



# Plover River Segment (Atlas Map 39f)

## SNAPSHOT

**5.9 miles:** CTH-HH to Sportsman Dr.

  *This beautiful segment highlights a dramatic traverse of the terminal moraine and the peaceful Plover River.*



From the Plover River.



A spur trail to a parking area on CTH-HH and a blue-blazed spur trail to a parking area on Highland Dr.

## TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

**CTH-HH:** From Wausau on US-51 exit onto STH-52 and go east ~26 mi. At CTH-HH turn left and go north 1.5 mi to the Trail access on the west side of the road. Park at the Ice Age Trail parking area 0.2 mi south on CTH-HH on the west side of the road. A spur trail leads to the Ice Age Trail. From Antigo at the intersection of USH-45/STH-47 and STH-52/STH-64, take USH-45/STH-47/STH-52 south 11.0 mi. Continue on STH-52 west for 1.3 mi. At CTH-HH turn right and go 1.5 mi.

**Sportsman Dr.:** From Wausau take STH-29 east to Exit 185 for Hatley/CTH-Y. Take CTH-Y north 7.5 mi. At CTH-Z turn right and go east 2.0 mi. At North Pole Rd. turn left and go north 1.0 mi. At Sportsman Dr. turn right and go east 1.0 mi to the parking area on the north side of the road.

**Additional Parking:** (i) STH-52: From Wausau on US-51 exit onto STH-52 and go east ~25 mi to the parking area on north side of highway at the STH-52/Highland Dr. intersection. (ii) Highland Dr.: From the STH-52/Highland Dr. intersection, go south on Highland Dr. 0.7 mi to the DNR parking area at the junction with Village Rd. A blue-blazed spur trail leads 0.2 mi to the Ice Age Trail (**MR12**).

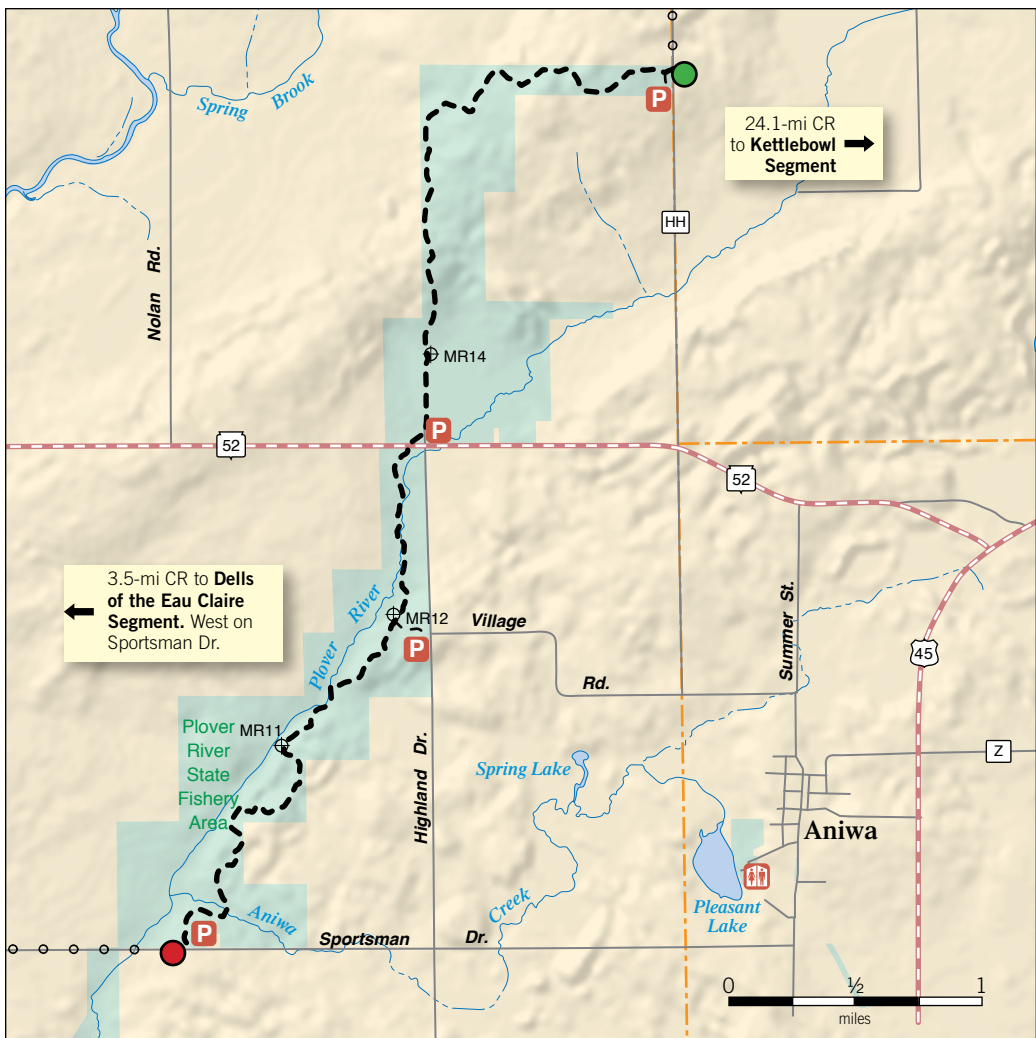
## THE HIKE

The Plover River State Fishery Area includes hardwood and cedar forests, lowlands and spring ponds along the Plover River, a Class I, high-quality trout stream that has a naturally sustaining trout population.

From the CTH-HH Trail access head west across rolling, forested hills lined by mossy boulders and bright green ferns. Watch for wetlands, a variety of wildflowers, deep kettles, a stone hole and boulder train as you cross the terminal moraine. Over 1,000 feet of volunteer-built boardwalk will keep boots high and dry through wetlands just north of STH-52. On the north section of boardwalk there is a welcoming observation deck adjacent to the boardwalk with comfortable benches (**MR14**).

The STH-52 Trail access has a handsome kiosk and ample parking. There is a good line of vision at the STH-52 crossing, but it still requires caution. Just south of STH-52 hikers will reach a stretch of puncheon and native timber bridge before continuing southward through a pine forest on the west side of the Plover River. Footing can be treacherous with rocks and roots in the path. After about one-third of a mile, hikers will reach a crossing of the river and can choose to either have their feet cooled by the river's waters or step across on boulders rising above the surface. Listen for the symphony of a "babbling brook" as the peaceful Plover River tumbles through the rocks at this crossing.

Now on the east side of the river, the segment continues southward through a riparian zone. The segment intersects a blue-blazed spur trail that leads east 0.2



miles to the Highland Dr. Trail parking area (MR12).

As the segment continues southward hikers head uphill to travel along a ridge through thick stands of balsam fir, northern white cedar and hemlock, then return to the river and hop-scotch alongside the rippling water on roots and rocks. The segment traverses an interesting stone-lined glacial wash (MR11) before it returns to the ridgetop, then transitions to rolling, open grassland for a short distance before reaching its endpoint at the Sportsman Drive parking area and informational kiosk.

*Mobile Skills Crew project site, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013*

#### AREA SERVICES

**Antigo:** See Highland Lakes Eastern Segment, p. 122. From the STH-52 Trail access go east then north ~13 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.

**Wausau:** See Ringle Segment, p. 143. From the STH-52 Trail access go west ~25 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.