and stalagmites. Kids love to pan for fossils or gems outside in a recreated miner's sluice.

Just west of Blue Mounds, the trail skirts the southern edge of Blue Mound State Park, the highest point in southern Wisconsin with terrific views of the surrounding countryside (open year-round 6am-11pm, 608/437-5711, [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)).

Riding west into Barneveld, you'll find a comfortable town park right along the trail. In Ridgeway, the next town down the trail, a newly restored railroad depot offers shelter and conveniences. Just south of the trail near

Dodgeville on Cty BB is Folklore Village, where the artistic and musical heritage of Wisconsin comes alive with weekend programs held throughout the riding season (608/924-4000, [www.folklorevillage.org](http://www.folklorevillage.org)). You can even kick up your heels at a real barn dance.

When you reach Dodgeville, you're on the north side of one of the state's most historic communities. A side trip into town is a stroll (you may find yourself walking the bike on some of the steeper streets) past distinctive pioneer architecture. The 1859 Iowa County Courthouse is a fine example of classic Greek Revival architecture.

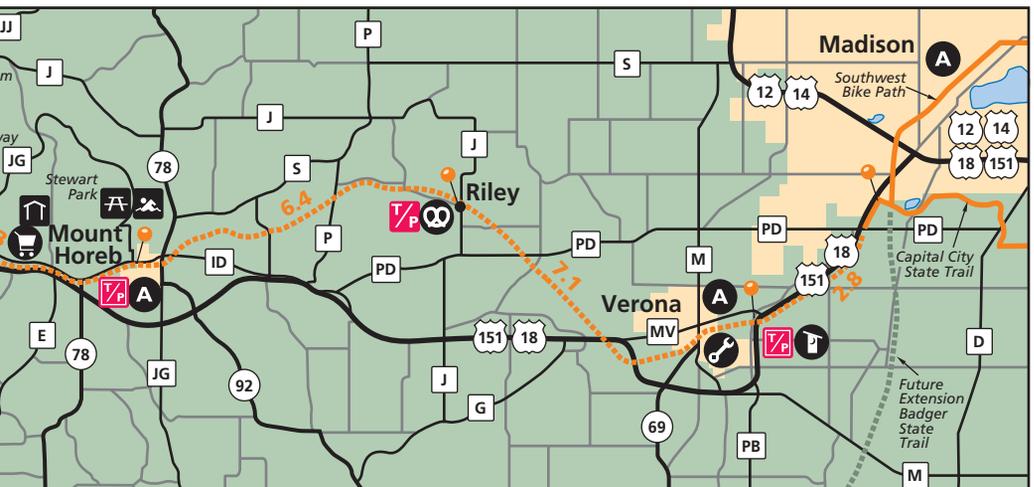
Northeast of town, Governor Dodge State Park covers 5,200 acres – the second-largest park in the state's impressive park system (608/935-2315, [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)). It offers 270 campsites, a pair of lakes, and a waterfall.

On the Dodgeville website you'll find a landform map of recommended bicycle-friendly side roads in Iowa County. If it doesn't entice you off the trail into the steep side valleys, it will at least make you grateful for the easy pedaling up on the ridge.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Dodgeville Area Chamber of Commerce**  
877/863-6343, 608/935-5993  
[www.dodgeville.com](http://www.dodgeville.com)

**Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce**  
888/765-5929, 608/437-5914  
[www.trollway.com](http://www.trollway.com)



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

# 6 Eisenbahn State Trail

WASHINGTON & FOND DU LAC COUNTIES

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 24.6 miles one-way.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Asphalt paved for 5 miles on the southern end in West Bend; the balance is crushed limestone.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In West Bend at Barton Park 1.5 miles north of Washington St. (Hwy 33) via Schmidt & Salisbury Roads. (After restoration, the railroad depot just south of Washington St. will become an official trailhead.) In Kewaskum on Main St. (Hwy 28). And at the Eden Community Park on Reagan Dr. about .4 mile south of Eden via Cty. V and Shady Lane.

**FEES:** Daily or annual State Trail Pass is required for riders 16 and older.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Old Courthouse & Old Jailhouse Museums, and the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend; Lakeside Park, the Galloway House, and Lakeside Spirit Cruises in Fond du Lac, city & farmland scenery.

**CAUTION:** The trail is also used by hikers, walkers and inline skaters; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Old Plank Road Trail or Wild Goose State Trail. Or, check out the Interurban Trail (pages 62-63) in this guide.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce  
888/338-8666, 262/338-2666  
[www.wbachamber.org](http://www.wbachamber.org)

Fond du Lac CVB  
800/937-9123  
[www.fdl.com](http://www.fdl.com)

**T**his rail-trail conversion once carried the streamlined passenger trains of the Chicago & North Western Railroad all the way to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Today, it transports bicyclists out for leisurely pedaling through city and countryside on the “Iron Road,” the Eisenbahn State Trail.

The Eisenbahn is a pleasant roll north from West Bend in Washington County to Eden in Fond du Lac County. West Bend has embraced the Eisenbahn and is developing its old C&NW depot as an official trailhead in the center of the city. Exploring this picturesque city is a highlight of the trail experience.

Towering over the downtown is the old county courthouse, an imposing nineteenth century Romanesque Revival masterpiece now home to the Old Courthouse Museum and the Old Jailhouse Museum (open Wed-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm, Sun 1-4:30pm, 262/335-4678).

Nearby, the Museum of Wisconsin Art exhibits the work of Carl von Marr as well as that of 1,800 other Badger State artists (open Wed-Sat 10am-4:30pm, Sun 1-4pm, 262/334-9638). West Bend also displays a large collection of outdoor sculpture ([www.westbendsculpture.org](http://www.westbendsculpture.org)); ten pieces can be seen along the city's Riverwalk, (biking is a permitted use of the path).

From West Bend, the Eisenbahn parallels Hwy 45 north five miles to Kewaskum. In town there is available parking between Hwy 28 (Main Street) and Second Street next to the trail. The trail also runs adjacent to River Hills Park within the village.

Just north of Kewaskum the trail crosses Hwy 45 to pick up Cty V into Fond du Lac County. It's an easy five miles into Campbellsport where, a half-block south of North Barton Road, Fireman's Park offers some limited parking, a shelter, seasonal bathrooms and a drinking fountain.

The final 7.6 miles north to Eden are a pastoral roll through Wisconsin farm fields. The trail ends in Eden Community Park on the east side of Reagan Drive. There's a parking area, seasonal restrooms and a drinking fountain.

