

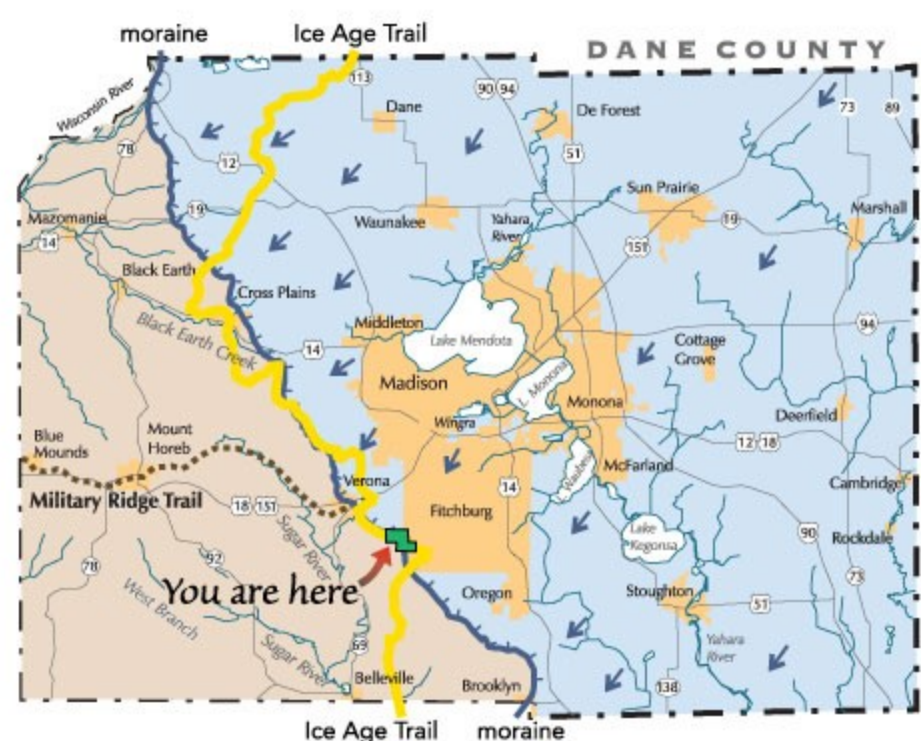
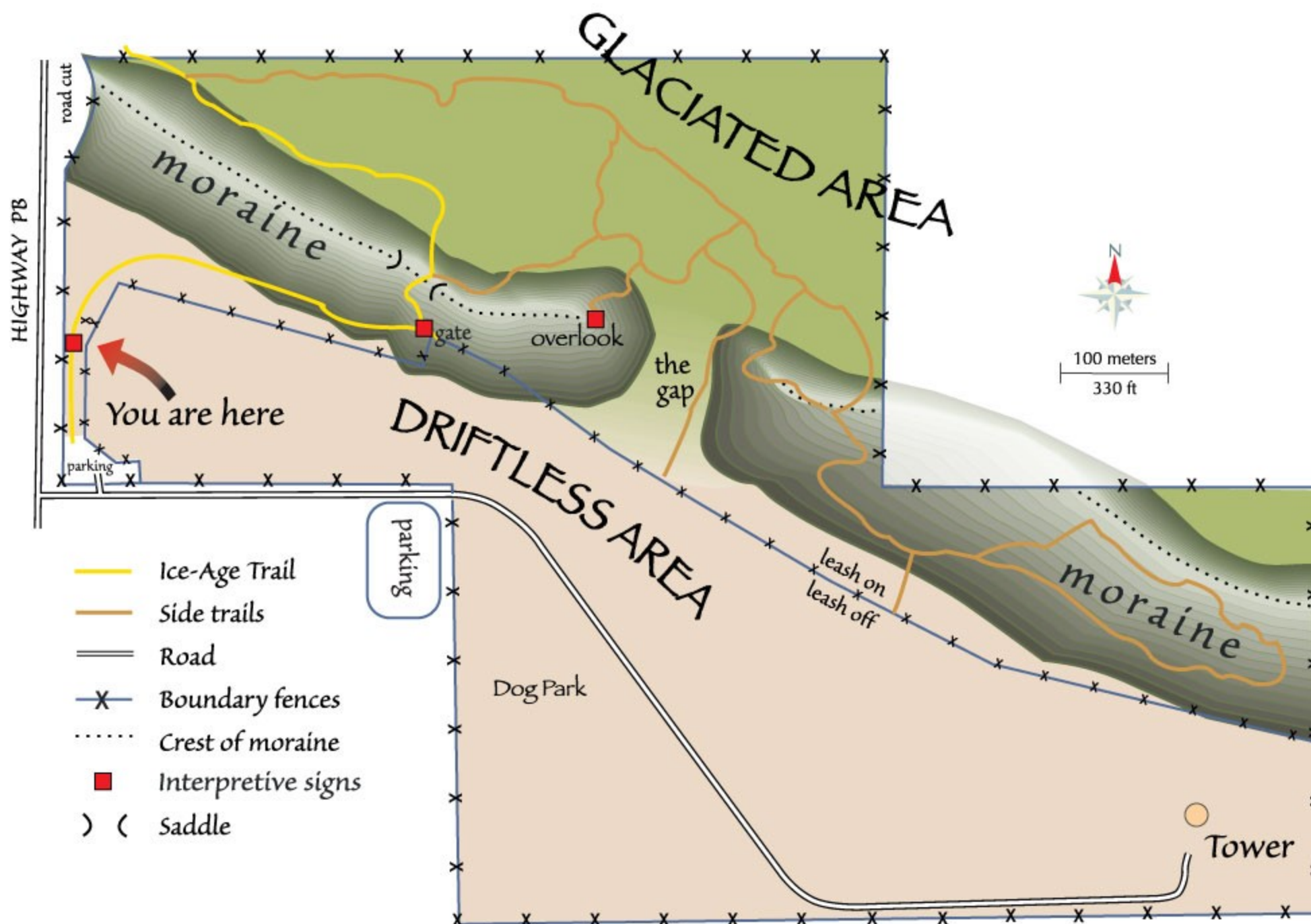
Prairie Moraine Park / Ice Age National Scenic Trail



