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## **New Ice Age Trail Path Will Take Hikers off Ski Trails at Iola Winter Sports Club**

*Re-route, Trailbuilding project happening June 22-26*

**Cross Plains, Wis (June 17, 2022)** –Summertime is the perfect time to build new Ice Age National Scenic Trail. And, that’s just what hundreds of volunteers will be doing at the Iola Winter Sports Club, June 22-26.

Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers from all around the state will gather on the Club’s property for a large-scale Trailbuilding project to re-route part of the existing New Hope-Iola Ski Segment of Ice Age Trail away from established ski trails.

“Ultimately, we’re creating a more enjoyable experience for hikers *and* skiers,” says Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. By creating a separate hiking Trail, hikers will not interfere with groomed ski trails in the winter.

The project will result in 1.5 miles of new permanently protected Ice Age Trail. Its path will follow a more circuitous, intimate route through the pine trees, and give hikers a better appreciation for the landscape of the ski club property.

“There will be nice elevation gain,” says Caliebe about the new Trail. “Plus, this is the only part of the 1,200-mile Ice Age Trail where you can hike in the shadow of a 60-meter ski jump,” he says.

### **Roles for Everyone, No Experience Necessary**

During the project, chainsaw and grubbing crews will clear the corridor for the new Trail, ahead of tread crews who will physically construct the path. Since the path runs alongside a picturesque wetland, another crew will construct a 100-foot boardwalk complete with a bump-out area for wildlife viewing.

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.

## **Beginning of Investment in the Area**

In addition to this four-day project, volunteers will work throughout the summer to re-open a section of the Segment (between Krogwold Rd. and County Hwy T), which has been closed for two years due to high water. The volunteers will raise bridges and boardwalks.

“This project is the start of a bigger work effort in the Portage and Waupaca county area,” says Caliebe. “It’s nice to focus on the center of the state. The time and money the Alliance is investing here plus all the volunteer support is really going to pay off in amazing hiking and first-rate segments.”

The new Trail is expected to be open and blazed for hiking in 2023.

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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).