Dispersed Camping Area’s (DCA’s) along the Ice Age Trail
What is a DCA?

A legal place to camp for the night by multi-day users of the Ice Age Trail
NR 45.03(9)

(9c) "Dispersed camping area" means an area where camping is authorized but there are no designated campsites.
Designated vs Dispersed?

**Designated** - to say officially that a place or thing has a particular character or purpose. "This area of the park has been specially designated for children."

**Dispersed** - to scatter or move away over or across a large area. "The majority of the elephants using the park disperse during the wet season into surrounding areas to forage."
What are the rules?

DISPERSED CAMPING RULES

• For use by multi-day Ice Age Trail hikers only
• Camp within sight of this sign
• Maximum of six people in this camping area
• One night only
• No fires except for backpacking stoves
• Leave no trace of your visit
• Wash yourself and dishes 200’ from water
• Dispose of human and pet waste in 6” cathole if no facility is provided

Compliance with these rules will help ensure the continued existence of camping areas like this one.

For more information about the Ice Age Trail: iceagetrail.org
19 DCA’s are open today

- 10 @ IATA
- 4 @ DNR
- 4 @ County
- 1 @ Village
How do we create new DCA's?

- Talk with Trail Program staff & chapter leader(s)
- ID more than one site on a property, photo document, measure, GPS, map
- Project Review Form
- Written approval from landowner
- ARC and NHI compliance reviews
- Create & Monitor
Ice Age Trail Dispersed Camping Area Options
Waushara County / State Ice Age Trail Area
Township: Hancock
Section: 36
Township: 19N
Range 8E
From: Tim Malzhan [mailto:tim@iceagetrail.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Bergum, Michael D - DNR
Subject: Ice Age Trail Dispersed Camping Area at former Matola SIATA, Waushara County

Hello Mike,

We discussed the subject line on-site during the 2010 Trail Layout & Design process and again during the June 2012 Hartman Creek SP Mobile Skills Crew Event.

DNR Central office has approved a Dispersed Camping Area on the former Matola property, pending your concurrence. Brigit Brown asked me to email you, answer any questions you may have, and ask you to talk with her if you need more information.

What is a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA)?

• A DCA is simply a legal place for long distance hikers to pitch a tent for the night, camping within sight of a signed post.
• DCA rules are: for use by multi-day Ice Age Trail hikers only, camp within sight of the DCA sign, maximum of 6 people in the camping area, one night only, no fires except backpacking stoves, leave no trace of your visit, wash yourself and dishes 200' from water, dispose of human and pet waste in a 6” cathole if no facility is provided.
• No facilities are provided and the site cannot be reserved and is not part of or administered through the Reserve America system.
• Three DCA’s are currently established statewide, with a fourth coming on line in October. This would be the second DCA on state-owned land (State Ice Age Trail Area’s only at this time). NR 1.29 provides authority (see page 14-4 in the attached).
• A baseline document would be completed including before and after photo’s.

Two site options are proposed in the attached map. To create the site, we (IATA) would lightly clear ~ a 30’ x 40’ area and remove any invasive plants. A short blue-blazed spur trail may or may not be needed to direct users from the IAT to the site. Soils are well drained. Compliance work for Threatened and Endangered Species was completed in association with trail construction in 2010.

I would propose the next step being meeting on site to determine the DCA location and timeline. If you have questions, concerns or advice, please let me or Brigit know.

Thanks Mike,

Tim

Michael D. Bergum

In concept and practice I have no issue whatsoever with this plan or design. I appreciate you sharing with me the details of what is being considered. I would be glad to meet with you and the crew anytime on site to discuss further. It should be a welcome addition to the trail. ☺
State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7821, Madison WI 53707-7821
dnr.wi.gov

Notice: Pursuant to ss. NR 1.29 and 45.10, Wis. Adm. Code, the Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) program was established to provide more camping opportunities along the Ice Age Trail to accommodate long-distance foot travel. Personal information collected will be used for administrative purposes and may be provided to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin’s Open Records Law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.].

This form is to be completed at the time the DCA is established. The property manager, or designee, for each DCA is responsible for completion of this baseline documentation and for keeping a copy on file at the property.

Include map of the area with photo points. Using a compass, stand with your back to the DCA sign and take a picture of all four cardinal directions. Also, take pictures of any areas that should be monitored. Take photos each year at about the same time, e.g., late June, to obtain better representation of any changes.

**Site Specific DCA Description**

**Trail Segment**

**Lodi Marsh**

**Approximate Size (ft. x ft.)**

50' x 50'

**How site is marked (signage, etc.)**

One Trail Signage Post with DCA sign and rules sign fastened with screws.