Eden is just eight miles south of Fond du Lac, where there's a lot to see and do off the bike. If you've brought the kids, Lakeside Park is marvelous with a lighthouse to climb, a deer park, even a carousel, bumper boats and miniature train ride in summer (rides MD-LD, Mon-Sat 11am-8:30pm, Sun 10am-8pm, 800/937-9123). History thrives at the Galloway House and Village complex of 30



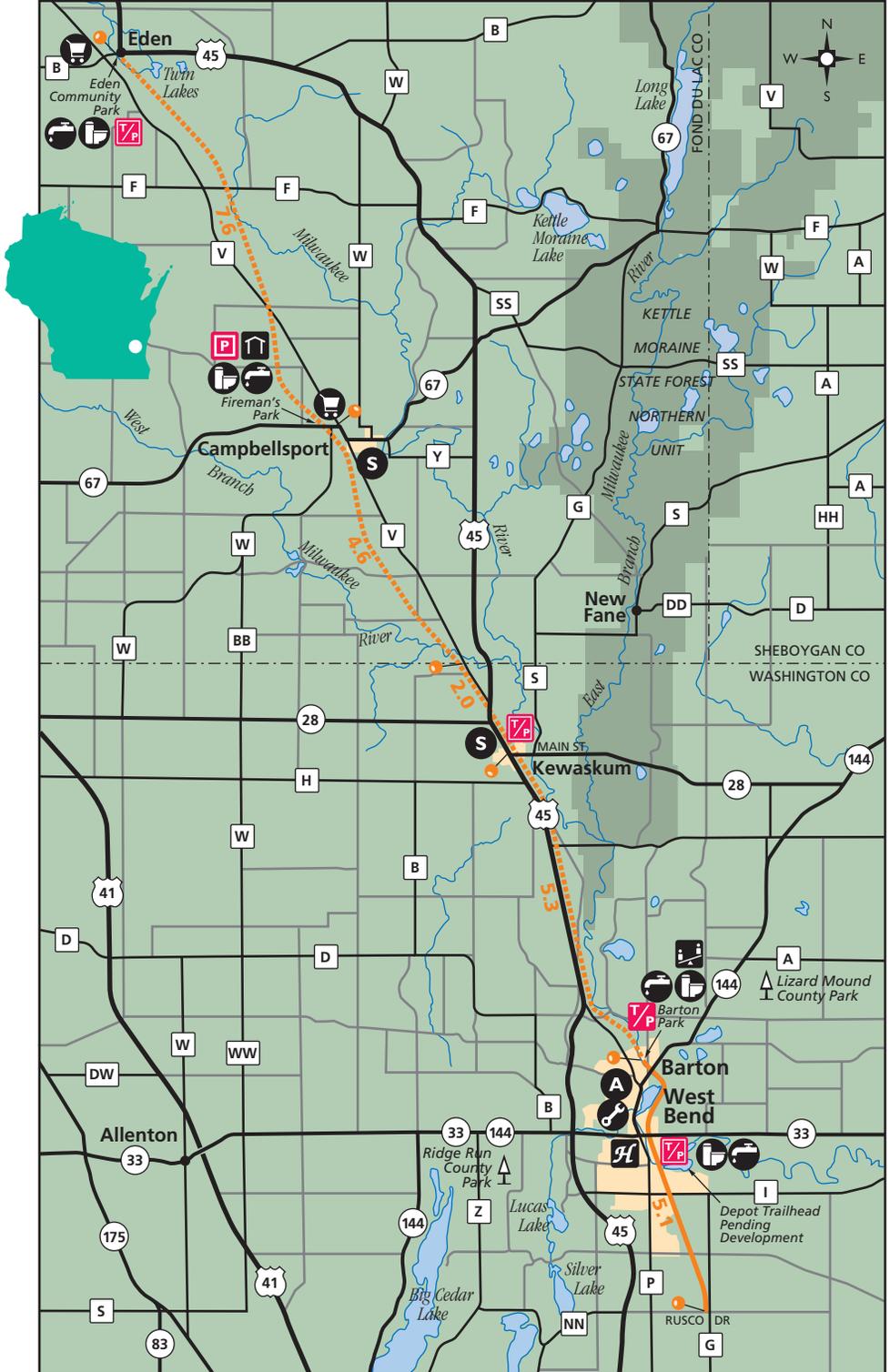
Ridge Run Park.

DON ABRAMS

buildings including the Blakely Museum (open June-Aug daily 10am-4pm plus Sat & Sun in Sept, 920/922-1166, [www.fdl.com/history](http://www.fdl.com/history)). The Lakeside Spirit offers cruises on Lake Winnebago (May-Sep,

800/937-9123, [www.fdl.com](http://www.fdl.com)).

Unless you've spotted a car at both ends of the trail, it's now time to turn the bikes around and ride the "Iron Road" home again.



# 7 Interurban Trail

OZAUKEE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 30 miles one-way

**SURFACE TYPE:** Asphalt paved

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In Mequon at Loggamon Community Center on Hwy. 167 (Mequon Rd.); in Grafton at Veterans Park at 13th St. & Hwy. 60 (Washington St.); and in Belgium at Baum Heritage Park on County KW (Middle Rd.) two blocks south of County D (Main St.).

**FEES:** None

**ATTRACTIONS:** Historic Cedarburg & Port Washington, Cedar Creek Settlement, Great Wisconsin Birding Trail, Harrington Beach State Park, woodland, marsh and farmland scenery.

**CAUTION:** Some sections are on public streets open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Hikers and inline skaters also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians and don't spook animals.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

### OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:

Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Old Plank Road Trail, Wild Goose State Trail, Bugline Trail, Glacial Drumlin State Trail – East, Glacial River Trail, or Pike Bike Trail. Or, check-out the Mariners & Rawley Point Trails (page 52-53) and Oak Leaf Trail (pages 64-65) in this guide.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center  
800/237-2874, 262/377-9620  
[www.cedarburg.org](http://www.cedarburg.org)

Ozaukee County Tourism Council  
800/403-9898, 262/284-9288  
[www.ozaukeetourism.com](http://www.ozaukeetourism.com)

Port Washington Chamber of Commerce  
800/719-4881, 262/284-0900  
[www.portwashingtonchamber.com](http://www.portwashingtonchamber.com)

**A**cross the nation there is much talk today about "light rail." It's a good idea, but hardly a new one; at the turn of the 20th century light rail hubs were the transportation heart of every city in the country.

From 1908-48 the Milwaukee Electric Railway operated a bustling interurban trolley system that radiated throughout Milwaukee County and beyond. Indeed, its Northern Route ran fifty miles up the lakeshore all the way to Sheboygan. But alas, after WWII it all went the way of the buggy whip when the automobile became America's transport of choice.

