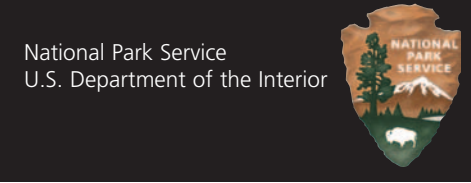


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**Ice Age National Scenic Trail
 Ice Age National Scientific Reserve
 Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains
 General Management Plan**



Newsletter #1

July 2008

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce that the National Park Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have started to develop a general management plan for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Interpretive Site and Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, located together in the Town of Cross Plains. While there are distinct federal and state designations for this complex of lands at Cross Plains, together they tell an important story about continental glaciation and how episodes in our geological history molded the landscape, and so, together, we are charting a future for the preservation and interpretation of the Ice Age landscape at this location.

This general management plan will provide a framework to guide long-term management and decision-making based on a specific vision for the future of this site. The planning team will work closely with federal, state, and local agencies as well as other interested parties and the public. We hope you will join us in this effort to develop a plan that charts a future for the nationally significant remnants of the Ice Age at the Cross Plains complex by answering this question: *What range of resource conditions and visitor experiences should we provide at the Ice Age Complex, and where?*

This newsletter describes the purposes of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve as stated in the laws that established them. Also in this newsletter is a chart describing the process we will follow in the developing this general management plan. As this chart notes, we will hold public meetings and workshops throughout the planning process. If you would like, you may use the enclosed comment form to offer your initial thoughts and ideas for the future of the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains. We will keep you informed throughout the planning process with periodic newsletters.

Thank you for taking the time to help us plan for the future,

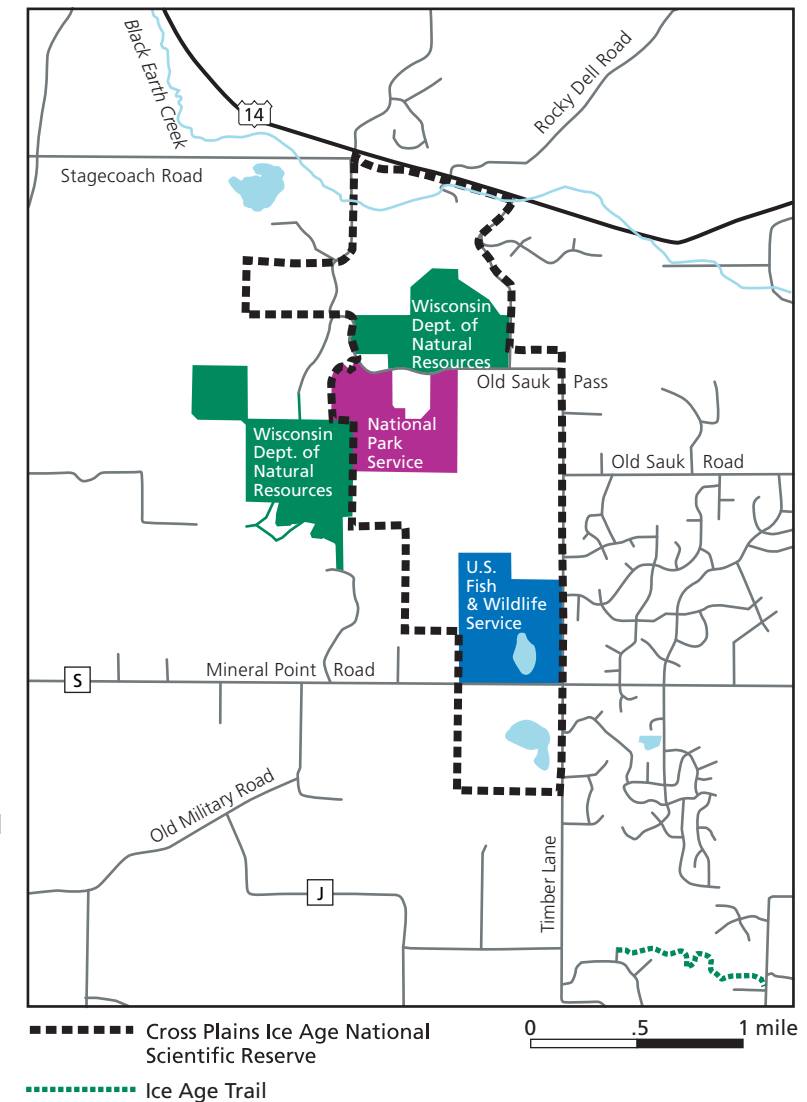
Tom Gilbert
 Superintendent, Ice Age National Scenic Trail
 And

Dana White-Quam
 Regional Park Specialist

**Ice Age National Scenic Trail Interpretive Site and
 Ice Age National Scientific Reserve
 Cross Plains, Wisconsin**



Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains



What is a General Management Plan?

