

## File# P 1850 - Polk County - 197.8 acres

The Department acquired this property for \$280,000 in 2005. At the time of acquisition, the Natural Resources Board did not direct the sale or exchange of this parcel, but directed that if sold/exchanged, rights be retained for the Ice Age Trail intersecting the property.

The property has approximately 4,000 feet of two bank frontage on an unnamed seasonal flowing stream. There is a pine plantation marked for sale under the Statewide Pine Plantation Interim Forestry Management Plan on this property.

The Ice Age Trail intersects the property, providing an important connector to other sections of this trail located on adjacent County forest lands. Other than the Ice Age Trail, no improvements have been made, minimal investments to semi-annually inspect the property have occurred.

The parcel is accessible from CTH O and is adjacent to County forest lands. The subject has high recreational value beyond the benefits of the Ice Age Trail. This is a sizeable piece of property with high aesthetic value. Public use and benefits will continue to be realized with a County acquisition. Should Polk County be unable to acquire the parcel, privatized sale would be a significant loss to the public.

Polk County has communicated an interest in the property. The County has talked about a land swap with this property for land within the Governor Knowles State Forest. This would meet two priorities, one being to vacate land not within a project boundary and the second, to obtain property within project boundary.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats., and the land be only offered to Polk County, subject to all necessary deed restrictions to ensure a continuous corridor for the Ice Age Trail and that the land is open to the general public for all five NBOA's in perpetuity.