Now, interest in accessible urban recreation trails has given the old Northern Route new life. Spanning Ozaukee County, the new Interurban Trail ([www.interurbantrail.us](http://www.interurbantrail.us)) is a 30-mile asphalt ribbon from the Milwaukee County line north to the Sheboygan County line. Bright green and yellow "trolley" signs identify the trail and the six communities that enjoy this renewed connection.

One nice aspect of the Interurban is the ability to pick and choose your Ozaukee County experience. Using trail towns as bases you can ride out and back on segments with unique character. For instance, near the southern end in Mequon the trail passes the scenic Trinity Creek Wetland Restoration. North of Belgium you'll ride through a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area. A side trip just three miles east of Belgium takes you to Harrington Beach State Park and its mile-long Lake Michigan beach. Between Grafton and Port Washington the trail crosses the Milwaukee River on an impressive new iron bridge, a great place to spot wildlife.

Cedarburg and Port Washington are popular tourism destinations you can enjoy along the route.

Cedarburg is best known for its artisans, antiques and eateries located in sturdy stone buildings that give the town its unique architectural character. Cedar Creek Settlement houses thirty shops, galleries and a winery in an 1864 woolen mill building. (Shops, including the Cedar Creek Winery, are open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm; 866/626-7005, [www.cedarcreeksettlement.com](http://www.cedarcreeksettlement.com).) The Interurban Bridge just off of Washington Avenue downtown is part of the trail and a wonderful spot to view the 1855 Cedarburg Mill, a five-story limestone masonry masterpiece.

In Port Washington the focus is on Lake Michigan. Picturesque homes and church spires cover the bluff above the historic downtown, harbor and marina. For a good view you can walk out on the breakwater to the harbor's striking art deco lighthouse. Ashore, the city's historic 1860 light station also houses the local historical society muse-

um (open Apr-Oct, Sat 11am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm; 262/284-7240, [www.portlight-station.org](http://www.portlight-station.org)).

The city has long been a center for sportfishing on the big lake; more than a dozen boats are available for charter prowling the deep waters of Lake Michigan for trophy salmon and lake trout.



# 8 Oak Leaf Trail

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 20 miles one-way

**SURFACE TYPE:** Asphalt or concrete paved

**SIGNAGE:** Brown & gold Oak Leaf Trail signs.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** On the north end exit I-43 west on Good Hope Rd. to River Rd. south to Greentree Rd. and Kletsch Park. In downtown Milwaukee exit I-743 on Van Buren north to Michigan Ave, then east to O'Donnell Park parking garage. On the south end exit I-43 east on College Ave. (Cty. ZZ) to Lake Dr. (Hwy. 32), then south to Hawthorne Ave. and east to the Rawson Park Golf Course parking lot.

**FEES:** None required.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Urban Ecology Center, Lakefront Brewery, North Point Lighthouse, Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Iroquois Boat Tour, Milwaukee Art Museum, Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin, Milwaukee Public Market, G. Groppi Food Market, and others too numerous to mention.

**CAUTION:** Some sections are on public streets open to shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Walkers and inline skaters also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Glacial Drumlin Trail, Bugline Trail, Pike Bike Trail, Old Plank Road Trail. Or, in this guide refer to the Interurban Trail (pages 62-63).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

VISIT Milwaukee  
800/554-1448, 414/273-7222  
[www.milwaukee.org](http://www.milwaukee.org)

Milwaukee County Dept. of Parks,  
Recreation & Culture  
414/257-7275  
[www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov)

**P**arks along the Milwaukee River and the city's lakefront are the framework for the Milwaukee Oak Leaf Trail; thirty miles of north-south fun with fully fifteen miles of the trail off-street and traffic free.

In a major improvement, a beautiful new overpass bridge links Juneau Park and the lakeside trails with the popular restaurants of Brady Street and the rail-bed portion of the Oak Leaf trail that continues north to Estabrook Park. A trail on-off ramp at North Avenue allows access to this convenient area for restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

Nearby, across the Locust Street Bridge, the new Beer Line Trail follows the river to a unique new bicycle/pedestrian bridge that is suspended underneath the venerable Holton Street Bridge. Right below is the Lakefront Brewery (tours MD-LD daily 2 & 3pm, LD-MD Fri at 3pm, Sat 1, 2 & 3pm; 414/372-8800 or [www.lakefrontbrewery.com](http://www.lakefrontbrewery.com)). At Riverside Park, the new Urban Ecology Center (open Mon-Thurs 9am-7pm, Fri & Sat 9am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm; 414/964-8505 or [www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)) helps residents and visitors alike appreciate the wildlife haven the river and its shores afford.

Riding east, the focus is on the lakefront. Looping through Lake Park you'll pass scenic North Point Lighthouse and the gorgeous gardens of Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum (open Wed-Sun 1-5pm; 414/271-3656 or [www.cavtmuseums.org](http://www.cavtmuseums.org)).

A bit further south the trail passes the Milwaukee Art Museum whose 20,000 works include a Georgia O'Keefe Gallery (open daily 10am-5pm, Thur 'til 8pm; 414/224-3200 or [www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org)).

Riding south you'll pass Henry Maier Festival Park, home to Summerfest. A few blocks away is the new Milwaukee Public Market (Tues-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 8am-4pm; 414/336-1111 or [www.milwaukeepublicmarket.org](http://www.milwaukeepublicmarket.org)) where dozens of vendors invite you to sample Wisconsin's unique flavors.

At the south end of a section of on-street bike lanes you'll pass the G. Groppi Food Market on Russell Avenue, a great place to stop for a bite to eat or just take in the ambiance of a neighborhood grocery from days gone by.

When you return to the trail, you'll enjoy a different experience as you wind south past the beaches and bluffs of the lakeshore.



# 9

# White River State Trail

WALWORTH COUNTY

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** 11.5 miles one-way.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Crushed limestone.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** On Cty. H just east of Elkhorn; or southwest of Burlington on Spring Valley Road, .6 miles south of Hwy. 36.

**FEES:** Daily or annual State Trail Pass is required for riders age 16 and older.

**NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:** Webster House Museum, Chocolate Experience Museum, Tall Tales Trail, Lake Geneva Cruise Line, Lake Geneva Museum, Yerkes Observatory, Big Foot Beach State Park.

**CAUTION:** Trail is also used by hikers; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

### OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:

Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, key in Sugar River State Trail, Pike Bike Trail, Glacial River Trail, or Capital City Trail. Or, in this guide, check out the Oak Leaf Trail (pages 64-65).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lake Geneva Area CVB  
800/345-1020, 262/248-4416  
[www.lakegenevawi.com](http://www.lakegenevawi.com)

Walworth County Visitor's Bureau  
800/395-8687, 262/723-3980  
[www.visitwalworthcounty.com](http://www.visitwalworthcounty.com)

**T**he White River State Trail is one of the state's newest. It follows an abandoned Milwaukee Road rail-bed between Elkhorn and Burlington just north of the lake Geneva area. The rural character of the trail and the two sleepy villages along its route belie the fact that the area is a tourism hotspot. So bring your bike and enjoy the quiet experience of riding the trail plus all the fun the resorts, attractions, restaurants and shops have to offer.

