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**One New Mile of Ice Age National Scenic Trail
to be Created in Marathon County**
Volunteers to converge in area July 13-17

Cross Plains, Wis (July 7, 2022) – Next week, volunteers from across the state will converge just north of Pike Lake in Marathon County to create one brand-new mile of Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

The Trail will be created on the Ice Age Trail Alliance's 64-acre Rice Lake Preserve, which is located off County Highway Y. This new mile of Trail will break up a 23-mile section of road walk in the County.

"We're excited to get hikers off the road, especially in this area" says Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "It's going to be a Northwoods oasis for hikers."

The new portion of Trail will take hikers through the Rice Lake Preserve, which features massive erratics (boulders left behind by the glacier), eskers, stands of eastern hemlock and white pine, an old growth cedar swamp, and a charming lake.

To keep hiker's feet dry, the Trail will include a 900-foot boardwalk. "This won't be a typical boardwalk," says Caliebe. "It will have multiple places to stop and listen to the birds and enjoy the beauty of the cedar swamp."

Roles for Everyone, No Experience Necessary

Volunteer work for this project, which takes place July 13-17, includes: clearing the path for the new Trail (lopping brush and sawing trees), constructing the Trail (tread work), and creating the boardwalk (woodworking and assembly).

Some people volunteer for a few hours; others for a day, or the whole weekend. No experience is necessary to volunteer. There's a role for all ages and abilities. Hands-on training provided by certified and friendly volunteer crew leaders is provided during the project.

"It's impressive to see the volunteers working so hard, together, on a project like this," says Caliebe. "We go from wild, brush-filled property to blazed hiking Trail in a matter of days."

"It's gratifying to know you've contributed to the actual, physical creation of a National Scenic Trail," he says. "Generations to come will benefit from what you've helped create."

The new Trail is expected to be open for hiking at the conclusion of the project on July 17.

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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**.