

LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL CONDITIONS

(As of September 13, 2022)

COVID-19

All five Ice Age Trail segments in the county are open for hiking. However, hikers are encouraged to keep an appropriate distance when encountering other hikers on the trail. Also having a facemask handy if close encounters with others is recommended.

Scattered windfalls on the five segments in the county have been reported, some are passable, but certified sawyers will remove them as schedules permit.

Due to situations beyond the control of the Langlade County Ice Age Trail Chapter, conditions are constantly changing. Hikers are urged to contact the chapter coordinator (715-623-2645) or the Langlade County Forestry Department Office (715-627-6300) at the Fairgrounds to check on current conditions in advance of any hike.



Frost pocket on the Kettlebowl Segment

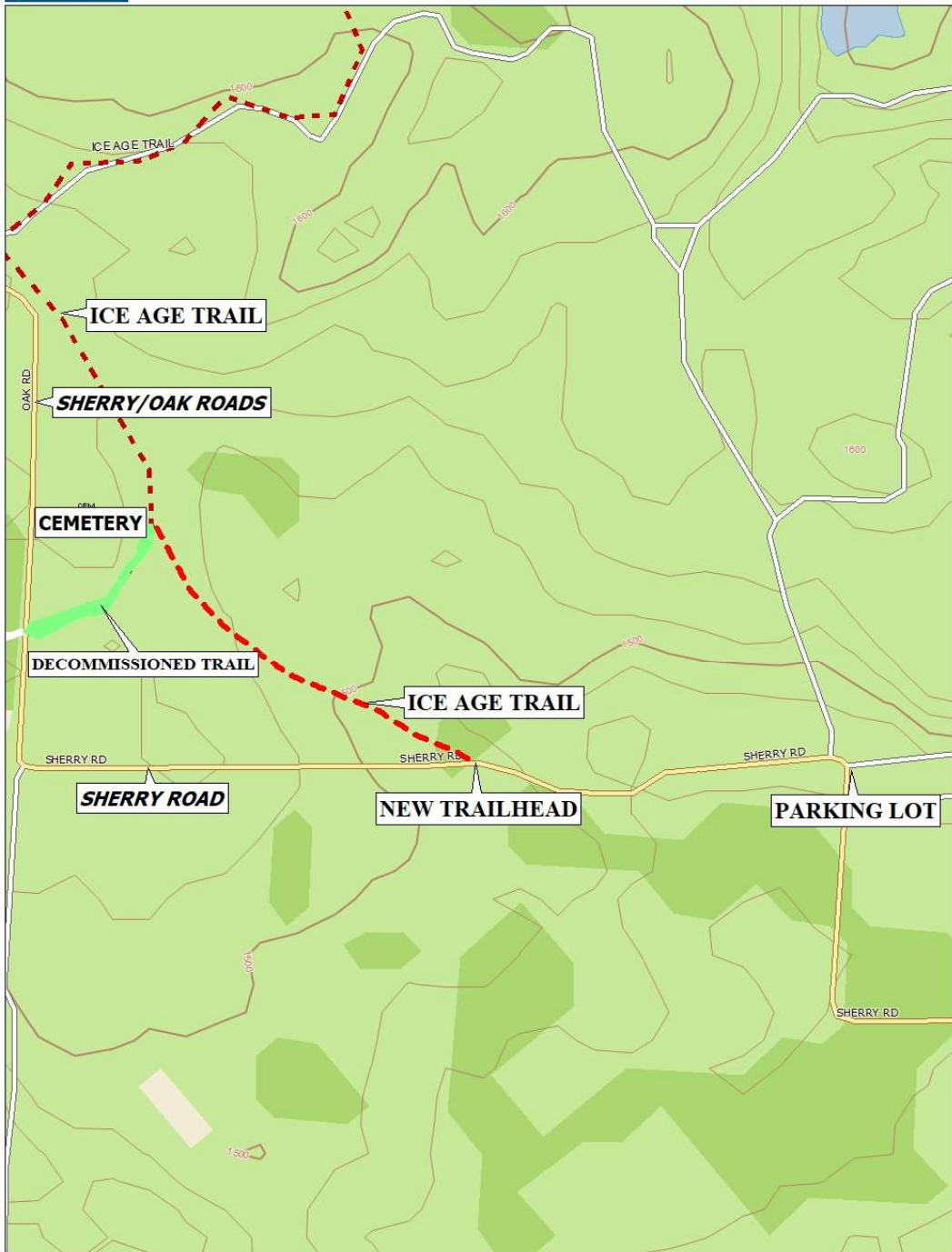
KETTLEBOWL – Distance: Approximately 15 miles Highway 52 to Polar at Highway 64.

