

**Media Contact:**

Melissa Pierick, Director of Marketing and Community Relations
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Melissa@iceagetrail.org 608-798-4453

Yellow-Blazed Ice Age National Scenic Trail Added through Montello!

New 2-mile segment is on the Trail's eastern bifurcation

Cross Plains, Wis. (October 23, 2024) —The Ice Age National Scenic Trail got a fresh addition through the heart of Montello! Today, volunteers blazed the Montello Segment, which is approximately 2 miles long. The new Trail replaces the connecting route that followed the busy, less scenic Highway 23 through the city. (Connecting routes are suggested routes for hikers to follow between completed, blazed segments of the Ice Age Trail.)

This new urban Trail route, approved by the Montello City Council in May, promises hikers a more enjoyable and picturesque experience. The Trail goes through two city parks, a county park, behind Montello's famous waterfalls, and alongside the beautiful Fox River as it flows into Buffalo Lake.

"This is a fine example of what can be achieved when everyone works together," says Chad DuChateau, Director of Trail Operations for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "The Marquette County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance spearheaded the effort to get the path blazed by garnering city support for it. Then, the county, Wisconsin DNR, and National Park Service gave their approvals."

Along its route, the Trail also takes hikers through Montello's thriving downtown area, with opportunities to visit local favorites like a candy store and restaurants.

"Blazed Trail makes Montello an even more appealing stop for hikers who are completing the Trail's eastern bifurcation," says DuChateau. (The bifurcation is the circle in the middle of the Trail; thru-hikers and segment hikers seeking to complete the entire Trail must choose one half of the bifurcation to hike.)

"The City of Montello is excited to host this new segment of the Ice Age Trail," says Jim Houdek, Mayor of Montello. "This will introduce many new visitors to our historic city, and provide our businesses with potential new customers. It's a win - win for everybody."

The Montello Segment more than doubles the amount of blazed Trail in Marquette County. Its only other blazed Trail is the 1.8-mile John Muir Segment, which runs through John Muir Park. With more than 40 miles of connecting route, there's plenty of potential for more Trail in the County. "We're excited to see what the future brings for the Trail in Marquette. Hopefully, the momentum that's building results in more Trail for people to enjoy."

With the addition of the Montello Segment, 702 miles of the Ice Age Trail are complete; leaving less than 500 miles on connecting routes between segments.

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About the Ice Age National Scenic Trail:

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,200-mile footpath contained entirely within Wisconsin. It traverses the state from St. Croix Falls in the west, to Sturgeon Bay in the east, going as far south as Janesville. One of 11 National Scenic Trails, the Ice Age Trail highlights the landscapes that were carved out by ancient glaciers, which happen to be some of the most beautiful areas in the state. Approximately 60% of Wisconsin residents live within 20 miles of the Ice Age Trail.

About the Ice Age Trail Alliance:

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is a nonprofit, member- and volunteer-based organization which conserves, creates, maintains, and promotes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. For more information visit **IceAgeTrail.org**.



Ice Age National Scenic Trail Montello Segment

