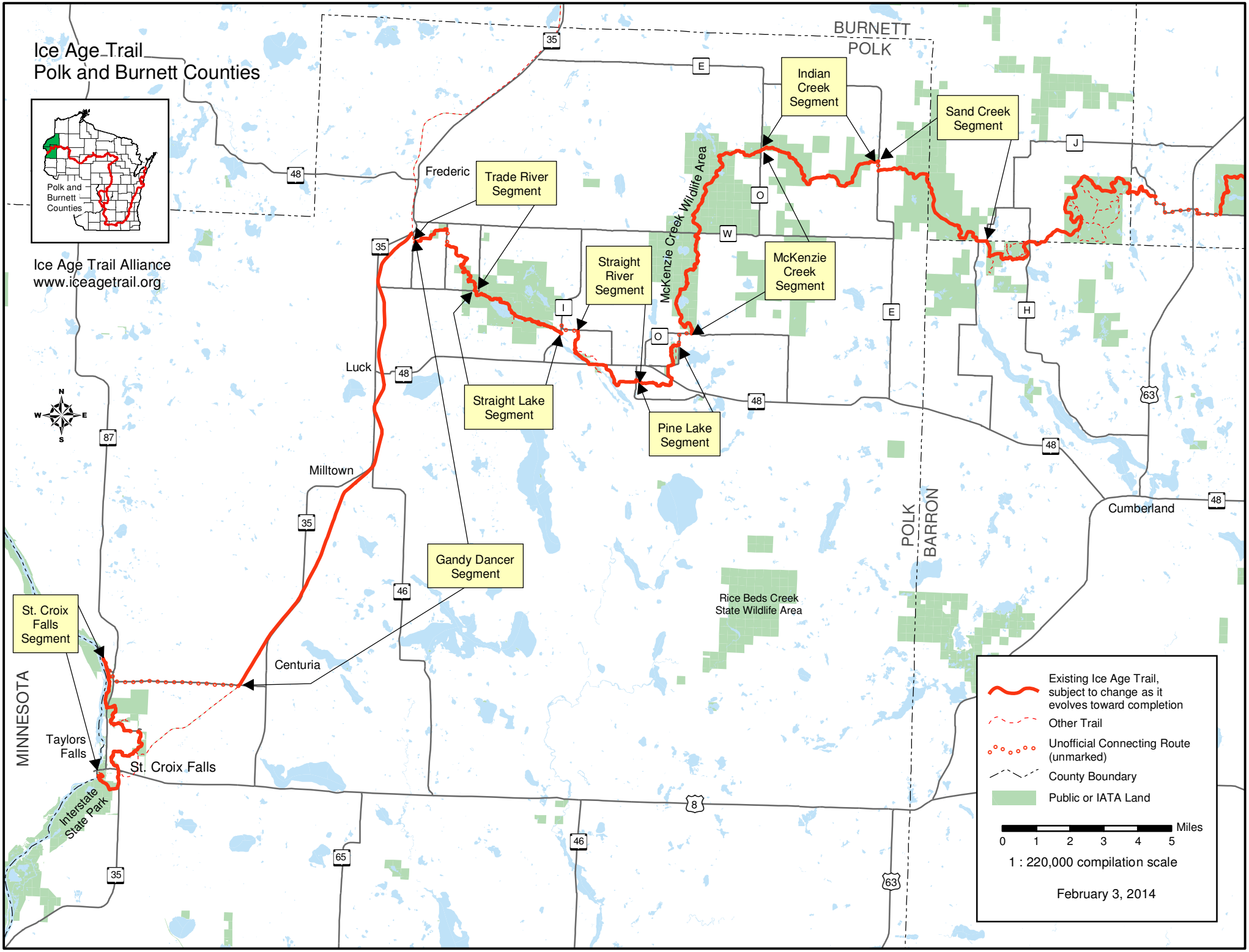

Ice Age Trail
Polk and Burnett Counties
Polk and Burnett Counties
Ice Age Trail Alliance
www.iceagetrail.org
BURNETT
POLK
Indian Creek Segment
Sand Creek Segment
Trade River Segment
Straight River Segment
McKenzie Creek Segment
McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area
Straight Lake Segment
Pine Lake Segment
Gandy Dancer Segment
St. Croix Falls Segment
Frederic
Luck
Milltown
Centuria
Taylors Falls
St. Croix Falls
Interstate State Park
Rice Beds Creek State Wildlife Area
Cumberland
POLK
BARRON
MINNESOTA
Existing Ice Age Trail, subject to change as it evolves toward completion
Other Trail
Unofficial Connecting Route (unmarked)
County Boundary
Public or IATA Land
Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5
1 : 220,000 compilation scale
February 3, 2014

Trade River Segment and Straight Lake Segment (Atlas Map 3f)

SNAPSHOT

Trade River Segment—4.3 miles (3.9 IAT, 0.4 CR):150th St. to 280th Ave.

Straight Lake Segment—3.6 miles: 280th Ave. to 100th St. (CTH-I)

*The **Trade River Segment** highlights the Trade River and its headwaters area, which hikers will explore on serpentine boardwalks.*

From the Trade River and headwaters wetlands.

At Coon Lake Park in Frederic, ~2 mi north of the Trail.

