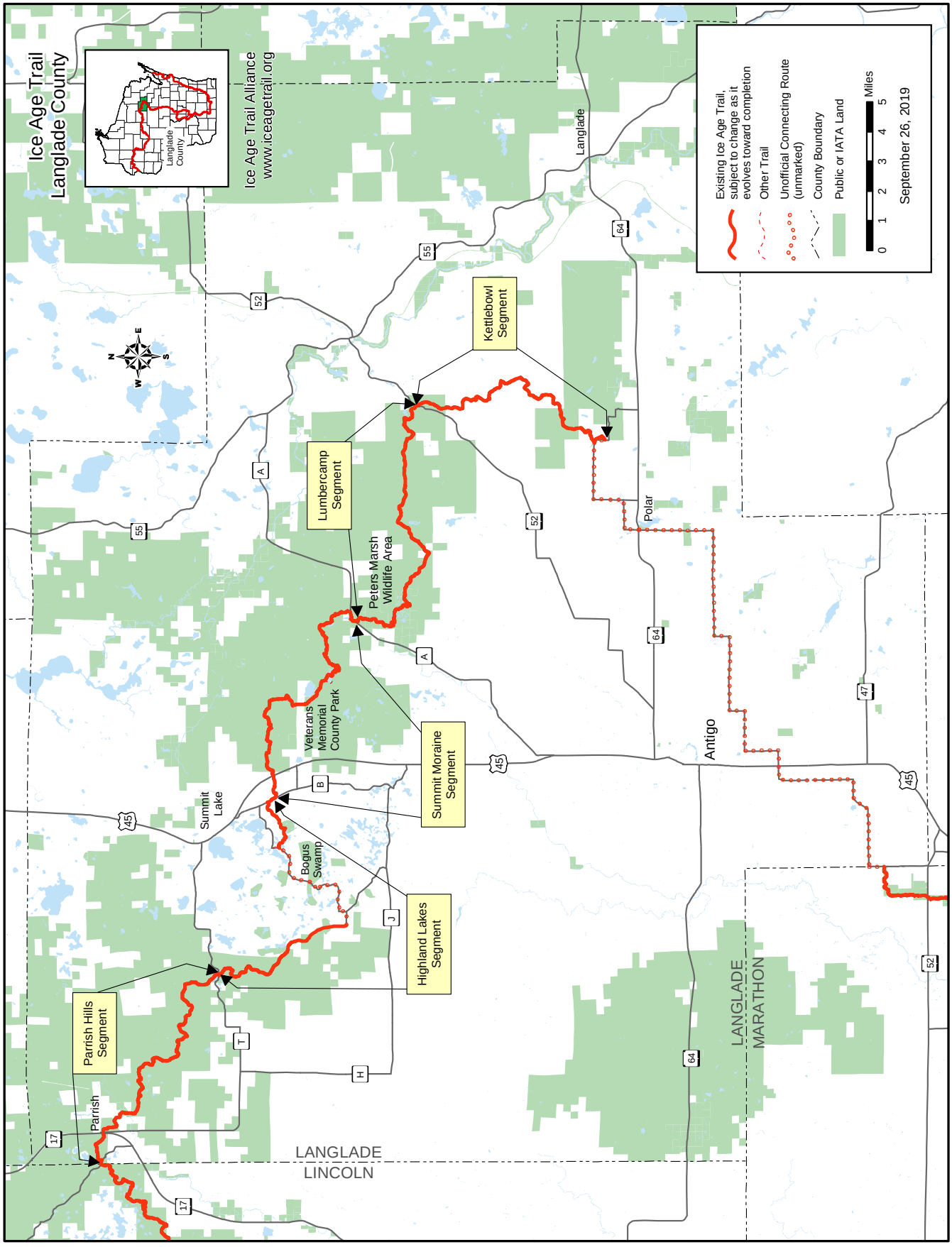
Langlade County



Summit Moraine Segment (Atlas Maps 33f, 34f; Databook pages 33–34)

SNAPSHOT

12.2 miles: CTH-B at snowmobile trail (old railroad grade) to CTH-A

Traveling near the outer edge of the Summit Moraine, this varied segment highlights the Jack Lake Ski Trails, Veterans Memorial Park and several scenic and remote lakes.

At Veterans Memorial Park. Portable toilet also available near the Jack Lake Ski Trails shelter.

