

# Sturgeon Bay Segment (Atlas Maps 104f, 105f)

## SNAPSHOT

**22** **14.0 miles:** CTH-H to Ice Age Trail Eastern Terminus in Potawatomi State Park

**Note:** A reroute is planned at the northern end of Potawatomi State Park. Check with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (800-227-0046, [IceAgeTrail.org](http://IceAgeTrail.org)) for details.



At Cherry Blossom Park, Otumba Park, and various locations in Potawatomi State Park (PSP). Picnic areas also available along Ahnapee State Trail.



From Sturgeon Bay.



At PSP and nearby private campground **A**.



On STH-42 just north of the CTH-H Trail access, at the S. Neenah Ave. Trail access, Cherry Blossom Park, Otumba Park and PSP.



Two ColdCache sites on segment.



Dogs must be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. **Dogs are not permitted inside park buildings at PSP or on groomed ski trails.**



Portions overlap the multiuse Ahnapee State Trail. Other portions overlap sidewalks and roads and with PSP trails open to biking and skiing. Hike off to the side of ski trails when groomed.

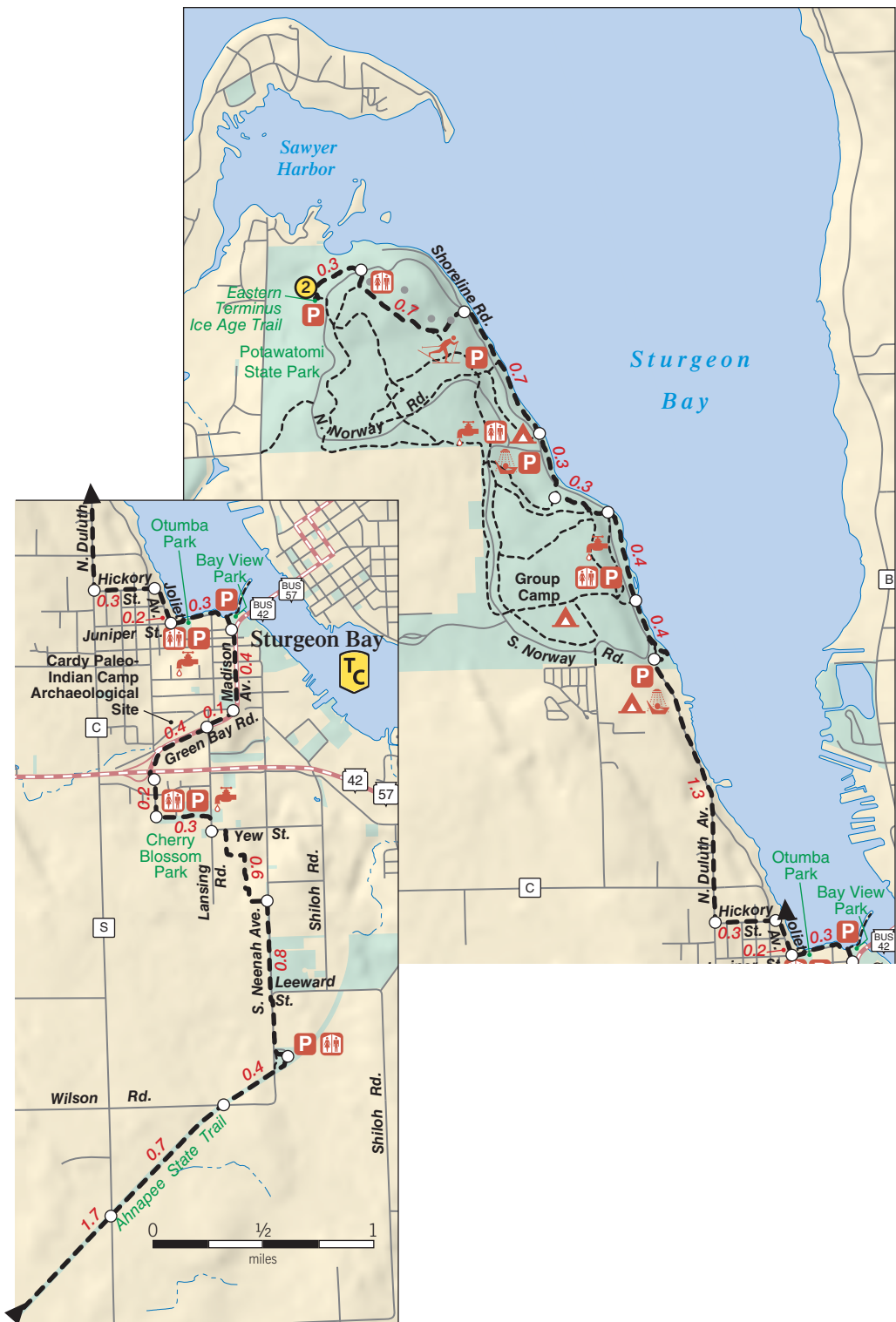


PSP trail network.



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





## TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

① **CTH-H Trail Access (44.74786, -87.47987):** From Sturgeon Bay take STH-42 south 8.0 mi to CTH-H in Maplewood. **Parking:** Park in the parking area on STH-42 just north of CTH-H.

② **Ice Age Trail Eastern Terminus in Potawatomi State Park Trail Access (44.87465, -87.43231):** From Sturgeon Bay take STH-57/42 southwest to Park Dr. (CTH-PD). Turn right and go north 2.4 mi to Potawatomi State Park (PSP). Follow the park's entrance drive (N. Norway Rd.) 3.4 mi to the Ice Age Trail eastern terminus and Old Ski Hill Overlook. **Parking:** Adjacent to Trail Access.

**Additional Parking:** (i) S. Neenah Ave. (ii) Cherry Blossom Park. (iii) Bayview Park. (iv) Otumba Park. (v) Duluth Ave. (vi) Potawatomi State Park parking areas along Shoreline Rd..

## THE HIKE

This segment highlights downtown Sturgeon Bay, an Ice Age Trail Community, and Bay View Park on the Sturgeon Bay Canal. Since 1882, Great Lakes freighters have traveled through the canal to Lake Michigan. This route allows them to bypass the tip of the Door County peninsula, which requires passage through "Death's Door." Not only is the canal safer, but it also reduces the travel distance from Green Bay to Milwaukee and Chicago by 150 miles.

