



The Value of the Ice Age Trail and Local Projects to Our Community

Dear Community Members,

The Lodi & Lake Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce recognizes the significant value that the Ice Age Trail and related local projects bring to our region. As a designated trail community, we benefit not only from enhanced recreational opportunities but also from the economic boost that these initiatives provide.

The **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund (KNSF)** has played a crucial role in funding local projects that improve access to our public lands. This bipartisan-supported fund has been a vital resource since 1989, providing over **1.3 billion dollars** in matching grants for more than **10,000 projects** statewide. These projects include parks, walking trails, hunting and fishing areas, fishing piers, boat launches, and more.

In our area, KNSF-funded projects such as the **Lodi Spring Creek Fishery Area**, the **Ice Age Trail's Gibraltar Rock** and **Lodi Marsh Segments**, and the **Lake Wisconsin boat launches and navigational aids** have greatly enhanced the quality of life for our residents and visitors alike. These improvements not only provide recreational avenues but also draw tourists to our community, thus stimulating our local economy.

The economic impact of being a trail community is profound. Increased foot traffic from trail users benefits local businesses, from shops and restaurants to service providers. Additionally, enhanced outdoor spaces contribute to a vibrant community atmosphere, making our region an attractive destination for new residents and businesses.

The Lodi-Lake Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and its ongoing funding. We advocate for the reauthorization and full funding of this essential program, as it is vital for maintaining and enhancing our natural resources and public lands.

Together, let's continue to champion these initiatives that not only enrich our community's quality of life but also ensure a sustainable economic future.

Sincerely,

Heidi LeHew
Executive Director
Lodi & Lake Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce