Chippewa Moraine Segment

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 Horse-shoe 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).

Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2004

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 /naturecenter.html).

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
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)

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.
The Ice Age Trail Guidebook 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 Ice Age Trail Atlas 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, 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.

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Please send this form to:

Ice Age Trail Alliance
PO Box 128
2110 Main Street
Cross Plains, WI 53528

5/25/2017