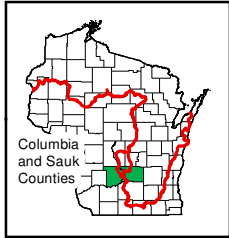
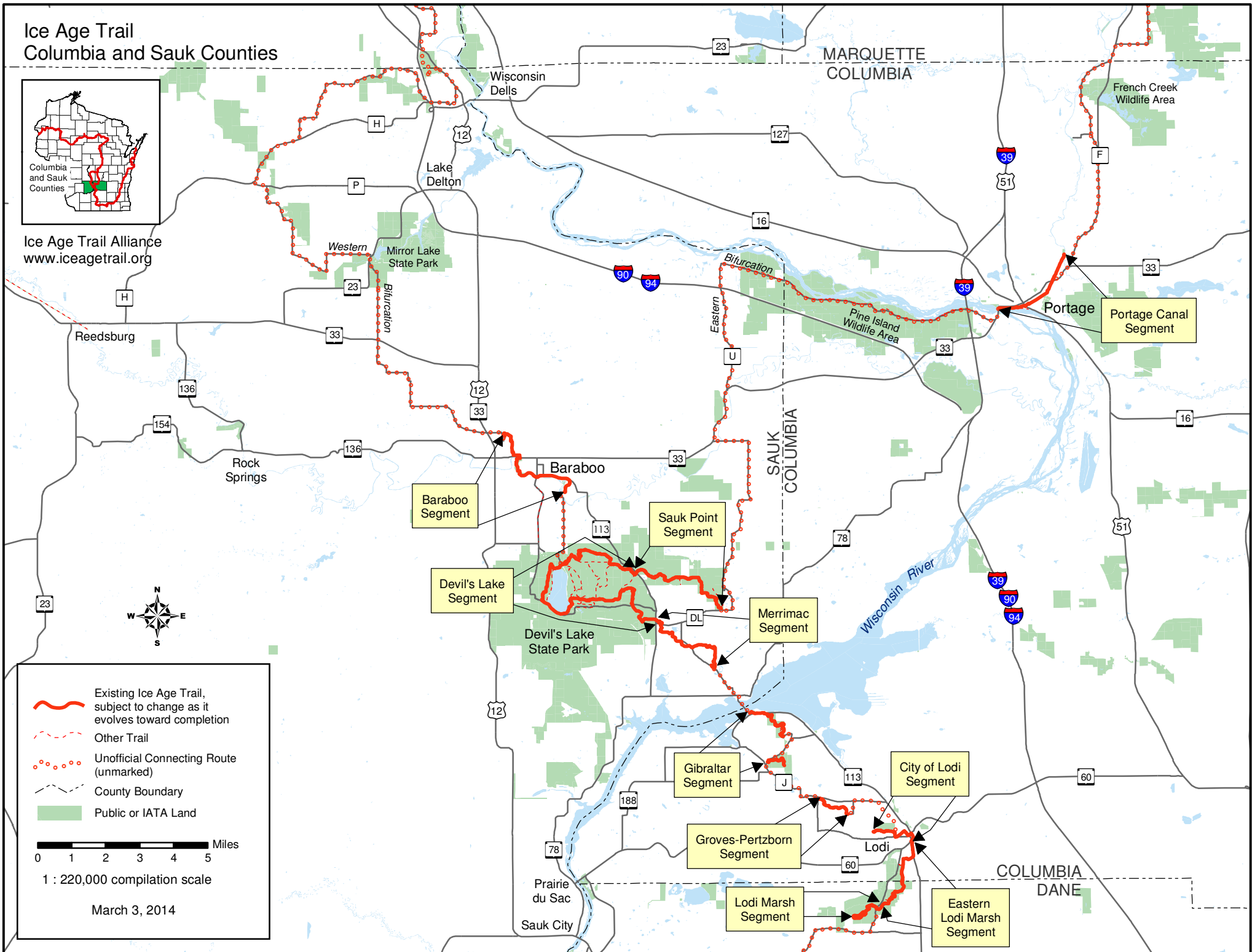


Ice Age Trail Columbia and Sauk Counties



Ice Age Trail Alliance
www.iceagetrail.org



- Existing Ice Age Trail, subject to change as it evolves toward completion
- - - Other Trail
- o o o Unofficial Connecting Route (unmarked)
- - - County Boundary
- Public or IATA Land

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles


1 : 220,000 compilation scale

March 3, 2014

Gibraltar Segment (Atlas Map 62f)

SNAPSHOT

4.8 miles (3.9 IAT, 0.9 CR): STH-113 Ferry Wayside to CTH-V

 *This segment is a rolling ramble through mixed woodlands, prairies and fields. It features dramatic climbs and wide ranging views of Lake Wisconsin, a pastoral valley and the Baraboo Hills.*



At nearby Merrimac Ferry north ramp on STH-113 (seasonal).



From Lake Wisconsin.



At a Dispersed Camping Area (**SC9**).



At STH-113 Ferry Wayside (seasonal).



Segment includes a connecting route roadwalk.



Two white-blazed loop trails, a spur trail to the DCA and Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area trails and road.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

STH-113 Ferry Wayside: In Lodi, from the intersection of STH-113 and STH-60, take STH-113 north 6.0 mi to the Ferry Wayside parking area. Closed in winter.

CTH-V: In Lodi, from the intersection of STH-113 and STH-60, take STH-113 north 4.0 mi. At CTH-V turn left and go west 1.7 mi. to the parking area on the east side of the road.

