


Valley View Segment and Madison Segment (Atlas Maps 65f, 66f)

SNAPSHOT

 **Valley View Segment—3.4 miles (3.1 IAT, 0.3 CR):** W. Mineral Point Rd. (CTH-S) to Mid Town Rd. at Shady Oak Ln.



No reliable sources of water.



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



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



An extensive, color-coded trail network through the prairie area.

 **Madison Segment—3.1 miles:** Woods Rd. to McKee Rd. (CTH-PD)



At the University Ridge Golf Course clubhouse (seasonal).



Dogs must be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. **Dogs are not allowed between Woods Rd. and CTH-M.**



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



Portions overlap golf course paths, city roads, a driveway and sidewalks and a multiuse recreation path.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

1 W. Mineral Point Rd. (CTH-S) Trail Access (43.06023, -89.60109): From west of Madison on the Beltline Hwy. (USH-12/14) take Exit 254 and follow Mineral Point Rd. (CTH-S) west for 4.0 mi to Timber Ln. **No Parking.** Instead, park at Shoveler Sink Waterfowl Production Area 0.3 mi north on Timber Ln.

2 Mid Town Rd. at Shady Oak Ln. (43.03110, -89.57805): No Parking. Instead park at Town of Middleton Ice Age Trail Access park on Moraine Ridge Rd.

3 Woods Rd. Trail Access (43.02294, -89.55303): Parking: Roadside.

4 McKee Rd. (CTH-PD) Trail Access (43.01598, -89.52193): From Verona at the intersection of Verona Ave. (Bus. Rt. USH-18/151) and Main St. (CTH-M), take CTH-M north 1.7 mi. At McKee Rd. (CTH-PD) turn right and go east 0.6 mi. **No Parking.** Instead, park at the Ice Age Trail Junction Area 0.2 mi east on CTH-PD. A 0.1-mi blue-blazed spur trail leads to the IAT.

Additional Parking: (i) University Ridge Golf Course lower parking area accessed from McKee Rd. (CTH-PD), open seasonally during golf course hours. (ii) O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Center on CTH-M (Pleasant View Rd.). (iii) Flagstone Dr. roadside parking.

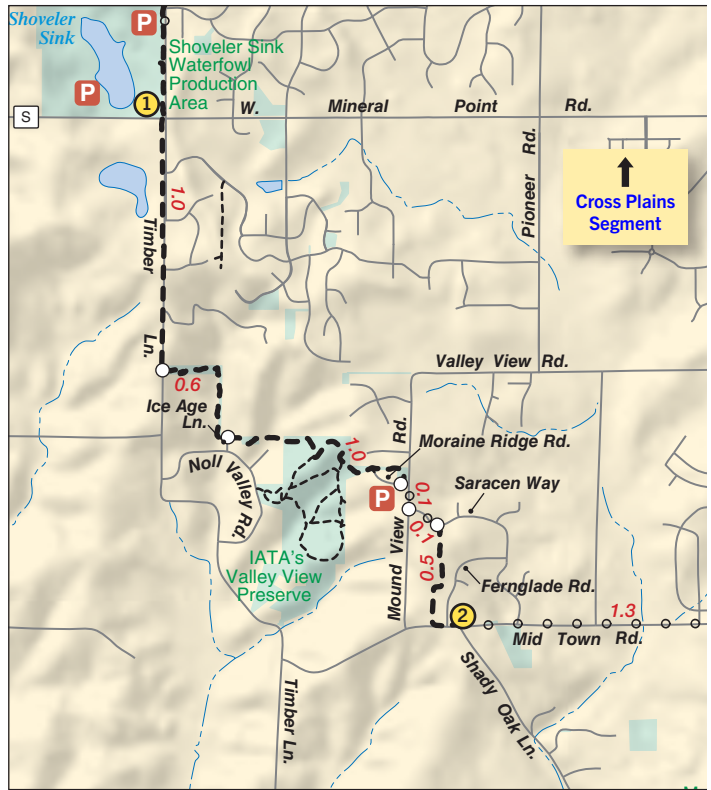
THE HIKE

Valley View Segment

This segment features the Alliance-owned Valley View Preserve. The 109.5-acre property is a fine example of prairie and oak savanna restoration driven by area landowners collaborating with the Alliance and the Town of Middleton. So far, their efforts restored 150 contiguous acres into native prairie and savanna plant communities.

