

Wiouwash State Trail

41 miles	Crushed stone + grass	Wildlife viewing	Trail connections
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Trail details

The Wiouwash State Trail is not just a route through Wisconsin's heartland—it's a journey through the unique character of four distinct counties: Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca, Shawano. Its name cleverly combines the first letters of these counties, echoing the trail's spirit of connection and adventure. Divided into two segments by a 30-mile gap, this inviting pathway offers a North segment stretching 19 miles between Birnamwood, Eland, Tigerton, and Split Rock, welcoming explorers with convenient parking in Birnamwood, Eland, Wittenberg, and Tigerton. In Eland, the trail seamlessly links to the Mountain-Bay State Trail, expanding opportunities for discovery. The South segment, spanning 22 miles, winds its way through Oshkosh, Medina, Larson, and Hortonville, inviting travelers to soak in the beauty of Wisconsin's countryside. Set atop an old railroad grade, the trail is as flat as a tabletop—making it perfect for all experience levels. Its "Easy to Moderate" rating, paired with a gentle crushed stone and grass surface, ensures a relaxed adventure for hikers, bikers, and nature lovers alike.

The northern segment welcomes you into a peaceful, shaded corridor beneath dense tree cover, creating a cool, tranquil atmosphere perfect for a leisurely stroll or bike ride. As you move south, the trail opens up to breathtaking vistas—scenic views of Lake Butte des Morts shimmer near Oshkosh, while stretches of prairie and farmland unfold in every direction, offering a sense of wide-open freedom. Journey east and you'll reach Menasha, where a stunning converted railroad trestle spans Little Lake Butte des Morts, providing a picturesque spot for photos and reflection. Along the way, the Rat River Wildlife Area delights outdoor enthusiasts with ample opportunities for birdwatching, canoeing, and hiking, making every mile a new adventure.

Best of all, you can enjoy the Wiouwash State Trail without the need for a state trail pass—just come as you are and embrace the adventure!

Distance: 41 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Surface: Crushed stone + grass

Elevation Gain: Minimal - flat rail grade

Trailhead: Multiple access points (Birnamwood, Eland, Tigerton, Oshkosh area)

Parking: Available in Birnamwood, Eland, Wittenberg, Tigerton, and Oshkosh area trail access points

Trail Highlights:

- Two trail segments spanning four counties (Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca, Shawano)
- Connection to the Mountain-Bay State Trail in Eland
- Shaded wooded riding on the northern segment
- Lake Butte des Morts scenic views near Oshkosh

- Converted railroad trestle bridge near Menasha over Little Lake Butte des Morts
- Rat River Wildlife Area for birding and nature exploration
- No state trail pass required