From Game Lake, Upper Ventor Lake and several other lakes and ponds in the area.

Primitive camping on county forest lakes, walk-in site on Game Lake and a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) on Upper Ventor Lake.

Portion of segment crossing private land between CTH-B and USH-45/STH-47 is closed during gun deer season.

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

Portions overlap roads, Veterans Park campground road, logging/forest roads, snowmobile and ski trails.

Segment intersects Jack Lake Ski Trails and the Veterans Memorial Park trail network including Game Lake Nature Trail.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

CTH-B: From the north side of Antigo, at the intersection of USH-45/STH-47 and STH-64, take USH-45/STH-47 north 12.1 mi. At Koepenick Rd. turn left (CTH-J turns to the right) and go west 0.8 mi. At CTH-B turn right and go north 1.0 mi to a snowmobile crossing and the Trail access. No parking. Instead, park roadside along CTH-B at Camp Susan's gated entrance drive, 0.1 mi north on CTH-B. Parking permitted on the side of the access road. Do not block the gate!

CTH-A: From the north side of Antigo, at the intersection of USH-45/STH-47 with STH-64, take USH- 45/STH-47 north 3.5 mi. At CTH-A turn right and go northeast 8.6 mi to the Trail access. NO PARKING. Instead, park at the Peters Marsh Wildlife Area parking areas on the east side of CTH-A.

Additional Parking: (i) Jack Lake Cross-Country Ski Area. From the north side of Antigo at the intersection of USH-45/STH-47 with STH-64, take USH-45/STH-47 north 12.1 mi. At CTH-J turn right and go east 2.1 mi. (ii) Veterans Memorial Park (see Area Services, below). (iii) Pence Lake Rd. at the Trail crossing.

THE HIKE

From its starting point on CTH-B, the segment follows a snowmobile trail up on an old railroad grade and turns south for 0.2 miles. Railroads built in the area during the early 1900s, and active until the 1940s, were used to haul logs from the extensive timber harvest areas to the main line at Koepenick Junction during the county's logging period. These trains also carried men and supplies to the lumber camps. Hikers will pass through areas of yellow birch, tamarack and balsam in lowland bogs/wetlands and paper birch, maple and aspen in second growth hardwood forests which grew after the great white pines were logged. The Trail turns off the railroad grade to the east and travels through forested, relatively flat terrain. This portion of the segment is prone to flooding during wet periods,

and water may extend across the segment for several feet. A metal gate and sign mark the segment's approach to busy USH-45/STH-47. Hikers should cross the highway with caution.

