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**Waukesha County Property Protected for Ice Age National Scenic Trail**

*Eliminates Dangerous Road Walk, Protects Entire Glacial Drumlin*

**Cross Plains, Wis (January 10, 2023)** –A key piece of property in Waukesha county is now permanently protected for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

The approximately 30-acre parcel, located in the Town of Ottawa, was recently acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) using Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. The Ice Age Trail Alliance donated \$21,500 toward the purchase.

“We’ve seen this as a key property for more than 20 years,” says Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation Strategy for the Alliance. “It is vital for the connection of the Ice Age Trail.”

The new parcel connects with an Alliance-owned property to the north. Combined, the properties will host nearly one new mile of Ice Age Trail, a short interpretive loop trail, and a much-needed parking area.

The new Trail will eliminate one half-mile of road walk on Waterville Rd., which has become increasingly dangerous over the past few years because of more road traffic and rapidly expanding Trail use.

**Pristine Example of Drumlin**

This new DNR property is also important because it contains an interesting geologic feature: an entire drumlin (a teardrop shaped hill of rock, sand, and gravel that was formed under a moving glacier).

Although Wisconsin is home to one of the largest concentrations of glacial drumlins in the world, very few are found along the Ice Age Trail, which traces the edge of the last continental glaciation. In protecting this property, this pristine example of a small drumlin is also permanently protected.

**Trail Opening in 2023 or 2024**

“In addition to preserving the amazing geology on the property, the land will eventually be restored to native habitats,” Thusius says. “This land protection is not just a win for the Trail, but for conservation.

“This is one of the most populated areas of the state, and the public lands in the area are receiving extensive pressure from outdoor enthusiasts.” he says. “This will give folks another recreational opportunity in the area.”

The property, which is owned by the DNR along with the Kettle Moraine State Forest, is NOT currently open to the public. After administrative requirements are completed by the DNR, the

Ice Age Trail Alliance hopes to assist with land management and open the Trail late in 2023 or 2024. Wait to visit the property until the Trail is open.

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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 nonprofit member and volunteer-based organization which conserves, creates, maintains, and promotes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. For more information visit <https://www.iceagetrail.org>.

**About the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund:**

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund was created in 1989 to preserve important natural communities, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Stewardship fund gives DNR spending authority to purchase land and easement additions to state properties. For more information visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/About>.