

Connecting the Dots: Is a Great Arc Trail Possible?

DAY 1 WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

1. **What specific places, or general feature types (i.e. state parks, local historic sites, scenic vistas) should be linked by a hiking trail?**

GROUP A

- Existing parks as core areas (nodes) build out from there
- Certain geologic features (unique ones) link in
- In conjunction with public lands, trails, work with private lands – start with state on down – existing trails, etc.
- Cultural features – mounds, caves
- U.P. – Hiawatha National Park
- Waterfalls – Old Hwy 57

GROUP B

- Centers of development should be linked
- County/State parks
- Effigy mounds/archaeological sites?
- Above and below escarpment
- Being able to follow trail without leaving escarpment
- Trail shouldn't disturb sensitive habitat areas but allow experience of
- Underlying mission that trail links natural and human heritage while allowing recreational/outdoor experience
- Lighthouses
- Land trust lands
- Supplementary route for cyclists
- Access points
- Overnight rest areas (camping spots)
- Remnant habitats – balance activities

GROUP C

- County & State parks (established) no duplication of facilities
 - Fonferek Glen
 - Ledgeview
 - High Cliff
 - Wequiock Falls
 - Red Banks Alvar
 - High park views and vistas
 - Near Empire reserve

GROUP D

- State and County Parks
- Effigy mounds and caves
- Critical to build on existing features
- What are the uses? This will determine width and specific area
- Cultural Heritage – Native American/1st nation sites
- Try to provide areas of use for all types
- Characterize each segment for use
- Segments are important – not all are accessible
- Need to decide where to direct trail, where to keep people away
- Careful not to ruin what you want to protect

- Funding source may require public access
- Trail may have 2 tracks for 2 types of users
- What will future standards do to trail design
- In urbanizing areas need to bring public transit, eliminates cars; increases access
- Why do we want a trail: Recreation, Awareness, Protection
- Why do we want more people here? It would destroy this resource
- Trail can't follow escarpment too much development, need to protect areas
- Trail would be a meaningful way to tie nodes together
- Land trust doesn't need or desire public access

2. What specific individuals, or groups, do you think should be involved in the planning and development of such a trail? Who can support be sought from?

GROUP A

- Anyone with money
- Parks Committee at local level
- County Planners
- Government Board Members – elected officials
- Land Trusts – Nature Conservancy
- Businesses – industry, developers
- NERN
- USDA
- Forestry Service
- Elected Officials
- RPC's
- Local Govt – Town, Village, City
- E.D. people
- Tourism – time shares
- Property Owners
- Ice Age Trail Advocates
- Rails to Trails
- Elected officials (Petri, etc.)

GROUP B

- Open forum for towns, municipalities
- Local champions - long-time (not a "newbie") residents willing to advocate for the trail
- Environmental interest groups
 - Birding groups
 - Speleological society
 - Geological interest group
- Chamber of Commerce
- Schools, educational groups
- Landowners that can pilot a trail segment
- DNR
- Land trusts
- Tourism groups
- Service clubs
- Start with small group of stakeholders

GROUP C

- Local municipalities and officials,

- DNR
- Landowners
- Scouting programs
- University
- Friends of Parks
- Tourism industry – need to recognize economic value
- Conservation clubs
- Higher government to set trail standards pressure from general public
- Need a champion – non government!
- Native Americans

GROUP D

- Its all about local partnership: RPC / Local Groups / DNR / DOT / Local Gov't
- Local governments could be a hindrance
- What is the quickest strategy of making it happen
 - Build local support to drive government
- Not going to get money if trail isn't in a local plan
- Need a regional vision so little local initiative are part of a whole

3. What type of group or organization should lead or actually develop the plans for this trail system?

GROUP A

- Leaders would need to develop locally
- Take advantage of local environmental groups or networks – Land Trust, Nature Conservancy
- One umbrella coordinator to oversee the international effort; local folks do the work
- Energetic, creative, dynamic
- Nominated group of people who are honest and local, and provide commitment
- Local contact that people respect

GROUP B

- Should not be viewed as government led – should be locally driven
- Community drives as part of long-term development plans? Smart growth
- Students (youth) energy, patience, time access to people and resources because of lack of association with agenda

GROUP C

- Public/grassroots
- Not government!
- Form a special group with public input
- Private consultant – who hires?
- Land group that only focuses on escarpment
- Grant for inventory, talk to people, get local groups together – what do you want from trail

GROUP D

- University could ID a corridor maybe with RPC
- Door is unique – already have a necklace of parks
 - Would there be value in developing nodes first
 - It might be easier to create a trail to connect them
- How can we inventory places that would make the trail a reality

- Create a vision for an arc
- Who has capacity to do this?
 - Staff
 - Public acceptability

4. What do you think the maximum distance from the actual escarpment face should be for trail segments routes (i.e. no more than 1,000 feet, 1 mile, 3 miles, etc.)?