The trail was extended a third of a mile to the new trail head which is closer to a county-owned parking lot. The lot accessible by a short road walk via Sherry Road offers safe and legal parking space for hiker vehicles. (See map on following page for details of the segment extension).

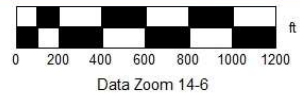
A Langlade County ordinance authorizes local law enforcement officers to impound vehicles considered by them to be unsafely parked on any rural road. To avoid the risk of impoundment and accidents, hikers are encouraged to use off-road parking options, especially on the 25 mile connecting roads associated with the Kettlebowl/Plover River Segments. Information on the off-road parking options is available from the chapter.

Brushing and markings were refreshed where needed from Sherry Road north to the Kettlebowl Ski Hill at Highway 52 this year. Most of segment mowed recently by volunteers.

The segment passes through some of the highest terrain in Langlade County and features scenic hardwood ridges, kettles and frost pockets. Approximately three-quarters of a mile from the trail is Kent Hill at 1903 feet above sea level which is the county's highest point of elevation. Big Stone Hole, a unique glacial feature, is just off the trail but access is unimproved, so caution is advised.



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Boulder field on slope of Summit Lake Moraine west of Baker Lake - Photo by Lee Auner

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

A logging operation was recently re-activated, which includes eight acres of clear cut, and affects a half mile of the segment just west of Baker Lake (see following map). The logging is occurring on a portion of the steep, boulder strewn trail so hikers should be alert to falling timber, chain sawing and equipment movement. Exercise extreme precaution in the area. The logger is using the portion of the trail to Otto Mauk Road for log storage and hauling to WI 52 so hikers should also be alert and cautious in this area.

Two other operations are planned east and west of Otto Mauk Road but inactive currently.