Enjoy walking along the Johnstown Terminal Moraine between Ice Age Lane and Moraine Ridge Road. You can see the Blue Mounds from the prairie on a clear day. Increase Lapham wrote that the Blue Mounds “were very important landmarks to guide the traveler in his course through the boundless prairies.”

From the Trail access at the intersection of Timber Lane and West Mineral Point Road, head south, paralleling Timber Lane for a mile. To the west lies agricultural land and a pond attracting migrating waterfowl, and to the east, the terminal moraine and houses. Along the way, the Trail crosses an ancient trail that once ran between Lake Mendota and the Blue Mounds and beyond. At the summit of the first knoll, a high point on the Valley View segment, the Blue Mounds can be seen on the western horizon, 13 miles distant. The Trail eventually descends 200 feet from this knoll to a low point near Ice Age Lane.



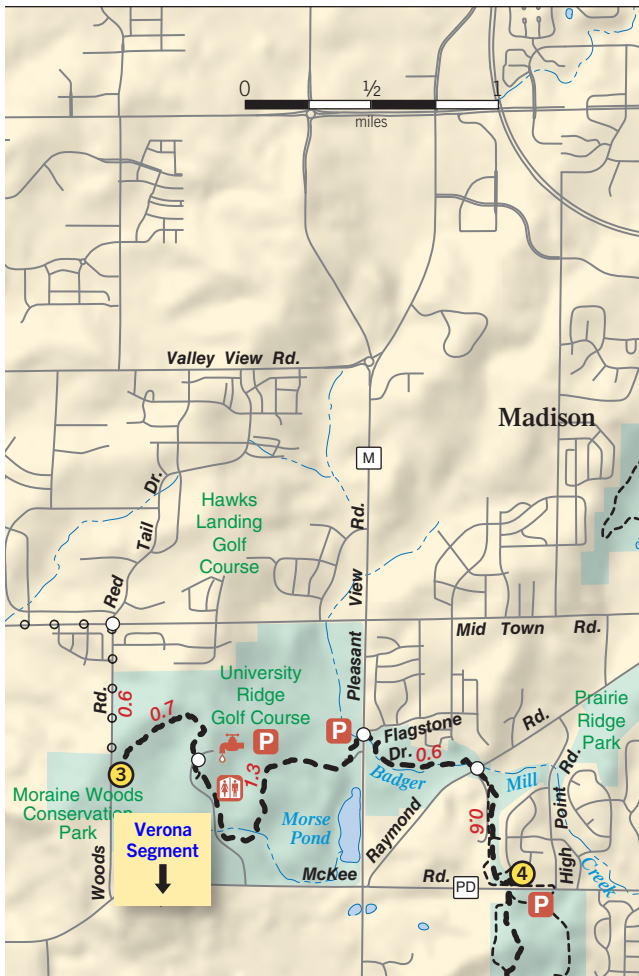
Leave Timber Lane at an Ice Age Trail sign and head east through thick woods, following switchbacks down a hill. At the bottom, cross a streambed on a short footbridge and head south. You'll soon cross a bog hosting a boardwalk, followed shortly by a second one. Finally, head east, cross a brook, and reach Ice Age Lane.

After crossing Ice Age Lane, follow a board rail fence to the east. After passing through a patch of woods, cross a residential driveway at a white lantern post. From here, enter a short section of woods and emerge in a large open prairie – the Alliance's Valley View Preserve – with a series of looped side trails and two trailside benches. After exiting the prairie, enter more woods and cross a dry-run gully before passing through a residential neighborhood featuring prairie-style homes. Please respect private property by staying on the Trail.

After regaining 200 feet of elevation, arrive at the Ice Age Trail Access parking area at Moraine Ridge Road, a Town of Middleton conservancy.

Continue on the following 0.3-mile connecting route to reach the next off-road section: Head south out of the parking area, turn left on Moraine Ridge Road, then right on Mound View Road. At Saracen Way, turn left and go 0.1 miles to the Trail access.

