

**Dodgeville** POP. 4,673 ELEVATION 1,253 FEET

**Services:** Restaurants, grocery, gas stations, water, rest-rooms, parking, picnic area, motels, laundry, city parks, hospital, shops.

**History:** In 1827, Henry Dodge, his family, and about 40 miners settled in Dodgeville. It was originally a lead-mining town filled with English, Irish, Scots, and French settlers. Welsh and Cornish miners arrived a few years later. In 1836, Henry Dodge became the first Wisconsin Territory Governor. The Iowa County Courthouse was built 1859, and it is the oldest courthouse still in use in Wisconsin.

**Address/Directions to the Trail:** The trailhead is on County Highway YZ, 1½ miles east of Highway 23 at the DNR Dodgeville Service Center (322 N. Douglas St., Dodgeville, WI 53533). Restrooms, a self-registration station and kiosk are available.

**Governor Dodge State Park** ELEVATION 1,238 FEET

**Services:** Water, rest rooms, picnicking, camping, trails, beach

**Address/Directions from the trail:** A hiking and bicycle lane along County Highway Z leads to the park. To get to the park by snowmobile, follow the signs on the trail west of County Highway Z. Entrance to the park: (4175 Hwy. 23, Dodgeville, WI 53533).

**Ridgeway** POP. 649 ELEVATION 1,170 FEET

**Services:** Gas station, water, rest rooms, parking, village park.

**History:** J.B. Skinner and other miners settled Ridgeway in 1828. The Irish, Welsh, Norwegians and Germans settled this area in the 1840s and 50s. Ridgeway has the only remaining railroad depot on the Military Ridge Trail. It was built in 1913 and sold to a local business in 1976. The Friends of the Military Ridge State Trail purchased the depot in 2001.

**Address/Directions to the Trail:** From Highway 18/151 travel north on County Highway HHH. Follow County Highway HHH through town. Parking, rest rooms and a self-registration kiosk are available at the Ridgeway Depot (618 Main St., Ridgeway, WI 53582).

**Barneveld** POP. 1,236 ELEVATION 1,235 FEET

**Services:** Restaurants, gas station, water, rest rooms, parking, village park.

**History:** One of Barneveld's first settlers were the Jones and Simpson families. Mr. Simpson offered the railroad the right-of-way if they would build a depot on his land; the railroad agreed to do so. Although the origin of Barneveld's name is unclear, some people believe a Dutch railroad surveyor, Mr. Orbison, named it after his hometown in Holland. The Village of Barneveld was incorporated in 1906.

**Directions to the Trail:** From Highway 18/151 travel north on County Highway K 1 mile to Garfield. Turn left on Garfield, and turn right on Main Street.

**Blue Mound State Park** ELEVATION 1,715 FEET

**Services:** Camping, water, rest rooms, picnicking, trails, swimming pool

**Address/Directions from the trail:** A hiking and bicycle path from the Military Ridge Trail provides access to the park, through the campground. A sign on the trail indicates the access path, which is west of Mounds Park Road in the Village of Blue Mounds. Entrance to the park: (4350 Mounds Park Rd., Blue Mounds, WI 53517).

**Blue Mounds** POP. 888 ELEVATION 1,300 FEET

**Services:** Gas station, grocery, water, rest rooms, parking, village park, laundry.

**History:** Blue Mounds was a strategic location for Mound Fort, which housed 25 people. The army used "the ridge" as a route to the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. Later, the railroad followed "the ridge" and delivered goods to the growing town.

**Directions to Trail:** From 18/151, turn north onto County Highway F. Turn left on County Highway ID. Travel west for 0.5 miles and turn right on Mounds Park Road. Travel north for 0.3 miles. Turn right at Blue Mounds Village Park. The trail is south of the parking lot.

**Mount Horeb** POP. 7,330 ELEVATION 1,230 FEET

**Services:** Restaurants, grocery, gas station, water, rest rooms, picnic shelter, motels, laundry, village parks and shops.

