Map 14f

Rusk and Chippewa counties

Includes Island, McCann, Chain, Round, and Salisbury lakes, Potato Creek State Wildlife Area, Round Lake County Park, and Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve

1 : 48,000 scale

Ice Age Trail
Connecting Route
Future Trail
Other Trail

[Map showing the Ice Age Trail in Rusk and Chippewa counties, including various lakes and parks]
Chippewa Moraine Segment
7.6 mi

Harwood Lakes Segment
6.1 mi

Includes Island, McCann, Chain, Round, and Salisbury lakes, Potato Creek State Wildlife Area, Round Lake County Park, and Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve
Chippewa County

Atlas maps 14f–19f; Guidebook pages 50–63
Total miles: 56.3 (Trail 20.8; Connecting Route 37.5)

152.9 Rusk/Chippewa county line on Plummer Rd. (Round Lake Rd.) (117th St.)
157.0 Round Lake Rd. (117th St.)/STH-40
157.9 STH-40/267th Ave. (Oak Ln.)

CR—5.7 mi

Atlas Map 14f

158.6 Chippewa Moraine Segment
Trail Access ➤➤
267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) (CH16)
159.7 Western junction (CH15) with the Circle Trail
160.2 Spur trail (CH25) to walk-in campsite ➤➤
160.6 David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center ➤➤
161.4 Spur trail (CH26) to walk-in campsite (200 ft northwest of CTH-M crossing) ➤➤
161.8 Eastern junction with the Circle Trail
162.4 144th St. (Ice Age Dr.)
163.8 Earthen bridge at south side of Dam Lake
165.3 160th St. (Town Line Rd.)
165.8 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.) [join for 0.2 mi] ➤➤

Note: Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

Round Lake County Park:
On Route on Round Lake Rd.

Morris-Erickson County Park:
From Round Lake Rd. (117 St.)/STH-40 go 2 mi off route north on STH-40 (28561 STH-40, New Auburn, 715-726-7882, reservations.co.chippewa.wi.us/parks/camping).

Loon Lake Campground:
From the connecting route on STH-40 at 270th Ave. (Town Shop Rd.) go west 1.4 mi. At 100th St. (Axehandle Rd.) go north 1 mi. At 280th Ave. (Long Lake Rd.) go east 0.1 mi (10279 280th Ave., New Auburn, 715-967-2148, loonlake-campground.com).

Salisbury Resort:
From STH-40/269th Ave. go east 0.1 mi on 269th Ave. to campground (11408 269th Ave, New Auburn, 715-967-2782).

New Auburn:
From STH-40/267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) go 0.7 mi south on STH-40. Convenience store at STH-40/CTH-M. Village of New Auburn, 6 mi west on CTH-M, has a PO, cafe and convenience store.

Chippewa Moraine Segment
7.6 mi • Atlas Map 15f

267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) access (CH16): From USH-53 take the CTH-M/New Auburn exit (Exit 118). Take CTH-M east for 7.0 mi. At STH-40 turn left and go north 0.7 mi. At 267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) turn right and go east 0.7 mi to the Trail access on the south side of the road. Roadside parking just west of the Trail access. No overnight parking.

Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve and the David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center:
On Trail. (13394 CTH-M, New Auburn; 715-967-2800, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/chipmoraine/naturecenter.html).

Parking:
(i) At the Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve’s David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center off CTH-M. (ii) Circle Hiking Trail parking area on CTH-M near western boundary of Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve. Note: No parking at CTH-M. Trail access farther east.

Camping:
Check in at Interpretive Center. No water at campsites (fee).

The Ice Age Interpretive Center has area maps and information, interactive activities. Open year-round Tuesday to Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed Monday). Three loop trails share parts of the IAT. These trails feature interpretive signs described in Hiking Field Trip Guide for Glacial Landforms, available at the center.