Old railroad grades are havens for songbirds and remnant native plants; trailside brush offers shelter from the wind. Overpasses on the two major highways that cross the White River Trail keep the ride relaxing.

At the trail's midpoint in the tiny village of Springfield, the old red wooden grain elevator is a striking landmark. But it's the old depot that's the real attraction. Today it houses a cafe and bike rental operation that also preserves the character of the railroad's bygone days. In Lyons you'll find another trailside café. You can't beat that – two cafes in just three miles.

The area's roots in bicycling are deep too. The first annual road race of Burlington's Derby Cycling Club was held in 1895. Herman Lock of Lyons won. While Herman did not go on to become the Lance Armstrong of the 19th Century, the race did pre-date the first Tour de France by eight years.

When you visit this area, you'll find plenty to see and do. In Elkhorn you can visit the Webster House Museum (open June-Oct, Wed-Sun 1-5pm; 262/723-4248). This charming 1836 Greek Revival cottage features period furnishings, a carriage house and the original elk antlers for which the town is named. Kids of all ages will enjoy a visit to Watson's Wild West Museum, an 1880's general store of the American West with tours, tall tales, cowboy poetry and shootin' irons (open May-Oct, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, 262/723-7505, [www.watsonswildwestmuseum.com](http://www.watsonswildwestmuseum.com)).

On the eastern end of the trail, Burlington is the "Chocolate City" thanks to the Nestle Chocolate & Confection Company headquarters located there. At the Chocolate Experience Museum (open Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm) you can learn all about chocolate, surely an inspiration for any cyclist. You can also stroll the Tall Tales Trail in downtown Burlington. The town is famous as the home of the Burlington Liars' Club, which annually



PHIL VAN VALKENBERG

Breaktime along the White River Trail.

chooses a top lie among entries from around the world. Plaques on local buildings recall winning whoppers from the club's 70-year history.

In nearby Lake Geneva you can take to the water on a variety of boat tours offered by the Lake Geneva Cruise Line (daily cruises May-Oct; 800/588-5911, [www.cruise-lakegeneva.com](http://www.cruise-lakegeneva.com)). Big Foot Beach State Park offers 271 acres of lakeside camping in 100 lovely sites (262/248-2528 or [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)).

The Geneva Lake Area Museum of History offers a glimpse at the history of Wisconsin's "Riviera" with exhibits about Potawatomi lore, lake yachts, historic mansions, and the 142-foot-deep lake itself (open summer, Thur-Mon 1-5pm spring & fall, Sat & Sun 1-5pm; 262-248-6060).

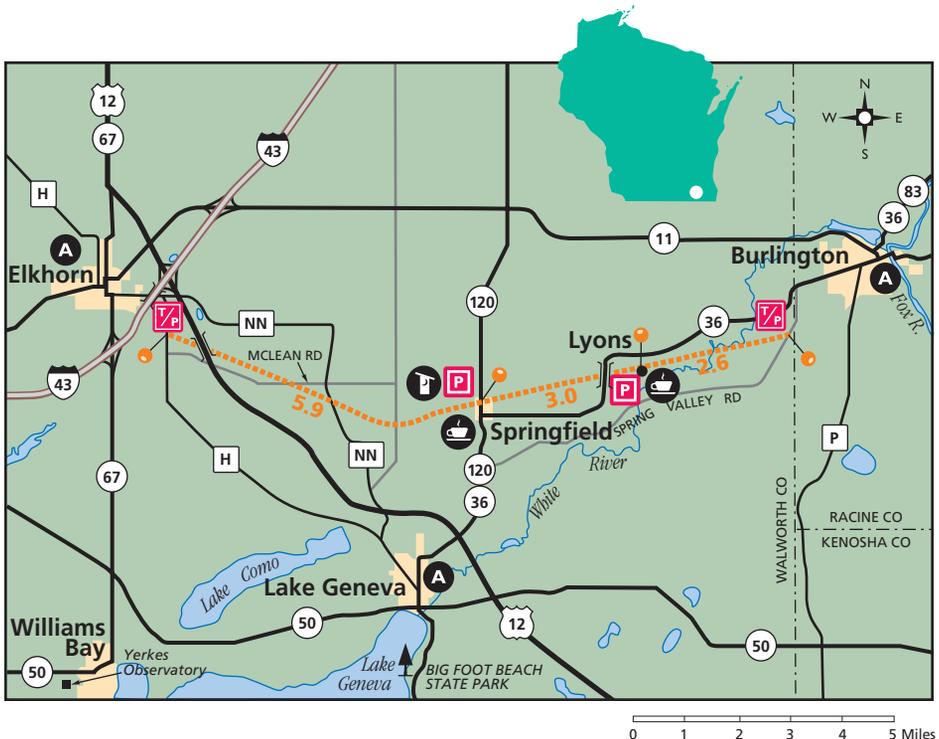
Yerkes Observatory near Williams Bay is the home of the world's largest lens-type telescopes (tours on Sat only from 10am-noon; 262/245-5555, [www.astro.uchicago.edu/yerkes](http://www.astro.uchicago.edu/yerkes)). Yerkes was used by many of the great scientists of the twentieth century to expand our knowledge of the universe. One-hour tours of this truly unique observatory are offered on Saturdays only.

And that's Walworth County – where bicycles ride the rails, lies are covered with chocolate, and history is shot fulla holes.

PHIL VAN VALKENBERG



Pit stop on the White River State Trail.



# 10 Badger State Trail

DANE & GREEN COUNTIES

## JUST THE FACTS

**DISTANCE:** Currently 33 miles one-way from Purcell Road (south of Fitchburg) south to the Wisconsin-Illinois state line. (Seven additional miles are pending development from Purcell Road north to Madison). The Badger State Trail connects with the 23-mile Sugar River State Trail at Monticello. At the state line, it connects and the 12-mile Jane Adams Trail south to Freeport, Illinois.

**SURFACE TYPE:** Crushed limestone.

**TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:** In Belleville at Library Park at the junction of Hwys 69 & 92. In Monroe at Twining Park two blocks west of Bus Hwy 11 via 6th Street & 14th Avenue.

