

Ice Age Trail Waushara, Marquette and Adams Counties

PORTAGE
WAUSHARA

ADAMS
WAUSHARA

MARQUETTE
COLUMBIA

Existing Ice Age Trail, subject to change as it evolves toward completion

Other Trail

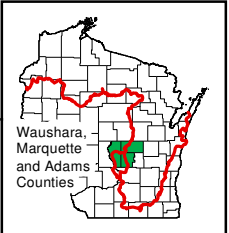
Unofficial Connecting Route (unmarked)

County Boundary

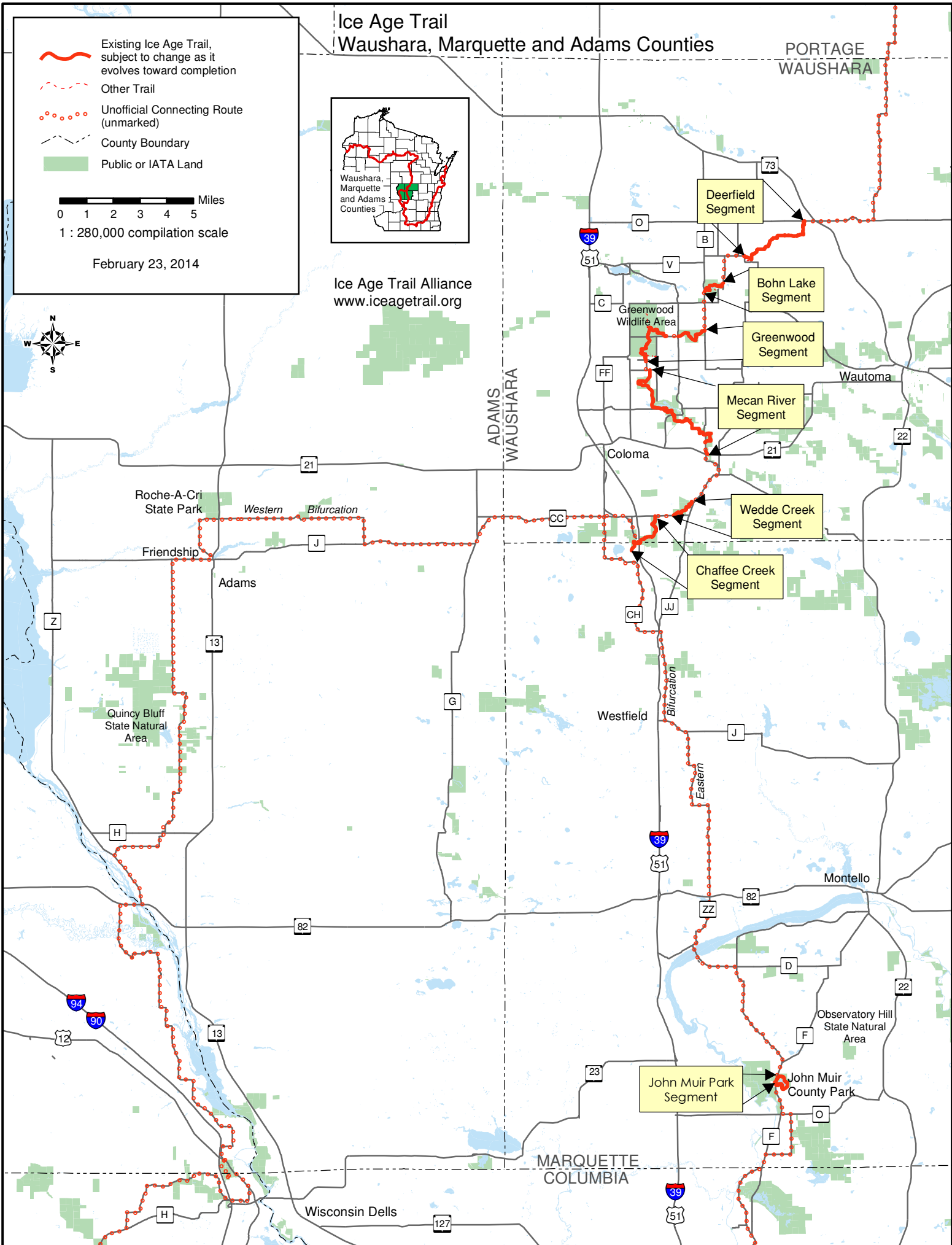
Public or IATA Land

Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5
1 : 280,000 compilation scale

February 23, 2014




Ice Age Trail Alliance
www.iceage trail.org



John Muir Park Segment (Atlas Map 56f)

SNAPSHOT

1.7 miles: Within John Muir Memorial County Park

 *This segment highlights the boyhood playground of John Muir, “Father of the National Parks.”*



From Ennis Lake.



Numerous side trails leading to the lake or the tops of small hills.



In John Muir Memorial County Park.