Bedrock outcrops of the Niagara Escarpment peek out among cedar, birch, maple, and pine forests. In the southern portion of the Potawatomi State Park (PSP), the segment's route overlaps the park's Hemlock Trail. A segment highlight is climbing a set of rock steps in Niagara dolomite constructed by Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers. The segment ends, as does the Trail itself, at the Old Ski Hill Overlook, which offers expansive views of Green Bay (the body of water).

From the Trail access on CTH-H in Maplewood, head northeast. The Trail shares the Ahnapee State Trail (AST) route. This wide, hardpacked limestone multiuse recreational trail, formerly the Ahnapee & Western Railway's railbed, crosses the Maplewood Swamp's southern extent. In this unique peat swamp, waterlogged soil prevents dead vegetation from fully decomposing, creating a spongy layer of peat. Continue northeast, passing Stony Creek Swamp and crossing the creek itself. Dark swamp water creeps within a foot of the raised trail bed as it cuts through these swamps. From here, the Trail bends gently through forests, orchards, and farmland, sometimes under cover of overhanging trees and sometimes in openings.

Cross South Neenah Avenue and head left on a gravel path. Arrive at an AST trailhead parking area and follow its driveway back to South Neenah Avenue. Head north along South Neenah Avenue. Depart South Neenah Avenue and head west and north on a path that skirts and weaves through an industrialized area between South Neenah Avenue and Lansing Road.

At Yew Street, head west briefly, then take Lansing Road north a short distance before heading west off-road, following the southern perimeter of Cherry Blossom Park, a grassy neighborhood park. Continue beyond the park and through the adjoining neighborhood.

Turn north on South Hudson Avenue and cross West Walnut Drive to South Hudson Court. Follow the Trail under STH-42/STH-57 to a sidewalk paralleling Green Bay Road. Follow the sidewalk north and then east to the intersection of Green Bay Road and Lansing Road. Cross to the north side of Green Bay Road. *Caution: this is a dangerous road crossing.* From here, for an interesting side

trip, head north on Lansing Road to view the Cardy Paleo-Indian Camp archaeological site (see Points of Interest).