Chippewa Moraine Reserve primitive camping:
Indicated as green dotted area on Atlas map 15f and Guidebook p. 54, 55 (715-967-2800, dnr.wi.gov/tropic/parks/name/chipmoraine/naturecenter.html). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.) parking: From where the Trail heads off-road on the north side of 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.) go west 0.2 mi. Parking area in the corner of a field. Overnight parking permitted.
Chippewa County

166.2 Chippewa Moraine Segment and Harwood Lakes Segment Trail Access ➤➤
167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) (CH18)

981.2 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) access (CH18): From USH-53 take the CTH-M/New Auburn exit (Exit 118). Take CTH-M east 12.6 mi. At 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) turn right and go south 0.8 mi to the Trail access on the west side of the road just south of the intersection with 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.). No parking. Instead, park at the Plummer Lake boat launch, 0.2 mi south on 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.). Parking area on the west side of the road near the boat landing area. No overnight parking. Note: The segment continues east off-road almost directly across from the parking area.

Note: Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. Camping is not permitted on the Chippewa Moraine Reserve from Plummer Lake Rd. to the Harwood Lakes area. The eastern portion crossing private land between the eastern boundary of the Chippewa County Forest and CTH-E is closed during gun deer season.


166.3 Depart 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) — across from the Plummer Lake boat launch and parking area ①

981.0 CTH-E access (CH19): From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 1.0 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 5.0 mi. At CTH-E turn right and go north 3.0 mi. Roadside parking.

Note: Use caution as this is a narrow, curvy road.

Atlas Map 16f

167.2 Harwood Lakes overlook bench (CH17) [200 ft west of spur trail to walk-in campsite] ➤➤

980.1 Harwood Lakes Segment Trail Access ➤➤

CTH-E (CH19) ▼▼

167.6 Bridge (CH27) and boardwalk overlooking Mud Brook Valley

979.7

168.5 Boardwalk (CH9) over a low wet area

978.9

168.9 Deer Fly Trail (a gravel road) ▼▼

978.4

169.5 Bridge (CH8) spanning small gulch

977.9

171.0 Leopold bench (CH24) overlooking bog

976.4

171.6 Western end of loop trail (CH22) to Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) on Picnic Lake ➤➤

975.8

172.3 S ➤ Harwood Lakes Segment Trail Access ➤➤

CTH-E (CH19) ▼▼

975.0

172.9 E ➤ CTH-E/245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail) ▼▼

N ➤

974.5

Atlas Map 16f

245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail) access (CH20): From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 1.0 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 5.0 mi. At CTH-E turn right and go north 3.0 mi. Roadside parking.

Note: Use caution as this is a narrow, curvy road.

174.1 Firth Lake Segment Trail Access ➤➤

245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail) (CH20) ▼▼

973.2 W ➤

245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail) access (CH20): From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 0.9 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 5.0 mi. At CTH-E turn right and go north 2.0 mi. At 245th Ave. turn right and go 0.9 mi. Roadside parking. Note: Use caution as this is a narrow, curvy road.
### Chippewa County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firth Lake Segment 8.4 mi • Atlas Map 16f</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>175.6 245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail)</td>
<td>971.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177.6 Bench (CH29) overlooking stream</td>
<td>969.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177.9 Blue-blazed spur trail (CH5) to the 250th Ave. parking area and boat launch ➤➤</td>
<td>969.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178.4 Boardwalk at south end of Firth Lake</td>
<td>969.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>179.3 Join blue-blazed connector trail</td>
<td>968.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180.1 Blue-blazed trail/250th Ave.</td>
<td>967.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181.3 250th Ave./CTH-CC</td>
<td>966.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

### Chippewa County Forest primitive camping:⚠ indicated as green dotted area on Atlas map 16f and Guidebook p. 60, 61. Chippewa County Forest (715-726-7920, co.chippewa.wi.us /government/land-conservation-forest-management). Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

### 250th Ave. parking area and Firth Lake boat launch: Down a gravel drive south of 250th Ave. Best accessed from the east (CTH-CC). From the parking area, walk around a gate and follow the access trail 0.2 mi to the Ice Age Trail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chippewa River Segment 1.9 mi • Atlas Map 16f</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>182.5 Firth Lake Segment and Chippewa River Segment Trail Access ➤➤</td>
<td>964.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTH-CC (CH21) depart CTH-CC on east side</td>
<td>N ➤➤</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