**FEES:** A daily or annual State Trail Pass is required for riders 16 and older. Self-pay stations are located at trailhead parking lots.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The Stewart Tunnel, New Glarus Brewing, Sugar River State Trail, Historic Cheesemaking Center, Minhas Craft Brewery, New Glarus Woods State Park, Swiss Historical Village, farm and hill country scenery.

**CAUTION:** The Stewart Tunnel is always damp and cool. Bring a wind-breaker and flashlight, and walk your bike through the tunnel. Hikers also use the trail; always yield to pedestrians.

**LEGEND:** For a complete listing of all map icons, see page 2.

**OTHER TRAILS IN THIS REGION:** Go to [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com). In the search box, enter Capital City State Trail. Or, in this guide see the Military Ridge State Trail (pages 58-59).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Green County Tourism  
888/222-9111, 608/328-1838  
[www.greencounty.org](http://www.greencounty.org)

**W**isconsin's newest rail-trail threads its way through Green County, the heart of the state's cheese-making country. Even better, this rural roll includes an opportunity to tour two of the state's finest craft breweries.

While 33 miles of the Badger State Trail are now complete, the northernmost seven miles are not yet ready for biking. That seven-mile section is slated to be asphalt paved in 2009 connecting the Badger with the Capital City State Trail and Madison.

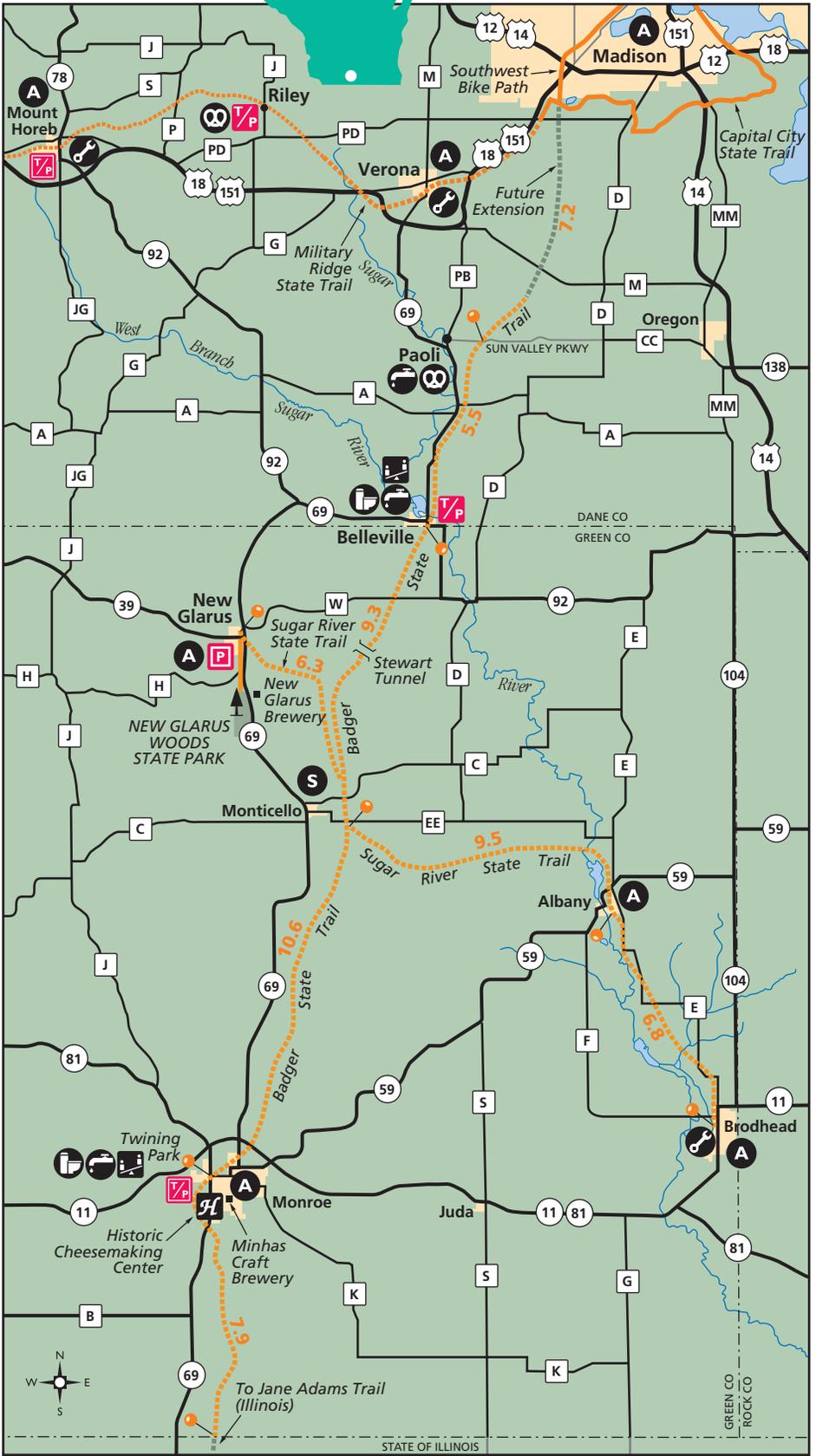
Pedaling south from the Belleville trailhead, you'll meet the Stewart Tunnel in a short three miles. This 120-year-old beauty is rather unique. Finished in 1887, the Stewart Tunnel curves. That's right – it means you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel.

As you exit the tunnel, friendly New Glarus lies just to the west. You can access Wisconsin's "Little Switzerland," via the Sugar River State Trail, or take a short cut to the west on Exeter Crossing Road, the first road south of the tunnel. Enjoy self-guided tours of New Glarus Brewing (open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun 1-5pm, 608/527-5850, [www.newglarusbrewing.com](http://www.newglarusbrewing.com)). Their brand-new home for the Spotted Cow is on a hill-top across from New Glarus Woods State Park (608/527-2335, [www.wiparks.net](http://www.wiparks.net)). The 431-acre park offers cool camping in 32 wooded, secluded sites. The Swiss Historical Village displays local heritage in fourteen historic buildings (open daily May-Oct 10am-4pm; 608/527-2317, [www.swisshistoricalvillage.com](http://www.swisshistoricalvillage.com)).

Pedaling the easy rolling railroad grade south through Monticello to Monroe, you'll be treated to views of valley farmland and steep green hills. Along the way you'll cross forty trestle bridges where there's always a chance to spot wildlife.

Say "cheese" in this part of Wisconsin and everybody smiles. Monroe boasts six cheese factories and retail outlets – all offering tastings or tours. Downtown, the Green County Courthouse, a Romanesque-style building dating from 1891 with a 120-foot clock tower, graces the town square. Nearby, you can tour the Historic Cheesemaking Center (open daily 9am-4pm, 608/325-4636). Later, you can wash the cheese down with a glass of Lazy Mutt on a tour of the Minhas Craft Brewery (tours Fri 1pm, Sat 1 & 3pm, 608/325-3191, [www.MinhasBrewery.com](http://www.MinhasBrewery.com)).