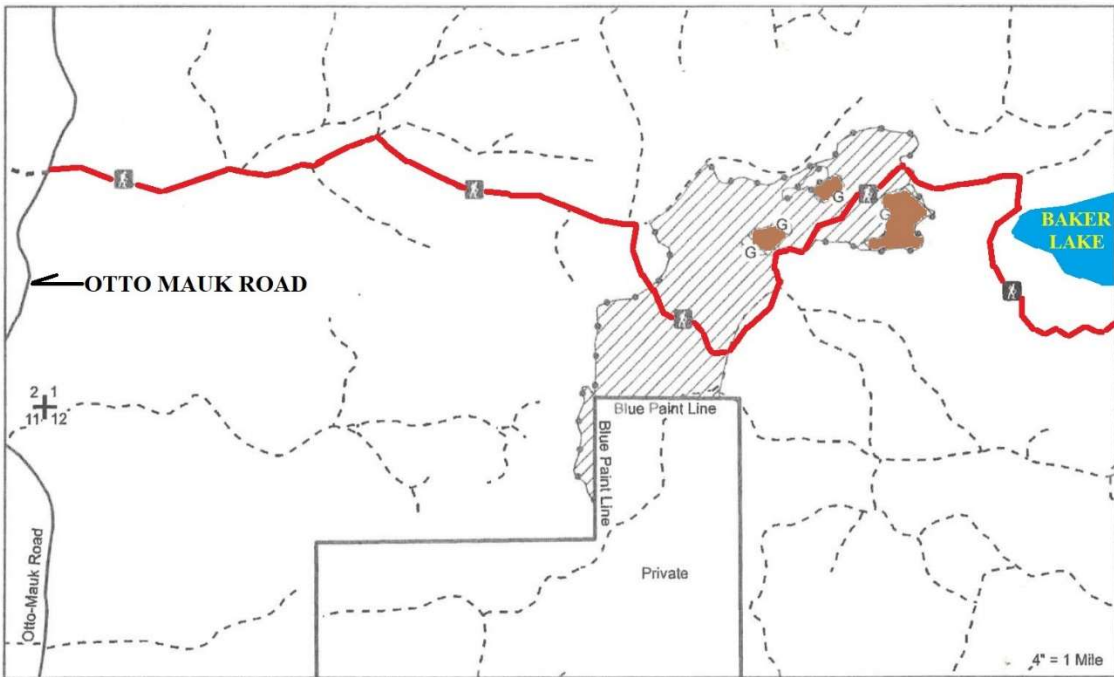
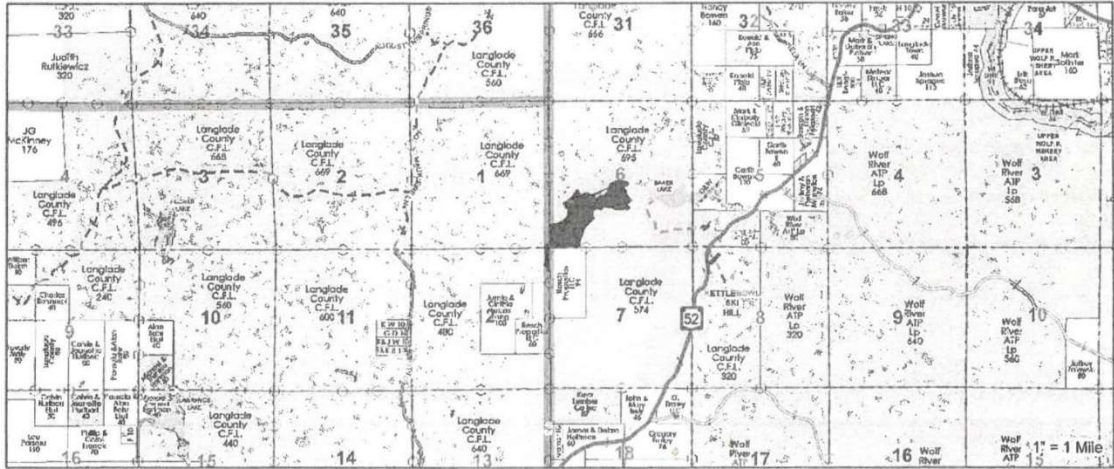
A logging operation is active in the Peters Marsh area so caution so recommended in that area.

The stretch west of Otto Mauk Road to County Trunk S has an inordinate amount of use by 4-wheel vehicles. Pools of water have collected in depressions formed by the vehicular traffic.

Brushing and directional arrows at critical intersections and markings were refreshed from Wisconsin Highway 52 west to County A. Access to parking at the north end of Hill Road is not available currently as a deep pool of water covers the entire width of the town road and beyond. High water levels have caused an overflow of the shallow glacial lakes in the Peters Marsh Wildlife Area affecting the trail between County Highways S and A. The Peters Marsh section was mowed recently by chapter volunteers.

Local sportsmen have fixed up the stone cellar at the former Norem Lumbercamp site just west of Otto Mauk Road for overnight use. The chapter is not responsible for the facility but hikers are encouraged to exercise good trail stewardship if using the historic structure.

The boulder strewn slope near Baker Lake, a former logging camp and the state's Peters Marsh Wildlife Area are noted features of this segment. The east end of the segment has rugged terrain which is part of a recessive moraine known as the Summit Lake Moraine which stretches from Oneida County through Langlade County into Oconto County.



SHADED AREA IS LOGGING OPERATION Legend
RED LINE IS ICE AGE TRAIL
BROWN ARE CLEAR CUT AREAS

Area 1 (Hwd Thinning) 77 acres	Woods Road	RPL Red Paint Line	
Area 2 (Aspen Clearcut) 8 acres	Ice Age Trail	Green Paint Line	
County Forest Road	Red Paint Line		

This map is not a survey of any property depicted.



Spychalla Lodge-Summit Moraine Segment at County Trunk J.

Summit Moraine - Distance: 12.4 miles County Trunk A to County Trunk B

Rerouting of this segment was completed in 2018. The reroute involved establishment of new trail sections and upgrading existing stretches.

Salvage logging occurred recently on the segment east and west of Pence Lake Road.