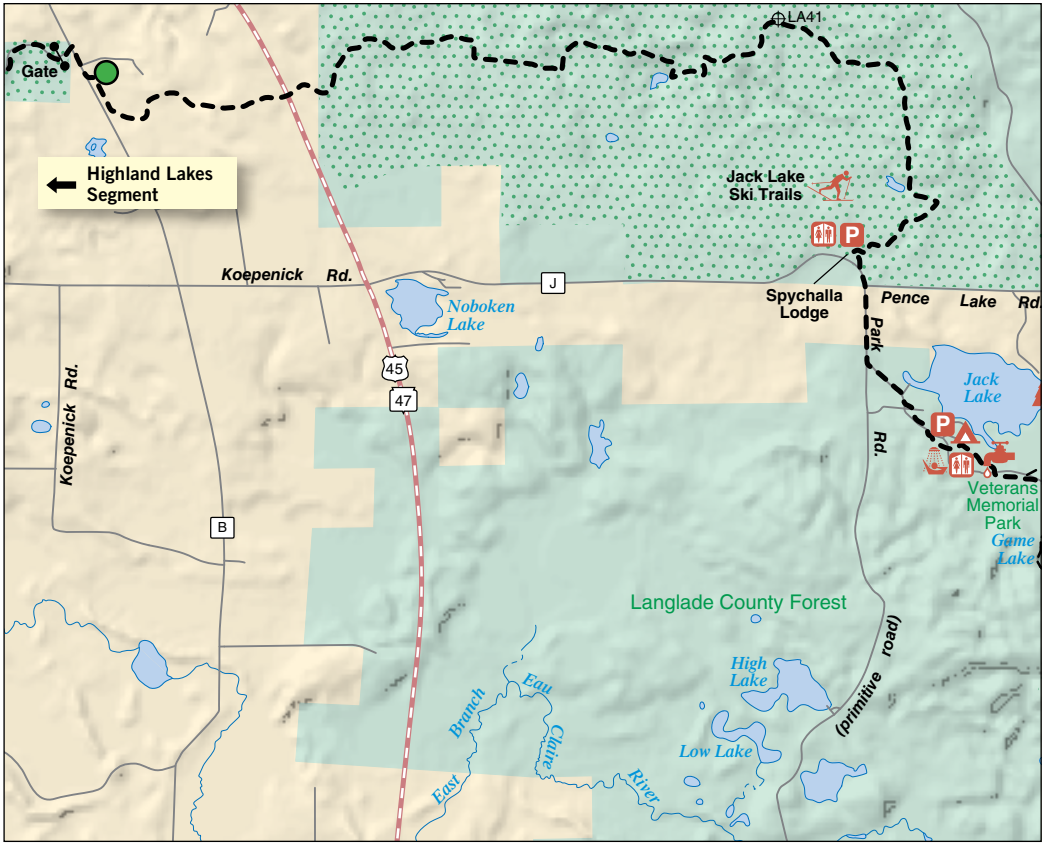
Continuing on, the segment heads east through mixed forest, crosses a powerline right-of-way, and then passes through a section of a towering old red pine plantation. Enter the Jack Lake Ski Trails area, where the Trail joins wide ski trails and is relatively flat to rolling. Even with the numerous ski trail intersections, the segment is very well marked and easy to follow. Eventually the segment reaches a cross-country ski trail warming shelter (**LA41**) with table, chairs and a fireplace. A portable toilet sits next to the shelter. The Trail continues to follow mostly ski trails as it makes its way to the Spychalla Lodge (day use only), a wonderful quaint wood shelter also with table, chairs and a fireplace. The Spychalla Lodge is the trailhead for the Jack Lake Ski Trails. The parking area serves the Ice Age Trail, the ski trails and an ATV/snowmobile trail that crosses the segment here. Beyond the parking area, the Trail continues south on CTH-J (Park Road) for 0.5 miles to the entrance of Veterans Memorial Park.

The segment meanders through Veterans Memorial Park, which includes a main campground, walk-in campsites, beach, showers, water and three cabins along with mountain bike, snowshoe and nature trails. Yellow blazes and signposts easily guide hikers through the campground road onto shared trails and then north and east out of the campground. Just outside of the campground, the segment enters the Langlade County Arboretum, which offers interpretive information on native trees and shrubs. A visit to the arboretum is worth it for those interested in seeing a collection of native plants suitable for landscaping. A marker recognizes Ray Webber, who designed and laid out the arboretum. A former Department of Natural Resources forester, Webber had a personal desire to foster a greater aesthetic appreciation for the natural landscape.

Leaving the arboretum, the trail runs alongside a small bog lake and hemlock grove as it nears Game Lake and soon intersects with the Game Lake Nature Trail. Bearing left, the Trail becomes more glaciated, twisty and hilly. A sharp esker leads the segment up along the north side of Game Lake dividing it from a massive bog marsh. The segment intersects (**LA42**) a short spur trail that leads to a walk-in campsite. The site has a fire ring, privy, two picnic tables and room for four tents.

There are several lakes in the area but Game Lake is one of four lakes (along with High, Low and Jack) reported to be named by card-playing loggers. Look for sign of beaver feeding, lodges and a floating bog that migrates over the surface of the lake depending on prevailing wind direction. A "bog-walk" structure (**LA37**) crosses at the east end of the lake and can be submerged at times of high water. Watch for birds, bog laurel, leatherleaf, Labrador tea, pitcher plants and other unique wetland flora and fauna. Should high water prevent crossing the bog-walk, hikers can take the Game Lake Nature Trail, which circles Game Lake on the south side and rejoins the Ice Age Trail just past the bog-walk.