Back on Trail, continue east on the sidewalk along Green Bay Road, which curves north and becomes Madison Avenue. A downhill view across building rooftops features shipyards, dry docks, towering cranes, and a historic steel bridge.

At the intersection of Madison Avenue and Larch Street, angle northwest through Bay View Park and pass Woolly the Mammoth, an 8-foot-tall, 14-foot-long steel and concrete sculpture created by Carl Vanderheyden. Then, head west along the Canal walkway to Juniper Street. Follow it west to Joliet Avenue, passing Otumba Park. Take Joliet Avenue north and Hickory Street west and head north on North Duluth Avenue.

Follow North Duluth Avenue to its endpoint and head east into Potawatomi State Park. A nearby informational sign shows a map of the park with marked trails. The Trail soon turns north along the shoreline. You'll travel through Picnic Area 4, and at the north end of it, join the Hemlock Trail (asphalt to Shoreline Road). Continue north between Sturgeon Bay and Shoreline Road. Cross Shoreline Road and angle west into the woods toward the park campground, climbing up dolomite steps constructed by Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers and following switchbacks.

Near the campground, leave Hemlock Trail, turn sharply north on a downhill slope, and soon cross Shoreline Road again. Continuing north between the bay and the road, pass the campground's South and North Camp Areas and join Tower Trail, enjoying bay vistas along the way.

Continue north on the Tower Trail and pass a junction with a looping path within the Tower Trail's network. Rock outcroppings begin to appear, and the route turns inland, heading west through a gap in an outcropping and climbing to Shoreline Road.

Cross Shoreline Road a final time and head inland, climbing steeply into a forested area and eventually emerging onto North Norway Road and crossing it. Travel through the woods to the Old Ski Hill Overlook parking lot. Here, the eastern terminus is marked. Look for an official terminus marker (similar to that found at the western terminus) affixed to a large rock on the north side of the parking area near the bluff. Enjoy the expansive views to the west.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Cardy Paleo-Indian Camp Archaeological Site:** From the Ice Age Trail at the intersection of Green Bay Rd. and Lansing Rd., head north on Lansing Rd. then turn left at Spruce St. and walk west 0.2mi. (near 322 W. Spruce St., Sturgeon Bay).

The Cardy Paleo-Indian Camp archaeological site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is considered one of Wisconsin's most significant finds. The Cardy site, marked by a kiosk and plaque, preserves the remains of a campsite used by Indigenous people at the end of the Ice Age. An extensive dig in 2003 unearthed spear points, tools, a fire pit, and other artifacts. Archeologists believe Indigenous people lived and worked in this area 11,000 years ago near the shore of Glacial Lake Algonquin and within walking distance of the receding continental ice sheet. This camp is unusual for its far north location. Glacial Lake Algonquin occupied the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron basins at the end of the Ice Age. It would have been about 25 ft higher than Green Bay is today.

## AREA SERVICES

**Maplewood:** Restaurant. On Trail. From the CTH-H Trail access go west 0.2 mi on CTH-H.



**Sturgeon Bay:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical service. On Trail. Most services located on Green Bay Rd. (STH-45/57) and at Michigan St and 3rd Ave. Area info available from the Sturgeon Bay Visitor Center (920-743-6246, [sturgeonbay.net](http://sturgeonbay.net)).

**Potawatomi State Park (PSP):** Camping. On Trail. (920-746-2890, [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/potawatomi](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/potawatomi); reservations: 888-947-2757, [wisconsin.goingtocamp.com](http://wisconsin.goingtocamp.com)). There are several other state parks in Door County.

*I hereby avow and attest that I have walked every inch of this Trail from the glittering waters of the Saint Croix River to the new terminus overlooking Green Bay. In between those two points, I have placed one foot in front of the other over 2.5 million times, over hills and valleys, through boot-sucking bogs and fens, on scorched hilltops and flooded wetlands, atop drumlins, eskers, kames and moraines. I have been hailed on, rained on, blasted by subzero windchills, baked by 100-degree temperatures, feasted on by flies, mosquitoes, and ticks... I have traversed beaver dams, rickety bridges, log walks, ice-covered hills, washouts, shallow rivers, and mile upon mile of terrain featuring roots, water, mud, and rocks.*

BROCK JANSEN, THOUSAND-MILER