The entire segment was checked this year with mowing, brushing and markings refreshed. New You Are Here signs at four locations on the segment were installed last summer.

Caution should be exercised on the trail section along the busy and high-speed County A.

Parking of vehicles at any gated areas on County A is prohibited by county ordinance and the DNR. There is an enlarged parking area provided by the DNR on the south side of County A.

Hikers are encouraged to use this parking area and those at County B, Veterans Memorial Park or the Jack Lake Cross Country Ski on County J to avoid the volume of highspeed traffic on US 45/WI 47. There is no safe off-road parking space along the busy highway.

Depending on varying lake levels, the bog walk at Game Lake may not be safely passable, but hikers can follow a 0.2 mile longer portion of the nature trail around the lake as a bypass option to connect east or west with the Ice Age Trail.

Features of this segment are Veterans Memorial Park, the bog walk and Spychalla Lodge. The latter facility is open but overnight use is discouraged. There are two fee campsites along the segment on Game and Jack Lakes along with the no-fee designated camp area (DCA) at Upper Vantor Lake. Ice Age Trail Alliance rules prohibit campfire at DCAs so observance of the rule is appreciated by other hikers and local volunteers.

Veterans Memorial Park on Jack Lake is a county park with cabins, developed campground, picnic area, a beach and native plant arboretum. Some hikers have used the county park as a base camp for their treks.



Crossing the West Branch of the Eau Claire River. Babbling brook or raging torrent?



Restored vista along Highland Lakes (Photo courtesy by Dory Witzeling of Appleton). The view is of a spruce/tamarack wetland and the distinct ridge of the Parrish Terminal Moraine in the background was formed by the Langlade Lobe of the Wisconsin Glacier.

HIGHLAND LAKES - Distance: 12.5 miles County Trunk B to County Trunk T.

In 2009, the Knights Templar Club granted permission for the trail to cross their land on a section of a forest lane north of Kleever Road. Gates and trail markings were installed on the stretch the following year. Brushing, refresher markings and directional arrows at critical intersections were completed this spring. The segment has not been mowed.

This segment is incomplete but a 4.5 mile connecting route is available via Forest and Kleever Roads in the Town of Upham between trail heads at County B and T.

An interesting feature on Forest Road is the Bogus Swamp State Natural Area. Watch for the state marker about the unique site on the east side of the road. The marker is less than a mile north of the Bogus Road junction with Forest Road.

A mile south of County T, a scenic vista was restored last summer. The view overlooks a Spruce/Tamarack swamp, once a former shallow glacial lake, framed by the north side of the Parrish terminal moraine. The natural process of eutrophication over the ages eventually converted the water body to a wetland from sediment run-off and organic material deposition. Bogus Swamp on the Forest Road connecting route is another example created by the natural process.

The Parrish terminal moraine is a distinctive landform which stretches over 26 miles from Bryant to Parrish and was deposited by the Langlade lobe of the Wisconsin glacier. Langlade County contains portions of terminal moraines deposited by three of the six ice lobes of the last glacier which shaped the state's landscape. The forest lane portions of the trail between Kleever Road and the West Branch of the Eau Claire River parallels the moraine for over three miles until ascending or descending it just west of the stream crossing.



Just east of Nelson Fire Lane, the vista east from “Blackberry Ridge”. Photo by John Prokops
PARRISH HILLS - Distance: 12 miles County Trunk T to the Lincoln County Line

Volunteers have installed trail marking in a clearcut of a 44-acre pine plantation at County Highway H. See MAP A on following page for the affected section of trail section.

A tornado in 2011 devastated a portion of the segment south of 5 Cent Road. The pre-tornado stretch was re-established as interim trail late last year until a short reroute will be completed by early October by WisCorps and volunteers. (See MAP B on next page)

Depending on ground water levels, the segment has several water crossings which require a bit of creativity to get around them.

Beaver activity occasionally creates wet stretches in the Old Truck Marker area 2.5 miles north of the County T trail head.

Brushing and refreshing of trail markings along with some mowing were completed this summer. Hikers may encounter a No Trespassing sign on the rail grade just west of Pine Road in Parrish. However, the landowner has granted permission for hikers to pass over his property.