General management planning is the broadest level of decision making for national park areas. General management plans provide “big picture” guidance for parks for 15-20 years. To provide site managers necessary flexibility to respond to changes over time, general management plans leave implementation details like site drawings, resource management workplans, and other shorter term, more focused efforts to subsequent planning. However, all implementation plans derive from the larger vision that is developed in the general management plan.

This general management plan will answer questions like:

- What actions must we take to ensure the preservation of the outstanding landscapes and landscape features resulting from continental glaciation at Cross Plains?
- What actions must we take to ensure that visitors understand and appreciate the story that these resources tell?
- What levels and types of visitor use are appropriate at the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains?

Several possible visions for the Ice Age Complex’s future (called management alternatives) will be developed and analyzed before a preferred direction is selected. An Environmental Impact Statement will accompany this plan to help the planning team and the public take into account potential environmental impacts of alternative actions and to choose the most sustainable course. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables the public and the planning team to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the various courses of action.

Purposes of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve and National Scenic Trail

In 1964, a law was passed to establish the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve in order to “assure protection, preservation, and interpretation of the nationally significant values of Wisconsin continental glaciation, including moraines, eskers, kames, kettleholes, drumlins, swamps, lakes, and other reminders of the Ice Age .”(quote from Public Law 88-655). Lands in the Town of Cross Plains were selected as one of nine areas that best illustrate continental glaciation in Wisconsin. Each of the nine units of the Reserve is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with financial and technical assistance from the National Park Service. In 1999, Wisconsin expanded the boundary of the Cross Plains Reserve Unit to where it is today. It is designated as Cross Plains State Park, but has not yet been developed for public use.

In 1980, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail was added to the National Trails System. The trail extends 1000 miles through the state of Wisconsin, linking together six of the nine reserve units.

The purposes of the trail are:

- To provide for superlative outdoor recreation opportunities as well as conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural resources along the trail.
- To provide a premier hiking trail experience consistent with preserving the glaciated landscape.
- To encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management of the trail, wherever appropriate



Planning Schedule

Step	Dates	Planning Steps	Public Involvement Opportunities
We Are Here 1	Spring and Summer 2008	Set the Stage for Planning: • Identify issues and opportunities.	Attend a public meeting and let us know what you think. You can also use the response form with this newsletter or send a note through our website.
2	Fall 2008 to Summer 2009	Develop Alternatives: • Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for the park's future, assess their impacts, benefits, and costs, analyze public reactions, and select a preferred alternative.	Attend a public meeting and provide comments on alternatives. A newsletter summarizing alternatives will also be available and will include a response form.
3	Fall 2009 to Summer 2010	Prepare and publish a draft General Management Plan with an Environmental Impact Statement.	Provide comments
4	Fall and Winter 2010/2011	Revise and publish the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.	
5	Winter 2011 and beyond	Implement the approved plan: • Issue a final Record of Decision and implement the plan as funding allows.	Stay involved!

How to be involved

Our first public meetings will be held

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

Town of Middleton Town Hall
7555 W. Old Sauk Road
Verona, Wisconsin
Meeting hours: 4:00–8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 28, 2008

Town of Cross Plains Community Center
3734 County Trunk P
Pine Bluff, Wisconsin
Meeting hours: 4:00–8:00 p.m.

Please join us if you can.

You can also use the enclosed comment form to share your thoughts, ideas and any concerns regarding the issues and opportunities.

You can also log on to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> (search for *Ice Age Trail*) to submit your comments electronically.

You may also contact us at any time with questions or comments:

Tom Gilbert for the National Park Service at 608-441-5610 and
Dana White-Quam for the Department of Natural Resources at 608-275-3302.

Comments are welcome at any time, although comments received by **September 12th** would be most helpful.