Lapham Peak Segment and Delafield Segment  (Atlas Maps 81f, 82f)

SNAPSHOT

Lapham Peak Segment—7.6 miles: UW-Waukesha Field Station at Glacial Drumlin State Trail to Cushing Park Rd.

Delafield Segment—2.8 miles: Cushing Park Rd. to STH-83

The hilly Lapham Peak Segment winds through woods and prairie restoration sites and includes outstanding views from the Lapham Peak observation tower.

At various locations in the Lapham Peak Unit (LPU).

From Scuppernong Creek, a couple of small ponds and Nemahbin Springs (WK8).

At a walk-to site (WK30, reservations required) in the LPU.

Dogs must be leashed.

A portion of the segment overlaps with the multi-use Glacial Drumlin State Trail (GDST).

The GDST extends west and east from the segment. The LPU has an extensive network of trails.

The Delafield Segment highlights the “Trail Town” of Delafield and includes a trek along part of the Lake Country Recreational Trail.

At Cushing Memorial Park and Naga-Waukee County Park.

At Naga-Waukee County Park Campground.

Hikers will not have any interaction with hunting on this segment.

Dogs must be leashed.

The entire segment overlaps with the Lake Country Recreational Trail (LCRT), city sidewalks and roads.

The LCRT extends west and east from the segment. Also, a spur trail to Naga-Waukee County Park.

Portions of this segment may be suitable for those using wheelchairs or similar devices.
TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

UW-Waukesha Field Station at Glacial Drumlin State Trail: From I-94 near Delafield, take Exit 285 onto CTH-C (Kettle Moraine Dr.) and go south 2.8 mi. At STH-18 turn right and go west 2.0 mi. At Waterville Rd. turn left and go south 0.5 mi to the UW-Waukesha Field Station. On the east side of the road, look for the gravel drive entrance. Parking is along the drive and at the main parking area near the buildings. No overnight parking allowed.

STH-83: From I-94 near Delafield, take Exit 287 onto STH-83 and go north 0.3 mi to the Nagawaukee Park-and-Ride on the west side of the highway.

Additional Parking: (i) STH-18 Trail access (WK10); roadside parking. (ii) Lapham Peak Unit parking areas. (iii) Cushing Park Rd. Trail access. (iv) Cushing Memorial Park on Cushing Park Rd., 0.1 miles north of Main St. (v) Fish Hatchery Park, on the north side of Main St. at Wells St. (vi) Naga-Waukee County Park.
THE HIKE

The Lapham Peak Segment starts by heading east on the Glacial Drumlin State Trail, a multi-use paved rail-trail that spans 52.0 miles between Cottage Grove to the west and Waukesha to the east. The segment departs from the Glacial Drumlin State Trail after 2.0 miles, crosses (WK10) busy STH-18 and makes its way northeast near Scuppernong Creek, eventually following the west bank of an ancient glacial meltwater spillway (river) that once carried water from the east side of the Kettle Moraine to the west.

The segment then enters the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The unit is named after conservationist and geographer Increase Lapham, who spent his lifetime researching and documenting regional geography, botany, biology, conservation, forestry, geology and archeology. Lapham's work in meteorology led to the creation of the United States National Weather Service and modern weather forecasts.

The Lapham Peak Unit is 1,000 acres and has numerous hiking, mountain bike and groomed cross-country ski trails. In the spring, the white and bur oak savannas teem with native woodland wildflowers like Dutchman’s breeches, toothwort, columbine, Jacob’s ladder and wild geranium. Summer prairie flowers include prairie dock, rattlesnake master, cup plant, common evening and pale Indian primrose, lupine and purple coneflower. The restored prairies offer a haven for a variety of butterflies and are lined with eastern bluebird boxes. Wild turkey and pileated woodpecker live among white oaks more than 100 years old.

Not long after entering the Lapham Peak Unit the segment comes to a spur trail that leads down into a kettle with a nice pond. Shortly after, the Trail arrives at a point where there is a confluence of trails (WK9). Paths head off in various directions creating popular loops for walkers and cross-country skiers. Hikers should pay close attention to signage to continue on the Ice Age Trail route.

