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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Large Ice Age Trail Project Nearly Complete**

Ringle Now a Showcase Segment of the National Scenic Trail

Cross Plains, Wis. (Sept. 23, 2021)—The re-imagined Ringle Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is ready for its' debut. Five years' worth of construction projects will culminate in a celebration hosted by the Ice Age Trail Alliance on Saturday, October 9.

Alliance volunteers put significant effort into improving 7.3-miles of the Segment, which is located in Marathon County between the towns of Ringle and Hatley.

This included moving the Trail from old logging roads and snowmobile trails. Now hikers will follow a more intimate Trail through stately forests and rolling terrain, past large glacial erratics and boulder fields.

“This is the biggest Trail improvement project we’ve undertaken in 20 years,” says Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The result is a “showcase” segment of the Ice Age Trail.

“Most hikers don’t realize the planning and effort that goes into creating a sustainable Trail,” says Caliebe. “What we’ve created at Ringle will be able to withstand tough conditions and heavy traffic for generations to come.”

“Volunteers always put in their best effort on trailbuilding projects. The amount of detail on this project is special though,” says Caliebe.

Public Celebration: Saturday, Oct. 9 at Noon

To recognize the community and volunteer support that went into the Ringle reconstruction projects, the Ice Age Trail Alliance will host a Ringle Segment Celebration on Oct. 9.

Public festivities begin at noon at 222780 Duncan Road.

Shuttles will be available to take hikers to the top of the Trail (at County N and Helf Rd.), making this a great way for people to experience the beauty of the Ringle Segment first-hand.

Upon finishing the 7.3-mile portion of the segment, hikers will be treated to refreshments and giveaways.

Facts about the Ringle Segment

- Part of the Ice Age Trail since the 1970s
- Part of more than 43 miles of Ice Age Trail in Marathon County
- New property for the Trail was acquired in 2008

Facts about the Ringle Improvement Projects

- 11 large-scale projects took place, starting in 2017
- 1,056 volunteers donated 24,000 service hours
- More than \$200,000 was invested in the project

About the Ice Age Trail:

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,000-mile footpath contained entirely within Wisconsin. 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 non-profit organization which conserves, creates, maintains, and promotes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. For more information on our work, visit iceagetrail.org.