Wisconsin’s Ice Age Trail is one of eleven National Scenic Trails in the United States. Of the proposed thousand-mile continuous footpath marking the edge of the last major glacial advance into Wisconsin, more than 600 miles of Ice Age Trail is signed and open to public hiking. The remaining 400-plus 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 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 overlook sites bearing informational markers highlight your walk through the marsh. Habitat restoration activities to remove invasive brush are underway. A new spur trail leads to the Waukesha County Land Conservancy property, where a bridge takes you over the Bark River to the “Parker Brothers’” island.

John Muir Overlook is a 1-1/4 mile footpath loop that includes two islands, oak savannas, 1/4 mile of boardwalk and a picnic shelter. John Muir Overlook is accessible from Cottonwood 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.

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: Ice Age Trail Alliance
Attn: Hartland Ice Age Wetland Project
2110 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:
Paul Mozina
Friends of the Hartland Marsh
3612 N. 79th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53222

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