At the junction point with the Game Lake Nature Trail, on the southeast end of Game Lake, the segment turns left and climbs a steep hill in a southeasterly direction. The segment turns, twists and climbs up and down before reaching a Leopold bench (**LA7**) at the south end of Narrow Neck Pond. From here the segment follows a mix of



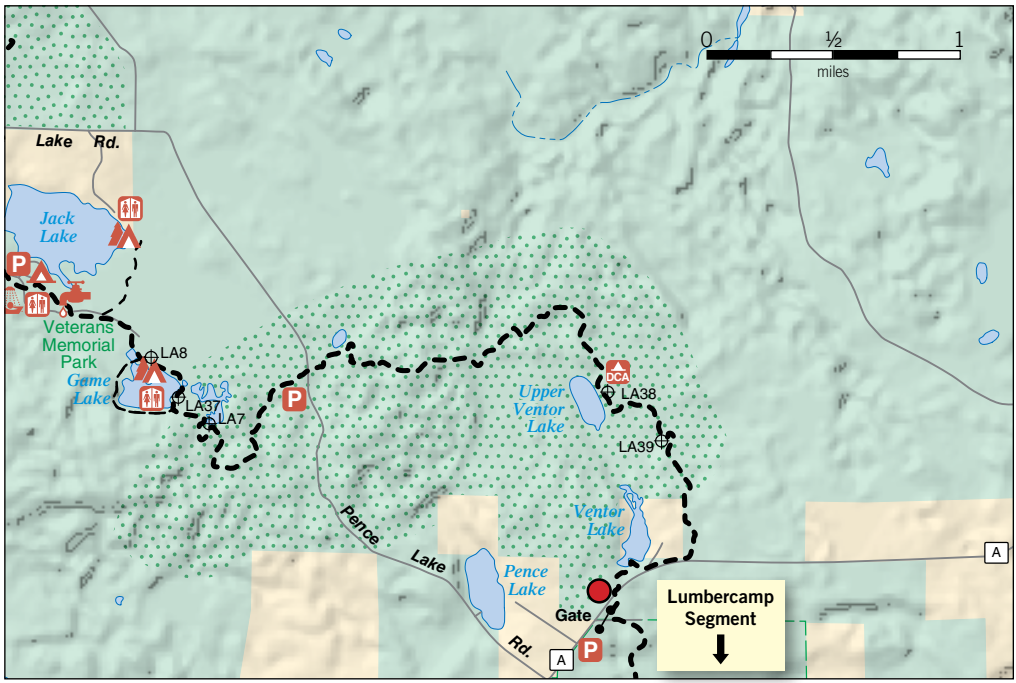
wide-track tread and forest roads through mature stands of aspen and younger age managed forest before reaching Pence Lake Road.

East of Pence Lake Road, the segment winds through hummocky topography across skillfully constructed tread. Mobile Skills Crew volunteers completed several projects along this portion of trail including two boardwalks, sustainable tread and stone steps. There is a variety of narrow footpaths and wide forest roads as the segment makes its way through multi-aged mixed forest. Look for exposed multicolored glacial drift stones and erratics, along with grouse and wild turkey coveys, woodcock, deer, bear and wolves. There are several wildlife openings along the trail maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife management measure. Swallowtail and mourning cloak butterflies frequent these sunny areas filled with milkweed, blue beebalm, butterfly weed and blue aster.

Shortly after leaving Pence Lake Road, the segment reaches a scenic unnamed lake with a bench overlooking it. The Trail continues mostly on forest roads in rolling terrain and eventually follows a narrow footpath up a hill on a series of wonderfully crafted stone steps. Here the segment travels near the outer edge of the Summit Moraine. Continuing on, the segment reaches Upper Ventor Lake and soon passes a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) (**LA38**) for long-distance, multiday hikers in a beautiful hemlock stand. A bench sits near the shore of Upper Ventor Lake. The segment continues south passing a large white pine (**LA39**) and then skirts the edge

of private property along Ventor Lake before reaching CTH-A. The Trail parallels CTH-A southwest, crosses a private driveway, ducks north toward Ventor Lake, then back out to the segment's endpoint and gate at CTH-A.

Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2018

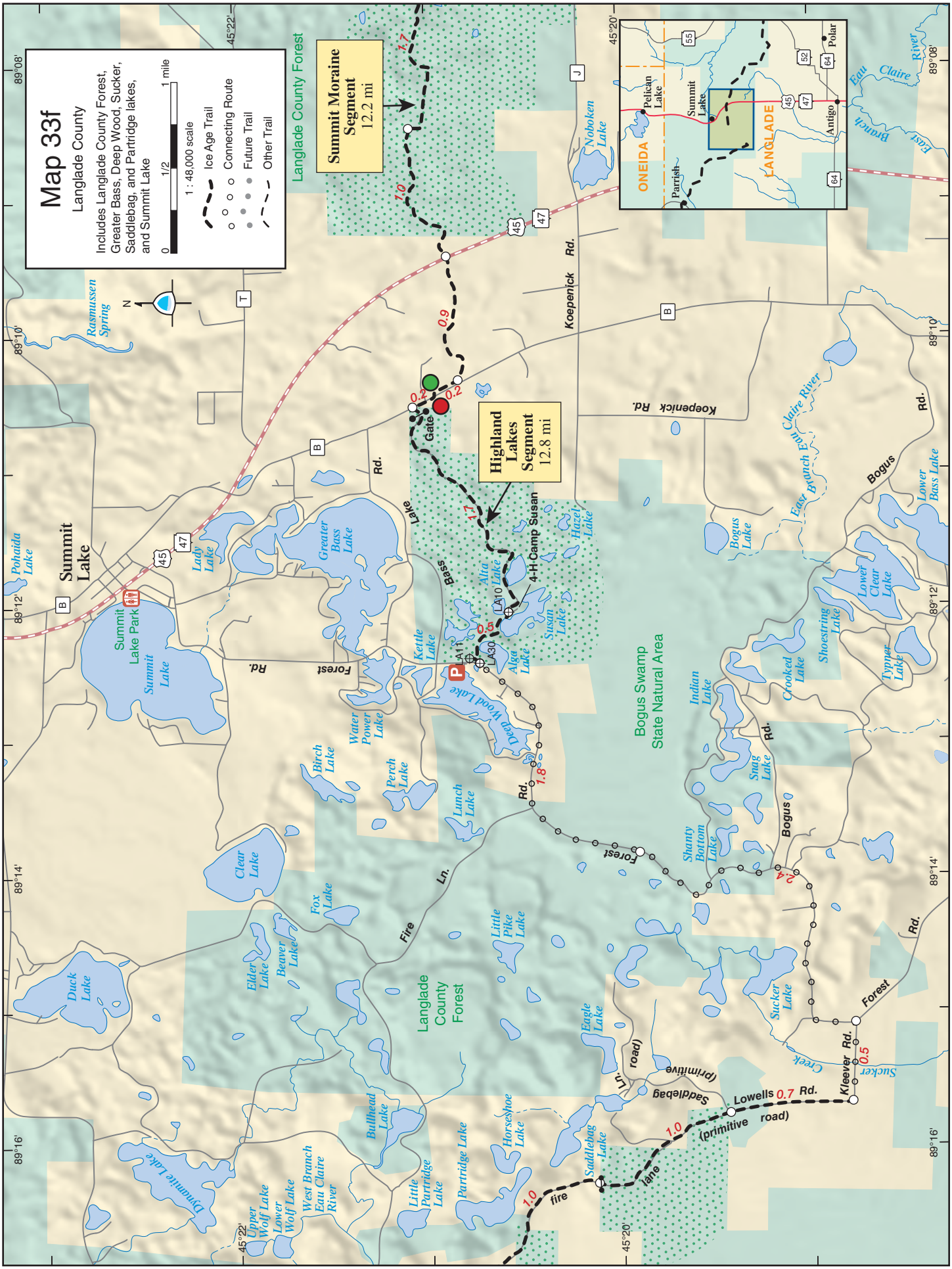


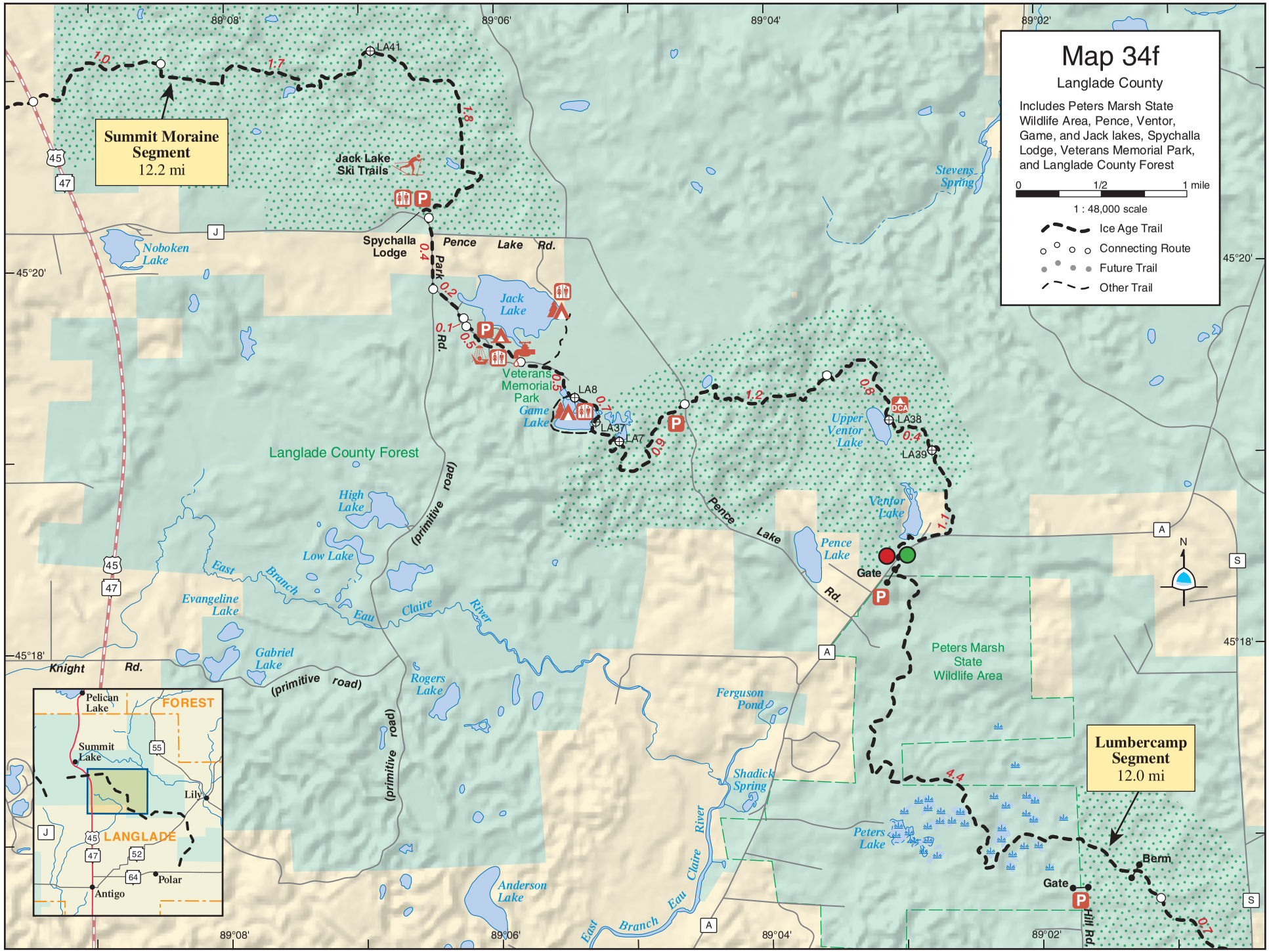
Summit Lake: See Highland Lakes Segment, p. 120. From the USH-45/STH-47 Trail access go north 2.5 mi.

Elcho: See Highland Lakes Segment, p. 120. From the USH-45/STH-47 Trail access go north ~7 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

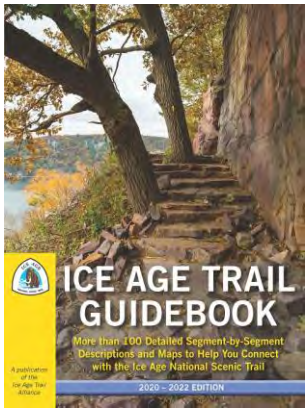
Antigo: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical service. From the USH-45/STH-47 Trail crossing go south 13.0 mi on USH-45/STH-47. Most services on USH-45/STH-47 and STH-64. INN Style lodging at Spychalla Family Farm House (715-623-5773, airbnb.com/rooms/38451928). Camping at Antigo Lake RV Park and Campground (715-623-3633, antigochamber.com). Area info available from the Antigo Chamber of Commerce (888-526-4523, antigochamber.com).