### CTH-CC Perch Lake parking area: Located on the west side of CTH-CC, 0.2 mi south of the IAT at CTH-CC entering the Krank Nature Preserve. And 0.3 mi north of CTH-CC/CTH-Z intersection. No direct access to IAT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chippewa River Segment 1.9 mi • Atlas Map 16f</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>183.2 CTH-CC (CH2) enter Krank Nature Preserve ➤➤</td>
<td>964.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>183.5 Stream (CH23) in deep ravine</td>
<td>963.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Chippewa River Segment Trail Access ➤➤ | 963.0 |
| CTH-Z (CH1) depart |  |

### CTH-Z access (CH1): From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 0.9 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 0.1 mi to the Trail access on the north side of the road. Roadside parking on the south side of CTH-Z.
Chippewa County

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CR—26.7 mi</th>
<th>CTH-Z/CTH-CC</th>
<th>962.9</th>
<th>S → W</th>
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<tr>
<td>185.4</td>
<td>CTH-CC/Bridge St. (STH-64)</td>
<td>962.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>185.6</td>
<td>Bridge St. (STH-64)/enter Mill Yard Park</td>
<td>961.7</td>
<td>N ← S</td>
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<tr>
<td>185.9</td>
<td>Depart Mill Yard Park at Park Rd./Main St.</td>
<td>961.5</td>
<td>E ← S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186.2</td>
<td>Main St./S. 5th St.: Cornell</td>
<td>961.2</td>
<td>S ← W</td>
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<tr>
<td>186.4</td>
<td>S. 5th St./Bridge St. (STH-64 &amp; 27)</td>
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<td>E ← N</td>
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<tr>
<td>186.6</td>
<td>Bridge St. (STH-64 &amp; 27)/265th St. (S. 8th St.)</td>
<td>960.8</td>
<td>W ← S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187.7</td>
<td>265th St. (S. 8th St.)/210th Ave. (Rufledt Rd.)</td>
<td>959.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>189.5</td>
<td>210th Ave. (Rufledt Rd.)/CTH-EE</td>
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<td>195.1</td>
<td>CTH-EE/155th Ave.</td>
<td>952.2</td>
<td>E ← N</td>
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<tr>
<td>196.4</td>
<td>155th Ave. (Pike Lake Rd.) [becomes 295th St. (Pike Lake Rd.)]</td>
<td>950.9</td>
<td>W ← E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196.8</td>
<td>295th St. (Pike Lake Rd.)/157th Ave. (Pike Lake Rd.)</td>
<td>950.5</td>
<td>SW ← NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>198.2</td>
<td>157th Ave./CTH-D</td>
<td>949.2</td>
<td>W ← S</td>
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<tr>
<td>198.9</td>
<td>CTH-D/150th Ave.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>200.1</td>
<td>150th Ave./CTH-S</td>
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<td>N ← W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200.6</td>
<td>CTH-S/155th Ave.</td>
<td>946.7</td>
<td>E ← S</td>
</tr>
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<td>155th Ave./CTH-G</td>
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<td>S ← E</td>
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<td>203.3</td>
<td>CTH-G/145th Ave.</td>
<td>944.0</td>
<td>N ← S</td>
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<td>204.4</td>
<td>145th Ave./350th St.</td>
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<td>W ← E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205.9</td>
<td>350th St./130th Ave.</td>
<td>941.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>207.4</td>
<td>130th Ave./CTH-H</td>
<td>940.0</td>
<td>W ← N</td>
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<tr>
<td>211.2</td>
<td>Chippewa/Taylor county line at CTH-H/165th Ave. (CTH-F in Taylor Co.)</td>
<td>936.2</td>
<td>S ← E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mill Yard Park: 🌳أشياء 🌲 On Route on STH-64 east of the Chippewa River. In the park are the Cornell Area Visitor Center and the “Stacker,” an enormous crane used in the 19th century to hoist logs from the river to the sawmill.

