

LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL USER INFORMATION

(As of August 24, 2020)

COVID-19

All five Ice Age Trail segments in the county are open for hiking. However, hikers are encouraged to keep an appropriate distance when encountering other hikers on the trail. Also having a facemask handy if close encounters occur is recommended.

CAMPING

Two-thirds 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 over county forest lands. Three fee lakeside campsites along the trail through Veterans Memorial Park and Upper Vantor Lake are available.

Except for Upper Vantor Lake, the other campsites include 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 but it would be advisable to let the coordinator or the 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 Lake segment and the Prairie State Fishery Area on the Parrish Hills segment south and north of the Prairie River ford to Pine Road.

Camping is not allowed at Spsychalla Lodge on the Summit Moraine Segment and the ATV shelter area north of 5 Cent Road on the Parrish Hills Segment. These 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 arrange 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, the shallow glacial lakes shown on the map in the state Peters Marsh Wildlife Area west of County 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 this year.

Low water levels at 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 Summit Moraine, 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.

Computer access is available at the public library in Antigo with branches in Elcho and the Village of White Lake. Access hours are available at <https://antigopl.org/contact/>

(WATER AND SUPPLIES cont.)

“Mail drops” for thru 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 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 Commerce toll free number (888) 526-4523 or <http://www.antigochamber.com>.

PARKING

Limited space for parking no longer than 48 hours 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 on the trail. A small parking space was developed by the state DNR near the Summit Moraine and Lumbercamp trailheads on County Trunk A. 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/Oak Roads Trailhead. Hikers should park vehicles along the shoulder 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 road sign is on a trial basis so please respect the town’s request. Parking on the roadside or at gates near the Kettlebowl trailhead is also not condoned. Another parking option is an ATV lot on Sherry Road just under a mile southeast of the Sherry/Oak Roads Trailhead of the Kettlebowl Segment.

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 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 information and car details. The office is in the Safety Building, 840 Clermont Street, Antigo or call 715-627-6411.

The county’s 9-1-1 emergency telephone system can identify the location of callers with cell phones that have a position location feature when dialing 9-1-1. However, coverage is spotty in less developed areas.

INFORMATION SOURCES

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 and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 3817 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705.

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

Kettlebowl *Pickereel and Polar* Lumbercamp *Pearson and Pickereel*

Summit Moraine *Kempster and Pearson* Highland Lakes *Bavaria, Enterprise and Kempster*
Parrish Hills *Enterprise and Parrish*.

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.

INFORMATION SOURCES (Cont.)

The Guthook GPS (Global Positioning System) Ice Age Trail app is commercially available for certain phones. The app is a good backup source to have when uncertain of a location in relation to the trail.

OTHER USERS

The trail largely crosses public lands managed primarily for timber production by the Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department. Logging frequently occurs on one or more of the segments each year.

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 about logging activity on state, county or private lands traversed by the trail can be obtained from the chapter coordinator. Portions of all Ice Age National Scenic Trail segments in the county intersect or utilize stretches of the county's official snowmobile and ATV trail systems.

In 2018, the Department of Natural Resources approved seasonal equestrian use on a portion of the Lumbercamp Segment through the Peters Marsh State Wildlife Area between County S and County A.

A bike route parallels the hiking trail by following county trunk highways. Information for that bicycle option 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 hiking.

In past years, the county trail chapter has annually organized three group hikes. However, due to the pandemic, no chapter hikes are scheduled currently.

With exception of the Summit Moraine Segment between U.S. 45/WI 47 to County Trunk B, the trail is not closed during the fall hunting seasons. However, hikers are encouraged to wear appropriate safe apparel during the fall hunting seasons. For information on the various seasons check <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/dates.html> .

The trail offers a challenging experience in winter for cross country skiers or snowshoers. Except for the stretch through the Jack Lake Cross Country Ski Area on the Summit Moraine Segment, the trail is not groomed for skiing or snowshoeing so users should be prepared. One new trail section utilizes a part of the popular Jack Lake Cross Country Ski system. Winter hikers are encouraged to avoid disturbing the groomed track maintained for skiers.

Also parking options at trailheads are limited due to no snowplowing.

The trail portions on the county's snowmobile trail system are groomed for that activity.

MISCELLANEOUS

This information was developed in response to user inquiries about the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Langlade County. If you wish to get involved as a volunteer 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 has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seeuonthetrail> and a chapter web page at <http://www.iceagetrail.org/volunteer/chapters/langlade-county> .

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