

Evansville Segment (Atlas Maps 72f)

SNAPSHOT

 **1.7 miles:** S. 2nd St. to N. Madison St. (STH-59/213)

Note: *New Ice Age Trail is planned on the southwest side of Evansville. Check with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (800-227-0046, IceAgeTrail.org) for details.*



Leonard-Leota Park.



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



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



Leonard-Leota Park paths.



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

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

① S. 2nd St. (42.77210, -89.30326): From I-39/90 at Janesville, take Exit 171B and follow USH-14 west for 16.7 mi. Continue west on E. Main St. 0.5 mi. At S. 2nd St. turn left and go south 0.6 mi.

Parking: Roadside.

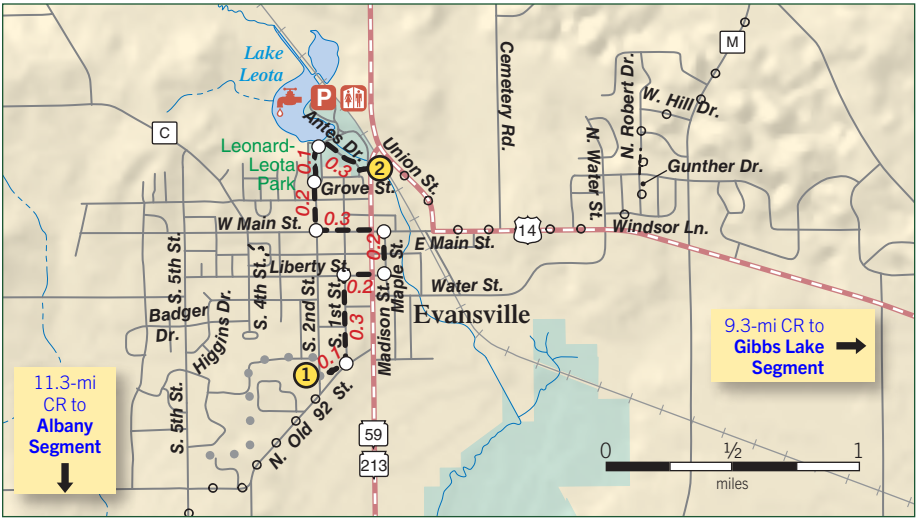
② N. Madison St. (STH-59/213) Trail Access (42.78394, -89.29930): From I-39/90 at Janesville, take Exit 171B and follow USH-14 west for 16.7 mi. At N. Union Rd (USH-14) turn right and go north and northwest 0.4 mi. At N. Madison St. turn left and go southwest 500 ft. to Antes Dr. **No Parking.** Instead, park at Leonard-Leota Park parking area 0.2 mi west and northwest on Antes Dr.

THE HIKE

This segment features a charming turn-of-the-century small town. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, Evansville is home to “the finest collection of the 1840s to 1915 architecture of any small town in Wisconsin.” A walkable five-block area near and along Main Street showcases the more than 300 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Enjoy walking along the reclaimed brick pavers, which line Main Street.

The segment ends at the town’s Leonard-Leota Park, established in 1883 and later expanded. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its 1930s-era landscape design. The park’s crown jewel is the 40-acre stream-fed Lake Leota. The property attracted motorists traveling Highway 14, once the primary route from Chicago to La Crosse to Minneapolis. Suffragist and visionary Susan B. Anthony spoke along the shores of Lake Leota twice as part of Chautauqua gatherings. The historic Baker Office Building, located near the park’s main entrance, is now a museum with rotating local history exhibits.

From the Trail access on South 2nd Street, enter Wind Prairie Park and cut across it, following yellow blazes to South 1st Street, where you will turn left and head north. At West Liberty Street, turn right and head east. Cross South Madison Street (STH-59/STH-213) and continue another block to Maple Street. Turn left and head north on Maple Street, crossing East Church Street. At Main Street, turn left and head west two blocks before intersecting South 2nd Street, where you will turn right and head north to Leonard Park Drive.



Cross Leonard Park Drive and enter the park utilizing a horseshoe-shaped sidewalk connecting you to the central path leading north toward the lake. At Leonard Park Drive, turn right and follow it until it becomes Antes Drive. Continue on Antes Drive, following it around and south until it turns left toward North Madison Street, the segment’s terminus.

AREA SERVICES

Evansville: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, library, and medical service. On Trail. Area info available from the City of Evansville (608-882-2266, ci.evansville.wi.gov/explore_evansville) and the Evansville Chamber of Commerce & Tourism (608-882-5131, evansvillechamber.org).



CAMERON GILLIE

Evansville Segment: Turn-of-the-century Main Street storefronts welcome hikers.