# Verona Segment (Atlas Map 66f)
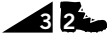
**6.6 miles:** Ice Age Junction Area parking area on CTH-PD (McKee Rd.) to Prairie Moraine County Park at Wesner Rd.

**3 2** *This suburban segment makes good use of three county parks and links up to a variety of additional hiking and biking trails.*

> **Note:** A new pedestrian bridge is planned over CTH-PD in 2017. The Ice Age Trail will be temporarily rerouted during bridge construction. Additionally, minor trail reroutes and a new parking area are anticipated in the IATA's Moraine Kettles Preserve south of CTH-M. Check with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (800-227-0046, iceagetrail.org) for details.

At Reddan Soccer Park parking area, Verona Public Library, Badger Prairie County Park main shelter and Ceniti Park Baseball Complex.

At a Dispersed Camping Area (**DA21**) in Badger Prairie County Park.

At Reddan Soccer Park and Badger Prairie County Park. Playground also available at Ceniti Park Baseball Complex.

Portions overlap with multiuse paths, town sidewalks and roads and the Military Ridge State Trail (MRST).

MRST continues east and west from IAT; also numerous bike trails and spur trails.

## TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

**Ice Age Junction Area parking area on CTH-PD (McKee Rd.):** From Verona, at the intersection of Verona Ave. (Bus. Rt. USH-18/151) and CTH-M (Main St./Pleasant View Rd.), take CTH-M (Main St./Pleasant View Rd.) north 1.7 mi. At CTH-PD (McKee Rd.) turn right and go east 0.6 mi to the parking area on the south side of CTH-PD.

**Prairie Moraine County Park at Wesner Rd.:** From USH-18/151 south of Verona take Exit 79 onto CTH-PB and drive south 1.0 mi. At Wesner Rd. turn left to enter the Prairie Moraine County Park parking area.

**Additional Parking:** (i) Reddan Soccer Park parking area on Cross Country Rd. (No parking during tournaments.) (ii) Verona Public Library. (iii) Badger Prairie County Park (Exit 81 from USH 18/151). (iv) Military Ridge State Trail (MRST)/Ice Age Trail access on Old PB Rd. just south of Verona Ave. (Exit 81 from USH 18/151). (v) Ceniti Park Sports Complex on the south side of E. Verona Ave. (vi) Lincoln St. foot/bike bridge parking at end of street.

## THE HIKE

The Verona Segment travels through several park areas including the Ice Age Junction Area, Badger Prairie County Park and Prairie Moraine County Park. Hikers will encounter a number of spur/side trails and bike trails in these parks and therefore should pay close attention to Trail signage as only some of these trails are noted below.

The segment starts from the Ice Age Junction Area parking lot on the south side of CTH-PD and makes its way west parallel to the road before bending south and traversing a prairie. The green space from CTH-PD south to Cross Country Road is the Ice Age Junction Area, an open space managed by the Dane County Parks Department that visually and physically separates Verona from southwest Madison. It hosts the Ice Age Trail and a paved bike trail. About 200 acres is
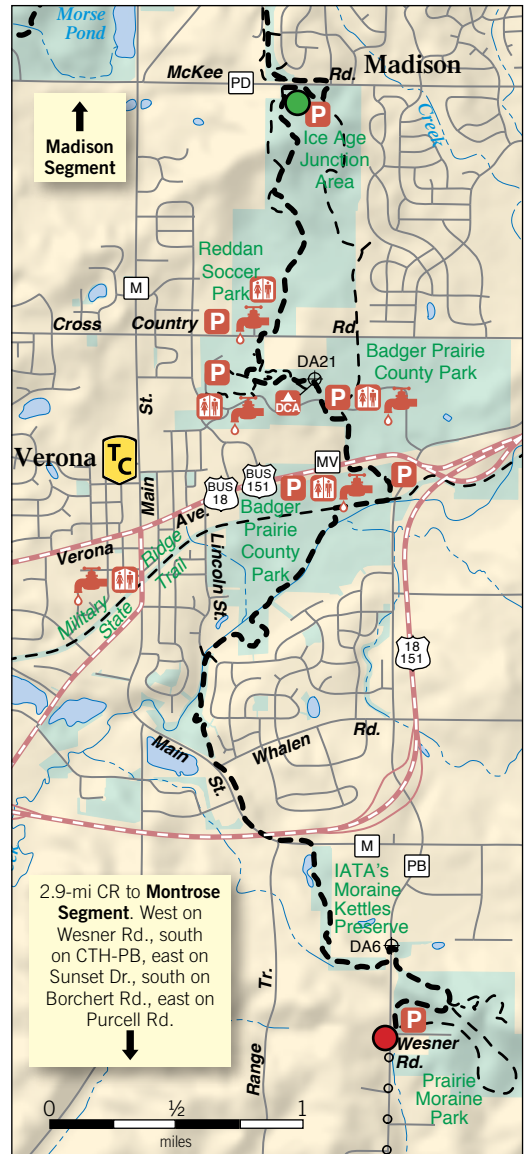
restored prairie.