Restrooms are seasonal.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

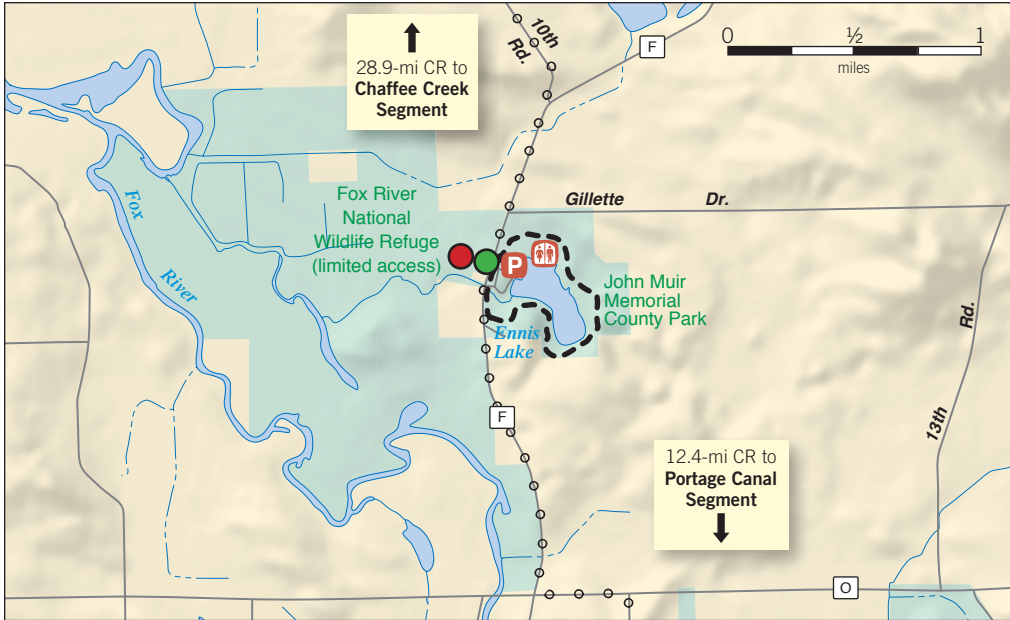
John Muir Memorial County Park: From Portage, take STH-33 north. At CTH-F turn left and continue north 9.5 mi. The park is located on the east side of the road and has a large parking area.

THE HIKE

This segment is a short loop that features views of picturesque Ennis Lake and passes through prairie and meadows that fill with wildflowers in the summer, bogs crossed by boardwalks, open oak forests and fens bordered by tamarack and bog birch. On this segment hikers will explore and experience the land that made such a positive and lifelong impression on John Muir. Trailside benches offer hikers the chance to enjoy views of the lake and contemplate the rich history of the area.

The segment can be hiked by heading either north or south from the park's parking area. The segment encircles the lake passing through the 150-acre Muir Park State Natural Area. The 30-acre lake is a spring-fed kettle occupying a marshy pocket in ground moraine. The park includes land that was homesteaded in 1849 by the Ennis and Muir families and was the boyhood home of John Muir, eminent naturalist and founder of the Sierra Club. The lake was then known as Fountain Lake and the Muirs lived on the northeast side of the lake from 1849 to 1856. Although he traveled all over the world, John Muir never forgot this land and tried several times to buy and preserve it. He said, “Even if I should never see it again, the beauty of its lilies and orchids is so pressed into my mind, I shall always enjoy looking back at them in imagination, even across the seas and continents and perhaps after I am dead.”

Many unusual and rare plants can be found in the park; a guide showing plant communities along the loop is available on the Marquette County Chapter's home page on the IATA website (marquette.iceagetrail.org). On the south end of the lake, the segment crosses a low prairie which grades into a spongy sedge meadow and tall scrub community. Present here are big bluestem, Indian grass, blazing-star and prairie phlox. The bog near the lake's southeast corner offers the right environs for the northern wet forest dominated by tamarack, poison sumac and bog birch, with numerous pitcher plants beneath. Along the segment are a wet-mesic prairie, oak openings and a southern dry forest. Several side trails lead



to the lakeside or to the tops of small hills. Board bridges cross rich fens that surround the lake's eastern inlet and western outlet. The calcareous fen and prairie contain a diversity of unusual and rare species such as grass-of-Parnassus, Kalm's lobelia, bottle gentian and nodding lady's-tresses orchid. Rare plants include small fringed gentian, low nut-sedge, prairie flameflower and false asphodel.

Several memorials to John Muir exist in the Park: a granite monument, a wooden sign and an extensive informational display near the parking area. There is also an exhibit on his life at the Montello Museum (55 West Montello Street). But the park itself is likely the best memorial to the man; hikers can literally walk in Muir's footsteps and see a landscape that has changed little since he lived here more than a century and a half ago.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Observatory Hill State Natural Area: From John Muir Memorial Park, head north on CTH-F for 0.1 mi. Turn right on Gillette Dr. and go east 2.0 mi. Turn left on 13th Rd. and go north 1.0 mi. Turn right on Gillette Ave. and go east 0.6 mi to the parking area (dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/index.asp?sna=223).

The highest point in Marquette County, Observatory Hill rises 300 feet above the surrounding landscape. On the exposed rocks at the summit are polished rock surfaces with grooves, striations, and chatter marks created by the passage of the glacial ice 12,000 years ago. The hill was a favorite childhood haunt of John Muir.

AREA SERVICES

Montello: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, lodging, library, medical care. From John Muir Memorial County Park, go north on CTH-F 7.8 mi. At STH-22 (Main St.) turn left and continue north for 0.8 mi. Area info available from the Montello Area Chamber of Commerce (888-318-0362, montellowi.com).

Portage: See Portage Canal Segment, p. 184. From John Muir Memorial County Park go south ~10 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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| Guidebook | _____ | x \$24 (members) or \$30 (nonmembers) = | _____ |
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| | | TOTAL = | _____ |

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