

Corridor Planning Process ~ *Where Should the Trail Go?*

To determine a general location for the Ice Age NST, the Corridor Planning Process is carried out and includes the following three phases—Scoping, Development of Alternatives, and Selection of a Preferred Corridor.

Scoping: Significant resources to incorporate into the Ice Age NST experience are identified and placed on a Study Area Map (see reverse). These resources include geological, biological, and cultural features and historic places, as well as scenic sites and overlooks, public lands, and support facilities (food, parking, camping, etc.).

Development of Alternatives: Rather than identify a single trail route, a number of broad alternative corridors (3-5 miles wide) are designed to include as many of the identified resources as possible. These corridor alternatives are wide enough to allow flexibility when locating the trail, since all participation by landowners is voluntary. An Environmental Assessment is also written that analyzes each alternative corridor and its possible effect on the environment if the trail is built.

Selection of a Preferred Corridor: This is the final stage of the Corridor Planning Process. A wide “preferred” corridor is chosen with possible route options. This “preferred” corridor maximizes inclusion of the most significant resources with the highest scenic value for the trail. It may also be a combination of the alternative corridors. This “corridor of opportunity” is the area within which state and federal funds may be used to purchase lands for the trail.

Each of these phases includes **Public Involvement:** Public input and comment is sought throughout the entire planning process, primarily through public open house meetings, and one-on-one contacts with landowners and local officials. These meetings typically occur during each phase and as the partners refine the alternatives.

Working with Landowners ~ *Getting the Trail on the Ground*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Ice Age Trail Alliance staff and local trail chapters contact private landowners to determine their interest in having the trail cross their property. While fee simple acquisition (purchase) of lands ensures long-term protection of the trail, the partners will work with landowners to achieve agreements that they are comfortable with such as conservation easements and simple “handshake” agreements. All participation by landowners is *strictly voluntary*.

Contact Us ~ *We Want to Hear from You!*

National Park Service

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

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Find *Ice Age Trail Alliance*
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Ice Age National Scenic Trail ~ *Take a Walk on the Cold Side*



Between 20,000 to 12,000 years ago, two thirds of what is today Wisconsin lay under the grip of colossal ice sheets. The climate warmed and they melted back. In their wake they left an impressive glacial landscape of fascinating landforms—moraines, eskers, drumlins, kettle ponds, erratics, meltwater channels and other features characteristic of continental glaciation. Today, Wisconsin’s landscape is known for displaying some of the best examples of continental glaciation nationwide. In 1958, Milwaukee resident Ray Zillmer envisioned and proposed that a National Park be created to follow these significant geological features. In 1980, Congress agreed and authorized the Ice Age Trail as a National Scenic Trail, one of only eleven in the country.

The Ice Age Trail is a long-distance, non-motorized footpath that spans the width of the state of Wisconsin winding through a rich diversity of ecosystems, public lands, and trail towns. It is primarily built and maintained by a cadre of dedicated volunteers. The trail is similar to other long-distance National Scenic Trails, like the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails.

There are currently over 600 miles of completed Ice Age Trail in 30 counties throughout Wisconsin; the trail will be 1,200 miles in length when completed. A number of agencies and communities are working to make the Ice Age NST a reality.

A Wisconsin Partnership Project ~ *Who’s Involved?*

The Ice Age Trail is a true partnership that is supported by federal, state, and local stakeholders, like you. *The primary administrators of the Ice Age NST are the:*

 National Park Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carries out Ice Age NST planning and coordination• Protects natural resources and historic sites from impact through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National /WI Environmental Policy Acts• National Historic Preservation Act• Endangered Species Act• Funds trail development• Supplies NPS brochures, signage, interpretative exhibits	 Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acts as primary owner and manager of lands where the trail is located• Negotiates and acquires land using:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowles/Nelson State Stewardship Funds• Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds• Other (county, non-profit, etc.)• Funds trail development• Provides staff and oversight along the trail route statewide	 Ice Age Trail Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raises awareness and funding for the Ice Age Trail through multiple levels of outreach• Works directly with local communities to recruit, organize and train volunteers• Works directly with communities and private landowners to locate the trail• Constructs and maintains Ice Age NST through volunteer county chapters (21 total statewide)
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A very important and invaluable partner in the development of the Ice Age Trail are the *local residents* who join in the decision-making process to determine a general route for the Trail, as well as being involved in trail construction, maintenance, and other local grassroots activities.



Northern Alternative

Southern Alternative