Portion of the segment crossing private land between 150th St. and the SIATA property east of 140th St. is closed during gun deer season.

Segment includes connecting route roadwalk. Portions overlap with cross-country ski trails and logging/forest roads.

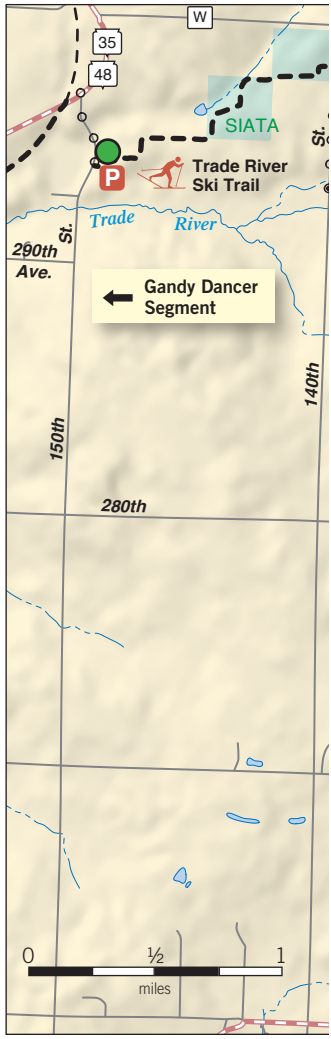
Trade River Ski Trail network.

*The dramatic **Straight Lake Segment** highlights wild Straight Lake State Park and beautiful, pristine Straight Lake.*

From the Straight River, Straight Lake and other small lakes and wetland areas.

Portion of segment crossing private land between the eastern boundary of Straight Lake State Park and CTH-I is closed during gun deer season.

Park access road leading to 120th Street parking area.



TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

150th St.: From Frederic on STH-35/48, take STH-35/48 south 2.0 mi. At 150th St. turn left and continue south 0.3 mi to the parking area.

100th St. (CTH-I): From Luck at the intersection of STH-35 and STH-48, take STH-48 east 5.2 mi. At 100th St. (CTH-I) turn left and go north 0.9 mi to the parking area on the west (left) side of the road.

Additional Parking: (i) 140th St. roadside parking. (ii) 280th Ave. parking area on the south side of the road. (ii) 120th St. Straight Lake State Park parking area 0.1 mi north of the intersection of 120th St. and 270th Ave.

