

3.Mission Creek to Sargent's Creek Route



Yellow Lady Slippers on the trail heading up from Sargent's creek to Beck's Rd. in June.

Highlights: The **wildflowers and ferns** in June are spectacular in the Sargent Creek Valley. But the real highlight of this hike is reaching the **top of the Mission Creek Valley in summer or fall**, with huge pines above you and a tree and fern covered valley below you.

Parking and Directions: From 35W take the **Midway Road exit** and head south. Midway soon turns into Beck's Road. Continue down Beck's Rd until it ends at Highway 23. Turn right on 23 and continue west until you reach 131st St. Fond du lac park is on your left so continue to the end of 131st St. **Continue straight on the gravel road into the LSHT parking area. On the far right are concrete barriers. Head up the road through the barriers up a road to a boardwalk on your right.**

Distance: Up and back 4 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

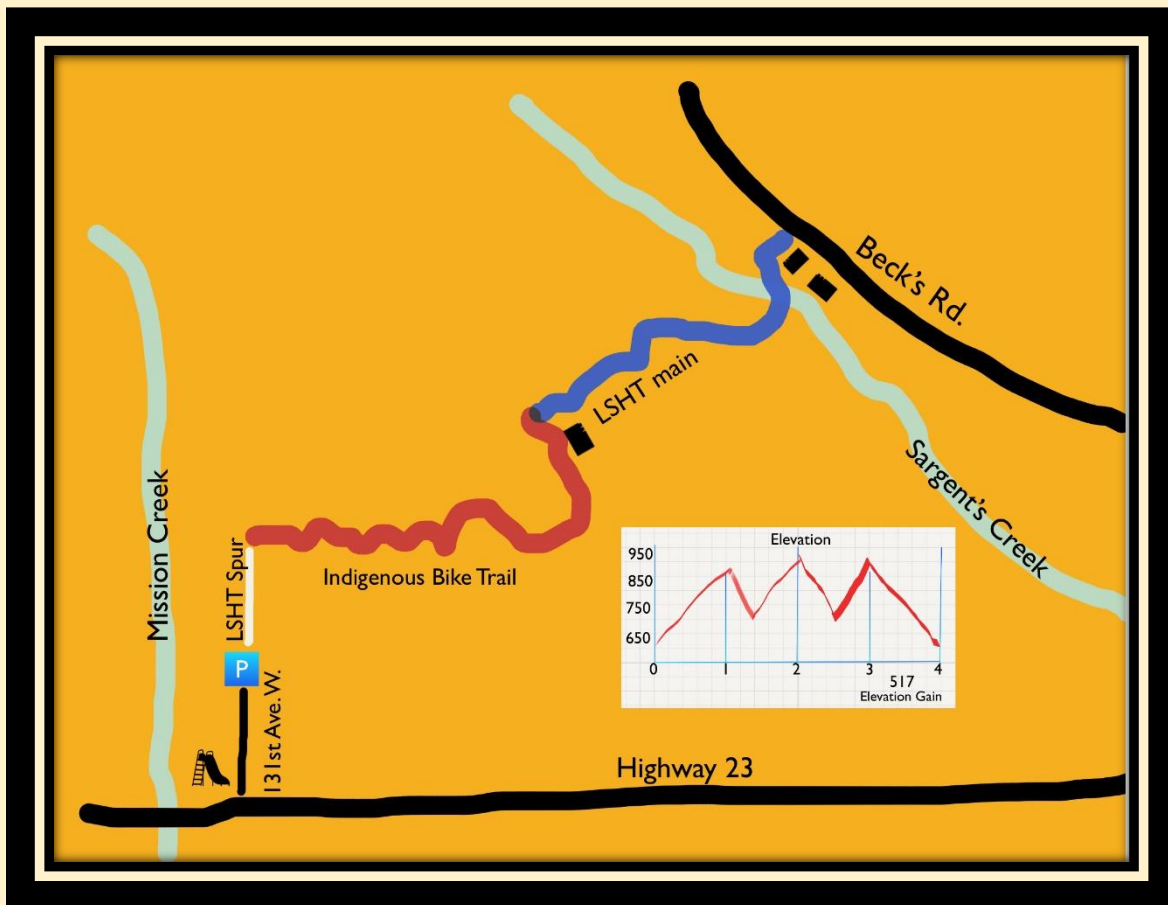
Recommended for: Experienced hikers (**the bike trail above is narrow and high**)



Fond du lac Park



Indigenous Bike Trail



The Route:

