

## LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL USER INFORMATION (As of December 20, 2022)

### 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 persons on the trail. Also having a facemask, if close encounters occur, is recommended.

**CAMPING** - Two-thirds of the trail in Langedade County passes through lands owned and managed by the Langedade County Forestry and Recreation Department. No fee primitive camping is allowed up to two weeks along the trail on county forest lands. These lands are shown as a green stippled pattern on the Ice Age Trail Alliance's guidebook and atlas maps. Two fee campsites at Game and Jack Lake in Veterans Memorial on the Summit Moraine Segment are available. **The Upper Venter Lake DCA is showing significant physical impact on the small lakeside site due to constant use so hikers are encouraged to consider adjacent forested area available for No Trace primitive camping.** The fee trailside campsites along Game and Jack Lakes in Veterans Memorial Park include a fire ring, picnic table, privy and can accommodate up to four tents. The Ice Age Trail Alliance rules prohibit campfires at DCAs so observance of the rule is appreciated by other hikers and local volunteers.

Four rustic cabins are also available for shelter at the county park. Reservations for the fee sites and cabins can be made online at

[https://www.jacklakecampground.com/parks/camping/jack\\_lake\\_campground/](https://www.jacklakecampground.com/parks/camping/jack_lake_campground/)

The DNR has a primitive camping area south of the trail through the Peters Marsh Wildlife Area. Other than these sites, the county does not require advance notice for primitive camping.

However, hikers primitive camping on county forestland are encouraged to practice good stewardship. See Leave No Trace Seven Principles (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](http://nps.gov))

Areas where camping is **not allowed** on the segments in the county are as follows:

**Kettlebowl** - The privately owned lands south of the ski hill at Wisconsin 52 to the berms and the two mile stretch of privately owned property north of the Sherry Road trailhead.

**Lumbercamp** - See above note for camping in the Peters Marsh Wildlife Area.

**Summit Moraine** - Spychalla Lodge area.

**Highland Lakes** - Private property along trail on forest lane north of Kleevers Road.

**Parrish Hills** - The ATV Shelter and the Prairie State Fishery Area south and north of the Prairie River ford and nearly the third of a trail mile over privately owned lands just west of Pine Road.

**WATER AND SUPPLIES** - Especially in summer, hikers should consider other sources of water 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 are subject to fluctuation over the years. The shallow lakes were reported full in the state wildlife area when checked this year.

Depending on area water levels, Baker Lake just west of Highway 52, is a questionable water source. Use with caution. It might require considerable pre-filtering before filtering or UV treatment.

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.

## **WATER AND SUPPLIES (Cont.)**

The City of Antigo has many retail stores that can furnish most supplies needed by hikers. Grocery stores are also located at Neva Corners, Elcho, Elton, White Lake and a convenience store in Summit Lake north of the trail's US 45/WI 47 highway crossing.

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/> "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 other services is available from the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation, Antigo NCTC, 312 Forrest Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409, (715) 623-2085, Langlade County Wisconsin Tourism: The County of Trails or the Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce toll free number (888) 526-4523 or Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce ([antigochamber.com](http://antigochamber.com))

The county agency and chamber have informative weblinks for online users.

**PARKING** - A Langlade County ordinance authorizes local law enforcement officers to impound vehicles considered by them to be unsafely parked on any rural road. To avoid the risk of impoundment and accidents, hikers are encouraged to use off-road parking options, especially on the 25 mile connecting roads between the Kettlebowl/Plover River Segments. Information on off-road parking options is available from the chapter.

For that reason and trespassing, there is no mid-point vehicle parking on the Kettlebowl Segment in the Kent Road area.

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. Parking space was developed by the state DNR near the Summit Moraine and Lumbercamp trailheads on County Trunk A.

For the Kettlebowl Segment, a project to provide closer access to a county-owned area for safe and legal off-road parking of vehicles near the Sherry Road trail head was recently completed.

As part of the project, the Kettlebowl Segment was extended a third of a mile southeast to the new location of the Sherry Road trail head sign and closer to the safe off-road parking space.

On Parrish Hills, hikers usually park at the Townline Lake Wayside. Small areas provided by the DNR on Pine Road and County H, at Parrish are also available for parking. The Town of Parrish Hall on County H can be also used for parking.

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 also allows a maximum of 48-hour parking for county forest day use areas, such as waysides.

The parking lot at Kettlebowl Ski Area is gated but there is space between the highway and the gate for a few vehicles. Make sure vehicles are clear of the gate's arc and authorized traffic.

Hikers planning to leave vehicles parked overnight at any of the above legal parking locations should contact the Langlade County Sheriff's Department 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 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**

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](http://iceagetrail.org)

Trail alerts and conditions are also posted on the alliance website at [iceagetrail.org](http://iceagetrail.org).

The FarOut Ice Age Trail app is commercially available for certain phones. The app is good backup to have when uncertain of a location on the trail.

**OTHER USERS** - The trail largely crosses public lands managed primarily for timber production by the Langlade County Forestry, Park and Recreation Department. Logging does occur 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 acreage covered under a conservation 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 affecting the trail on state, county or private lands can be obtained from the chapter coordinator.

Portions of all Ice Age National Scenic Trail segments in the county intersect or use the county's official snowmobile and ATV trail systems.

Seasonal equestrian occurs on a portion of Lumbercamp Segment through the state Peters Marsh State Wildlife Area. A bike route which parallels the hiking trail by following county highways is available. Information for the bicycle option is available from the chapter 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.

The chapter annually organized group hikes since 1975. The 2023 chapter hike schedule is not available but will be posted on the IATA website calendar and chapter Facebook page.

All segments of the trail are open during the fall hunting seasons, except for the Summit Moraine Segment between U.S. 45/WI 47 and County Trunk B. Hikers are encouraged to wear safety apparel during the fall hunting seasons on all segments.

For season hunting information check at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/dates.html>.

The trail offers challenging experiences in winter for hikers, cross country skiers or snowshoers. Except for the Kettlebowl and Summit Moraine Segments through the Jack Lake Cross Country Ski Area, the trail is not groomed for skiing or snowshoeing so hikers should be prepared with gear. Winter hikers are encouraged to avoid disturbing the groomed track maintained for cross country skiers.

Portions of trail on the county's snowmobile trail system are groomed for that activity. Parking options at trailheads and day use areas in the county are limited due to no snow plowing.

**MISCELLANEOUS** - This information was developed in response to trail inquiries. If you wish to get involved as a volunteer or have questions, please contact the Langlade County Ice Age Trail Chapter, 622 First Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409 or 715-623-2645 or e-mail

[jjjopekj@charter.net.com](mailto:jjjopekj@charter.net.com).

A chapter Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/seeuonthetrail> and a web page at

<https://www.iceagetrail.org/volunteer/chapters/langlade-county/> are also available for information. Suggestions on areas needing attention are welcomed and appreciated by the chapter.