Additional Parking: (i) Slack Rd. parking area. (ii) CTH-VA (Gibraltar Rock Rd.) parking area.

THE HIKE

The segment starts at a grassy picnic area with a kiosk and benches near the Merrimac Ferry south ramp. Posts with Ice Age Trail yellow blazes guide hikers through the STH-113 wayside area. The Trail then passes through a woods of white oak, shagbark hickory and maple before crossing (**SC6**) busy STH-113 (cross with caution) near Northern Cross Arm Road.

The segment then ascends the north face of a 200-foot hill, taking in fine views of Lake Wisconsin through a screen of large oaks. Limestone outcroppings dot the hill, but the granite erratics scattered throughout the area remind hikers this area was covered by the Wisconsin Glaciation.

The Trail continues southeast through red cedar and existing remnant prairie areas with big bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem and other native grass species. Prairie restoration is an ongoing priority in this area. More scenic views of Lake Wisconsin and the surrounding landscape are offered from different points along the route. This portion of the segment also includes a white-blazed trail that makes a short loop to the west of the main route.

Shortly after the white-blazed trail reconnects with the main route, hikers will reach a spur trail (**SC9**) with signage pointing west to a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) for long distance hikers. Continuing on the main segment route, after a steady climb in open prairie for about a quarter-mile, the Trail reaches a stunning panoramic vista (**SC8**) of the Wisconsin River and Baraboo Hills.

Continuing on, hikers will arrive at a junction with another white-blazed trail

stone. Its 200-foot sheer cliffs offer spectacular panoramic views of the Wisconsin River valley and Lake Wisconsin. On the south side of the butte is a rock face bluff overlooking a large leather-leaf bog and a bucolic valley.

At the top of Gibraltar Rock there are no safety guardrails and hikers should use extreme caution when hiking near or along the bluff. A memorial plaque (SC13) commemorating the Richmond Memorial Park of the Rock of Gibraltar, a park dedicated in 1929 in memory of James and Emma F. Richmond and other early pioneers, sits at a high point near where the DNR access road emerges.

The segment meanders along the top offering several views of the countryside below from rock outcrops framed by weathered red cedars. A loop trail, stretching along the “backside” of Gibraltar Rock, provides hikers with another option to pass across the top.

The segment leaves the big views and begins its gradual descent, first through a maple forest and then a white-pine-dominated woods as the Trail winds around the base of the bluff. Black locust and stone retaining walls line much of the route.

The segment emerges from the woods to the full panoramic “Horton Vista” (SC12). This vantage point offers outstanding long views of the field opening, the valley below and the Baraboo Hills in the distance. At this spot in the mid-20th century, Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, principal architect of the National Trails System Act and a Wisconsin governor and senator, descended from the woods one afternoon in a white dress shirt and slacks and found Don Horton, who the state purchased the land from in 2008, taking a break from field work. Nelson said, “You’ve got a beautiful piece of land here.” Horton offered the stranger a drink of water and they went their separate ways.

Hikers will continue through the former farm field to the mulberry tree growing prominently along the Trail and can pause to further take in the views. The segment returns to a wooded canopy as the descent continues along the edge of the field opening until it reaches an intersection of two old farming roads. The blazed route, now on an old road, soon reaches the parking area on the former site of the Horton family homestead.

Mobile Skills Crew project site 2005, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014

POINTS OF INTEREST

Merrimac Ferry: See Merrimac Segment, p. 198

AREA SERVICES

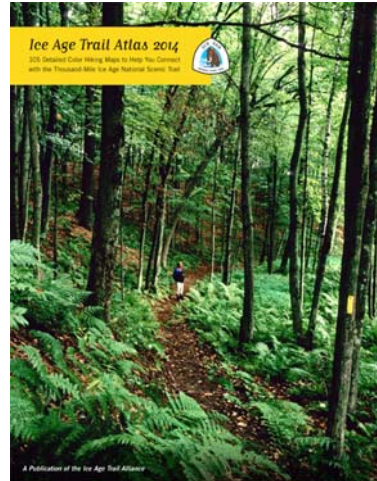
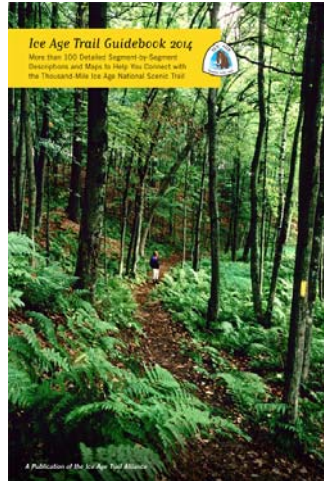
Merrimac: See Merrimac Segment, p. 198. From the ferry wayside Trail access take the ferry across to the north side of Lake Wisconsin. On STH-113 go north then east 1.0 mi.

Devil's Lake State Park: See Devil's Lake Segment, p. 194. From the ferry wayside Trail access take the ferry across to the north side of Lake Wisconsin. Take STH-113 north and west ~10 mi.

Baraboo: See Baraboo Segment, p. 190. From the ferry wayside Trail access take the ferry across to the north side of Lake Wisconsin. Take STH-113 north ~12 mi.

Lodi: See Groves-Pertzborn Segment and the City of Lodi Segment, p. 205. From the ferry wayside Trail access take STH-113 south 6.0 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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