

Cornell Segment (Atlas Map 17f)

SNAPSHOT

 **1.5 miles:** Bridge St. (STH-64) to S. 8th St.



At Mill Yard Park and at Jean Brunet City Park.



At Brunet Island State Park.



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



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



Portions of this segment may be suitable for those using wheelchairs or similar devices.

TRAIL ACCESS & PARKING

① Bridge St. (STH-64) Trail Access (45.16538, -91.15572): In Cornell, 0.1 mi east of Chippewa River. **Parking:** Adjacent to Trail Access in Cornell Visitor Center parking area.

② S. 8th St. Trail Access (45.15849, -91.14179): From Cornell, at the intersection of STH-64 and S. 8th St., take S. 8th St. south 0.5 mi. **Parking:** Adjacent to Trail Access at Wisconsin Veteran Farm and Winery.

THE HIKE

Cornell, an Ice Age Trail Community, is strategically located at the confluence of the scenic Chippewa and Fisher Rivers. Children play in tree-shaded parks, and ice cream shops line Main Street of this small midwestern town that shares history and name with New York State's grand Ivy League University.

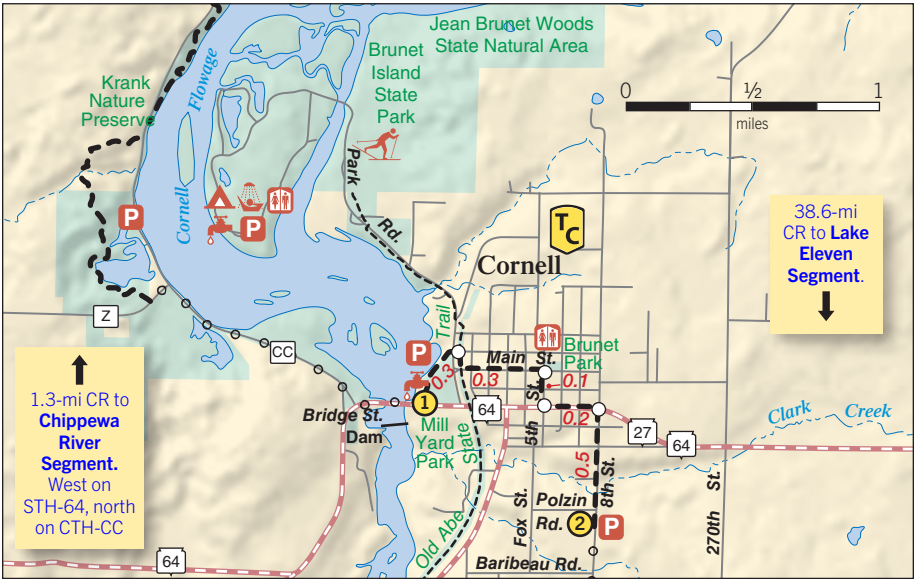
Cornell's history begins July 2, 1862, with President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Morrill Land Grant College Act. This legislation promised states between 90,000 and 990,000 acres of federally owned western land (obtained from Indigenous people through treaty, cession, or seizure) depending on the size of their congressional delegations. This land, or the proceeds from its sale, was for establishing colleges dedicated to teaching agriculture and the mechanic arts (engineering).

Enter Ezra Cornell, philanthropist and one of the founders of Western Union Telegraph Company. He managed the land acquisition resulting from the Morrill Act for New York State's land-grant college (now Cornell University), purchasing 500,000 acres of valuable northern Wisconsin timberland.

During Cornell's land scouting trips to Wisconsin, he met and befriended Jean Brunet, a French noble who, at age 27, immigrated to America in 1818. Brunet established the first sawmill along the Chippewa River (now the site of Chippewa Falls) and, by 1843, had established an inn and trading post at Brunet Falls (now Cornell). He is considered the founding settler of Chippewa Falls and Cornell.

Eventually, Ezra Cornell willed the land, the falls, and the site of what would become the City of Cornell to Cornell University. Over time, profits from logging, lumber, and the lands' eventual sale raised nearly \$6 million for the university in what became a historic land speculation deal.

The segment travels along the northwestern edge of Mill Yard Park, a former pulpwood storage site. It now hosts restrooms, playground equipment, and a Visitors' Center. It also features a 175-foot stacker that operated from 1912 until 1971, hoisting logs from the river to the sawmill. This homage to Wisconsin's timber industry is rooted in Ezra Cornell's



efforts to build a mill and town near the falls. He allocated 2,000 acres of forest land for a community – a future sawmill’s labor force – and sketched a plat map. The City of Cornell remains a lumber town. It is home to a truss company, a cabinetry company, and the mill, which produces roofing felt.

From the Trail access at Bridge Street (STH-64), head north. Then, cut across Mill Yard Park, following its northwestern edge to the junction of Park Road and Thomas Street. Head east on Thomas Street for half a block to its junction with the Old Abe Trail. Head south on this paved path for one block before turning east on Main Street. Stop at one or more ice cream shops before arriving at North 5th Street at the southwest corner of Jean Brunet City Park. Head south on South 5th Street for three blocks and then east onto Bridge Street, where stops at the local brewery, diner, and coffee shop are encouraged. Bridge Street also boasts a grocery store and a 24-hour laundromat. At South 8th Street, head south to the Wisconsin Veteran Farm, LLC & Winery’s parking lot, the segment’s endpoint.

AREA SERVICES

Tc Cornell: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, lodging, camping, library, post office, medical service. On Trail. Camping at Brunet Island State Park (reservations: 888-947-2757, wisconsin.goingtocamp.com). Area info available at the City of Cornell (715-239-3710, cityofcornell.com).