Brunet Island State Park: 🌳أشياء 🌲 From the route leaving Mill Yard Park at Park Rd., take Park Rd. north 1.6 mi (23125 255th St., 715-239-6888, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/brunetisland; reservations: 888-947-2757, wisconsin.goingtocamp.com).

Cornell (54732): 🌳أشياء 🌲 On Route. Most services on Main St. or Bridge St. (STH-64 & 27).

Pike Lake area:

290th St. near 155th Ave. (Pike Lake Rd.) 🌳أشياء 🌲
295th St. (Pike Lake Rd.): Adams Acres Kamperland (15627 290th St. [Kaska Rd., 715-559-8881]) and Pike Lake Resort (15990 292nd St., 715-667-5224).

296th St. near 295th St. (Pike Lake Rd.)/157th Ave. (Pike Lake Rd.): Jim & Patty’s Shady Nook Resort and Campground (16061 296th St. [Shady Nook Rd.], 715-667-3878).

Otter Lake area at CTH-H/165th Ave.:

Otter Lake County Park: 🌳أشياء 🌲 From CTH at 165th Ave., take 165th Ave. west 1.2 mi. At 170th Ave. go north 1 mi to park entrance (170th Ave. & Otter Lake Rd., Stanley, WI 54768, 715-726-7882, reservations.co.chippewa.wi.us/parks/camping/).

Otter Lake Cabins: 🌳أشياء 🌲 From CTH at 165th Ave. take CTH-H south 0.8 mi. At 157th Ave. go west 0.4 mi to 366th St. (15677 366th St., Stanley, WI 54768, 715-644-3418, otterlakecabins.com).

Stanley (54768): 🌳أشياء 🌲 From CTH at 165th Ave. take CTH-H south 9 mi.

Chippewa Moraine Segment
(Atlas Map 15f; Databook pages 15–16)

SNAPSHOT
7.6 miles: 267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) to 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.)

This very scenic segment passes near more than 20 kettle lakes and highlights several significant ice-walled lake plains, including the one the Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center is built on.

- At the Obey Interpretive Center.
- From numerous lakes.
- Primitive camping on portions of the Chippewa Moraine Reserve. Two walk-in campsites near the Interpretive Center.
- A small private campground and a county park campground are located north of the western endpoint (see Area Services).

Restrooms are available at the Obey Interpretive Center and at the two walk-in campsites (privy) just off the Trail. Please respect those who have reserved the sites.

- Two ColdCache sites on segment.
- Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

Small portion overlaps 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.).

Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve trail network. Spur trails (CH25, CH26) to walk-in campsites.
TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

267th Ave. (Oak Ln.): From USH-53 take the CTH-M/New Auburn exit (Exit 118). Take CTH-M east for 7.0 mi. At STH-40 turn left and go north 0.7 mi. At 267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) turn right and go east 0.7 mi to the Trail access on the south side of the road. Roadside parking just west of the Trail access. No overnight parking.

167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.): From USH-53 take the CTH-M/New Auburn exit (Exit 118). Go east 12.6 mi on CTH-M. At 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) turn right and go south 1.0 mi to the parking area on the west side of the road near the boat landing area. No overnight parking. The segment begins 0.2 mi north on Plummer Lake Rd. just south of the intersection with 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.).

Additional Parking: (i) Circle Hiking Trail parking area on CTH-M near western boundary of Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve. (No parking at CTH-M Trail access farther east.) (ii) Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve’s David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center off CTH-M. (iii) 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.) parking area 0.2 mi west of where the Trail heads off on the north side of the road. Parking area in the corner of a field. Overnight parking permitted.

THE HIKE

This segment traverses dramatic high-relief hummocky terrain with numerous scenic kettle lakes. The first portion of the segment travels through the North of North Shattuck Lake State Natural Area, a southern dry mesic forest. This area is heavily used by birds during spring migration, including red-headed woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers, American redstarts, yellow-throated vireos and eastern wood-pewees.