**Property Owner**

WDNR

**County**


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<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Established Date</th>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>05/12/2018</td>
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**Why site was chosen**

The site was chosen because 1) it fills an important gap between where multi-day users of the Ice Age NST can legally camp; 2) the 0.7 mile distance to the nearest road is far enough to discourage inappropriate use by non-intended members of the public; 3) little to no disturbance of the surrounding environment was required to establish the site; 4) the site is situated in a scenic, high use area and is convenient to access for the intended purpose; 5) it adds value to and supports the rational of WDNR property acquisition utilizing Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funding for Ice Age Trail purposes.
### Baseline Document

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from nearest on-trail camping</th>
<th>Name of camping location</th>
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<tr>
<td>11.5 miles</td>
<td>Springfield Hill DCA</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Distance to closest source of water</th>
<th>Water source type</th>
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<td>~1.5 miles</td>
<td>Intermittent Spring(s), source is difficult to access however</td>
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<table>
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<th>Distance to potable water</th>
<th>Water source type</th>
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<td>~3 miles</td>
<td>Businesses in the City of Lodi</td>
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<th>Distance from road</th>
<th>Road Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>0.7 miles</td>
<td>Lodi-Springfield Road (also known as Riddle Road)</td>
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<th>Distance from nearest Town / Incorporated Area</th>
<th>Town Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.6 miles</td>
<td>Lodi</td>
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**How DCA connects to Ice Age Trail (loop, spur) and distance**

- The DCA connects to the Ice Age Trail via a short ~125 spur trail

**Type of protection from the elements**

- Well established forest canopy, topographic buffer from vand events

**Site Inventory**

- The DCA is a 52-acre dispersed camping area located on the south side of Lodi, Wisconsin.

- Topography is gentle to rolling; DCA cross slope is less than 10%.

- Soils are Mollisol, Spodosol, and Kolluv. 

- Surfaces are relatively flat and low lying.

- The DCA is bordered by a road, wooded areas, and a secluded forest area.

**Ice Age Trail Dispersed Camping Area**

**Baseline Document**

**Form 2500-105 (4-7-13)**

**Description of natural setting**

- Driftless area, wetlands, ground flora, invasive species present, extent of existing vegetation damage. (e.g. sitting on trees, bare soil, dense browse lines). Habitat includes species present and estimated percent cover (e.g. white oak 75%).

- Habitat types include a 75% oak-lobolly pine forest, 15% oak opening and 10% surrogate grassland/herbaceous field.

- Invasive plants such as honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard are present, however, infestations are being effectively managed through DNR & IATA efforts.

- Oak openings and oak-lobolly pine forest canopy are nearly 100% closed due to strong presence of balsam fir, hemlock, cedar and other softwoods due to fire suppression. Current management activities include removing woody underbrush and reintroduction of fire.

**Description of views / scenic attributes**

- A 120+ acre former forest field(s) corrected to pasture, with expansive west views of Spring Creek watershed and a prominent landform known as Center Bluff, is about 0.5 mile north.

**Man-made settings (e.g., structures)**

- One trail signage post with rules and one trail post with trail register. See also amenities below.

**Site amenities (human waste disposal), sitting bench, trail register, other**

- Two unique stone seats and benches at nearly quarantined stone and one trail register.
### Specific DCA Concerns

Invasive species in the area/region to be on the lookout for.

- Common woodland/savanna invasive are common: Multiflora, buckthorn, autumn olive, garlic mustard, hedge parsley, parsnip. In addition, small infestations of valarian, crown vetch, and spotted knapweed are nearly extirpated.

<table>
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<th>Any threat of erosion?</th>
<th>If yes, describe.</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>The lack of established ground cover and previous man-made disturbance from quarry activity.</td>
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<td>No</td>
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Potential for misuse (as party site, multi-night campers, living site, etc.)

Low.

### Management Plan

How often should DCA be monitored (at a minimum, once per year, at the same time each year)?

The site should be monitored annually given the popularity of this section of the Ice Age NST, and, of the Lodi Marsh SWA. The first week of December and first week of July are optimal times to monitor.

How often should DCA monitoring report be completed?

- Biannually.

Maintenance needs and schedule. Are there facilities that need to be maintained, if so, how? And how often?

- Maintenance needs of the site itself are minimal. Signage elements are expected to be long lasting given low UV light exposure.
Baseline Document – Photo Log
The **Project Review Form (PRF)** is used to fact check, evaluate and communicate the why, where, when, how and who of all Ice Age Trail construction projects including Dispersed Camping Areas (DCA’s).

**Who Uses it and Why?**

- **IATA Volunteers**, who bring local expertise to the trail layout and design, project planning and implementation effort.
- **IATA Staff**, who finalize and submit the PRF to federal, state and local agencies.
- **NPS** uses the PRF to determine if Cultural and Archeological resources are present in the project area and, if so, whether or not a field survey is needed or not needed, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act.
- **Property Managers** use the PRF to evaluate whether or not the proposal is consistent with the management plan for a given property.
- **DNR resource experts** use the PRF to conduct Endangered Resources and Wetland disturbance reviews.
- **PRF information** is used to ensure that environmental compliance requirements and required permits and permissions are obtained prior to the start of construction.
New DCA Field Work

Merrimac Segment Mobile Skills Crew Event
October 20-23

Section 00
Section 08
Section 12

Roadside parking for reroute
Marsh Road

Base Camp

Trail Stewardship Zone focus area
Secs 16-18
ICE AGE TRAIL EASEMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement is a right-of-way and conservation agreement entered into between Riverland Conservancy, Inc. a Wisconsin non-profit corporation, hereinafter referred to as "the Conservancy", and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Inc., a Wisconsin non-profit corporation, hereinafter referred to as "The Foundation" to provide a trail right-of-way over, and for the protection of the property described below as a component of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Ice Age Trail Reroute Options
Riverland Conservancy
11.18.15
Green = Lightly flagged blue/white ribbon

Big pine tree
Monitoring DCA's

Site Visit and Group brainstorm
Thank You!!