



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Melissa Pierick, Ice Age Trail Alliance
(608) 798-4453 ext. 223; melissa@iceagetrail.org

Ice Age National Scenic Trail to be re-routed in Potawatomi State Park *Project will draw hundreds of volunteers*

Cross Plains, Wis. (August 29, 2023) – Ice Age National Scenic Trail hikers and backpackers will soon have a new path to follow in Potawatomi State Park. The Trail's new path will route away from the existing shared-use ski and bike trail and onto the edge of the Niagara Escarpment (a geologic formation, which runs from Door County all the way to New York state).

This portion of the Sturgeon Bay segment (which is the part of the Ice Age Trail that runs through Potawatomi State Park) will be re-routed during a large-scale Ice Age Trail Alliance Trailbuilding project, taking place Sept. 6-10 at the park.

“Depending on your perspective, this segment is either the beginning or end of the Ice Age Trail,” says Chad DuChateau, Director of Trail Operations for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “And, the first (or last) mile of Trail needed some improvements. While we were considering those, we took a broader view and decided to put in the work to create a better experience for all types of Trail users.

“With the re-route, hikers will be able to access the Eastern terminus during the winter without compromising the integrity of the groomed ski trails” he says.

The project will include:

- Creating .6 miles of new Ice Age Trail tread along the escarpment
- Building a 35-step dolomitic limestone stone staircase, which will take hikers to the top of the escarpment
- Removing overgrown vegetation near the Eastern Terminus of the Ice Age Trail in preparation for future beautification efforts
- Remediating closed down, eroded Trail to return it to a natural state
- Fixing Trail signage

Nearly 150 Alliance volunteers from across the state will participate in the event. Many volunteers stay for the entire project, others come for a couple of days, or for a few hours.

On Saturday, a large contingent of area boy scout troops will be at the project. “It’s always nice to have young people at the projects,” says Patrick Gleissner, Trail Operations Coordinator. “Their energy and spirit pairs well with the expertise of our volunteer crew leaders.”

It’s been more than 10 years since the last major Ice Age Trail Trailbuilding project at Potawatomi State Park. In April 2022, the rock marking the Eastern Terminus of the Trail was moved a few hundred yards

west from a parking lot near pit toilets to its current location, which overlooks the old ski hill and offers views of Green Bay.

Funding for this Trailbuilding project came from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program, the National Park Trust and National Park Service for the financial support through a Challenge Cost Share grant, and the Dwight and Linda Davis Foundation.

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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.