From its starting point on 267th Avenue (Oak Lane) the segment heads east and soon reaches the northern tip of the first of two lakes named “Horseshoe” that hikers will pass while hiking the segment. On the way toward the southeastern corner of the lake the segment climbs a hill; during leaf-off seasons hikers can see five bays from this point. Coming down from the hill the segment soon intersects the western junction (CH15) of the Chippewa Moraine Reserve’s Circle Trail. To stay on the Ice Age Trail, hikers should turn left at this junction and continue east. This is the first junction with the reserve’s other trails; signage is excellent throughout the trail network making it easy for hikers to navigate.

After the segment passes between North Shattuck Lake and the aptly named North of North Shattuck Lake, the route bends south and soon intersects (CH25) a spur trail that leads 750 feet to a walk-in campsite. This is one of two walk-in campsites on the reserve, each with a privy and fire ring. Hikers wanting to spend a night at either site should first check in at the interpretive center; there is a small fee.

A short distance south of the campsite spur the segment intersects the reserve’s Dry Lake Trail and Mammoth Nature Trail, which branch off the Ice Age Trail route to the east. From this junction the Ice Age Trail continues southeast toward the interpretive center.
From the interpretive center, the segment heads north and wraps around the northern tip of a small lake, then continues southeast toward CTH-M. A short distance before the CTH-M crossing the segment intersects (CH26) a 300-foot spur trail leading north to the reserve’s second walk-in campsite.

East of CTH-M the segment reaches the eastern junction with the Circle Trail and passes another scenic cluster of lakes before crossing 144th Street (Ice Age Drive). As the segment makes its way east, it crosses an earthen bridge on the south end of Dam Lake, skirts the north shore of the segment’s second Horseshoe Lake and crosses 160th Street (Town Line Road).

The Trail shortly arrives at a bench overlooking Dumke Lake (CH12). The view here can give a hiker a visual appreciation of how ice-walled lake plains formed.

During the Wisconsin Glaciation period, small lakes filled depressions in the ice surface and became walled off by enormous ice blocks. Lakes often formed on debris-covered parts of the glacier, and over time, fine sediment accumulated on the lake’s floor. When the ice surrounding the lake melted, the sediment that accumulated in the lake remained. This formed a high, flat-topped area on the landscape. Often dish-shaped, these plateau-like areas have rich soil for farming. The coarse material deposited near the ice block wall and glacial lake’s shoreline forms a higher rim-like ridge around the lake plain. After the glacial lake drained, parts of the ice wall continued to melt and water flowed across the now dry lakebed, carving a channel that the segment crosses just east of the bench. The channel actually flowed away from Dumke Lake, demonstrating that the ice wall continued to melt long after the original glacial lake was dry. The ice block disappeared last, leaving Dumke Lake well below.

From Dumke Lake the segment continues east across the ice-walled lake plain, intersects and briefly follows 260th Avenue (Rattlesnake Hill Road) and passes one final lake (Plummer) before reaching the segment’s terminus at 167th Street (Plummer Lake Road).

POINTS OF INTEREST

Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve and the David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center: On Trail. (13394 CTH-M, New Auburn, 715-967-2800, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/chipmoraine

The Ice Age Interpretive Center has many hands-on and interactive activities, including activity books, short films and various displays about geologic, cultural and natural history. The Center is generally open year-round Tuesday to Sunday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (closed Monday) and has maps, restrooms, drinking water and helpful staff. Three loop trails start here and share parts of the Ice Age Trail: Circle Trail (4.5 mi), Dry Lake Trail (1.8 mi) and Mammoth Nature Trail (0.7 mi). These trails feature numerous interpretive signs described in Hiking Field Trip Guide for Glacial Landforms, available at the Center.

AREA SERVICES

Bloomer: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, lodging, library, medical services. From the 267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) Trail access, go west on 267th Ave. (Oak Ln.) 0.7 mi. At STH-40, turn left and go south 11.3 mi. Lodging at Bloomer Inn and Suites (715-568-3234, bloomerinn.com).

