Wisconsin’s Ice Age Trail is one of eleven National Scenic Trails in the United States. Of the proposed thousand-mile trail, continuing south from the edge of the last major glacial advance, only one quarter is signed and open to public hiking. The remaining 750 miles are hikeable via connector roads, many offering a pleasant rural experience. The Ice Age Wetland of Hartland holds a key role in this public trail. Highway 83 marks the Ice Age Wetland’s western boundary. Maple Avenue to the east, and industrial and residential areas to the north and south. The Village of Hartland owns 130 of these acres, the Village of Waukesha County owns 25 acres, and the Waukesha County Land Conservancy protects an additional 28 acres.

The Ice Age Wetland hosts improved trails, boardwalks, and a 1.7-mile stretch of the Bark River. Two commemorative overlooks aide viewing informational observation platforms. A 45-foot high glacial hill; Aldo Leopold Overlook may be accessed from Maple Avenue. John Muir Overlook is a 1/4 mile boardwalk accessible via a 1-1/4 mile footpath loop. The Ice Age Trail Alliance (formerly Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation) owns 140 of these acres, the Village of Hartland owns 25 acres, and the Waukesha County Land Conservancy protects an additional 28 acres.

The Ice Age Wetland hosts improved trails, boardwalks and a 1.7-mile stretch of the Bark River. Two commemorative overlooks aide viewing informational observation platforms; two ponds and a 45-foot high glacial hill; Aldo Leopold Overlook may be accessed from Maple Avenue. John Muir Overlook is a 1/4 mile boardwalk accessible via a 1-1/4 mile footpath loop.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Friends of the Hartland Marsh
  Marlin Johnson
  Volunteer project coordinator
  Phone: 262.965.2227
- The Ice Age Trail Alliance
  Phone: 800-227-0046
  Web site: www.iceagetrail.org
- Village of Hartland
  Phone: 262.367.2714
- Arrowhead High School, Biology Dept.
  Phone: 262.369.3611

Aldo Leopold Overlook offers a beautiful view, replete with trails, boardwalks, handicap accessible observation platforms; two ponds and a 45-foot high glacial hill; Aldo Leopold Overlook may be accessed from Maple Avenue.

John Muir Overlook is a 1-1/4 mile boardwalk, a beautiful view replete with trails, boardwalks, handicap accessible observation platforms; two ponds and a 45-foot high glacial hill; Aldo Leopold Overlook may be accessed from Maple Avenue.
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

The Ice Age Wetland of Hartland is composed of cattail marsh, sedge meadow and shrub communities and is a refuge for fish, frogs, turtles, ducks, herons and songbirds, along with deer, muskrat, mink, raccoons, and hundreds of plant species.

To protect native species, volunteers are continually working to reduce and thwart further invasion of non-native plant species such as purple loosestrife, buckthorn, garlic mustard, exotic honeysuckle and reed canary grass which have taken over areas of the marsh and upland. Biological control, in the form of select beetles raised and released into the marsh by Arrowhead High School and other area students, is being used to control purple loosestrife in these areas. Other targeted species are cleared by hand, along with limited herbicidal control.

WHY WE MUST PRESERVE THE ICE AGE WETLAND

Wetlands maintain environmental health and sustain local wildlife populations. As more land in southeastern Wisconsin is converted to urban uses, wetlands, and the wildlife they support, are disappearing.

Wetlands serve critical environmental roles:

- By absorbing nutrients and filtering sediment before it reaches open water, surface water quality is enhanced.
- A marsh's unique sponge-like ability to absorb and release water helps regulate surface water flow, thus moderating this flow during times of flood and drought.
- Groundwater is recharged through slow percolation of surface water into underlying soil.
- Marshes help prevent shoreline erosion along streams and lakes.
- In many developing areas such as ours, wetlands provide the last oasis for area wildlife, as well as migratory birds needing important stopover areas.
- Marshes offer recreational, research and educational activities by providing an “outdoor laboratory” for students and teachers.
- Marshes add to the aesthetics of our community.

The Ice Age Wetland of Hartland is designated as a Class I Wildlife Habitat, which recognizes its wildlife diversity and the appropriate supporting habitat. It deserves the permanent protection it now has, but there remain aspects of the marsh habitat, which reduce its wildlife value. We work to continually improve these shortcomings:

- Invasive, non-native plant species are being controlled to allow reproduction of native species.
- Seeds and seedlings of native plants are being introduced.
- Birdhouses are being erected for wood ducks, bluebirds, screech owls, swallows and purple martins.

HISTORY & WHO WE ARE

In 1999, former U.S. Congressman Henry Reuss, one of the founders of the Ice Age Trail, formulated the plan to make the Ice Age Wetland of Hartland a nature preserve open to the public. Several groups have joined together as partners to plan, develop and maintain the preserve: The Ice Age Trail Alliance, Village of Hartland, Friends of the Hartland Marsh, Arrowhead High School and Waukesha County Land Conservancy.

Volunteers from these groups, along with local civic clubs, Scouting groups, and private citizens, lend support with their contributions of time and money. This vital support allows for continued work to preserve and restore the wetland, and helps maintain footpaths, boardwalks, wildlife houses, signage and benches in order for visitors to thoroughly enjoy their walks through these sites.

FUNDING

Preservation and development of the Ice Age Wetland of Hartland began with seed money from a significant donation by former U.S. Congressman Henry S. Reuss, along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Challenge Cost Share Fund administered by the National Park Service, the Village of Hartland, local civic groups and private individuals.

However, our work is not finished and additional support is needed. Financial or in-kind donations are always welcomed and can be made through the Ice Age Trail Alliance, designated for the Hartland Marsh Project.

Join us...

Help preserve Hartland’s Ice Age Marsh

Friends of the Hartland Marsh is an entirely volunteer organization. 100% of your donation goes to develop and maintain this wetland.

☐ Yes, I want to help preserve the Hartland Ice Age Marsh. Enclosed is my donation of $_________.

Make check payable to: IATA-Hartland Marsh

Mail to: IATA Ice Age Trail Alliance
        Attn: Hartland Ice Age Wetland Project
        2131 MAIN STREET
        CROSS PLAINS, WI 53528

☐ Yes, I want to volunteer to help preserve the Hartland Ice Age Marsh. Contact me about how I can help.

☐ Yes, I want to donate items or materials that will be used to help preserve the Hartland Ice Age Marsh. I can donate ___________________.

Name: __________________________
Address: _________________________
Phone: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________

Mail non-financial correspondence only to:
Marlin Johnson
Friends of the Hartland Marsh
1234 S. Waterville Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-9259

For more info on the Ice Age Trail or Ice Age Trail Alliance, visit www.iceagetrail.org or call 800-227-0046.