

Chapter 8

Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination; and Definition of Terms

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

There has been considerable emphasis on public involvement during this trail planning effort. As a part of this planning process, the IATA, NPS, and WDNR made numerous contacts with the public, Lacleade County and the affected towns. Outlined below are the results of our contacts:

Core Team Meetings:

The Corridor Planning Process formally began on March 2003, with the initial meeting of the Core Team. The purpose of the first meeting was to explain the Corridor Planning Process, discuss past efforts to establish the Ice Age NST in southern Lacleade County, and gain an overview of the county's glacial landscape and other significant natural and cultural features. Since that time, the Core Team has met over thirty times to coordinate public involvement, conduct field work and undertake other activities involved with refining the corridor, identifying potential trail routes, and assessing landowner interest.

Town and County Board Meetings:

During November 2003, a series of presentations were made to four local city and town boards potentially within the confines of the corridor. These presentations focused on providing an overview of the Ice Age NST, discussing the Corridor Planning Process, and responding to questions and concerns with the project. Similar presentations were made to the Lacleade County Board on September 16, 2003, and the Lacleade County Forestry Committee on August 14, 2003, and February 9, 2009. Additional presentations were made to the Lacleade County Towns Association in the fall of 2005, and spring of 2009.

Public Open House Meetings—Series I:

After providing further definition to the corridor, the Core Team hosted an initial round of Public Open Houses. These were held on February 4, 7, and 8, 2006, in the towns of Antigo, Polar, and Rolling respectively. About 100 people attended the three sessions. These meetings provided area landowners with an opportunity to learn about the project, gain insight on how it would impact them, and share their level of interest as potential participants. Two possible "Corridors of Opportunity" were presented to the public. Corridor A focused on the terminal moraine to the west of Mueller Lake Park in Polar and the other, Corridor B, incorporated existing public lands and facilities to the south and east.

Public Open House Meetings—Series II

There was a gap of time between the first and second series of Open House meetings. The reason for this was to develop a single Preferred Alternative, which incorporated portions of both Corridors A and B, to identify possible route options for the trail within the preferred alternative, and individually contact landowners to determine the feasibility of the possible route options. The second series of Open Houses was held in June 2009 in the towns of Polar (June 10) and Rolling (June 13). More than 100 people attended. These meetings provided information about

the Ice Age NST project, specific information about the possible route options, and answered questions and concerns regarding the implementation and management of the trail. Presentations highlighting local trail segments and chapter led hikes and long-distance hiking were also provided. Comments received were subsequently organized and recorded in the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system.

Local Comprehensive Planning Efforts

Throughout the planning for southern Langlade County, our consultant on this project from North Central Region Planning Commission was also developing comprehensive local plans for individual towns in the county. During committee meetings, he would regularly provide them with updates on the status of our planning process.

CONSULTATION FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Agencies and individuals contacted:

Laukena Au, United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Ron Zalewski, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bharat Mathur, United States Environmental Protection Agency
Bruce Matzke, Federal Highway Administration
Charlie Peters, United States Geologic Survey
Michael Pfenning, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Chip Brown, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Joel Trick, United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Miller, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Joe Rywer, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Victoria Doud, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Ojibway Indians

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biodiversity: Biodiversity is the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological system in which they occur on the local and regional landscape.

“Corridor of Opportunity:” A planned and mapped linear space, generally about 1 mile to 4 miles wide, but wider in some places to protect exceptional features, within which the cooperating partners are working to establish the “Trail” and a suitable “Trailway”. The “Corridor” has different implications for each primary partner:

- To the WDNR, it represents the area within which it may (1) accept gifts of lands for dedication for the Ice Age State Scenic Trail, and (2) acquire lands for the trailway.
- To the NPS, it represents the area within which it will exercise its authorities to establish, protect, and manage the Ice Age NST. It is an area that has been delineated through a public planning process and has met Federal environmental compliance requirements. The lines defining the corridor will be treated as the “park” boundary for the trail and the

limits within which Federal land acquisition authority for the trail would be exercised to create a suitable “Trailway.” It also represents the area which will be considered in other planning documents such as resource management plans and land protection plans.

- To the IATA, it represents the area within which it will seek to protect or have protected a suitable “Trailway” for the Ice Age NST in order to preserve significant glacial features, provide an outstanding trail use experience, and manage on a sustainable basis the resources of the “Trailway”. Also see Trail and Trailway.