Chippewa Moraine National Scientific Reserve and the David R. Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center: On Trail. (13394 CTH-M, New Auburn, 715-967-2800, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/chipmoraine
SNAPSHOT

6.1 miles: 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) to CTH-E

This beautiful segment features large beaver dams, a massive glacial erratic and several scenic pristine lakes and wetland areas.

- From numerous lakes, streams/creeks and wetland areas.
- A walk-in campsite 🏕 between the two Harwood Lakes, a Dispersed Camping Area ⛺ near the west shore of Picnic Lake and primitive camping on county forest lands.
- One ColdCache site on segment.
- A portion of the segment crossing private land between the eastern boundary of the Chippewa County Forest and CTH-E is closed during gun deer season.
- Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.
- Portions overlap Plummer Lake Rd., the Nawakwa equestrian trail, and logging and forest roads.
- Spur trail to walk-in campsite at Harwood Lakes, blue-blazed loop trail (CH22) to the DCA and Girl Scout Camp Nawakwa trail network.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.): From USH-53 take the CTH-M/New Auburn exit (Exit 118). Take CTH-M east for 12.6 mi. At 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) turn right and go south 1.0 mi to the parking area on the west side of the road near the boat landing area. No overnight parking. The segment begins 0.2 mi north on Plummer Lake Rd. just south of the intersection with 260th Ave. (Rattlesnake Hill Rd.).

CTH-E: From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 1.0 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 5.0 mi. At CTH-E turn right and go north 3.0 mi. Roadside parking.

Additional Parking: Deer Fly Trail. From CTH-M and Deer Fly Trail (gravel road), go south 2.6 mi on Deer Fly Trail to the parking area on west side of road.

Living in the UK and growing up in Germany, meeting animals like porcupines and bears just isn’t something that happens as you’re strolling through the woods. So certainly, it was an experience and memory to treasure for a lifetime.

JILL RAGER (AKA “GRITSCONSIN”), ICE AGE TRAIL THOUSAND-MILER

Harwood Lakes Segment (Atlas Maps 15f, 16f; Databook page 16)
From the segment's starting point on 167th Street (Plummer Lake Road) just south of the road's intersection with 260th Avenue (Rattlesnake Hill Road) hikers should head south along the road for 0.2 miles across a narrow causeway between Plummer Lake and a wetland. Across from the Trail access parking area the segment then departs from the road and heads east through the easternmost portion of the Chippewa Moraine Reserve property, which is relatively flat compared with the dramatic high-relief hummocky topography of the remainder of the segment. The wide path enters a second-growth forest with a high canopy and diverse understory of ferns and woodland plants. Note: Camping is not permitted on Reserve property from Plummer Lake Road to the campsite (CH11) between the two Harwood Lakes.

The segment leaves the Reserve and enters Chippewa County Forest lands just before arriving at a bench (CH17) that provides lovely views of the Harwood Lakes. About 200 feet east of the bench, a spur trail leads north steeply downhill to a small but picturesque walk-in campsite (CH11) (no privy) on the narrows between the two Harwood Lakes.

East of the Harwood Lakes in rolling topography, the segment crosses Mud Brook on a serpentine boardwalk/bridge (CH27) built by Mobile Skills Crew volunteers. The boardwalk and bridge includes a bench where hikers can relax and look out at Mud Brook Valley. The Trail briefly follows along the edge of the wetland and soon climbs steeply to the top of a well-defined hummocky ridge then drops down to follow alongside a swamp. Along the north side of the Trail, hikers may detect ruts from when loggers cut trenches in the ground and filled
them with water to create iced tracks to run their logging sleds on.

The segment crosses a boardwalk/bridge (CH9) over a low wet area and passes a bench offering a quiet respite as it sits near the boardwalk surrounded by several old white pine trees.

The Trail climbs up out of the swamp and crosses a distinctive county ATV trail. It then crosses a bridge over a small stream, outlines the edge of another swamp/wetland area with toppled trees exposing their roots and soon arrives at Deer Fly Trail (a gravel road).