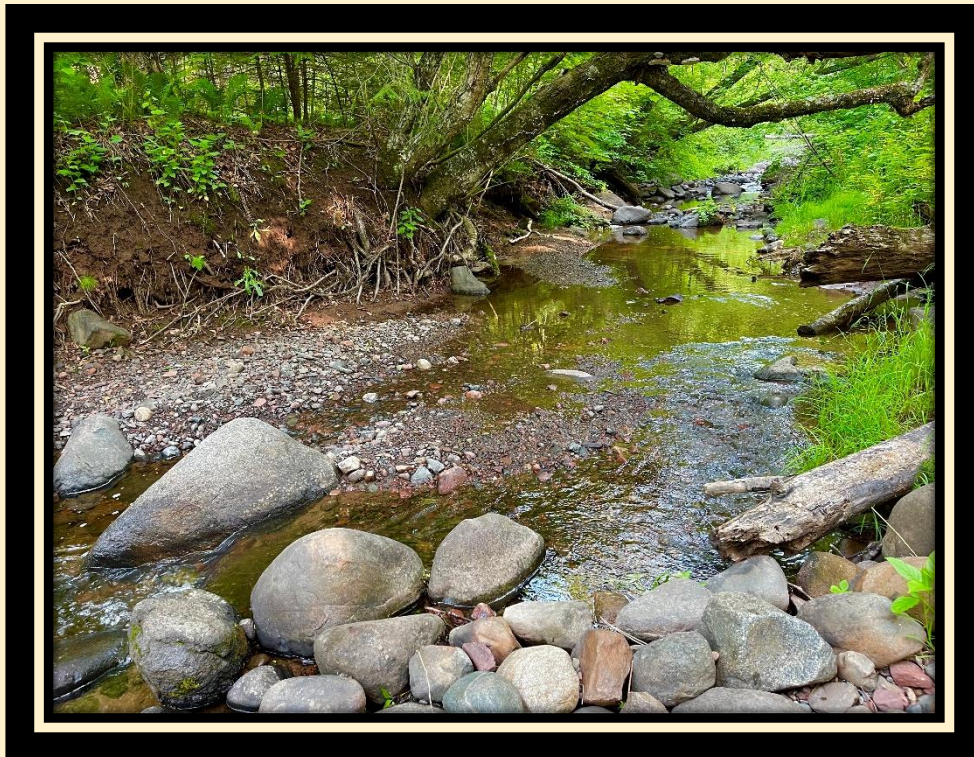
Mile 1: Once you find the Indigenous boardwalk, start the long climb to the ridge. **Check to see if there are any bikes coming down the hill.** You will climb several switchbacks through towering pine trees to a high ridge overlooking the valley. The trail takes you around several bends that move you around deep ravines. **Be extra careful in this area and check ahead for bikes.** Also, you can easily get distracted by the beauty of this area, so be careful. The trail winds around and slowly take you to the top of the ridge. If you are lucky, you can see all the way to the St. Louis River Vally and Mont du lac ski area. I hiked this and the end of November and the views were amazing. At about the one-mile mark, you will get to a spot where the trail goes in several directions. Take on right and you will be on the LSHT main trail headed to Beck's Rd.

Mile 2: Continue on through a mixed forest to a spot with towering pine trees. Hiking in November there was a spot where the valley ridge was covered in hundreds of birch trees. They looked like the attack of Halloween skeletons. Also, I could see the top of Ely Peak way across the valley. There is a steep narrow down into the Sargent's Creek Valley (**be very careful in this section**). In June there are many wildflowers at the top and bottom of this trail. When you reach the bottom, a wooden bridge takes you over a small feeder creek. Follow the LSHT signs to Sargent's Creek and use the rocks to cross the creek. In June and July, you enter another world of huge ferns and wildflowers along the base of the valley. Continue on the trail where eventually you reach a set of stairs that led up the hill. In June you will find many Yellow Lady Slippers and Trillium along this section of the trail. Heading up the stairs you will get a great view of the Sargent's Creek far below. Once you reach the top of the stairs, the trail levels off. Continue up toward Beck's Road until you reach the telephone pole with the blue trail marker. This is a good spot to take a break before turning around and heading back downhill.

Mile 3 & 4: The important spot is where the trails meet and this time take the left trail back to the parking lot. **Look for the LSHT spur trail sign.**



Ferns along Sargent's Creek



Crossing at Sargent's Creek



Overlooking Mission Creek Valley



Mission Creek Basin

Extended Route: You have a choice of including the **Ely Peak hike** or continuing on the main LSHT towards Jay Cooke State Park.

Family Friendly Route: There is a path that goes over to Mission Creek for kids to explore. Also, you can head up the gravel road until it ends at the Lake Superior Hiking Trail for a short hike. After the hike you can head back to the Fond Du Lac playground. You could also do a stop at Lake Superior Zoo on the way back home.

After the hike: This is a great hike on a nice day in early summer but nice any time. After a long hike head to the **Wabegon Bar** for a cold beer. [Wabegon Bar & Grill | Superior, WI | Duluth, MN | Daily Specials](#) for a craft beer and appetizers or in summer head to **Mont du lac** [Mont du Lac Resort | Affordable Outdoor Family Fun in Superior Wisconsin \(mdlresort.com\)](#)

Strava Link

<https://www.strava.com/routes/3171567335419678698>