Glacial Landforms Abound in Prairie Moraine County Park

You have entered the northern, leash-on, part of Prairie Moraine County Park, which is crossed by the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The trail extends over 1,000 miles from Interstate Park, on the Minnesota border, to Potawatomi State Park, on the Door Peninsula.

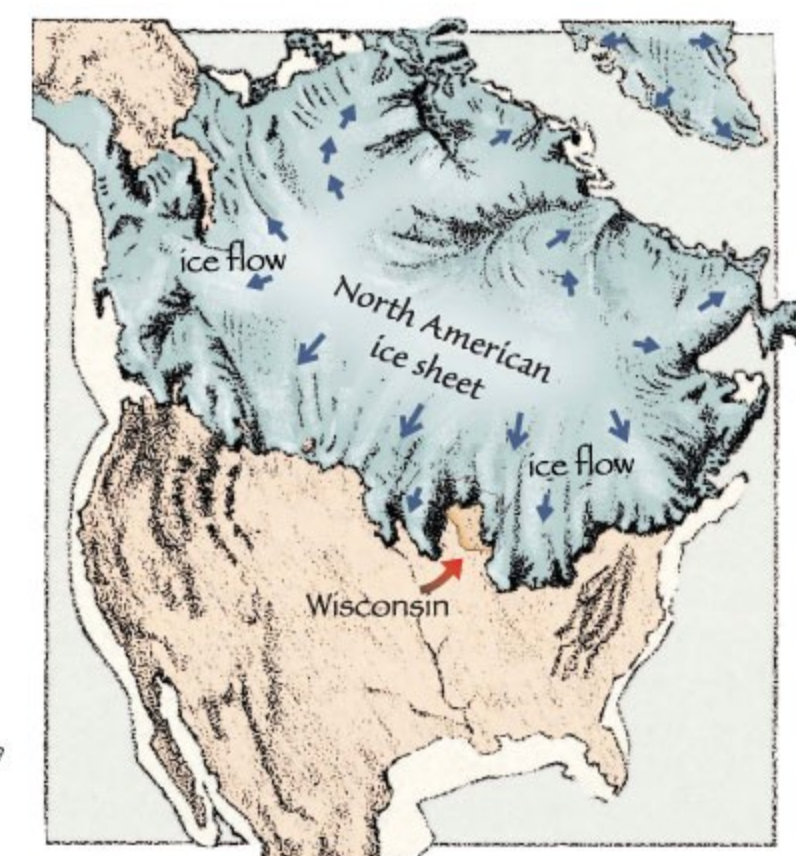
The park is an exemplary place to interpret landscape features created during the Ice Age. Here the Ice Age Trail closely follows the outermost glacial moraine at one of Wisconsin's best moraine viewing spots on public land. Moraines are among the most characteristic glacial landforms and the one in front of you is a striking example. This moraine formed at the climax of the Wisconsin Glaciation, the last major expansion of the North American ice sheet which entered the state about 30,000 years ago and melted back out of the state about 11,000 years ago.



The Moraine

(Looking North)

The ridge before you is a moraine, here 40 to 60 feet high. A moraine is a ridge that forms at the edge of a glacier where rock debris melts out of the ice and where the glacier margin is stationary. It is stationary when the forward movement of the flowing mass of ice is balanced by the backward melting of its edge. Every inch of ice movement is matched by every inch of ice melted off the front.



Interpretive signage provided by:

- Ice Age Trail Alliance
- Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
DIVISION OF EXTENSION - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
- With funding from:
 - Dane County Parks
 - Prairie Moraine Friends



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