East of Deer Fly Trail, the segment passes a massive glacial erratic just 40 feet off trail and shortly crosses a footbridge at the base of a beaver dam. The dam creates a flowage to the south with several heron nests. The segment then continues to another bridge (CH8) spanning a small gulch. The bridge is named “Kim’s Crossing” in memory of Kim Heidtke. Kim’s family funded the bridge project to commemorate her love of the Ice Age Trail. This spot was home to an earthen beaver dam until backed up water overtook the dam and carved the gulch in its place. A wetland pond remains as habitat for waterfowl and other wetland creatures.

Moving along, the Trail quickly intersects and briefly overlaps an equestrian trail and soon skirts along the edge of a logged area. Leaving the logged area, the Trail meanders through the woods and soon comes to a Leopold bench (CH24) with a panoramic view of a tamarack bog. The Trail drops to a small intermittent stream with a rock crossing and immediately rises again, affording views of a small, isolated pond. Shortly after, the segment intersects (CH22) the western end of a marked loop trail that leads to a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) for long-distance, multiday hikers. The site has a fire pit and log benches and is located on Girl Scout Camp Nawakwa property.

Continuing on the Trail, the segment passes the eastern end of the loop trail that leads to the DCA and quickly reaches a bridge on private property spanning an intermittent stream draining into Picnic Lake. Crossing the bridge, the Trail is back on Girl Scout property as it wraps around the eastern edge of Picnic Lake with many views of the pristine lake. In times of high water, portions of the Trail along Picnic Lake can become wet and flooded, requiring hikers to take brief detours. Just before reaching its terminus on CTH-E, the Trail skirts above a scenic hemlock-rimmed pond.

Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2013, 2014, 2018

AREA SERVICES

New Auburn: See Chippewa Moraine Segment, p. 54. From the 167th St. (Plummer Lake Rd.) Trail access go north and west ~13 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

Cornell: See Firth Lake Segment and Chippewa River Segment, p. 60. From the CTH-E Trail access go south and east 9.0 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.
SNAPSHOT

Firth Lake Segment—8.4 miles (5.2 IAT, 3.2 CR): 245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail) to CTH-CC
Chippewa River Segment—1.9 miles (1.8 IAT, 0.1 CR): CTH-CC to CTH-Z

**The Firth Lake Segment**, an interesting and scenic hike, crosses an ice-walled lake plain and beaver dams in a generally forested setting and highlights beautiful Firth Lake.

- From Firth Lake and a few intermittent streams/creeks.
- Primitive camping on county forest lands.
- Two ColdCache sites on segment.
- Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.

**The short Chippewa River Segment** highlights Perch Lake and features dramatic views of the Chippewa River.

- From the Chippewa River and Perch Lake.
- At nearby Brunet Island State Park (see Area Services).
- At nearby Millyard Park, Brunet Island State Park and the Cornell Visitor Center. Picnic area and playground also available at Brunet Falls Park.
- Dogs should be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times.
- Small portion overlaps CTH-CC.

- Portions overlap logging/forest roads and a blue-blazed connector trail.
- A short blue-blazed spur trail to a parking area next to Firth Lake and a blue-blazed spur trail to 250th Ave. connecting route.

**TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING**

245th Ave. (Moonridge Trail): From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 0.9 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 5.0 mi. At CTH-E turn right and go north 2.0 mi. At 245th Ave. turn right and go 0.9 mi. Roadside parking. **Note: Use caution as this is a narrow, curvy road.**

CTH-Z: From Cornell take STH-64 west across the Chippewa River. At CTH-CC turn right and go north 0.9 mi. At CTH-Z turn left and go west 0.1 mi to the Trail access on the north side of the road. Roadside parking on the south side of CTH-Z.

Additional Parking: (i) 250th Ave. parking area and boat launch, located south down a gravel drive. Best accessed from the east (CTH-CC). From the parking area, walk around a gate and follow the access trail 0.2 mi to the Ice Age Trail. (ii) CTH-CC parking area on east side of road, 1.2 mi north of CTH-Z intersection. (iii) Perch Lake parking area on the west side of CTH-CC, 0.3 mi north of CTH-Z intersection. **Note: No direct access to the IAT.**
The Firth Lake Segment traverses a second-growth northern mesic forest of birch, red maple, ash and balsam, with an understory of fern, clintonia, blue bead lily, bloodroot, Indian pipe and red baneberry. There are board bridges throughout this segment as it can be very wet in spring due to beaver activity in the many lakes and ponds.