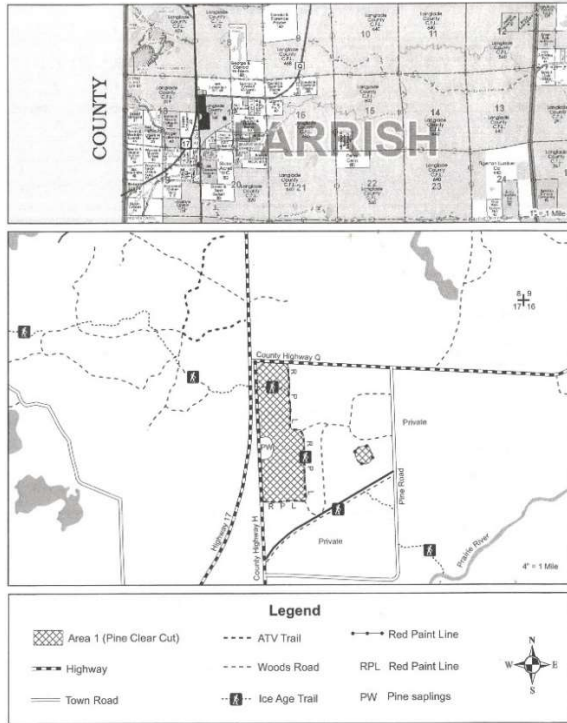
The segment has a ford across the Prairie River southeast of Parrish. The river bottom is firm and the water level is usually below the knees. Mucky stretches just north and south of the river can be expected. Last winter the river froze to allow dry crossings but six days later the stream was flowing.

Logging will be occurring in areas near the trail so hauling traffic may be encountered. Caution is advised in these areas when logging operations are active.

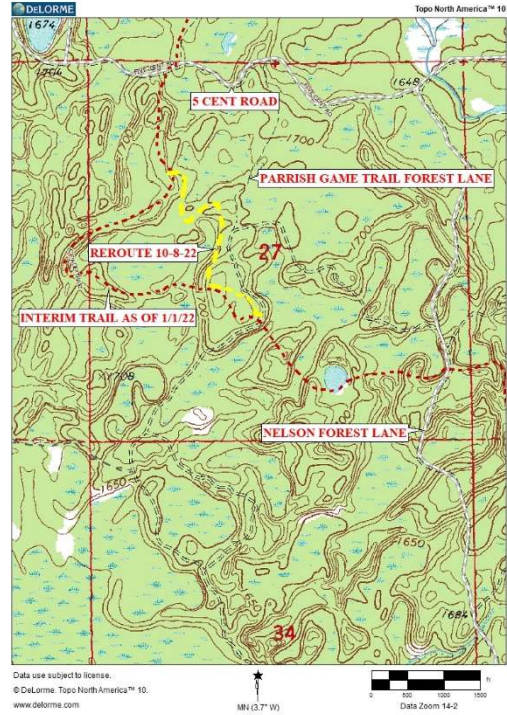
There is an ATV shelter with water and pit privies just north of Five Cent Road. The facility, a half mile south of the trail crossing, is available to hikers. However, camping in proximity to the shelter is not permitted. Available for primitive camping is an Adirondack-like shelter on the trail about a mile southeast of the Prairie River ford.

Features of the Parrish Hills Segment include the Old Truck Marker, natural lakes, wetlands, “Blackberry Ridge”, the Prairie River ford and the hamlet of Parrish where oil exploration occurred in the county’s early years. Other features recently made more visible due to an extensive trimming job by chapter volunteers were a CCC-era concrete stairway to the top of Basswood Hill, an eroded outdoor grill and bench posts. Basswood Hill is 60 feet lower than Lookout Mountain on the Harrison Hills Segment in Lincoln County, which is the highest point along the entire trail.

Another notable feature is Baldy Hill, the eastern prominence of the Harrison Hills terminal moraine deposited by the Wisconsin Valley Lobe of the last glacier over 11,000 years ago.



MAP A - CLEAR-CUT AFFECTED TRAIL



MAP B
RE-ESTABLISHED INTERIM TRAIL - RED DASHES
BETWEEN PARRISH GAME TRAIL FOREST LANE
AND 5 CENT ROAD AS OF JANUARY 2022.
NEW REROUTE AS OF 10-8-2022 - YELLOW DASHES