

ICE AGE TRAIL 2023

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When I decided to hike the trail I had to do some planning. The biggest part of planning is money, so started working at a gas station 11P.M. to 7A.M. five days a week, I also washed dishes at a restaurant 7:30A.M. to 2 P.M. six days a week, and any extra hours the restaurant could give me.

I decided on hiking the Ice Age Trail because Wisconsin is flat (I found out it is not on day one), and it's one of the eleven scenic trails. I planned on starting the trail at the end of April so the bugs would not be as bad. I got on a Greyhound bus in El Paso on Saturday, April 22 at 5P.M. I finally got in Minneapolis at 5A.M. on Monday, April 24th, then got an Uber to take me to St. Croix Falls where my buddy Jeff was waiting for me. He had flown in the day before. The trail from St. Croix to Rib Lake had down trees, muddy, and had lots of beaver dams, logging areas, and the ticks, oh my gosh the TICS! We met some wonderful trail angels in Cornell, Pat and Julie, they let us put up our tents in their yard, took us to dinner, and made us breakfast as well. Jeff ended up getting off the trail at Rib Lake. The trail conditions got a lot better after Rib Lake and the weather was perfect! The trail went beside the Wisconsin River there was some boulder climbing which was lots of fun, then back to some road walking. I'd rather be in the woods. I went past a place called Jed's Bar and Grill, where I had the best burger on the trail. I took the western route and found that it was hard to find a place to camp because the camp grounds along the road walk are seasonal and don't allow overnight camping. I made it

work. On to Devils Lake, there were so many people I couldn't enjoy it, or could it have been that I had been on the trail for so long by myself. I did stop at the Ice Age Alliance Headquarters in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, on Friday, May 26th where I talked to a few people and got my mug shot taken. Onto the town of Janesville, what a really nice town, I enjoyed how the river was along the trail and the nice parks at Janesville and Hartland. These two towns were both my favorite along the trail. I met Jeanie and David in Hartland, wonderful trail angels who let me stay in their basement, shower, and grilled supper for me. The trail then went to the Holy Hill segment which was my favorite segment along the trail. There were a lot of up and downs on the trail and a huge beautiful church. On to Lake Michigan, wow what a way to see it for the first time walking beside it for miles. Then I made it to the eastern terminus, forty-nine days since I started went by, I thought it would take longer than what it did. A wonderful lady, Lynn picked me up took me to breakfast and to the bus depot in Milwaukee.

The Ice Age trail is an amazing trail not a lot of big climbing, but a lot of trail in the woods, cornfields, prairies, bike paths, beach road walking, ski trails, ATV snowmobile trails, and a ride on the ferry. It continues going through parks, golf course small towns and big towns, going through neighborhoods with 6000 plus square footage homes with pools. You meet people from all walks of life. It is a trail to come back to in ten years and see all the changes that get made to get it off the roads. I hiked the Appalachian trail all 2193 miles in 2020 and the 500 mile Colorado trail in 2021. I will continue hiking, my next adventure The Pacific Crest Trail!