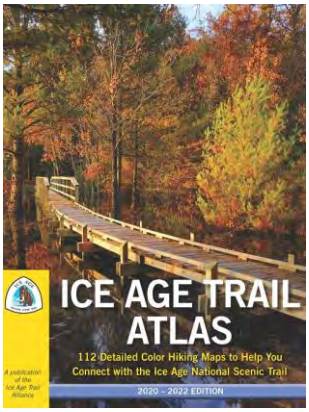
Veterans Memorial Park (Jack Lake Campground): Camping. On Trail. (N8375 Park Rd., Deerbrook, 715-623-6214, jacklakecampground.com). The County Park has a campground, walk-in campsites, three rental cabins, showers, beach, hiking, mountain biking and snowshoe trails. From the north side of Antigo at the intersection of USH-45/STH-47 with STH-64, take USH-45/STH-47 north 12.1 mi to CTH-J. At CTH-J turn right and continue east then south 2.6 mi as CTH-J becomes Park Rd. to the park's entrance.


Map 33f
Langlade County
Includes Langlade County Forest, Greater Bass, Deep Wood, Sucker, Saddlebag, and Partridge lakes, and Summit Lake
0
1/2
1 mile
1 : 48,000 scale
Ice Age Trail
Connecting Route
Future Trail
Other Trail
Summit Moraine Segment 12.2 mi
Highland Lakes Segment 12.8 mi
Langlade County Forest
Summit Lake
Summit Lake Park
Bogus Swamp State Natural Area
Langlade County Forest
ONEIDA
LANGLADE
Pelican Lake
Summit Lake
Parrish
Antigo
Polar
Koepenick Rd.
Bass Lake Rd.
Forest Rd.
Bogus Rd.
Fire Ln.
Saddlebag Ln. (primitive road)
Lowells Rd.
Kleever Rd.
Sucker Creek
Gate
4-H Camp Susan
Rasmussen Spring
Pohaida Lake
Lady Lake
Greater Bass Lake
Summit Lake
Kettle Lake
Alta Lake
Alga Lake
Susan Lake
Hazel Lake
Deep Wood Lake
Water Power Lake
Birch Lake
Perch Lake
Lunch Lake
Clear Lake
Fox Lake
Elder Lake
Beaver Lake
Duck Lake
Little Pike Lake
Eagle Lake
Bullhead Lake
Horseshoe Lake
Saddlebag Lake
Little Partridge Lake
Partridge Lake
Dynamite Lake
Upper Wolf Lake
Lower Wolf Lake
West Branch Eau Claire River
Noboken Lake
Bogus Lake
East Branch Eau Claire River
Lower Bass Lake
Lower Clear Lake
Shoestring Lake
Typner Lake
Crooked Lake
Indian Lake
Snag Lake
Shanty Bottom Lake
Sucker Lake
Eau Claire River
East Branch
89°08'
89°10'
89°12'
89°14'
89°16'
45°22'
45°20'
0.2
0.2
0.9
1.0
1.7
1.7
0.5
1.8
2.4
0.5
0.7
1.0
1.0
1.0


Map 34f
Langlade County
Includes Peters Marsh State Wildlife Area, Pence, Ventor, Game, and Jack lakes, Spychalla Lodge, Veterans Memorial Park, and Langlade County Forest
0 1/2 1 mile
1 : 48,000 scale
Ice Age Trail
Connecting Route
Future Trail
Other Trail
Summit Moraine Segment
12.2 mi
Lumbercamp Segment
12.0 mi
Jack Lake Ski Trails
Spychalla Lodge
Pence Lake Rd.
Park Rd.
Noboken Lake
Jack Lake
Veterans Memorial Park
Game Lake
Upper Ventor Lake
Ventor Lake
Pence Lake
Stevens Spring
Langlade County Forest
High Lake
Low Lake
East Branch Eau Claire River
Evangeline Lake
Gabriel Lake
Rogers Lake
Knight Rd.
(primitive road)
Peters Marsh State Wildlife Area
Ferguson Pond
Shadick Spring
Peters Lake
Anderson Lake
Gate
Berm
Hill Rd.
LA41
LA8
LA37
LA7
LA38
LA39
45°20'
45°18'
89°08'
89°06'
89°04'
89°02'
FOREST
LANGLADE
Pelican Lake
Summit Lake
Lily
Polar
Antigo

Must-Have Ice Age Trail Books!





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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5/25/2017