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**Volunteers to Construct New Boardwalk and Bridge for
Ice Age National Scenic Trail at John Muir County Park**

Project partly funded by Athletic Brewing and National Park Trust

Cross Plains, Wis (July 5, 2023) –Volunteers will converge in Marquette County next week to learn about Trailbuilding and construct a new boardwalk and bridge for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

This will happen as part of the Ice Age Trail University (IAT-U) event, hosted by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, which is taking place at John Muir County Park, July 12-16.

The nearly 70 volunteers who will participate get to choose which topics they want to learn more about, including:

- **Boardwalk Construction** – learn the step-by-step process for constructing boardwalks, including how to design a boardwalk, and meet compliance standards.
- **Tread Maintenance** – find out how to de berm, clean drainage, and keep brush back from existing tread.
- **Trail Plumbing** – learn how to fix Trail drainage issues, identify small issues before they become larger, and keep the Trail hydrologically invisible and sustainable.
- **Intro to Vegetative Management** – learn the basics on native and invasive plant identification, how to control invasive species, and why restoration is important to wildlife and hikers.
- **Signage** – Learn the standards for clear, consistent signage along the Trail.
- **First Aid/CPR** – Get the certification you need to stay safe along the Trail and participate in Trailbuilding events.
- And More

“IAT-U events are a highlight of the Trailbuilding season,” says Chad DuChateau, Director of Trail Operations for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “It gives Alliance staff and volunteers the time to delve deep into Trailbuilding and maintenance. You learn the reasons why things are done a certain way,” he says. “And, you have the chance to really perfect a skill.”

All IAT-U courses are taught by Alliance staff or other official Alliance crew leaders.

Structure Funded by Athletic Brewing’s Two for the Trails Grant Program and National Park Trust Challenge Cost Share

All four days of IAT-U will include boardwalk construction courses and hands-on experience building a boardwalk and bridge along the John Muir Park Segment of the Ice Age Trail.

The boardwalk and bridge will replace a smaller structure built 20+ years ago, which is in disrepair. To better reflect the beauty of the area, protect the Trail, and improve the hiker experience, the new boardwalk will be twice as long (about 350 feet) and completely cover perpetually wet areas of Trail.

Funding for the boardwalk and bridge comes from Athletic Brewing, which provided a *Two for the Trails Grant* to the Alliance for materials and supplies for the new structures.

In addition, this project was made possible by an award from the National Park Service and National Park Trust.

The new boardwalk and bridge will be open when the project concludes on July 16.

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About the Ice Age National Scenic Trail:

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,200-mile footpath contained entirely within Wisconsin. It traverses the state from St. Croix Falls in the west, to Sturgeon Bay in the east, going as far south as Janesville. One of 11 National Scenic Trails, the Ice Age Trail highlights the landscapes that were carved out by ancient glaciers, which happen to be some of the most beautiful areas in the state. Approximately 60% of Wisconsin residents live within 20 miles of the Ice Age Trail.

About the Ice Age Trail Alliance:

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is a non-profit, member- and volunteer-based organization which conserves, creates, maintains, and promotes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. For more information visit iceagetrail.org.

About National Park Trust:

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2023, National Park Trust's mission is to preserve parks today and create park stewards for tomorrow. Since 1983, the Park Trust has acquired many of the missing pieces of our national parks, benefiting 52 national park sites. Our national youth education and family initiatives, including our Buddy Bison Programs and National Kids to Parks Day, serve hundreds of Title I schools annually and cultivate future park stewards. We believe that our public parks, lands and waters should be cared for, enjoyed by, and preserved by all for current and future generations. Find out more at parktrust.org.

About Athletic Brewing:

Named by *Fast Company Magazine* as one of the "World's Most Innovative" companies in 2020, Athletic Brewing Company is reimagining beer for the modern, active adult. Their great-tasting craft brews provide a refreshing taste of craft beer, without the alcohol or the hangover. With custom breweries on the east and west coasts, their lineup has earned accolades throughout the industry, even against full-strength beers, including the 2020 World Beer Award Gold medal for Run Wild. Additionally, Athletic Brewing's "Two for the Trails" initiative donates 2% of all sales to trail and park cleanups and maintenance. Plus, as a part of their IMPACT Program, 1% of revenue goes to non-profit organizations that support positive impact and opportunity from the ground up in their communities. Athletic Brewing's full portfolio of flagships, seasonal, and

specialty beers is available for purchase on its website, www.athleticbrewing.com, as well as the company's subscription offering – The Athletic Club. For more information on Athletic Brewing, please visit <https://athleticbrewing.com/> . For more information on Two for the Trails, please visit <https://athleticbrewing.com/pages/two-for-the-trails>