Monroe's beer and cheese are sure to fortify you as you "tunnel" your way back to Belleville.



0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

# More Wisconsin Biking Trails

Here's a list of thirty-six additional designated linear bike-touring trails designed for Wisconsin family fun. All include contact phone numbers; call ahead for trail maps and information. Trail names marked with an \* have maps and details available on the Department of Tourism's Web site at [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com).

## 1. Ahnapee State Trail\*

Enjoy the Lake Michigan ports of Sturgeon Bay and Algoma on this 31-mile crushed limestone hiking/biking/horseback-riding trail in Door and Kewaunee counties. 920/746-9959.

## 2. BATS-Crystal Lake Trail\*

Enjoy prime Northwoods lake and forest scenery on the 16-mile asphalt-paved roll between Boulder Junction and Sayner in Vilas County. You'll skirt Trout Lake and pass five state forest campgrounds. 800/466-8759, 888/722-3789.

## 3. Bearskin/Hiawatha Trails\*

These crushed-stone hiking/biking trails showcase Northwood's lake and forestland. The Bearskin runs 18 miles south from Minocqua, while the Hiawatha travels 6 miles north from Tomahawk. 800/446-6784 or 800/569-2160.

## 4. Brookfield Greenway Trails

Suburban Brookfield is laced with 12 miles of asphalt-paved trails plus additional on-street routes. Another 7 miles are proposed. The Greenway connects to Milwaukee County's Oak Leaf Trail near the county zoo and State Fair Park. 262/796-6675.

## 5. Bugline Trail\*

This 12-mile crushed-limestone trail follows a twisting railbed past the famous Lannon limestone quarries. Connecting downtown Menomonee Falls with the rural village of Merton, the trail passes three attractive parks. 262/548-7801.

## 6. CAMBA Wild River Trail

Mountain bikes are recommended for this 5-mile loop that includes 2.5 miles on the old Chicago & Northwestern railbed. From the trailhead in Cable the route follows the unimproved railroad grade to a high trestle above the Namekagon River. 800/533-7454.

## 7. Chippewa River State Trail\*

Connecting Eau Claire on the east with Durand on the west end, this 26-mile mostly hard-surfaced railbed trail plunges deep into the wild bottomland along the Chippewa River. En-route it also connects to the Red Cedar State Trail. 888/523-3866.

## 8. Eau Claire City Trails\*

Pedal four miles of paved trails through the city's revitalized downtown. Cross the Chippewa River on an iron trestle, visit museums in Carson Park and the ballpark where Hank Aaron began his professional career. 888/523-3866.

## 9. "400" State Trail\*

Following the meandering Baraboo River, this 22-mile crushed-limestone hiking/biking trail joins Reedsburg and Elroy. Eleven bridges, five trail towns, and its connection to the Hillsboro, Elroy-Sparta and Omaha trails make the "400" a popular choice. 800/844-3507.

## 10. Fox River State Trail\*

The Fox River is Wisconsin's historic gateway to the world. You can follow this water highway on a 14-mile partially asphalt-paved and crushed-limestone railbed trail. Green Bay's many attractions are nearby. 920/448-6242.

## 11. Gandy Dancer State Trail\*

Named for the hardy workers who built the railroad and kept it running, this 47-mile crushed-limestone trail cuts across the northwest corner of the state from St. Croix Falls in Polk County to Danbury in Burnett County. 800/222-7655 or 800/788-3164.

## 12. Glacial Drumlin State Trail\*

One of the state's longest hiking/biking trails, this 53-mile crushed-limestone/asphalt-paved trail connects Waukesha and Cottage Grove in southeastern Wisconsin. The trail crosses scenic Rock Lake and winds through drumlin hills in the west. 920/648-8774.

## 13. Glacial River Trail\*

Cultural and historical attractions highlight this 8-mile paved and crushed limestone trail that runs from Fort Atkinson to the Jefferson/Rock County line. South of Fort you can visit Indian Mounds & Trail Park and ride through a covered bridge. 888/733-3678.

## 14. Great River State Trail\*

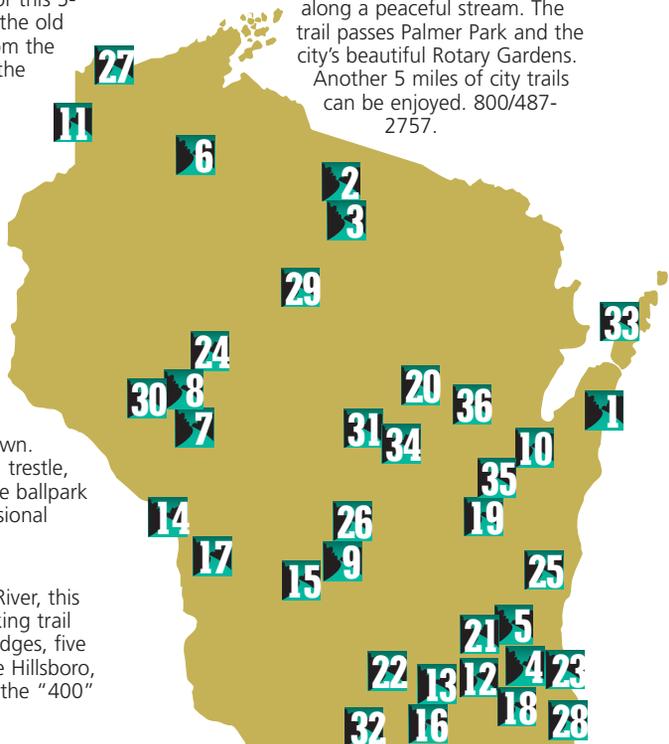
Cruising 24-miles through wildlife refuges along the mighty Mississippi, this crushed-limestone hiking/biking trail ties scenic Perrot State Park with Trempealeau, Onalaska and the La Crosse River State Trail. 800/873-1901.

## 15. Hillsboro State Trail

This 4.3-mile hiking, snowmobile and mountain bike trail runs between Hillsboro and the "400" State Trail at Union Center. Enjoy views of woods, farms and wetlands. 608/489-2350.

## 16. Janesville – Spring Brook Trail\*

From a downtown trailhead, this trail offers 5 miles of asphalt-paved riding along a peaceful stream. The trail passes Palmer Park and the city's beautiful Rotary Gardens. Another 5 miles of city trails can be enjoyed. 800/487-2757.