**History:** Mount Horeb is the Troll Capital of the World. The village has a unique history and flavor of life retained from the original Norwegian settlement established in the 1870s. When the railroad arrived in the 1880s, businesses moved to their current location to be near the depot. A shelter building is at the Military Ridge Trail and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**Address/Direction to Trail:** From County Highway ID, turn south on 2<sup>nd</sup> street. Go one block to the trail rest area and parking lot. Rest rooms, a self-registration station and kiosk are available at the trail depot (116 S. Second St., Mount Horeb, WI 53572).

**Klevenville** UNINCORPORATED ELEVATION 990 FEET

**History:** Klevenville was named after Iver Kleven, an early settler from Norway. In 1846, a colony of people from Valdres, Norway, settled here. They lived in covered wagons until they built their log homes. After the railroad arrived, Mr. Kleven operated a lumber business and was the postmaster until 1890.

**Riley** UNINCORPORATED ELEVATION 945 FEET

**Services:** Parking, a tavern with water out front.

**History:** Riley was founded in 1881, when the Chicago & North Western Railway was constructed. Although it was named the Sugar River Station on William Riley's Farm, it became known as Riley's Station and Post Office.

**Address/Direction to Trail:** From Highway 18/151, take County Highway PD east, 2½ miles, turn north (left) on County Highway J. Follow County Highway J, 2½ miles to Riley. Parking, a portable toilet, a self-registration station and kiosk are available at the Riley parking lot (3087 Co. Rd. J, Verona, WI 53593).

**Verona** POP. 11,775 ELEVATION 970 FEET

**Services:** Restaurants, grocery, gas station, city parks (water and rest rooms), parking, motels, bike repair, laundry, shops.

**History:** The Town of Verona was established in 1847 and was named after Verona, New York. The first settlers were Scotsmen, who arrived in the late 1830s. It was primarily an agricultural town, however small communities sprang up and Verona became a village in 1848. The Chicago & North Western Railway line was established in the community in 1880. In 1966, Verona was given the nickname of "Hometown USA." It became a city on October 10, 1977.

**Address/Directions to Trail:** From Highway 18/151, take exit # 92 for County Highway PB. Go north on Old County Highway PB for one mile. Turn left into the trailhead parking lot (2565 Old Co. Rd. PB, Verona, WI 53593). A self-registration station and kiosk are available.

**Fitchburg** POP. 26,380 ELEVATION 964 FEET

**Services:** Restaurants, grocery, gas stations, city parks (water and rest rooms), motels, laundry, bike repair, shops.

**History:** Fitchburg began as a township named Greenfield in February 1847. In 1853, due to confusion with the township of Greenfield near Milwaukee, the name was changed to Fitchburg (after Fitchburg, Massachusetts). In the 1830s the first settlers were Yankees from the east. Soon after, the Irish began arriving. The land was ideally suited to agriculture. Small settlements sprang up to compliment the farming community. The Chicago & North Western and Illinois Central railroads both had lines through the township. In 1983 Fitchburg incorporated as a city.

**Address/Directions to Trail:** The trail starts at the southeast corner of County Highway PD and Highway 18/151. There is no parking available for trail users there. Parking and trail access are available at the Quarry Ridge Recreation Area on Fitchrona Road. Take County Highway PD west from 18/151, turn left on Nesbitt Road and then turn left on Fitchrona Road. Go about 0.3 miles; the park is on the left side of the road (2740 Fitchrona Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53719). The blacktopped walkway next to the shelter and rest rooms leads to the Military Ridge Trail.

# Military Ridge State Trail



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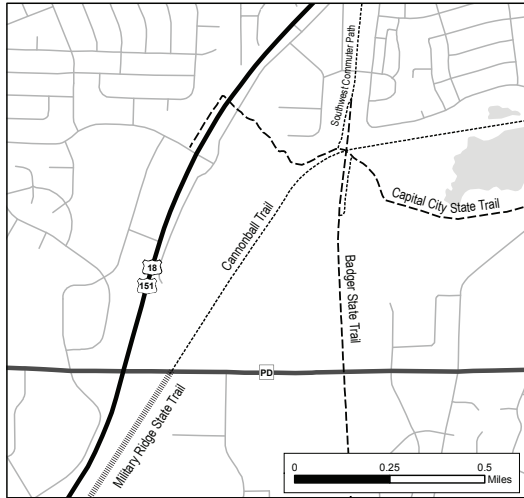
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**Want to make a difference?** Join the Friends of Military Ridge State Trail. For more information, see <http://www.friendsofmilitaryridgestrailand.org> or contact The Friends of the Military Ridge Trail, P. O. Box 373, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572, (608) 437-7393.

