



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Bearskin State Trail

Wisconsin



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Overview

The Bearskin State Trail follows a route blazed into the heart of the great Northwoods, first by pioneers and loggers, and then by passengers and outdoors enthusiasts on trains with such names as the Hiawatha and Fisherman's Special. Now it's bicyclists, hikers, and snowboarders who disappear into the woods on a mostly crushed-gravel trail that runs for almost 27 miles between Minocqua and Heafford Junction.

NOTE: A State Trail Pass (\$25 annually/\$5 daily) is required for bicyclists ages 16 and older. Snowmobilers must display either a Wisconsin registration or a snowmobile State Trail Pass. For information, go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/trailpass.html.

About the Route

The Bearskin State Trail traverses a sparsely populated area known for dense forests and a proliferation of lakes. Those lakes are a destination for fishermen as well as birders, especially during migratory season. In addition to spotting bald eagles and loons from the lakeside, trail users might be able to spot deer from the trail. The route crosses 16 converted railroad trestles, 8 alone spanning Bearskin Creek, the trail's namesake.

Leaving off from the trail's northern endpoint in Minocqua, the trail crosses the longest of those trestles—375 feet long, to be exact—spanning Minocqua Lake. Although occasional clearings can be found next to marshes or lakes, the trail is mostly forested. Tree branches arching over the trail give the impression of passing through a tunnel.

Restrooms, drinking water, and food are scarce. Hazelhurst, at 5.1 miles, is the last town with full services until the end. A pit toilet and pump water are available at a picnic spot next to South Blue Lake (8.9 miles), and Goodnow (13.6 miles) has a restaurant.

Trail users will gain insight into the former backwoods life from interpretive signs posted along the trail. A century-old railroad line shed, about 9.5 miles from Minocqua, attests to the rustic living conditions of some railroad workers. Elsewhere, there are trailside signs about the flora and fauna.

A rest stop is located on Old Highway K at 18 miles, and 1 mile later the route follows a 4.5-mile on-road segment. The southernmost 2.5 miles of off-road gravel trail start again on Lake Nokomis Road and crosses the lake on two trestles, one of which completes a 0.3-mile causeway. The trail ends in Heafford Junction, which has food and lodging, and the route also joins the Hiawatha Trail.

Connections



Bearskin State Trail

Wisconsin

States: Wisconsin

Counties: Lincoln, Oneida

Length: 26.9 miles

Trail end points: Front St. (Minocqua) to
Oneida County Line (Heafford Junction)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Mountain

Biking, Snowmobiling, Walking, Cross Country

Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Bearskin State Trail runs between Front St. (Minocqua), where parking is available, and the Oneida County Line (Heafford Junction).

Parking is also available at:

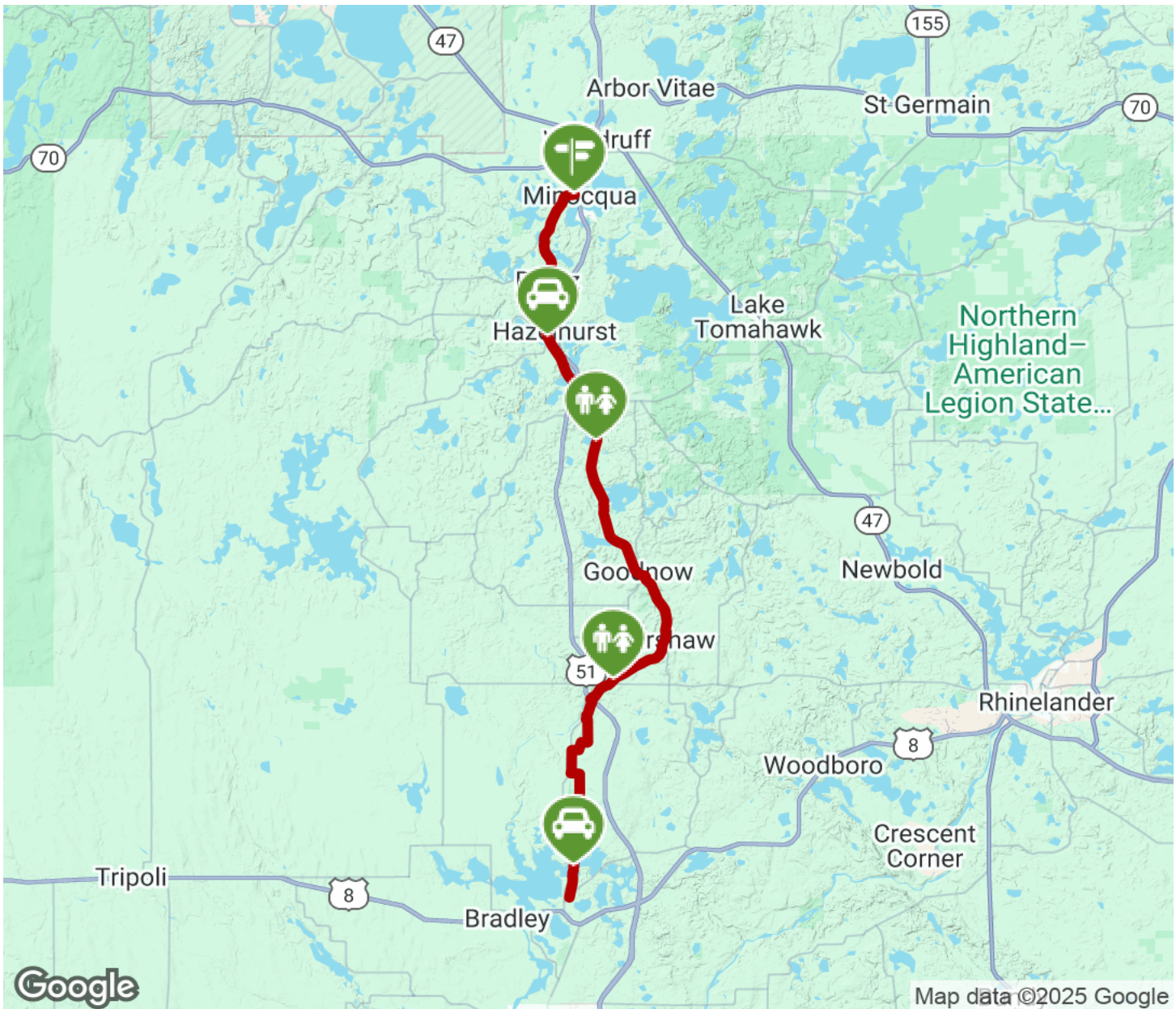
- 1972 Co Hwy L (Tomahawk)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Bearskin State Trail

Wisconsin



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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