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**Rib Lake Segment of Ice Age Trail to Re-Open after 15 Years**  
*Ribbon Cutting at Rusch Preserve on Oct. 1*

**Cross Plains, Wis. (Sept. 6, 2023)** – Come the end of September, Rib Lake will be the center of attention for Ice Age National Scenic Trail volunteers and enthusiasts.

Rib Lake, an Ice Age Trail Community, will host a large-scale Ice Age Trail Alliance Trailbuilding project beginning September 26. Nearly 100 volunteers from across the state will converge to complete work nearby on the new, improved Rib Lake Segment of the Ice Age Trail.

The original path of the Rib Lake Segment closed 15 years ago when a landowner revoked permission for the Trail. Since then, Rib Lake resident Robert Rusch worked with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to purchase property for the Trail or secure permanent Trail rights from local landowners for a new Trail route, which runs from County Hwy D to the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Rusch Preserve on Rustic Rd. 1.

Over the last two years, five large-scale volunteer Trailbuilding projects have taken place to create the new segment. In all, volunteers have created four miles of new hand-crafted Trail, built nine boardwalks and one bridge.

"To lose property rights for the Trail is pretty devastating," says Kevin Thusius. "But this turned out to be a blessing in disguise."

The new path for the Trail follows the terminal moraine of the Wisconsin Glaciation. "Hikers will enjoy a more intimate experience with glacial history," says Thusius.

The Trailbuilding project concludes Oct. 1, with the grand re-opening of the Rib Lake Segment, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and be among the first to hike the new Trail. Shuttles will be offered.

***Rib Lake Ribbon Cutting and Hike: Sunday, Oct. 1***

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Participants should meet at Lake View Park in Rib Lake for free shuttle to the Trail access at the Rusch Preserve. There will be three- or five-mile hike options offered with a return shuttle to Lake View Park.

**Party to Honor Volunteers at Lake View Park**

To celebrate the volunteers who create and maintain the Trail (in Rib Lake and beyond), the Ice Age Trail Alliance is hosting a "Trail-Style Volunteer Party" on Sept. 30 at Lakeview Park in Rib Lake. More than 160 volunteers are planning to attend this event; pre-registration was required.

“Without volunteers, the Ice Age Trail would be a line on a map,” says Luke Kloberdanz, Executive Director and CEO of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “To celebrate their ardent support, in all capacities, we’re throwing a party for them, Trail-style. It will be casual, but fun. And a small way for Alliance staff and board members to give back to the volunteers that give so much.”

The Ice Age Trail Alliance chose to host the Volunteer Celebration in the Village of Rib Lake because it is an official Ice Age Trail community; one of 19 in the state.

“We’re happy to shine a bit of spotlight on Rib Lake. It’s a quaint community that offers hikers and volunteers everything they need for a weekend on the Trail,” says Kloberdanz.

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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](http://iceagetrail.org).