

Ice Age Trail
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On December 5th, 2024 my wife and our friends completed the Ice Age Trail completing our last miles at the New Wood segment. A total of ~~20~~11.7 miles in three years!
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Our adventure began in November of 2021 when my wife joined a couple friends to hike the Ice Age trail in our area of Dane County. I indicated that I would join them when my schedule allowed, thinking this would be a good activity for my wife to pursue. I soon became "hooked" and decided to join their challenge to complete the entire trail. I enjoyed our time catching up to the group with my wife, and once I caught up thoroughly enjoyed our time together. We've made friends for a lifetime. We were also privileged to have many of our grandchildren and family join us on the trail adventures. We began with day trips in the Dane County area, then Southern WI, the eastern terminus to Sturgeon Bay, then onto the central WI area, then Northwest, Northeast and then finishing in the Central region of the State. We also completed two mammoth challenges as part of our routes.

My career had moved me to just about every region of the State and to get out and enjoy the land from the trail was a blessing. I enjoyed exploring God's creation and learning about every region of the State from the perspective of the land.

The woods are beautiful; the mix of hard woods, pine trees and hummocky trails, swamps, glacial land formations, such as the erratic's, stream and rock crossings and beaver dams. Due to my love for history I enjoyed the seeing remnants from the original settlers such as old foundations from farms and homes, rock piles defining land boundaries, vast crop fields, telegraph poles, and former schoolhouses and Churches.

Identification of the current and former logging operations, we traversed across multiple logging roads and railways converted to trails and bike paths. My highlights would be the Devil Lake rock climb and the dells of Eau Claire. We saw much wildlife such as Bear, Elk, numerous deer, Beaver, turkeys, Eagles. Swan's cranes, geese and ducks.

To cross through the many small town communities was a pleasure. We often would stop at the small town diners for lunch or dinner, and they never disappointed our need for good food and company. The Wisconsin friendly is real and everyone we met was very kind and friendly.

I would like to thank the alliance for their work and commitment and the many volunteers for their maintenance of the trail. The trail was very well marked and easy to follow. It has been an experience and memory to treasure for a lifetime.