Head south through a wooded area. Once you emerge from the woods, continue south on a grassy path between a residential area and farm fields. Then, bend east and parallel Mid Town Road. You will pass a residential sign for Glacier's End and cross Fernglade Road before reaching the segment's terminus



at a yellow-blazed Trail post on the northeast side of the intersection of Shady Oak Lane and Mid Town Road.

To reach the Madison Segment, follow a 1.8-mile connecting route: head east on Mid Town Road for 1.3 miles, then south on Woods Road for 0.6 miles.

Madison Segment

A large portion of this segment crosses the University Ridge Golf Course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. This public course is the official home course of the University of Wisconsin men's and women's golf teams. University Ridge derives its name from the landscape features left by the last retreating glacier. The course sits on the terminal moraine, forming the backbone of the ridge that dictated course construction as designers followed the land's contours. The seventh hole's green sits at the base of a large glacial drumlin.

From the Trail access on Woods Road, head east through a trail gate into the

woods between two holes of the golf course. Respect the Trail host by walking quietly when passing golfers and avoiding groomed cross-country ski trails during the winter.

Emerge briefly from the woods, turning sharply right at a Trail sign, and cross a cart path before continuing southwest through another wooded area. Emerge again from the woods and meet another paved path – the golf course's entrance road. You may follow it to access the golf course's clubhouse, open to Ice Age Trail hikers. The clubhouse has water, restrooms, and a restaurant. Shortly after crossing the road to the clubhouse, turn right and briefly follow a paved cart path. Where the cart path turns right, continue straight on the blazed Trail.

Continue southeast through a grassland/prairie area west of a fairway, bend east, cross another paved cart path, and pass between two tee boxes. Then meet and briefly follow a cart path. Leave the cart path to the right, travel through a small wooded area, and again cross a cart path. The Trail makes its way up a moraine with expansive views to the east and south. Continue north through grassland/prairie before cutting into the woods and bending east.

Exit the woods, hike past an agricultural field, go between two small patches of woods, and follow the southern edge of a grassy area until you meet a paved path leading to the University's Noer Turfgrass Research Center. Turn left and follow the paved path northeast, briefly follow the Noer Center's driveway about 50 feet, then turn left onto a gravel path. From here, bear to the right on the gravel path, cross a covered bridge, and make your way through a trail gate to a multiuse path. Join it and follow it underneath Pleasant View Road (CTH-M).

After leaving the underpass, follow the multiuse path for about 300 feet and then leave it, turning sharply right through yet another trail gate. Head through a prairie and a small wooded area and turn right to join a paved multiuse path. After crossing a bridge and then Raymond Road, briefly follow the multiuse path before heading left along the west side of a large drainage basin. Head due south into a small aspen and oak grove giving way to prairie. *Note: Along the north/south stretch between Raymond Road and CTH-PD, a multiuse paved path separate from the Ice Age Trail parallels the segment a short distance to the west.*

Pass through an area of native grasses and wildflowers that is part of a restoration project begun by Veridian Homes. Climb to the top of a grassy moraine, cross a paved multiuse path. From here, quickly join another multiuse path and then turn sharply right onto another multiuse path to cross McKee Road (CTH-PD) on a pedestrian bridge. The south end of the bridge is the end of the segment.

AREA SERVICES

University Ridge Golf Course: Restaurant. On Trail. Open seasonally (9002 CTH-PD, Madison, 608-845-7700 or 800-897-4343, universityridge.com).

Middleton: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical service. From the Pleasant View Rd. (CTH-M) Trail access, go north on CTH-M 2.5 mi. At Mineral Point Rd. (CTH-S) turn right and go east 0.3 mi. At USH-12 go north 2.6 mi to the USH-14 Exit. Area info available from the Middleton Chamber of Commerce (608-827-5797, middletonchamber.com).

Madison: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical service. From McKee Rd. (CTH-PD) Trail access go east and north ~5 mi to West Towne Mall area. Area info available from the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce (608-256-8348, madisonbiz.com).

Mendota County Park: See [Cross Plains Segment, p. 229](#). From the McKee Rd. (CTH-PD) Trail access go west then north ~10 mi.



Verona: See [Verona Segment, p. 239](#). For access to Verona's downtown, from the McKee Rd. (CTH-PD) Trail access go west then south ~3 mi.