As the segment makes its way south through the prairie, it begins a slight descent toward a wooded area. A look to the south offers a fine overview of features hikers will encounter—the old water tower at Badger Prairie and the moraine on the horizon at the end of the segment, with CTH-PB's cut through it.

The segment enters the wooded area and follows to the left at a fork. The segment travels south through another prairie before reaching a short spur trail (near a maintenance shed) that leads west to picnic tables and a kiosk display explaining the Dane County Parks Department's prairie restoration and seed collection program. Additional displays about the Upper Sugar River Valley and the Ice Age Trail are located on the kiosk or nearby. Just beyond the kiosk is the northeast corner of the Reddan Soccer Park parking area. There are several mowed paths that intersect the Trail near Reddan Soccer Park; continue to follow the Trail straight toward Cross Country Road.

The segment continues south and reaches Cross Country Road. The Trail runs west along a fence on the north side of Cross County Road to the entrance of the soccer park and crosses the road at a marked pedestrian crossing. Hikers can find several restaurants 0.3 miles west on Cross Country Road. After crossing the road the segment enters Badger Prairie County Park and continues southward. The Trail quickly intersects a mowed park path and briefly follows it west before turning south and ascending a ridge. Hikers can look to the southwest to see the prominent red-orange roof of the Verona Public Library, which is accessible via a spur trail that runs south to the park road or by a mowed bike path.

The segment crosses the top of the ridge and begins its descent first on a gravel road then on a mowed path. Just before reaching the park's main shelter, the segment passes by a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) (**DA21**) in the restored prairie that dominates the park. Here long-distance, multi-day hikers can camp legally in

a minimally developed area.

After passing the DCA and the main park shelter and parking area, the segment continues south, hooking up with a bike trail as it makes its way to Verona Avenue (CTH-MV). To access town services, hikers can head west on Verona Avenue 0.4 miles to a motel and another 0.5 miles to the town center.

The segment goes under Verona Avenue (CTH-MV) via a tunnel and continues southeast on the bike path to the Military Ridge State Trail (MRST) Park & Ride parking area. The multiuse MRST, connecting Madison to Dodgeville, is located on a railroad grade abandoned in the 1970s that once extended to Galena, IL.

The segment heads west on the MRST for approximately a quarter mile, then just past the "3 Mile" marker departs from the MRST and makes its way south along the west side of Badger Mill Creek, which flows through a meltwater gap in the moraine. The segment passes a spur trail with a bike/pedestrian bridge over the creek with trails heading east and south to a residential neighborhood.

Continuing southwest the segment passes through a wetland area, running on top of a berm for part of the route. After dropping off the berm, the Trail meanders through a wooded creek bottom and a pine grove, then turns left to cross a bridge to the east side of the creek. The segment turns right, shortly crosses a swampy area on a 275-foot boardwalk/puncheon span and eventually intersects a paved spur trail that connects two residential neighborhoods. To the west, the spur trail leads across the creek on the Lincoln Street footbridge and connects with the street's dead end. Lincoln Street provides access to Verona's city center less than a mile away. To reach several restaurants, a supermarket and a hardware store, hikers can walk northwest via Lincoln Street, left on Valley View Street and right on South Main Street.