Rarely will the partners seek to acquire or protect the entire width of the corridor for the trail, unless it contains outstanding glacial features. The reason the corridor is wider than the trailway that will be acquired is to provide the opportunity to be flexible in working with willing landowners on a voluntary basis. (see “Trailway”)

Dedication: As provided for in Wis. Stats. 23.293, the transfer of land or a permanent interest in the land to the State of Wisconsin (for Ice Age NST purposes), and a binding unilateral declaration by the State that the land rights under the ownership of the State will be held in trust for the people by the WDNR in a manner which ensures the stewardship of the area. See also “Match-Grant Program.”

Drumlins: Elliptical or elongate hills formed by erosion and deposition of material beneath thick glacial ice and streamlined in the direction of ice flow.

Endangered Species: A species on the Federal or Wisconsin Endangered Species list and whose continued existence as a viable component of the State’s wild animals or wild plants is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the WDNR to be in jeopardy on the basis of scientific evidence.

Exurban: Pockets of residential development lying beyond the suburbs of a city, typically composed of upscale homes.

Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA): The Ice Age Trail Alliance (formerly the Ice Age Trail Park and Trail Foundation) is a non-profit Wisconsin Corporation whose mission is to create, support, and protect a thousand-mile foot trail tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

Ice Walled Lake Plain: Mesa-like hills that were once lakes on a melting glacier. Streams flowing on the glacier deposited loads of sediment into these lakes. When the surrounding glacier had completely melted, the lake bottoms became the hilltops.

Kettle: A depression formed by the melting of buried glacial ice. Some kettle holes hold water.

Moraine: A moraine is a ridge formed by the gravel, sand, and boulders carried along by the glacier and deposited where the glacier stopped. Morainal ridges vary in height.

National Park Service (NPS): The agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the natural, cultural, and recreational areas

of the National Park System. The mission of the NPS includes two primary goals: to preserve our natural and cultural resources and to provide for public use and enjoyment of these resources in ways that will leave them unimpaired for future generations. The NPS is responsible at the Federal level for carrying out the provisions of the National Trails System Act as they relate to the Ice Age NST by coordinating, guiding, and assisting the efforts of others to acquire, develop, operate, protect, and maintain the trail. The 1983 comprehensive plan prepared by the NPS identifies the DNR and the IATA as the primary cooperators in the long-term effort to develop and manage the trail.

Outwash: A sloping deposit of rounded gravel and fine sand left from the ice streams flowing away from the glaciers.

Special Concern Species: Species about which a problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proven scientifically. This State classification focuses attention on species before they become threatened or endangered.

Stewardship Fund: A Wisconsin legislatively established fund administered by the WDNR, which provides funding for conservation and recreation programs, including matching grants to not-for-profit conservation organizations for certain projects. The Ice Age NST is one of the qualifying projects, and may receive grants for land acquisition.

Threatened Species: A species on the Federal or Wisconsin Threatened Species list is one which appears likely, within the foreseeable future, on the basis of scientific evidence, to become endangered.

Trail: The usable tread and immediate surrounding space that is maintained for the purpose of passage along the trail route. For walking only segments, this may be a 24- to 30-inch wide tread and an additional 2 feet of cleared space on either side. For segments where other activities are also allowed, these measurements would likely be greater. Also see Corridor of Opportunity and Trailway.

Trailway: The width or area of land that is managed for the purposes of the Ice Age NST. It includes the "Trail" and surrounding lands that are owned, leased, held by easement, or in some way controlled for management as part of the Ice Age NST. Generally its width ranges from 50-1000 feet. It is land that has been secured for the Ice Age NST, frequently with state Stewardship and federal LAWCON funds. These secured rights may be held by the WDNR or IATA. Where the trail passes through existing public ownership or management areas, the "Trailway" is the width or area of land that the managing agency has committed to management for the trail. Also see Corridor of Opportunity and Trail.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR): The state agency responsible for implementing State and Federal laws that protect and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources—its air, land, water, wildlife, fish, and plants. It coordinates the many State-administered programs that protect the environment and provides a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin residents and visitors. The WDNR serves as the primary land agent for the trail utilizing monies from the State Stewardship Program and federal grants.