

LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL CONDITIONS

(As of May 4, 2016)

Due to situations beyond the control of the Langlade County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, conditions are constantly changing. Hikers are urged to contact the chapter coordinator or the Langlade County Forestry Department Office (715-627-6300) at the Fairgrounds to check on current conditions in advance of any trip on one or more of the segments.

"You Are Here" signs, installed in 1997, are at select sites or where the trail crosses public roads on the Kettlebowl, Lumbercamp, Old Railroad and Parrish Hills segments.

KETTLEBOWL - Distance: Approximately 13 miles Highway 52 to Polar at Highway 64. Over half of this segment crosses privately-owned land. Unfortunately, the off-road stretch of trail east of Polar-Price Road to Sherry Road is closed at the landowner's request. Hikers can reach the trail head on Sherry Road by continuing north on Price-Polar and east on Oak/Sherry Roads. The segment passes through some of the highest terrain in Langlade County and features scenic hardwood ridges, frostpockets and Big Stone Hole, a unique glacial feature. The unique depression is a short distance from the trail but access is unimproved so caution is advised.

Markings were replaced where needed along with some mowing on the stretch from Sherry Road north to Kettlebowl Ski Hill at Highway 52 last year. This year the stretch was checked and markings refreshed from the Sherry Road trailhead north one and a half miles to the ATV intersection.

Logging is completed along the trail portion of the area south of "Burma Road" alias South Kent Pond Road. However logging is occurring in an adjacent area and trucks are using the trail related stretch of "Burma Road" or South Kent Pond Road for hauling operations so caution is advised. The affected stretch is a short part of the segment covered by a 6 mile permanent state conservation and trail easement on land owned by the BTG Pactual Group.



Boulder field on South Slope of Summit Lake Moraine east of Baker Lake - Photo by Lee Auner

LUMBERCAMP - Distance: 12 miles Wisconsin 52 to County Trunk A

Markings, directional arrows at critical intersections and yellow refresher markings, were checked and replaced on the stretch from County Trunk S to County Trunk A last year. The remaining stretch east from County Trunk S east to the Fischer Lake intersection has been checked this spring. The stretch from Wisconsin Highway 52 west to Otto Mauk Road has been checked this spring, including some mowing of thick brush just west of Baker Lake.

Recent logging has occurred along portions west of Highway 52. Also a portion of the stretch east from County Trunk S to the Fischer Lake intersection has been damaged by inordinate 4-wheel vehicle use and is scheduled for repair by the county. Caution is advised in these areas.

The boulder strewn slopes near Baker Lake and a former logging camp are features to be observed. The rugged terrain is part of a recessive moraine which stretches from Summit Lake to north of the Village of White Lake.

Local sportsmen have fixed up the stone cellar at the former Norem Lumbercamp site just west of Otto Mauk Road for overnight use. Hikers are encouraged to exercise good trail stewardship if using the historic structure.



Spychalla Lodge-Old Railroad Segment at Jack Lake Cross Country Ski Area, County Trunk J.
OLD RAILROAD - Distance: 9.5 miles County Trunk A to U.S. 45
Over four miles of this segment are being proposed for a county ATV trail in 2017. Planning is underway to re-route the affected stretches of the Ice Age Trail.

Recent logging has occurred on this segment, especially in the Veterans Memorial Park and Pence Lake Road areas. Caution is advised.

Markings were also checked and replaced on the stretch from County Trunk A to the Veterans Memorial Park last spring. The stretch from Pence Lake Road to US 45 was mowed and markings checked last year. Recent logging has occurred along this portion. Caution is advised in this area.

Five features of this segment are Veterans Memorial Park, bog walk, Clearwater Stonehole, the Koepenick-Pearson rail grade and Spychalla Lodge. The latter facility was completed this year

and offers shelter for trail users but overnight use is discouraged. There are two primitive campsites along the segment on Game and Jack Lakes.

Depending on varying lake levels, hikers may encounter water over a short trail stretch along the east shore of Jack Lake which may require a bit of creativity to get around it.

Veterans Memorial Park is a county park with cabins, developed campground, picnic area, beach and arboretum. Some hikers have used the park as a base camp while hiking through the county.

HIGHLAND LAKES - Distance: 13.5 miles U.S. 45 to County Trunk T

This segment is incomplete and requires a hike along a stretch of Forest and Kleevers Roads in the Town of Upham for approximately 4.5 miles to complete a trip from the eastern trailhead at US 45 to County Trunk T. An outstanding feature of this segment is the Parrish terminal moraine which parallels the trail for over 3 miles. Just north of 5 Points, is a gap cut by the West Branch of the Eau Claire River through the moraine and shaped later for a railroad grade. Just west of 5 points the trail crosses the west branch requiring a ford or a bit of creativity to get around it.

An interesting feature on the road walk along Forest Road is the Bogus Swamp Natural Area. Watch for the marker on the east side of the road.

Recent logging has occurred along the western portion south from County Trunk T. Hikers are urged to use caution through these areas. In 2009, the Knights Templar Club granted permission for the trail to cross their land on a logging lane north of Kleevers Road. Gates and carsonite trail markings were installed on that stretch in 2010. Yellow refresher markings and directional arrows at critical intersections for this stretch were checked last year.

PARRISH HILLS - Distance: 12 miles County Trunk T to Lincoln County Line

In April 2011, a tornado devastated a portion of the segment south of 5 Cent Road. The stretch was rerouted via ATV trails until the chapter is able to re-establish the original trail. The re-route using a portion of the Parrish Game Trail firelane and Five Cent Road was established in 2012.

Brushing and trail markings were also replaced where needed on the stretch from County Trunk T to County H last summer. Northwoods Chapter members regularly check the stretch from County Trunk H west to the Lincoln County line.

The segment requires a ford across the Prairie River southeast of Parrish. The bottom of the river is firm and the water level is usually below the knees. Depending on ground water levels, the segment also has several wet crossings which may require a bit of creativity to get around them.

Active logging is occurring on county owned land south of the Prairie River ford so caution is advised.