The segment moves south through woods in the meltwater gap, makes a steep ascent from the creek and heads around the east side of a quarry before reaching CTH-M. The Trail then continues southeast near or along CTH-M, crosses USH-18/151 on an overpass and soon departs CTH-M making its way south through a prairie restoration before entering woods and passing several kettle ponds in the IATA's Moraine Kettles Preserve. The Trail continues eastward mostly through woods to CTH-PB. Hikers will see an oak savanna restoration in progress. At the intersection with CTH-PB, hikers will need to briefly walk north to cautiously cross the road at the end of a median (**DA6**). *Note: Traffic along CTH-PB is very heavy; hikers should exercise caution at the Trail crossing described here and also along the subsequent connecting route to the Montrose Segment.*

Upon crossing CTH-PB the segment enters a wooded area of the 160-acre Prairie Moraine County Park, which features a 0.8-mile-long stretch of the terminal moraine on St. Peter sandstone bedrock. The segment briefly makes its way south before heading southeastward, gently ascending along the north-northeast side of the terminal moraine through restored prairie and savanna. At the top of the moraine, a spur trail heads east to a viewing platform that offers views of a ravine cut in the moraine by meltwater and of the upper Sugar River Valley in the Driftless Area to the south.

From a saddle on the moraine, the segment descends westward using several

short switchbacks, then curls southward to reach the Trail access at a gate in the northwestern corner of the park's parking area near CTH-PB. The moraine and the Ice Age Trail are fenced off from a heavily used dog exercise area located in the southeastern area of Prairie Moraine Park.

## AREA SERVICES

**Madison:** See Valley View Segment and Madison Segment, p. 220. From the CTH-PD (McKee Rd.) Trail access go east and north ~5 mi to the West Towne Mall area.
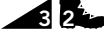
**Verona:** Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, camping, library, medical service. From the E. Verona Ave. (CTH-MV) Trail crossing go west 0.9 mi on E. Verona Ave. Area information available from the Verona Chamber of Commerce (608-845-5777, veronawi.com).

**Military Ridge State Trail (MRST):** On Trail (608-437-7393, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/militaryridge).

# Montrose Segment (Atlas Map 67f)

## SNAPSHOT

**7.5 miles:** Purcell Rd. to CTH-D

**3 2** *This segment has two distinct experiences: a jaunt down a quiet multi-use rail trail and a beautiful off-road trek featuring bedrock outcroppings, restored prairies and long views.*

No reliable sources of water.

At a Dispersed Camping Area **DCA** north of CTH-D.

Portions overlap with the multiuse Badger State Trail (BST) and Piller Rd.

BST continues north and south. Also, prairie spur trails and blue-blazed spur trail (**DA33**) to the DCA.

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

## TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

**Purcell Rd.:** From USH-18/151 south of Verona, take CTH-PB south 2.2 mi. At Purcell Rd. turn left and go east 1.7 mi. At Sayles Trail turn right and immediately turn right again into the Badger State Trail/Ice Age Trail parking area with kiosk.

**CTH-D:** From Madison, take Fish Hatchery Rd. (CTH-D) ~14 mi south. No parking. Instead, park at the CTH-DD parking area just west and south of the CTH-D endpoint. Access the segment via the Brooklyn Wildlife Segment.

**Additional Parking:** (i) CTH-A (**DA5**) roadside parking near the intersection where CTH-A heads west from STH-69. The Ice Age Trail/Badger State Trail is 100 ft to the east across STH-69. (ii) Frenchtown Rd./Piller Rd. parking area on the south side of the road.

## THE HIKE

The segment starts out from Purcell Road by heading southwest along the Badger State Trail (BST), which extends north to Madison's Capital City Trail and south to the Illinois border. The BST is called a "well-connected trail," with links to the Capital City, Military Ridge and Sugar River state trails; Capital Springs and New Glarus Woods state parks; the Albany State Wildlife Area;