THE HIKE

Prominent features in this area are knobs of basalt bedrock. During the pre-Cambrian era, 1.1 billion years ago, the Earth's crust split across part of the

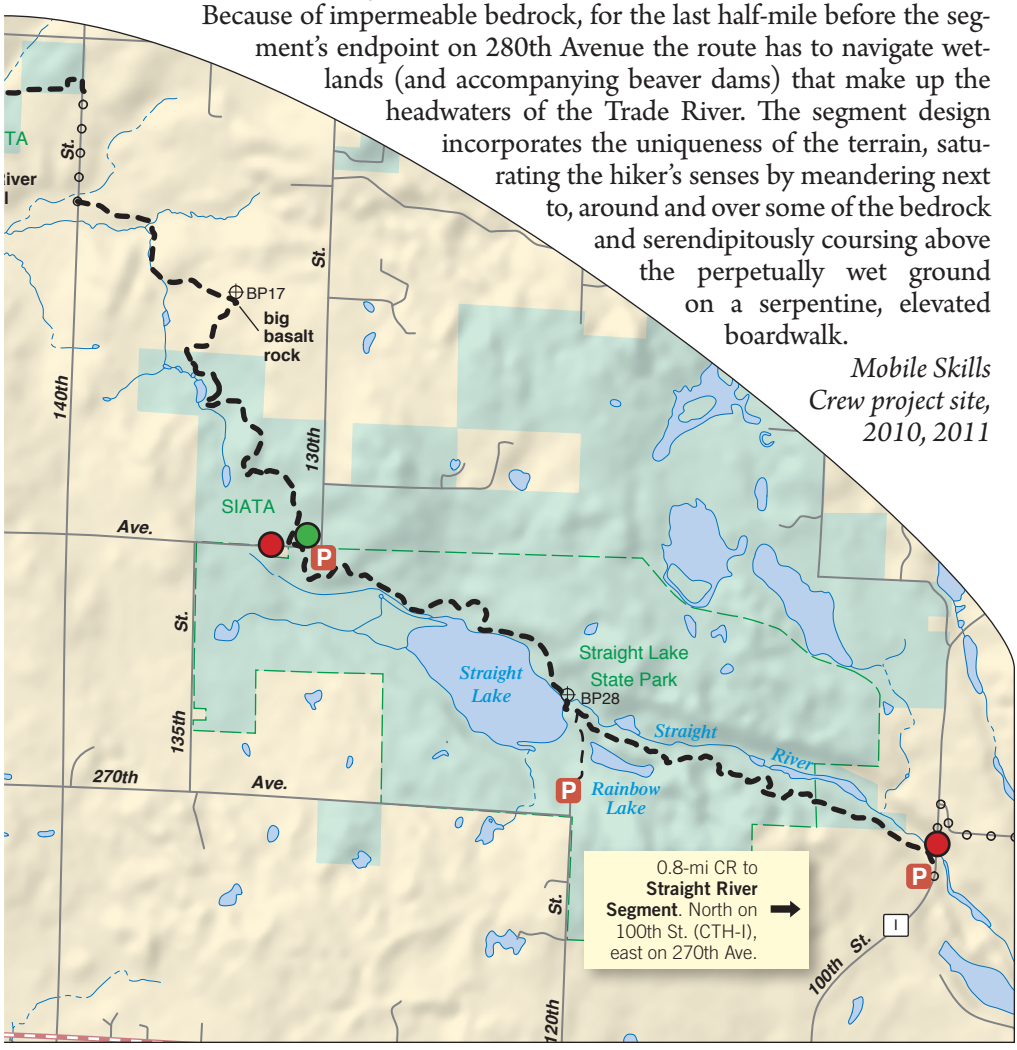
North American continent. Known as the mid-continent rift, the split extended from Kansas to Lake Superior. Huge volumes of molten lava flowed to the surface and cooled, forming the basalt bedrock seen here. For most of that distance the basalt is beneath sedimentary rock, but from St. Croix Falls to Lake Superior outcroppings of exposed bedrock can be found.

The **Trade River Segment** begins at 150th Street at the parking area for the Trade River Ski Area, which offers 4 km of groomed ski trails in winter. The segment briefly overlaps with the ski trail route; those hiking here in winter should hike well off to the side of the groomed track.

