

PORTION OF TERMINAL MORAINЕ PROTECTED IN TAYLOR COUNTY

The Alliance purchased a 156-acre tract in Taylor County in July with help from The Conservation Fund. The purchase permanently protects the route of the Ice Age Trail through the property, part of a larger effort to connect the Trail through the Town of Rib Lake between blocks of county forest.

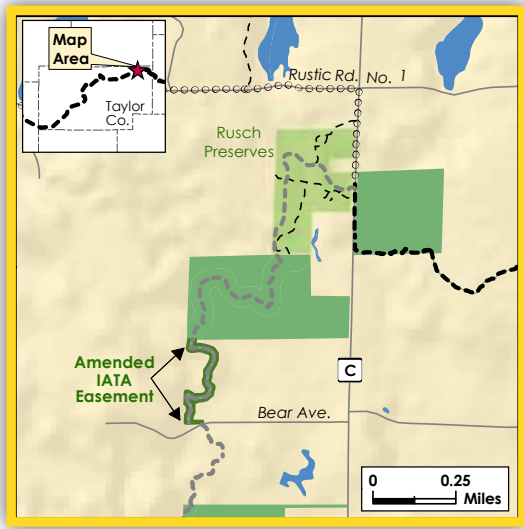
The Alliance plans to relocate the existing route of the Trail through the property. It currently runs on a logging road and will be moved to a new, more natural footpath that allows hikers to enjoy the geologic features of the landscape under the canopy of a mature forest. A public parking lot along State Highway 102 is also planned to provide better access.

The Wisconsin Valley lobe of the most recent glacier created the property's landscape about 10,000 years ago. The undeveloped property runs along the edge of the glacier's path and features a terminal moraine – a ridge of gravel and boulders that shows the furthest reach of the glacier.

"This property is one of the state's best examples of a terminal moraine and fully embraces the goal of the Ice Age Trail – to highlight the state's glacial landforms," said Kevin Thusius, IATA Director of Land Conservation. "We feel very lucky to be able to protect this property so generations of Ice Age Trail users can enjoy it."

The Alliance was able to purchase the property with financing from The Conservation Fund's Land Conservation Loan Program. The IATA is seeking funds from the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to finance the purchase and repay the loan.

"Recognizing a threat to the viewshed enjoyed by hikers on the Ice Age Trail, the Alliance swiftly developed a conservation strategy to save the historical landscape," said Reggie Hall, Director of the Fund's LCLP. "We're honored to provide quick financial assistance for this effort."



RIB LAKE SEGMENT GETTING CLOSER TO RE-OPENING

We here at the Ice Age Trail Alliance are serious about recycling. So much so, in fact, that instead of getting all new easements to protect the Ice Age Trail, we are able to re-use old ones, modifying them a bit to end up with a useable product.

It was a blow when the Ice Age Trail's Rib Lake Segment in Taylor County was closed in 2008. Re-opening this segment seemed an impossible hope. However, with hard work, perseverance and some great landowners, the Alliance is getting closer to that goal.

Working with landowner Kris Strobach and her husband Rodney, the Alliance amended an existing easement on their Rib Lake property to better line up with an easement to the north. The new easement is in a location that will allow for a sustainable trail off of existing gravel roads also used for cross country skiing. The amendment also helped clarify terms that were ambiguous in the original easement.

The Alliance takes easement amendments very seriously. All amendments must meet stringent criteria, such as consistency with the Alliance's mission and the original easement intent, upholding the easement's conservation value, preservation of the easement's legal authority, and more.

The Alliance would like to thank the Strobach family for making this amendment possible and lining up another protected property in the Town of Rib Lake. The Trail is now protected between CTH C and Bear Avenue. Trail construction is slated to begin in the area this year.

"I believe in the Ice Age Trail and what you do," said Kris Strobach. "The Trail is a benefit to the area."