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Trail Improvement Project Will Draw Volunteers to Area 850-foot Boardwalk Will be Built

Cross Plains, Wis (June 16, 2023) –Nearly 100 Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers will converge in Milton next week with one goal: build an 850-foot boardwalk.

The large-scale Trail improvement project is happening June 21-25 at the Storrs Lake State Wildlife Area.

The new boardwalk replaces a portion of Ice Age National Scenic Trail, which runs through Storrs Lake State Wildlife Area. This specific portion of Trail is prone to flooding, which has closed the segment for long periods of time.

“This has been a problem spot on the Trail for years,” says Patrick Gleissner, Trail Program Coordinator. “We’re happy to finally address it and ensure the segment stays open and hikers’ feet stay dry,” he says.

The boardwalk, which will have three bump outs for wildlife viewing, has been in the planning stages for more than four years. Funding from the National Park Service enabled the project to be put on the Alliance’s 2023 Trailbuilding schedule.

When the project concludes on Sunday, the boardwalk will be open for hiking.

Hundreds will be in the area, Thousands of dollars will be spent in Rock County

Large-scale Alliance-led projects like this one at Storrs Lake are good for the Trail as well as the nearby community.

“People from all across the state—even some from Illinois—will be drawn to Milton over the four-day project,” says Gleissner. Some volunteers come to work for a few hours, a day, or the whole weekend. Many volunteers will camp in the area. Volunteers will likely buy gas in the area, stop at convenience stores, eat at local restaurants, etc.

Food and drinks for volunteer breakfasts and dinners are purchased from local grocery stores. In addition, many of the boardwalk materials are being sourced from Rock County businesses, including the lumber which is coming from Edgerton.

“The Ice Age Trail is important to the people who use it, as well as the communities it runs through or near,” says Luke Klobberdanz, Executive Director of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “Every day, people visit small towns and rural areas of the state because of the Trail. There is no doubt it positively impacts local economies—especially when it brings hundreds of volunteers to a specific area.”

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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.