5. Stewart Creek Route



View from just above the Munger Trail, photo spot #1

Highlights: The steep Stewart Creek valley, the huge boulders covering the creek, the DWP Bridge, the Clyde Connector Trail down through towering pines and the Stone Arch Bridge.

Parking and Directions:

From 35W take the **Grand Ave Exit going west**. **Drive west on Grand Ave. past Spirit Mt. until you come to Clyde Ave. Head north on Clyde Ave. until you get to 95th Ave. W. Park on 95th Ave. W.** while being aware of calendar parking and people's driveways. Head east on 95th till it ends and head up the gravel road (**Clyde Connector Bike Trail**). **Take the Clyde Connector a short way up to the Munger Trail. Head east on the Munger Trail until you come to Stewart Creek. On the west side of the Creek, you will see an unmarked trail heading up stream**.

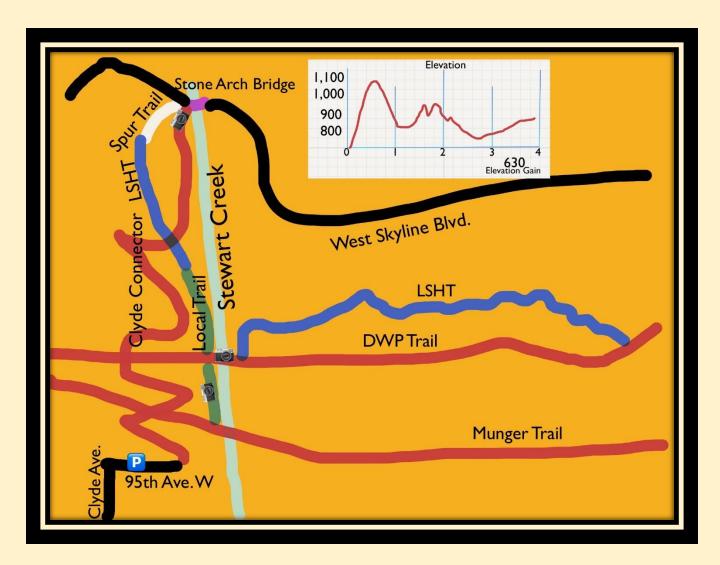
Distance: Down and back 4.22 miles

Difficulty: difficult in the steep areas of the trail (the first mile)

Recommended for: experienced hikers



Start of Clyde Connector bike trail on 95th Ave W.



The Route:

Mile 1: Head up the connector trail to the Munger Trail. Turn right and go east until you see the Stewart Creek. Look on the left side for an unmarked dirt trail heading up the stream. As you go up the stream you will see hundreds of large boulders. A little further up you will see a towering bridge up in the air. This is the DWP Trail bridge (formerly a railroad bridge). Go under the bridge following the connector trail and then a climb a steep hill up to your left. When you get to the top of the trail, you are on the LSHT. Follow the blue markings up the hill on your right. The hill is steep and you come to a rock out cropping with lots of pine trees. Continue following the blue markers until you come to an intersection. Follow the LSHT spur trail to the Magney/Snively parking lot. Head up to the West Skyline Parkway and head to the right (careful to watch for any traffic). Walk to the historic stone bridge overlooking the top of Stewart Creek. After taking photos, head back along the Parkway to the gravel road with bright

yellow gates (this is the **Clyde Connector Bike Trail**). Head down the bike trail where you will go from a hardwood forest to a stretch of towering pine trees and rock outcrops. Continue down the hill to the bottom where you will be on the **DWP Bike Trail**. **Head to your left on the DWP**. In about a quarter mile you will come to the **DWP Bridge over Stewart Creek**. Stop and enjoy the view on both side of the bridge.

Mile 2: After taking photos, on the bridge head east over the bridge. As soon as you cross the bridge, look to your left for the **steps to the LSHT**. Follow the blue markings first up through hardwood forest. There are several interesting spots along this stretch including an abandoned home with a man-made stone channel. You will pass overlooks of the St. Louis River and several bike trails coming down the hill.

Mile 3: Follow the trail east through the mixed forest until you come back down to the DWP Trail. Once on the DWP Trail head west back to your car.

Mile 4: The walk back on the DWP is very nice with mature trees on both sides of the trail. Once you get past the DWP bridge look for the yellow caution sign on your right. The Clyde Connector is on the left.

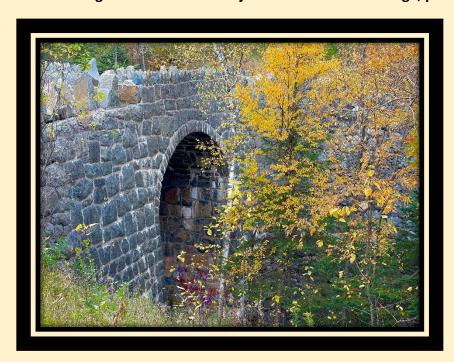


Parking lot sign

Clyde Connector sign



Boulders covering Stewart Creek from just below the DWP bridge, photo spot #1



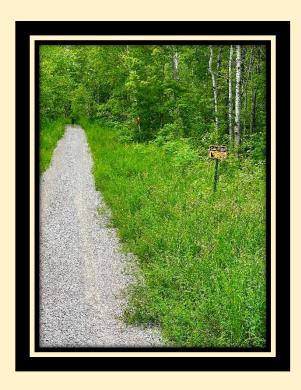
View of the Stone Arch Bridge on the Skyline parkway, photo spot #2



LSHT on east end of DWP bridge



View from the DWP Bridge, photo spot #3



Clyde Connector is left of this sign

Extended Route: Continue on LSHT to the **Spirit Mt. chalet**. Then head up the service road to connect with the **Knolton Creek section of the LSHT**.

Family Friendly Route: Hike up the **Clyde Connector** to the **DWP Trail** and head east for towards **Spirit Mt** through the beautiful wooded area. After the hike, can head east on Grand Ave. to the **Lake Superior Zoo**.

After the hike:

After a strenuous hike you might be thirsty, so head to the **Tappa Keg** across from the zoo. You could also head to Spirit Valley and **the Boreal House**. <u>The Boreal House - Home</u>

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