Valley View Segment and Madison Segment (Atlas Map 66f)

SNAPSHOT
Valley View Segment—1.8 miles (1.5 IAT, 0.3 CR): Ice Age Ln. to Shady Oak Ln. at Mid Town Rd.

1.8 mile Connecting Route

Madison Segment—3.2 miles: Woods Rd. to CTH-PD (McKee Rd.)

The Valley View Segment is a delightful suburban jaunt through a restored prairie with good interpretive signage and views west to the Blue Mounds.

- No reliable sources of water.
- Hikers will not have any interaction with hunting on this segment.
- Dogs must be leashed.

For being on the outskirts of town, the Madison Segment retains a surprisingly remote feel as it passes unobtrusively through a scenic golf course and residential neighborhoods.

- At the University Ridge Golf Course clubhouse (seasonal).
  - Hikers will not have any interaction with hunting on this segment.
- Dogs are not allowed between Woods Rd. and CTH-M.
  - Portions overlap with golf course paths, city roads (including dangerous CTH-M), a driveway and sidewalks and a multi-use recreation path.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING
Ice Age Ln.: From west of Madison on the Beltline Highway (USH-12/14), take Exit 254 for Mineral Point Rd. (CTH-S) and go west on Mineral Point Rd. (CTH-S) for 4.0 mi. At Timber Ln. turn left and go south 1.3 mi. At Noll Valley Rd. turn left and go east 0.3 mi. At Ice Age Ln. turn left and go north 0.1
mi. Roadside parking on the right side of the road by the gate.

CTH-PD (McKee Rd.): From Verona, at the intersection of Verona Ave. (Bus. Rt. USH-18/151) and CTH-M (Main St./Pleasant View Rd.), take CTH-M (Main St./Pleasant View Rd.) north 1.7 mi. At CTH-PD (McKee Rd.) turn right and go east 0.6 mi to the parking area on the south side of CTH-PD.

Additional Parking: (i) Parking area at Middleton Ice Age Trail Access park (DA10) on Mound View Rd. (ii) Roadside parking on Woods Rd. (iii) University Ridge Golf Course lower parking area, open seasonally during golf course hours. Accessed by car from the main golf course entrance along CTH-PD (McKee Rd.). Gate is sometimes locked. (iv) O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Center parking area on the west side of CTH-M (Pleasant View Rd.). Available only on weekends and after 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. (v) Roadside parking on Flagstone Dr.; see safety note below. (vi) Roadside parking on Raymond Rd./Oakview Rd.

THE HIKE

The Valley View Segment starts at the Ice Age Lane Trail access along the brown fence to the right of the gate. After passing through a patch of woods, the segment crosses a residential driveway at a white lantern post. From there it enters the highlight of the segment, an open prairie with a series of looped side trails and trailside benches. Hikers should be very alert and watch for each Ice Age Trail post when hiking through the prairie. This portion of the segment is on the terminal moraine and is a fine example of prairie and oak savanna restoration. Driven by area landowners, with a collaboration of various community volunteer groups, 14 acres spanning parts of three properties were returned to their native habitat. In part this project removed aggressive invasive plants and scrubs and reintroduced native prairie seeds representing 105 species. The project was possible through a lot of hard physical work, grants and the support from Dane County Parks, DNR and IATA.

On a clear day, hikers can see the Blue Mounds from the prairie. Increase Lapham wrote that the Blue Mounds “were very important landmarks to guide the traveler in his course through the boundless prairies.” Their Indian name is Mucha-wa-ku-nin or “Smoky Mountains.”

After exiting the prairie the segment passes through a residential area featuring prairie-style homes drawing their inspiration from Wisconsin-born architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Please respect private property by staying on the Trail. The segment then arrives at the Ice Age Trail Access parking area (DA10), a Town of Middleton park. From this spot hikers will
continue on the following 0.3-mile connecting route to reach the next off-road portion of the segment: Hike east on Moraine Ridge Road, turn right and hike south on Mound View Road, turn left and hike east on Saracen Way.

From the Saracen Way access (DA9) the segment works its way south through a wooded area. Emerging from the woods, hikers should continue walking south on the grassy path between the residential area and the farm fields. The segment then bends east and parallels Mid Town Road. Hikers will pass a residential sign for Glacier’s End and cross Fernglade Road before reaching the segment terminus at a yellow-blazed Trail post on the northeast side of the intersection of Shady Oak Lane and Mid Town Road.