When the segment reaches 140th Street, hikers should turn right and head south for 0.4 miles along the unmarked connecting route before departing 140th Street and continuing eastward on the off-road portion of the segment. Here, the segment passes through a prairie, along the Trade River and through a wooded area. A notable waypoint is the big basalt rock (**BP17**) dropped here by the Superior Lobe.

Because of impermeable bedrock, for the last half-mile before the segment's endpoint on 280th Avenue the route has to navigate wetlands (and accompanying beaver dams) that make up the headwaters of the Trade River. The segment design incorporates the uniqueness of the terrain, saturating the hiker's senses by meandering next to, around and over some of the bedrock and serendipitously coursing above the perpetually wet ground on a serpentine, elevated boardwalk.

Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2010, 2011



The **Straight Lake Segment** travels through the heart of 3000-acre Straight Lake State Park, which contains the headwaters of two river systems: the Straight River draining southeast and the Trade River draining to the northwest. The landscape is hummocky with outcroppings of basalt bedrock. Because the bedrock is close to the surface, the terrain contains numerous ephemeral ponds, perched wetlands and marshes.

The park exists in a transition zone between two vegetative communities: the northern hardwood forest and the prairie forest. One finds an intermingling of species from both communities and here many plants and animals reach their northern and southern limits. The extensive block of oak forest approaches old-growth status. Black bear, red fox, river otter, gray tree frog, leopard frog and four-toed salamander are common.

(Note: The DNR bans all glass containers in Straight Lake State Park.)

From its starting point on 280th Avenue the segment makes its way past the north shore of 107-acre Straight Lake, a shallow drainage lake with a small dam (**BP28**) at its outlet to the Straight River. Shortly after crossing the dam the Trail intersects with a gravel road that leads south to the state park's 120th Street parking area. The segment continues east through the Straight River tunnel channel, the finest example of a glacial tunnel channel in the Midwest. During the Ice Age, a subglacial river flowed rapidly as it exited beneath the receding glacier. The sediment it collected was carried away from the glacial margin, leaving the channel intact.

The segment passes near the eastern end of Rainbow Lake and glimpses of the lake can be seen through the trees. Soon after hikers will cross a unique, curving boardwalk. As the segment makes its way to its endpoint on 100th Street (CTH-I), hikers are treated to a number of spectacular views of the valley of the Straight River tunnel channel.

Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011

AREA SERVICES

Oak Forest Retreat Center: Lodging (2824 130th St., Frederic, 715-327-4500, oakforestcenter.org). From the intersection of 280th Ave. and 130th St., go north 0.7 mi on 130th St. Call before visiting. Limited availability.

Frederic: See Gandy Dancer Segment, p. 10. From 150th St. go north 1.5 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

Siren: See Gandy Dancer Segment, p. 10. From 150th St. go north ~12 mi.

Luck: See Gandy Dancer Segment, p. 10. From 120th St. Trail access go west ~5 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

Must-Have Ice Age Trail Books!

The **Ice Age Trail Guidebook 2014** features more than 100 detailed segment-by-segment descriptions and maps to help you connect with the thousand-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Written for those seeking a wide range of adventures on the Ice Age Trail, the softcover Guidebook includes these items and more:

- A detailed written description of each segment along the Ice Age Trail's thousand-mile route.
- A helpful map excerpt for each segment from the Ice Age Trail Alliance's popular Ice Age Trail Atlas.
- Ratings for each segment on a variety of criteria to help hikers find the Ice Age Trail excursion that's right for them.

The **Ice Age Trail Atlas 2014** is a set of 105 color, shaded relief–style maps at 1:48,000 scale. In contrast to the smaller map excerpts in the Ice Age Trail Guidebook 2014, each map in this package is printed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet and includes not just the Ice Age Trail route but also a wider snapshot of the area around the Trail.

Both books were written and published by the Ice Age Trail Alliance. All proceeds for each book help build and maintain the Ice Age Trail. Please call the IATA at (800) 227-0046 with any questions.

To order, visit www.iceagetrail.org or complete the order form below.

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