From the trail junction, the segment heads up Lapham Peak. At 1,223 feet above sea level, the glacial-formed kame is the county’s highest point and site of the original National Weather Service signal station. Atop it is a 45-foot observation tower (WK26) that offers 360-degree views. To the north are views of Hartland, Holy Hill and Kettle Moraine ridges. To the east are views of downtown Milwaukee. To the south are Dousman and the wooded rolling hills of the southern Kettle Moraine. To the west, near Oconomowoc, is a large flat area that was once covered by an ancient glacial lake. The tower area has water (seasonal), restrooms, picnic areas and parking.

After passing by the tower area the segment meanders down the side of the kame through open woods. The Trail soon intersects (WK30) with another short spur trail that leads to a backcountry campsite with a table and a privy. Continuing on, the segment makes its way east to CTH-C (Kettle Moraine Drive) passing a small pond with an observation deck on the way.

West of CTH-C the segment passes another pond and begins to weave through the Lapham Peak Unit’s Prairie Path as it heads toward Cushing Park Road. The Trail offers some nice long views of the prairies and surrounding areas. Less than half a mile from the segment’s endpoint a spur trail (WK8) leads to Nemahbin Springs, home to a flourishing frog population and many aquatic plants.
From the terminus of the Lapham Peak Segment on Cushing Park Road, the Delafield Segment starts by heading north alongside Cushing Park Road on a paved path for a half-mile to its intersection with Main Street. Worth a side trip is Cushing Memorial Park and the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Riverwalk (see Points of Interest, below).

From the intersection of Cushing Park Road and Main Street, the segment heads east along Main Street, passing by the fire station and Fish Hatchery Park to the intersection with Wells Street. The segment shifts from Main Street to Wells Street and continues eastward. At the intersection of Wells Street and Bleeker Street, the segment continues due east, transitioning onto the Lake Country Recreational Trail, a multi-use rail-trail running through a subdivision and offering views of 981-acre Nagawicka Lake. The lake lies in a preglacial valley, blocked in on the east and west by glacial drift.

The segment continues eastward along the Lake Country Recreational Trail and skirts the southern edge of Naga-Waukee County Park. The segment ends on the west side of STH-83 next to the Nagawaukee Park-and-Ride.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Cushing Memorial Park and Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Riverwalk:** From the intersection of Cushing Park Rd. and Main St., go north on Cushing Park Rd. 0.1 mi to Cushing Memorial Park and the west end of the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Riverwalk (cityofdelafield.com/parks_and_recreation.html, 262-646-6220).

Cushing Memorial Park honors the Civil War hero brothers Navy Commander William Cushing, Army 1st Lieutenant Howard Cushing and Medal of Honor recipient Army 1st Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing. A 50-foot Barre granite monument stands on part of the original Cushing homestead. The Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Riverwalk links nine separate U.S. war memorials with educational displays about each war. The 0.75-mile walk winds along the Bark River on a boardwalk and gravel path from Cushing Memorial Park’s Peace Garden and Spring (west end), a historic Potawatomi meeting site, to St. John’s Pond (east end) on Genesee Street. The Riverwalk’s main entry plaza and bridge are just north of the Ice Age Trail route at Main Street and Dopkins Street.

**AREA SERVICES**

**Glacial Drumlin State Trail:** On Trail (262-646-3025, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/glacialdrumlin).

**Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak Unit:** Hike-to camping. On Trail (262-646-3025, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lapham). Call or stop by to reserve the campsite; there is a fee and the maximum group size is 10. Information about the Lapham Peak Unit is also available from the KMSF headquarters office (262-594-6200).

**Wales:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, lodging, library, medical care. From the STH-18 Trail access go 1.4 mi east using the Glacial Drumlin Trail or 0.8 mi east on STH-18, then south 0.5 mi on STH-83. INN Style program lodging at the Pedal’r’s Inn (262-968-4700, pedalrsinn.com).

**Waukesha:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical care. From the STH-18 Trail access go ~8 mi east on STH-18.

**Delafield:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical care. On Trail. Services available in the area of STH-83 at Golf Rd. and in the city of Delafield. Camping at Naga-Waukee County Park (262-646-3555). Meals at the Delafield Brewhaus Brewery and Restaurant, 1.3 mi east of STH-83 at I-94 (3832 Hillside Dr., 262-646-7821). Area info available from the Delafield Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Council (262-646-8100, visitdelafield.org).

**Dousman:** See Waterville Segment, p. 276. From the UW-Waukesha Field Station go north then west ~3 mi.

**Hartland:** See Hartland Segment, p. 282. From the STH-83 Trail access go north ~5 mi.