


Walla Hi Segment (Atlas Map 91f; Databook page 96)

SNAPSHOT

2.3 miles (2.0 IAT, 0.3 CR): Lax Chapel Road to Mueller Road at S. Cedar Lake Road.

 This segment highlights Walla Hi County Park, which showcases a glacial landscape's best features of kettles, moraines and erratics, and boasts a magnificent, hand-crafted stone staircase.



From Lake Michigan and Molash Creek.



Dogs remaining on a leash are permitted in county parks per Manitowoc Co.



At Walla Hi County Park.



At nearby Manitowoc County Expo Center grounds (see Area Services).



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



Portions overlap Walla Hi hiking trails and small portions overlap equestrian trails.



Walla Hi County Park hiking and equestrian trail network.



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

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

Lax Chapel Rd.: From Elkhart Lake at STH-67 and CTH-A, take STH-67 north 5.5 mi to STH-32/57. At STH-32/57 turn right and go east 2.6 mi. At Lax Chapel Rd. turn left and go north 0.4 mi to the Trail access on the east side of the road. No parking. Instead, park at Walla Hi County Park.

Mueller Rd. at S. Cedar Lake Rd: From Elkhart Lake at STH-67 and CTH-A, take STH-67 north 5.5 mi to STH-32/57. At STH-32/57 turn right and go east (stay on STH-32) 4.2 mi to S. Cedar Lake Rd. At S. Lake Cedar Rd., turn left and go north 1.0 mi to Mueller Rd. No parking. Instead, go west 0.3 mi on Mueller Rd. to the Trail access near the Walla Hi County Park entrance sign. Roadside parking.

Additional Parking: Walla Hi County Park has three parking areas. (i) Parking near the barn; designated for horse trailers and winter use. (ii) Main parking area is located 0.2 mi south of barn. A wide grassy area leads 200 yards to the Ice Age Trail near the covered bridge. (iii) Walla Hi County Park picnic area.

THE HIKE

This segment travels along an easement and through the 160-acre Walla Hi County Park. It packs in both beauty and challenge over a short distance as the Trail navigates almost 200 feet in elevation change. From the Trail access on Lax Chapel Road, the segment heads east along an easement that overlooks farm fields. To the south of the Trail is a sand and gravel pit, and hikers may hear equipment operating during work hours. After 0.2 miles, the segment reaches a magnificent, hand-crafted stone staircase (MN32) built by volunteers as part of a Mobile Skills Crew project. The segment then descends 80 feet down “Slab Hill” as it makes its way toward Walla Hi County Park.

Shortly after the stairs, the segment makes a sharp serpentine trek up a wooded hillside, entering Walla Hi County Park along the way. The segment intersects several other hiking and horse trails throughout the park, but the intersections are well marked with signs and park maps. The first such intersection, a horse trail, appears almost immediately after reaching the top of the hill, quickly fol-

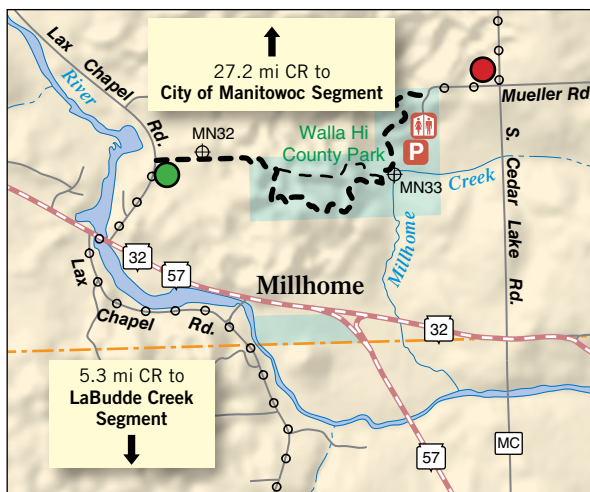
lowed by a second. However, frequent yellow blazes make it easy to follow the Trail. The segment then intersects the western end of a white-blazed loop trail that allows hikers to explore other parts of the park and provides an alternate route to the park's main parking area.

Reminiscent of Northern Kettle Moraine topography, the segment begins a delightful, and sometimes challenging, series of ups and downs

as it meanders through heavily forested oak and beech trees. The ground cover is thick and diverse with wildflowers as well as large moss-covered erratics. In the spring, hikers may find morel mushrooms. At a high point on the segment, hikers can rest on a bench and enjoy the quiet and stillness of the woods. Continuing on, the Trail quickly descends over rocky terrain, where it intersects the eastern end of the white-blazed loop trail. It crosses a covered bridge (MN33) over a small, clear stream, another gem in the delightful landscape. Just after the bridge, a wide grassy area leads 200 yards to the Walla Hi County Park main parking area.

From this junction, the Trail progresses through a more open area, then returns to the woods. It briefly overlaps a park service road as the segment winds its way to Mueller Road near the Walla Hi County Park entrance sign. The segment continues as a connecting route 0.3 miles to its terminus at South. Cedar Lake Road.

Mobile Skills Crew project site 2017, 2018



AREA SERVICES

Kiel: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, medical service. From Walla Hi County Park go east on Mueller Rd. 0.3 mi, south on S. Cedar Lake Rd. 1.0 mi and west on STH-32 (becomes STH-32/57) 4.6 mi. Restaurant on Lax Chapel Rd south of STH-32/57.

Elkhart Lake: See LaBudde Creek Segment, p. 330. From Walla Hi County Park go east, south, west and south ~12 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

A fond moment was Memorial Day... We hiked from Manitowoc to Two Rivers and were hiking right through town when the Memorial Day parade was going on. It was special to see the crowds and hear the bands pass by, while we hiked. I would guess this is a very rare sight on the Ice Age Trail. Not only do you need to be in a town in which the parade route crosses the Trail, but you also need to be hiking on the perfect day, during the perfect hour.

DAWN THAYER, ICE AGE TRAIL THOUSAND-MILER