



# ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

## A Cooperative Partnership

July 11, 2013

Dear Chippewa County Landowner:

The National Park Service (NPS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WiDNR), and Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), partners in the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) invite you to attend open house meetings to review and comment on potential alternative corridors for the trail in Chippewa County.

The Open House Meetings are scheduled as follows:

July 27, 2013  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Cornell High School  
708 Bridge Street  
Cornell, WI 54732

August 1, 2013  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Stanley-Boyd High School  
507 East 1st Avenue  
Stanley, WI

During the open house meetings, maps of the alternative corridors and their significant features will be available for public review and comments. Representatives from the NPS, WiDNR, and IATA will be present to answer questions about the trail.

Presentations to explain the location of the alternative corridors will be given on Saturday, July 27 at 12:30 p.m., and Thursday, August 1, at 5:30 p.m. Each meeting also will feature a special presentation on the geological features of Chippewa County by the Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Interpretive Center's Naturalist, Rod Gont. Please see the enclosed yellow notice for further information.

The Ice Age Trail was authorized as a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1980 and a State Scenic Trail in 1987. When completed, the Ice Age NST will meander over 1,200 miles through some of the finest glacial scenery in Wisconsin providing day walkers, backpackers, school children, and general outdoor enthusiasts with a premier hiking and educational experience. Today, approximately half of the trail is built. To complete the trail, the NPS, IATA, and WiDNR are working with county and local units of government, interested organizations and citizens, and landowners to establish a permanent route throughout the state, including Chippewa County.



National Park Service  
Ice Age National Scenic Trail  
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-441-5610



Ice Age Trail Alliance  
2110 Main Street  
Cross Plains, WI 53528  
608-798-4453  
800-227-0046



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources- Bureau of Parks and Recreation  
101 South Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 5377-7921

The Corridor Planning Process for the Ice Age NST in Chippewa County began in 2004. The primary purpose of this process is to determine a general route for the trail and actively involve the public in this decision making process. This process consists of identifying and mapping features of outstanding geologic, biologic, cultural, and scenic significance to the trail, and then defining wide study areas that encompass these features. These study areas or “corridors of opportunity” represent areas within which the trail may be located.

In 2004 and 2005, scoping meetings and open house meetings were held for local officials and the public to review conceptual alignments for the Ice Age Trail and provide input. After those meetings, the planning process slowed down due to changes in staff. However, the planning team continued to make progress and eventually developed two alternative corridors for the trail. They are located in four townships—Delmar, Arthur, Colburn, and Estella. These alternative corridors will be presented to landowners and local officials for their review and comments at the open house meetings.

After obtaining public comments and suggestions, the partners will develop one “corridor of opportunity” approximately 3-5 miles wide, with possible route options. The reason why the corridor is so wide is to allow flexibility to get the trail through since all participation in the Ice Age Trail is voluntary. This one “corridor of opportunity” may be a refinement of one of the alternatives or some combination of the two, depending upon the information obtained during the open house meetings and other comments received from the public. We expect to present our final recommendations to local officials and landowners next year.

All participation in the Ice Age NST is voluntary. The partners can work with landowners who are interested in allowing the Ice Age NST passage across their lands, either by direct purchase (fee simple or conservation easements) or through license handshake agreements. Lands purchased for the Ice Age NST by public agencies or non-profit organizations may be eligible for funding assistance under the Wisconsin State Stewardship Program and Federal grant programs. The partners do not want to acquire all of the land within the corridor. The intention is to acquire a 50-1,000 foot wide trailway for the Ice Age NST. In some areas, more land may be desired to accommodate the wishes of the landowner or to preserve outstanding resource features. This width of trailway provides for a high quality hiking experience for the public while maintaining a buffer for neighboring landowners. All land transactions will be made only on a willing-seller basis.

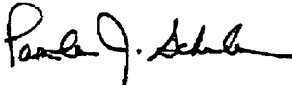
Your land is within one or more of the alternative corridors either because of the glacial features on your property or to provide the possibility of a continuous trailway. Including your land does not necessarily mean that you will be in the preferred alternative. We simply ask that you consider working with this partnership to help identify the best location for the Ice Age Trail through Chippewa County.

Enclosed for your information are the following:

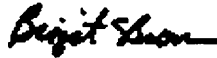
- Maps showing the location of the proposed alternatives
- Yellow Event Notice
- Comment Sheet to return to the National Park Service office.
- Ice Age NST Brochure

We do encourage you to attend the open houses, and learn more about this exciting project. If you are unable to attend, please complete the enclosed comment sheet and mail it to the National Park Service, 700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100, Madison, Wisconsin 53711. If you have any comments, concerns, or questions about the meetings, please contact the National Park Service office in Madison at 608-441-5610.

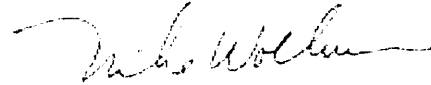
Sincerely,



Pamela Schuler  
Manager, Ice Age  
National Scenic Trail  
National Park Service



Brigit Brown  
State Trails Coordinator  
Wisconsin Department  
of Natural Resources



Mike Wollmer  
Executive Director  
Ice Age Trail Alliance

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