## Trail Connections and Roundabout

In Fitchburg, the Military Ridge State Trail corridor continues east as the Cannonball Trail where it also connects to the Badger State Trail, Capital City State Trail and Southwest Commuter Bike Path at a bicycle roundabout.



## Safety Messages

**Bikers**—Most of the trail is surfaced with fine limestone. It is not designed for high speed travel. The trail can become soft and wet, can erode quickly during heavy rains, and is subject to animal damage. Keep your bike under full control at all times. Keep at least two bike lengths between riders and warn others when passing. Bike clothing (reflective for night riding), shoes, pant leg clips, and helmets are recommended. Please be aware of your speed, especially on the paved portion of the trail. Hikers, in-line skaters, and joggers also use the trail.

**Designated Areas**—Designated use areas are developed areas such as trails and picnic areas that are inspected and maintained by the Department of Natural Resources and are shown on the official property map. All other areas are considered undesignated; the department does not maintain or inspect them. You are encouraged to limit your activities to designated areas.

**Hikers**—Be aware that connecting trails may vary in difficulty. Not all trails are surfaced. Steep climbs and descents and stairways may be encountered. Use caution when on steep bluffs and cliffs. Stay well away from cliffs that are not protected by a barricade or barrier. Stay behind barricades and barriers where they are provided and watch small children closely. Trail surfaces can become slippery when wet, leaf covered, or where loose gravel may be encountered.

## About the Trail

The Military Ridge State Trail is a 40-mile trail developed in 1985 on the abandoned Chicago & North Western Railway line in Southwestern Wisconsin. The western end of the trail is at Highway 23 and County Highway YZ in the City of Dodgeville, in Iowa County, and the eastern end of the trail is at County Highway PD in the City of Fitchburg, in Dane County.

About 3 miles of the trail, east of Verona to Fitchburg, are paved with asphalt. The rest of the trail is surfaced with crushed limestone and has a gentle grade of 2 to 5 percent. There are 47 bridges, which are decked and railed. Between Dodgeville and Mount Horeb the trail goes along the top of the Military Ridge. Between Mount Horeb and Verona the trail wanders through the Sugar River Valley. The highest point on the trail is Blue Mounds, at 1300 feet above sea level. The lowest point is along the Sugar River between Riley and Verona, 900 feet above sea level.

Each bicyclist, in-line skater, and roller skier 16 years and older must have a State Trail Pass in order to use the trail. The trail passes are available from private vendors along the trail, at self-registration stations on the trail and at the Dodgeville Service Center and Governor Dodge and Blue Mound State Parks. The trail is open to bicyclists, in-line skaters, roller skiers, hikers, and joggers during summer; and also to snowmobilers and skiers during winter.

Snowmobilers must operate at a maximum of 15 miles per hour within all city and village limits. East of Old County Road PB a snowmobile route parallels the paved section of trail for about 0.5 miles and connects to the Dane County Snowmobile Trail System. Snowmobiles are not allowed on the paved section of trail. Snowmobilers can check trail status through Iowa and Dane County Snowmobile Clubs. The trail is closed to snowmobiling when snow conditions are poor to protect the trail and connecting trails from damage. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorized vehicles, horses, camping, and hunting are prohibited on the trail. Pets **must be on a leash**, no longer than 8 feet at all times and are not allowed in picnic areas.

### State Trail Admission Fee

Valid on all State Trails. Fees are subject to change.

<b>Annual</b> .....	\$25
<b>Daily</b> .....	\$5
<b>Surcharge*</b> .....	\$5

\* For failure to purchase pass before using trail.