From its starting point on 245th Avenue (Moonridge Trail) to Firth Lake, the segment traverses rolling high-relief hummocky topography. Heading north and then east, the segment reaches a bridge (CH6) near a small stream; just beyond the bridge hikers can look north to a view of trailing arbutus on the north slope of the moraine.

After crossing 245th Avenue (Moonridge Trail), the segment quickly intersects and follows logging roads for 0.4 miles. The Trail then turns sharply left on single-track tread and passes a scenic pond with a bench where hikers can relax. The Trail soon climbs a rise overlooking a beaver dam and flowage.

Continuing, the segment meanders through hardwood forest and areas of aspen, briefly overlapping old forest roads. The Trail rock-hops across a small stream, climbs out of the ravine and travels alongside the babbling stream. The segment quickly comes to a bench (CH29) overlooking the stream where hikers can rest and enjoy the sounds of the stream and the forest.

Continuing on, the seg-
ment makes its way toward Firth Lake, crossing an ATV trail (follow the ATV trail 50 feet to the right) and passes through a grooved-top ridge, a glacial feature characterized by two parallel ridges separated by a trench-like linear depression. Shortly, the segment intersects (CH5) a blue-blazed spur trail heading north to the 250th Avenue parking area and boat launch. From the spur trail junction, the segment turns sharply to the south and climbs a hill with a bench overlooking Firth Lake.

Leaving behind the high-relief hummocky topography, the segment skirts the southwest side of Firth Lake, a shallow kettle lake situated in an outwash plain. Located within the Firth Lake State Ice Age Trail Area, the 52-acre lake is surrounded by a northern sedge meadow and is home to water lilies, cattails, swamp milkweed, beaver lodges and loons.

The segment crosses a 500-foot boardwalk, over an old beaver dam that hikers should traverse cautiously and continues east into low-relief hummocky topography, crossing two bridges over small streams along the way. After reentering the Chippewa County Forest, the Trail turns left on a blue-blazed connector trail that leads north to 250th Avenue. The hike joins the connector trail north for 0.7 miles transitioning from a single-track trail to a forest road on its way to 250th Avenue. The segment continues as a connecting roadwalk east on 250th Avenue for 1.2 miles. At CTH-CC turn right and go south 1.2 miles to the large CTH-CC Ice Age Trail parking area on the east side of the road.

*Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2017*

The **Chippewa River Segment** starts out from the large CTH-CC parking area and heads south through a forest featuring stunning Chippewa River views from the edge of rolling bluffs, with braided, steep topography and vertical gains up to 70 feet. Several deep ravines transect the segment west to east and water drains seasonally to the river. The forest cover includes various species of ash, oak and maple, with an undergrowth of several varieties of seasonal woodland flowers.

After passing through the thin strip of land between the road and river, the segment reemerges onto CTH-CC, where hikers will follow the road south for 350 feet.

The segment resumes an off-road course (CH2) by heading west from CTH-CC into the Krank Nature Preserve. The Trail climbs a hill, shortly turns to the south and makes its way to a deep ravine and the crossing (CH23) of a picturesque stream. The segment continues to head south through the woods, crosses a power line right-of-way and soon reaches Perch Lake. It bends around the western shore of Perch Lake, then steers southeast away from the lake to the segment’s endpoint on CTH-Z.

*Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2006, 2014*

**AREA SERVICES**

**Cornell:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, lodging, camping, library, medical service.

From the CTH-Z Trail access, go east 0.2 mi. At CTH-CC turn right and go south 1.0 mi. At STH-64 turn left and go east 0.6 mi. Most services are on Bridge St. (STH-64/27) or 1 block north on Main St. Camping at Brunet Island State Park (715-239-6888, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/brunetisland; reservations: 888-947-2757, wisconsin.goingtocamp.com).