### 17. La Crosse River State Trail\*

Passing through scenic marsh and farmland, this 21-mile crushed-limestone hiking/biking trail connects the Great River State Trail with the famed Elroy-Sparta State Trail. 800/354-2453.

### 18. Lake Country Recreation Trail

This 8-mile recreation trail parallels I-94 between Waukesha and Delafield. The trail is a former railbed surfaced with limestone chips. Parking and trail access is available at the Landsberg Center in Waukesha, Naga-Waukee Park and Cushing Park in Delafield. 262/548-7801.

### 19. Mascoutin Valley State Trail

A work in progress, this crushed-limestone railbed trail winds through Green, Winnebago and Fond du Lac Counties. Currently, a 10-mile section links Berlin with Ripon, and a 9-mile section connects Rosendale with the western edge of Fond du Lac. 920/929-3135.

### 20. Mountain Bay State Trail\*

You can cover nearly half of central Wisconsin on this 81-mile crushed-limestone hiking/biking trail. Passing through Shawano-area vacationland, it connects Wausau and Green Bay. 800/236-3976, 800/235-8528, or 888/948-4748.

### 21. New Berlin Recreation Trail

This 6-mile limestone chip trail on a former railbed runs from South 124th Street at the Milwaukee/Waukesha County Line to Springdale Road in Waukesha. It connects with the Oak Leaf Trail in Greenfield Park, and with the Glacial Drumlin State Trail in Waukesha. 262/5487801.

### 22. Nine Springs & Capital City State Trail\*

Pedal 18 miles on traffic-free, asphalt-paved trails among Madison's many attractions including the Monona Terrace Community Center, Camp Randall Stadium and the Henry Vilas Zoo. At its west end it joins the Military Ridge State Trail. 800/373-6376.

### 23. Oak Leaf Trail\*

Explore Milwaukee on this collection of 34 miles of paved off-road bike trails and 31 miles of parkway drives and connecting city streets. The loop totals 90 miles and visits beautiful lakefront and riverway parklands. 800/554-1448.

### 24. Old Abe State Trail\*

Named after the Civil War mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment, this paved 16.9-mile trail links Chippewa Falls with Cornell and Brunet Island State Park. Near the trail's midpoint at Jim Falls, you'll find a statue honoring Old Abe. 888/723-0024.

### 25. Old Plank Road Trail\*

This popular 17-mile asphalt-paved trail parallels Hwy 23 between the western edge of Sheboygan and the historic village of Greenbush. The trail follows the route of a pioneer planked road. 800/457-9497.

### 26. Omaha Trail\*

Tying the I-90/94 community of Camp Douglas with Elroy where it junctions with the "400" and Elroy-Sparta State Trails, this 13-mile hard-surfaced hiking/biking trail traverses beautiful ridge and valley terrain, passes through a tunnel, and crosses a high trestle. 608/847-9389.

### 27. Osaugie Trail\*

This 5-mile asphalt-paved trail is an easy ride along Lake Superior's busy harbor. The trail passes under the massive Burlington Ore Dock, past the Fairlawn Mansion Museum, the S.S. Meteor Museum, and the Richard I. Bong WWII Heritage Center. 800/942-5313.

### 28. Pike Trail\*

This 9.4-mile railbed trail links the Northern Kenosha County Trail leading to Racine, and the Southern Kenosha County Trail leading to Lake County, Illinois. Trail highlights include the oldest operating velodrome in the nation. 800/654-7309.

### 29. Pine Line Recreation Trail

A 28-mile trail that follows a former railbed from Medford to Prentice in northcentral Wisconsin. Five miles of the trail have been surfaced with limestone screenings, with the remainder in crushed gravel. 800/269-4505.

### 30. Red Cedar State Trail\*

This 15-mile crushed limestone trail traces the Red Cedar River from Menomonie to its junction with the Chippewa River and the Chippewa River State Trail. Highlights include the massive .75-mile-long iron bridge over the Chippewa River. 888/523-3866.

### 31. Stevens Point Green Circle\*

Circling the city of Stevens Point, this 24-mile route combines gravel, natural surface and asphalt-paved trail with on-street links to show off the city's beautiful natural areas. 800/236-4636.

### 32. Sugar River State Trail\*

This 22-mile crushed limestone trail connects the beautiful Swiss town of New Glarus with the railroad town of Brodhead. Along the way it traces the Sugar River through the pleasant villages of Monticello and Albany. 800/527-6838 or 608/897-8411.

### 33. Sunset Trail\*

Winding along the shore of Green Bay in popular Peninsula State Park, this limestone-surfaced 4.4-mile trail lives up to its name with glorious sunsets seen through the bayside cedar trees. 920/868-3258.

### 34. Tomorrow River State Trail\*

Covering 21 miles and two distinct landscapes in Portage and Waupaca Counties, this new, crushed limestone trail crosses the sandy plain east of Plover, through the rolling hills of Waupaca County to the pleasant village of Scandinavia. 800/236-4636.

### 35. Trestle-Friendship & Wiowash Trail\*

With 31 miles of crushed limestone and paved trails, this is your ticket to Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and plenty of quiet countryside. Nearly 1/3-mile long, the trestle spans Little Lake Butte des Morts in Menasha. 800/236-6673, 877/303-9200.

### 36. Wiowash State Trail – North Unit

Winding through western Shawano County, this 16-mile crushed-limestone railbed trail links Tigerton with Birnamwood. At the village of Eland, it connects with the Mountain Bay State Trail. 800/235-8528.

# Wisconsin Biking Events

In the course of a season, more than 300 bicycle events and rides take place in Wisconsin. The following is a sampling of tours and races. For a complete list of Wisconsin bicycle events, visit [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com).

## **WISPORT Series**

**608/273-4733**

[www.wisport.org](http://www.wisport.org)

The Midwest's only "citizens" road racing series features friendly competition, camaraderie and fun for athletically-minded everyday riders who want to test their legs in mass start events or individual time trials. Thirty events are held throughout the state for men and women in age categories from 13 to 80 from April to September. Overall series awards are based on points.

## **WORS (Wisconsin Off-Road Series)**

**715/592-5095**

[www.wors.org](http://www.wors.org)

America's largest state mountain bike race series is right here in Wisconsin. Races can be contested individually or as a series. Either way WORS can take you to some wonderful and wild venues in every corner of the Badger state with events from May to October. Points determine overall series awards.

## **GRABAAW (Great Annual Bicycle Adventure Along the Wisconsin River)**

**608-843-8412**

[www.bikewisconsin.org](http://www.bikewisconsin.org)

A week-long, late-June, 400-plus-mile, on-road tour that traces the Wisconsin River from its headwaters to the Mississippi. An annual must-ride event for hundreds, this pilgrimage from the Northwoods to Dairyland takes in many local attractions.