GROUP A

- 1 mile from steep side 1000' from shallow slope
- Flexible – zig-zag depending on access and specific features
- Whatever it takes to get a trail through
- Use Road rights-of-way until you can get all cooperative land owners involved

GROUP B

- As long as within view shed
- Need to have a variety of escarpment experiences
- Water view? Canoe trail?
- Don't get into an either/or situation be flexible depending on local conditions
- Stem/main route, but have 'ribs' for other opportunities
- Auto tour route with stopping and access routes

GROUP C

- Get what property you can
- Not too close to actual escarpment would ruin vegetation etc.

GROUP D

(The notes were either missing, or the group did not have time to address this question)

5. What approaches should be taken when communicating such a vision (for the trail) to local units of government and landowners?

GROUP A

- Education
- Depends on situation – group of people – do what it takes to acquire property
- Build a network/coalition
- Formal written agreements
- Grants
- Calculate benefits
- Public meetings, information to property owners
- No trail map – stick with a general concept; work on connections
- Focus on economic benefits
- Don't focus on forced situations – work on voluntary efforts
- Education with property owners talking to property owners – defuse fears
- Learn from example of Ice Age Trail
- Give notice to property owners
- Develop answers to a list of FAQ's

GROUP B

- Educational information, outreach
- Personal contacts

- Fact sheets, updated regularly
- Try to avoid misinformation
- Have lots of patience
- Presentation at town board meetings
- Develop pilot pieces
- Use youth to spread excitement and interest
- Understand this will take a lifetime
- Link it to ongoing Ice Age and Bruce Trail projects

GROUP C

- Use Canada's success examples
- Landowners – economic benefits
- Use tourism angle

GROUP D

- Reputation of Door County
- TNC – sensitive areas – critical areas – no public access
- Not sure we have someone to do this

6. What funding sources can be used to develop and maintain such a trail?

GROUP A

- Grants – international, national park service
- Personal Funds
- Special government set – aside funding
- Special park/trail fee paid for by developers as part of permit
- DNR to assist with acquisition
- Fund raising – donations/memorials
- Create a friends group
- Fox Cities Convention – Visitors Bureau
- Levy – money used for acquisition – or used as match money
- Land Trust – money to be used for priority areas

GROUP B

- Easements
- NPS trails office
- Stewardship funds
- Door County Green Fund
- Egg Harbor, local governments
- Student Conservation Association
- Community foundations
- Commercial ventures (telecom, credit card)
- Philanthropists
- Room taxes
- Other taxes, e.g. land transfer fee, fees for subdividing property
- Community-owned wind

GROUP C

- State trail grant fund
- Nelson Stewardship
- DNR grant programs
- Trail fees

- Hiking clubs
- N.A. Tribes
- Raise awareness and money for a charitable event
- Paper mills
- Private company grants - WPS

GROUP D

(The notes were either missing, or the group did not have time to address this question)

7. How can such a trail be 'connected' (figuratively) with the rest of the Great Arc, including the Bruce Trail?

GROUP A

- Connect trails in WI, UP, Canada
- Build something to connect
- Think of trail as a concept, not a physical trail
- Part of trail is driving or ferry trail
- Connection of the corridor
- "Circle of Green"
- Not a hiking trail – more dimensions
- Virtual trail
- County/State government, multiple partners will want to connect
- Connect with Comp Plan
- Acknowledge opportunities for bi – national aspects
- Consider sequential aspects (Poks Run)

GROUP B

- Joint marketing
- Trails group workshops
- Tourism groups
- Hiking clubs
- Great Lakes Tomorrow?
- Signage
- Development of International Peace Trail
- I-Max film on the Great Arc
- National Geographic Coverage

GROUP C

- Water trail
- State of Michigan – link, current efforts?
- Pick-up/drop off for hikers on trail
- Connect the dots of communities

GROUP D

(The notes were either missing, or the group did not have time to address this question)