

LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL USER INFORMATION

(As of May 18, 2017)

CAMPING

Most of the trail in Langlade County passes through lands owned and managed by the Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department. Primitive camping is allowed up to two weeks on the trail through county forest lands. Two primitive fee campsites along the trail through Veterans Memorial Park (see Map 34f in the alliance's trail atlas for location) are available. Each campsite includes a fire ring, picnic table, privy and can accommodate up to four tents. Four rustic cabins are also available for shelter at the county park. Reservations for the fee sites and cabins can be made by calling 715-623-6214.

Other than these camp sites, the county does not require any advance notice or registration but it would be advisable to let the coordinator or county forestry office know of your trip plans.

Hikers camping along the trail are encouraged to minimize any disturbance of the natural setting and take out their garbage. Areas in which camping is not allowed are the non-county owned lands on the Kettlebowl segment south of the ski hill at Wisconsin 52, the Lumbercamp segment through the Peters Marsh State Wildlife Area, the privately owned land on the Highland Lakes segment and a stretch of the Parrish Hills segment south and north of the Prairie River ford to just east of County Trunk Highway H.

Camping is not allowed at Spsychalla Lodge on the Old Railroad segment and the ATV shelter north of 5 Cent Road on the Parrish Hills segment. The county facilities are open to day use only. These areas are owned and managed by public and private parties who have asked the chapter's cooperation in discouraging overnight use.

WATER AND SUPPLIES

Especially in summer, hikers should make arrangements for water caches along the trail. The Kettlebowl segment is especially distant from any natural and developed water sources. The Lumbercamp segment is also distant from water sources. Dependent on area precipitation patterns, the shallow glacial lakes shown on the map in the state Peters Marsh Wildlife Area west of Cty. S fluctuate greatly. The shallow lakes were reported full in the state wildlife area when the trail stretch from County A to County S was checked last summer.

Low water levels of Baker Lake, just west of Highway 52, has diminished quality as a dependable water source. It would require considerable pre-filtering before filtering or UV treatment. Otherwise hikers should plan on alternative water sources for these areas.

The Old Railroad, Highland Lakes and Parrish Hills segments lie in proximity to natural water features. Hikers are urged to boil, filter or chemically treat any water taken from streams or lakes along all segments. Water is available at Veterans Memorial Park.

The City of Antigo has many retail stores that can furnish most supplies needed by hikers. Grocery stores are also located at Neva Corners and Elcho. Other grocery stores are located at Elton and White Lake in eastern Langlade County.

“Mail drops” for through hikers can be mailed to post offices at Antigo, Deerbrook, Elcho, Summit Lake or White Lake.

Information on lodging, dining facilities or local services is available upon request from the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation, Antigo NCTC, 312 Forrest Avenue,

Antigo, WI 54409, (715) 623-2085, www.langladecounty.org or the Antigo/Langlade County Chamber Of Chamber non-local toll free number (888) 526-4523 or <http://www.antigochamber.com> .

PARKING

Limited space for parking is available near the County S trailhead, Townline Lake (County T), Deep Woods Lake (Forest Road) and Pence Lake (Pence Lake Road) County Waysides. Veterans Memorial Park and the Jack Lake Ski Parking lot on County J are also located near the trail. A small parking space was developed by the state DNR last year near the Old Railroad and Lumbercamp trailheads on County Trunk A. Also with the cooperation of the Towns of Evergreen and Towns of Polar, limited parking was made available at the town park in Polar and the Evergreen Cemetery in proximity to the Sherry Road Kettlebowl segment trailhead. Hikers will be allowed to park vehicles at a small space next to the cemetery's roadside sign. The town board requested that hikers not park vehicles in the cemetery. Limited parking at the cemetery's roadsign is on a trial basis for a year. Another parking option is an ATV lot on Sherry Road just under a mile southeast of the Kettlebowl trailhead.

Hikers need to check with local sources on the accessibility of these parking locations when planning a winter venture as many are not plowed regularly.

Local ordinance allows only a maximum of 48 hour parking for county forest day use areas. The parking lot at Kettlebowl Ski Area is gated but there is space between the highway and gate for a few vehicles. Make sure vehicles are clear of the gate for authorized traffic.

The county does enforce an ordinance prohibiting unattended vehicles parked along local roads. Hikers planning to leave vehicles parked overnight at any of the above locations should contact the Langlade County Sheriff's Office with trip plan information and car details. The office is located in the Safety Building, 840 Clermont Street, Antigo or call 715-627-6411.

With the popularity of mobile devices, hikers use them on their treks for various uses and emergencies. The county's 9-1-1 emergency telephone system is capable of identifying the location of callers with devices that have a position location feature dialing the emergency number. However coverage is spotty in less developed areas.

INFORMATION SOURCES

A good information source is the trail guidebook and atlas available for sale from the Ice Age Trail Alliance, 2110 Main Street, Cross Plains, WI 53528 or iceagetrail.org

Current trail conditions are also posted on the alliance website.

The Mammoth Tracks GPS (*Global Positioning System*) Ice Age Trail app became commercially available last year for certain cell phones.

Complete 7.5 minute topographic map coverage by the United States Geological Survey is available for Langlade County. Topographic maps are available from commercial outlets; the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 3817 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI, or the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quadrangles which include portions of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail segments in the county are as follows:

Trail Segment Topographic Quadrangles

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Kettlebowl | Pickerel and Polar |
| Lumbercamp | Pearson and Pickerel |
| Old Railroad | Kempster and Pearson |

Highland Lakes Bavaria, Enterprise and Kempster
Parrish Hills Enterprise and Parrish

OTHER USERS

The trail largely crosses public lands managed primarily for timber production by the Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department.

A portion of the land along the Kettlebowl segment is owned by BTG Pactual Group. The lands, including the acreage covered under a conservation and trail easement acquired by the state, is also managed for timber production. State-owned lands located along the Lumbercamp and Parrish Hills segments has occasional logging activity.

Information on logging activity along the trail can be obtained from the chapter coordinator or the Langlade County Forestry Office.

The Parrish Hills and Lumbercamp segments are intersected by all-terrain vehicle trails established by the county in 1987. In 2017 stretches of the Old Railroad segment will utilize or intersect a new ATV trail.

Portions of all Ice Age National Scenic Trail segments in the county follow stretches of the local snowmobile trail system. The snowmobile trail markings are orange diamonds.

A bike route parallels the hiking trail by following county trunk highways. Information on the bike route is available from the county coordinator.

SEASONAL USE

The best time to hike the Ice Age Trail in the county is during the spring or fall.

Besides grassy stretches not mowed regularly, the heat, insects and special provision of water make summer less desirable for enjoying the pleasures of a trail experience.

With exception of the stretch west of U.S. 45 to County Trunk B, the trail is not closed during the fall hunting season. Hikers are encouraged to wear appropriate safe apparel at that time.

The trail offers a challenging experience in winter for cross country skiers or snowshoers.

However, the trail is not groomed for skiing or snowshoeing so users should be prepared. The trail portions on the county's snowmobile trail system are groomed for that activity.

The Langlade County chapter conducts group hikes throughout the year. For more details on the local outings contact the coordinator.

MISCELLANEOUS

This information was developed in response to questions raised by persons inquiring about the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Langlade County. If you wish to get involved or have further questions, please contact the Langlade County Ice Age Trail Chapter, 622 First Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409 or 715-623-2645 or jjjopekj@frontier.com

The chapter also has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seeuonthetrail> and a chapter page at <http://www.iceagetrail.org/volunteer/chapters/langlade-county/>

Suggestions on areas needing attention are welcomed and appreciated by the chapter.