## **SAGBRAW (Sprocket's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Wisconsin)**

**608-843-8412**

[www.bikewisconsin.org](http://www.bikewisconsin.org)

More than 30 years old and still pedaling, this early-August cross-state tour covers 360 miles of prime Wisconsin scenery in seven days. The starting point varies year-to-year, but the finish is always in the Milwaukee area. A family-oriented ride with great services, it covers manageable distances each day.

## **Badger State Games – Madison**

**608/226-4780**

[www.sportsinwisconsin.com](http://www.sportsinwisconsin.com)

The Badger State Games feature cycling road races and time trials in the Madison area in late June. The Games offer Olympic-style competition for Wisconsin residents of all ages and abilities. Awards and pageantry are all part of what has grown to be the state's largest sports festival.

## **Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable**

**715/798-3594**

[www.cheqfattire.com](http://www.cheqfattire.com)

Begun with 27 riders, this two-decade-old, mid-September weekend of point-to-point mountain bike races and low-key games has grown into the largest off-road event in the nation. Set in the towering forests of northern Wisconsin, the weekend's feature events are the Chequamegon 40, a 40-mile race from Hayward to Telemark Resort, and the Short & Fat, a 15-mile race from Cable to Telemark Resort. The races are limited to 2,500 riders chosen by lottery in mid-March, but there is always room for spectators or riders who want to tour the area's CAMBA Trails (see page 28-29).

## **Chippewa Valley Firecracker – Eau Claire**

**715/379-8304**

[www.chippewaoffroad.org](http://www.chippewaoffroad.org)

This something-for-everyone mountain bike race is held on the weekend nearest the 4th of July at Lowes Creek County Park on the outskirts of Eau Claire. One of the most popular WORS races, it includes lots of fun for families. As you might expect, in the evening there's a great fireworks show.

## **Firehouse 50 – Grandview**

**715/763-3333**

[www.firehouse50.org](http://www.firehouse50.org)

Held in association with the town's annual Fireman's Homecoming on the first weekend of August, the 50-mile individual or team time trial or mass-start road race has become the premier "citizens" race in the state. Riders can also opt for the Fantasy 50, a 50-kilometer race/tour. All events start and finish in scenic Grandview and travel through the lake country of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

## **Highground Bicycle Tour – Neillsville**

**715/743-4224**

[www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org)

Six routes offer bicyclists from every corner of Wisconsin the opportunity to ride 150-350 miles on this mid-August tour to The Highground Veterans' Memorial Park near Neillsville. The tour is dedicated to the sacrifices of American veterans of all wars and services.

## **Kettle Moraine Fall Color Festival – Eagle**

**800/362-4537, 414/529-6600**

[www.FallColorFestival.org](http://www.FallColorFestival.org)

A late-September/early-October celebration of mountain biking amid the glorious color of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest's John Muir Trails (see page 46-47). This time trial event raises funds for trail maintenance and future development. Awards, raffles, food and great riding attract top racers and weekend warriors to this limited-entry event.

## **Menominee River Century – Marinette**

**800/236-6681**

[www.mrcride.com](http://www.mrcride.com)

Known for great food and entertainment during and after the ride, this last-Sunday-in-

June event is based in Marinette and sister city Menominee. It attracts more than 1,000 riders annually to 15, 40, 80 and 120-mile routes along the easy-pedaling terrain of its namesake river.

**Miller Lite Ride for the Arts – Milwaukee**  
**414/276-RIDE (7433)**  
**[www.millerliteride.com](http://www.millerliteride.com)**

An early-June tour through the Milwaukee Metro area celebrates more than a quarter-century of support for the nation's largest performing arts fund. This popular mass event features routes from 5 to 50 miles and plenty of the gemutlichkeit Milwaukee is famous for. Prizes, celebrities and festivities are highlights.

**Scenic Shore 150**  
**800/261-7399**

**[www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org)**

Pedal along the scenic shore of Lake Michigan on this 150-mile, two-day tour in late July. Starting in Mequon, near Milwaukee, riders overnight in Manitowoc before reaching their day-two destination at Potawatomi State Park in Door County. All proceeds benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

**Top of the World Bicycle Tour – Whitehall**  
**715/538-2311, ext 205**  
**[www.ridebctc.com](http://www.ridebctc.com)**

Bicyclists who love ridge and valley scenery and quiet back roads find this third weekend of August on-road ride just their cup of tea. Set in the scenic Trempealeau County countryside, the 16, 23 & 37-mile loops around the town of Whitehall make for a perfect day of bicycling.

**TREK 100 – Milwaukee**  
**800/248-TREK, 414/456-5830**  
**[www.maccfund.org/trek100](http://www.maccfund.org/trek100)**

A mid-June, one-day, on-road benefit tour through the scenic southern Kettle Moraine State Forest on loops of 20, 37, 62 or 100 miles. These showcase events are sponsored by TREK, Wisconsin's hometown bicycle manufacturer. They support the state's home-grown cancer-fighting MACC Fund. The rides feature prizes, ride support, refreshments, and festivities - all for a great cause.

**Tyranena Oktoberfest Bike Ride**  
**920/648-8699**  
**[www.tyranena.com/bikeride/](http://www.tyranena.com/bikeride/)**

Ride the gentle roads of Dane and Jefferson Counties in early October in the company of U.S. Postal Cycling Team riders, tour the TREK factory where their incredible bikes are made, and finish it all up with a real Oktoberfest celebration at the Tyranena Brewery in Lake Mills. Routes of 25, 47 & 65 miles are your ticket to a great time on two wheels.

**Comprehensive & reliable...**

## **The Wisconsin State Bike Map**

Working with the Wisconsin Department of

Transportation, the Bicycle

Federation of Wisconsin

(BFW) has produced a

"new and improved"

version of the Wisconsin

State Bike Map. Actually

a set of four maps, the

Wisconsin State Bike

Map classifies all state

and county roads in

terms of conditions

for bicycling,

identifies recreational bicycle

trails and mountain bike facilities, and

provides contacts for local bicycle route

information.



Maps are now available at bicycle shops throughout Wisconsin. Individual maps are \$5 each or get the complete set of four maps for \$18. If your local bicycle shop doesn't sell the maps, you can order them by calling 1-800/362-4537. (Shipping and handling = \$3 for each map or \$5 for all four maps.)

**For more great rides, visit**

**[travelwisconsin.com](http://travelwisconsin.com)**

**This is the seventh edition of the Wisconsin Biking Guide. The 100+ trails and tours from the previous six editions are available on the Web site of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism at [travelwisconsin.com](http://travelwisconsin.com).**

**WISCONSIN**  
**Wisconsin Department of Tourism**

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