To reach the Madison Segment, hikers should follow a 1.8-mile connecting route by heading east on Mid Town Road and then turning right and heading south on Woods Road.

From the access point on Woods Road the Madison Segment makes its way eastward through woods located between the 10th and 11th holes of University Ridge, the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s golf course. Please respect the Trail host by walking quietly when passing by those enjoying a round of golf.

The segment emerges briefly from the woods and crosses the cart path that leads to the 10th-hole tee before continuing southwest through another wooded area. The segment emerges again from the woods and intersects with another paved path; hikers can turn left and access the golf course’s clubhouse, which features water, restrooms and a snack bar. Ice Age Trail hikers are welcome to use the clubhouse.

Shortly after crossing the road to the clubhouse hikers will come to another path, this one leading to the golf course’s lower parking area. Hikers parking in the lower parking area can use this path to access the Trail.

The segment continues southeast through a grassland area located west of the golf course’s 1st hole, bends east and passes between the tee boxes for the 2nd and 9th holes and then intersects and follows the cart path that passes behind the 8th hole green. The segment travels through a small wooded area and again crosses the cart path between the 7th and 8th holes. It makes its way up a moraine and continues north through grassland before bending east and cutting through woods adjacent to the golf course’s practice area.

The segment exits the woods, reaches a large grassy field and climbs to the top of another glacial moraine with expansive views. The segment passes through one last small patch of woods before intersecting with a path that leads northeast to the University’s Noer Turfgrass Research Center. Hikers should follow the center’s driveway to CTH-M (Pleasant View Road), turn left and briefly walk north along CTH-M (Pleasant View Road) to Flagstone Drive.

Note: CTH-M (Pleasant View Road) is a very busy road with high-speed traffic despite a 35 mph speed limit. Those hiking the full segment should exercise extreme caution when making the ¼-mile connection along CTH-M between the Noer Center’s driveway and Flagstone Drive to the north. Those hiking only a portion of the segment either east or west of CTH-M are strongly advised to park vehicles west (in the Noer Center lot) or east (on Flagstone Drive) of CTH-M, depending on which portion will be hiked.
The segment continues east from CTH-M on Flagstone Drive. After a short distance the segment departs from Flagstone Drive and heads southeast through a field full of tall grasses and wildflowers and then a small wooded area. The segment crosses Raymond Road, passes along the west side of a large drainage basin and makes its way due south into a small aspen and oak grove that gives way to prairie. \textit{Note: Along the north/south stretch between Raymond Road and CTH-PD, a multi-use paved path separate from the Ice Age Trail parallels the segment a short distance to the west.}

Passing through an area of native grasses and wildflowers that is part of a restoration project begun by Veridian Homes, the segment bends east and joins a paved multi-use walkway. The segment parallels CTH-PD (McKee Road) to reach South High Point Road for a safer crossing of CTH-PD (McKee Road) at the stoplight. After crossing to the south side of CTH-PD (McKee Road), hikers should continue south a short distance on the Ice Age Junction Bicycle Pedestrian Trail. The segment leaves the main paved pathway and makes a right to go west on the paved access pathway to the parking area for the Ice Age Junction Area and the segment’s endpoint.

\section*{AREA SERVICES}

\textbf{University Ridge Golf Course}: Restaurant. On Trail. Open seasonally (9002 CTH-PD, Madison, 608-845-7700 or 800-897-4343, universityridge.com).

\textbf{Madison}: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical care. INN Style program lodging at the Arbor House, Ltd. (608-238-2981, arbor-house.com). Outfitter/camping supplies at REI (608-833-6680, rei.com/stores/madison) behind West Towne Mall. Area info available from the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce (608-256-8348, greatermadisonchamber.com).

\textbf{Mendota County Park}: See Table Bluff and Cross Plains Segment, p. 216. From the CTH-PD (McKee Rd.) Trail access go west then north ~10 mil.

\textbf{Middleton}: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical care. From the CTH-M Trail access, go north on CTH-M 2.5 mi. At CTH-S (Mineral Point Rd.) turn right and go east 0.3 mi. At USH-12 go north 2.6 mi to the USH-14 Exit. Area info available from the Middleton Chamber of Commerce (608-827-5797, middletonchamber.com).

\textbf{Verona}: See Verona Segment, p. 224. From the CTH-PD (McKee Rd.) Trail access go west then south ~3 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.