

The Dalby Family from Monroe, WI

6/13 Orangeville to Freeport & back - Jane Addams Trail

The temperatures were in the upper 80s, but the partially covered trail provided enough shelter from the sun to make the ride very pleasant. We saw and heard many birds, including cardinals and blue jays, as well as some deer. We set off south at around 2pm and found ourselves in Freeport by 3:30pm, where we sat to enjoy ice cream. We enjoyed the leisurely pace of our ride and found it was a great opportunity for a device-free activity where we could connect with our kids. The return journey took us about as long, but we made it back to our vehicles before the bugs came out to play.



01: In the Orangeville car park
cream in Freeport



02: Julien and Aiden in Freeport



03: Tim & Kristin getting ice
cream in Freeport

6/15 New Glarus to Brodhead & back - Sugar River Trail

Still a little tired from our Jane Addams trail ride two days previously, we nonetheless decided to attempt the 46-mile round trip from New Glarus to Brodhead. With promises of plenty of stops, ice cream in Brodhead and Pizza in New Glarus, we set off just before noon on another hot June day. A storm has passed through the night before, so our biggest obstacle was to navigate the many broken branches and trees that had fallen overnight. Just outside Albany, we met up with the rangers, who were coming the other way and clearing debris. We had a lot of fun chatting, and finding the answers to the Trail Explorer questions along the way.



04: At the New Glarus Trailhead



05: In Brodhead



06: Back again at the New Glarus Trailhead

6/25 Madison to Monroe - Badger State Trail

One cool and blustery Sunday we drove our bikes to Madison, parking the car at Helen C. White. We took the Southwest Commuter Path to the Badger State Trail and then headed back home to Monroe. The 50-60-degree weather helped keep us fresh, and we moved along at the fair clip - especially on the nice paved section of trail from Madison to Fitchburg. There was one tree down along the route, forcing us to dismount and lift our bikes over the obstruction to continue our journey. We took a rest in Belleville, stocking up on some snacks at the gas station, and then having lunch near the trail car park. The tunnel was surprisingly quiet. After putting flashlights in place, we sailed through without too much trouble. At Monticello, we saw a surprisingly large snake, and then took another brief rest. The last ten miles is slightly uphill, making it tough on those tired legs. We soon made it over the hump and rode into Monroe ready for a hearty dinner. It was another great family ride.



07: At Helen C. White Hall, in Madison



08: Crossing the Beltline



09: Crossing the bike roundabout



10: Resting in Belleville



11: Exiting Stewart Tunnel



12: A snake on the roadside in Monticello



13: In Monticello



14: Nearly home in Monroe

7/2 Monroe to Freeport (Aiden & Julien only) - Jane Addams Trail

We had some out-of-town friends staying with us for the weekend so Aiden and Julien decided to take their counterparts on a bike ride. The girls had never ridden 24 miles in one go before, but with some encouragement and the promise of great ice cream at the end, they decided to give it a go. It was a lovely day for biking, with temperatures in the 80s and a light following breeze. We were all relieved when the kids called us to say they had arrived in Freeport. We joined them for ice cream and then drove the kids, and the bikes, back home. Our visitors said it was the best day of their vacation.



15: Leaving from home in Monroe



16: Waiting for ice cream in Freeport

7/10 Monroe to Orangeville -Badger State Trail/Jane Addams Trail

This was a quick Sunday afternoon ride so that the parents could complete the missing parts of the trail. It was quite a hot and humid day, leaving us all quite tired after the round trip, even though it was a much shorter ride than we had done previously. Notable on this ride was a downed tree, which we were able to clamber under, and a young deer.



17: Leaving from home



18: A tree down just outside Monroe



19: At Orangeville