

## Winter Trail Etiquette in the Kickapoo Valley

Treat all users with respect and courtesy, regardless of their sport, speed, or skill level

- **Stay on designated trails.** Hikers and snowshoers should use ungroomed edges only. Do not walk on groomed portions of ski tracks, skate ski areas, or snowmobile trails.
- **Terrain in the KVR varies.** Some trails cross water. Ice on the river and streams is unpredictable and bodies of water are usually not safe to cross. Elevation on trails can change quickly. Know your limitations.
- **Share the trail!** Watch and listen for others. Skiers have the right of way. Control your speed. Always yield to uphill users.
- **Leave wildlife wild.** Do not harass, approach, or scare wildlife.
- **Practice Leave No Trace ethics.** Always, pack it in and pack it out. When viewing ice formations, do not damage them, Leave the Ice Nice.
- **Take a map** when recreating. Make sure someone knows your location and when you will return. **Dial 911 if an emergency.**
- **A KVR annual or day pass is required** for all users over age 16. Annual passes for each calendar year go on sale each December.
- **Visit the KVR website**, KVR Facebook page, or the Visitor Center for the most up-to-date conditions.
- **Fat Tire Bike (FTB)** trails are open only in the following conditions: Temps of 25 degrees or less and frozen ground. Tires must be at least 3.7 - 5 inches (10 psi or lower). FTB Trails are not groomed. Ride trails cleanly without sliding around corners or skidding tires. Follow the rules of biking on the road.
- **Snowmobile trail conditions** can be found at <https://www.travelwisconsin.com/snowreport/snowmobile>

Report any issues to the KVR Office: **S3661 State Hwy. 131  
La Farge, WI 54639  
(608) 625-2960 | kickapoovalley.wi.gov**

# Winter Recreation on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve

## Ice Formations - Geological Masterpieces

Hundreds of millions of years ago, this area was covered by mountains. Slowly, these mountains were eroded away, forming layer upon layer of sand and mud which would eventually become the colorful sandstones and shales now typical of the area. To become rock, sand is cemented together with various minerals, forming layers of soft, erodible stone, as well as tough, resistant ones. One such layer of hard sandstone is found on the KVR.

Immediately under this resistant layer is a crumbly layer. Water from small valleys moves over the resistant sandstone and erodes the soft layer underneath, creating the cave-like spaces we call "rock shelters". The KVR's beautiful ice formations are made by the freezing of water flowing from many small, hillside springs. Beginning during the post-glacial period over 10,000 years ago, KVR rock shelters with their ice formations were frequently used by humans as a source of life-saving protection against the elements.

Tread gently, watch your step, and enjoy these ever changing geological masterpieces!



# Ice Formations in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve

## Weister Creek Ice

Located near Weister Creek just off of County P west, the Weister Creek Ice is a favorite among visitors to the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Two rock shelters in neighboring valleys seep ground water, that in the winter freezes to create a series of spectacular ice formations and falls. Further down Weister Creek when conditions are right, a water seep above the stream freezes, creating icicles that hover above the water. In the coldest of conditions the stream also freezes and connects to the icicles. Trails into and around the ice flows are steep, slippery and strenuous travel. Walkers are advised to use caution as the trails to ice formations are strenuous back country winter hiking. Be aware, trails to the ice formations are not groomed or maintained.



## Valley of the Ice

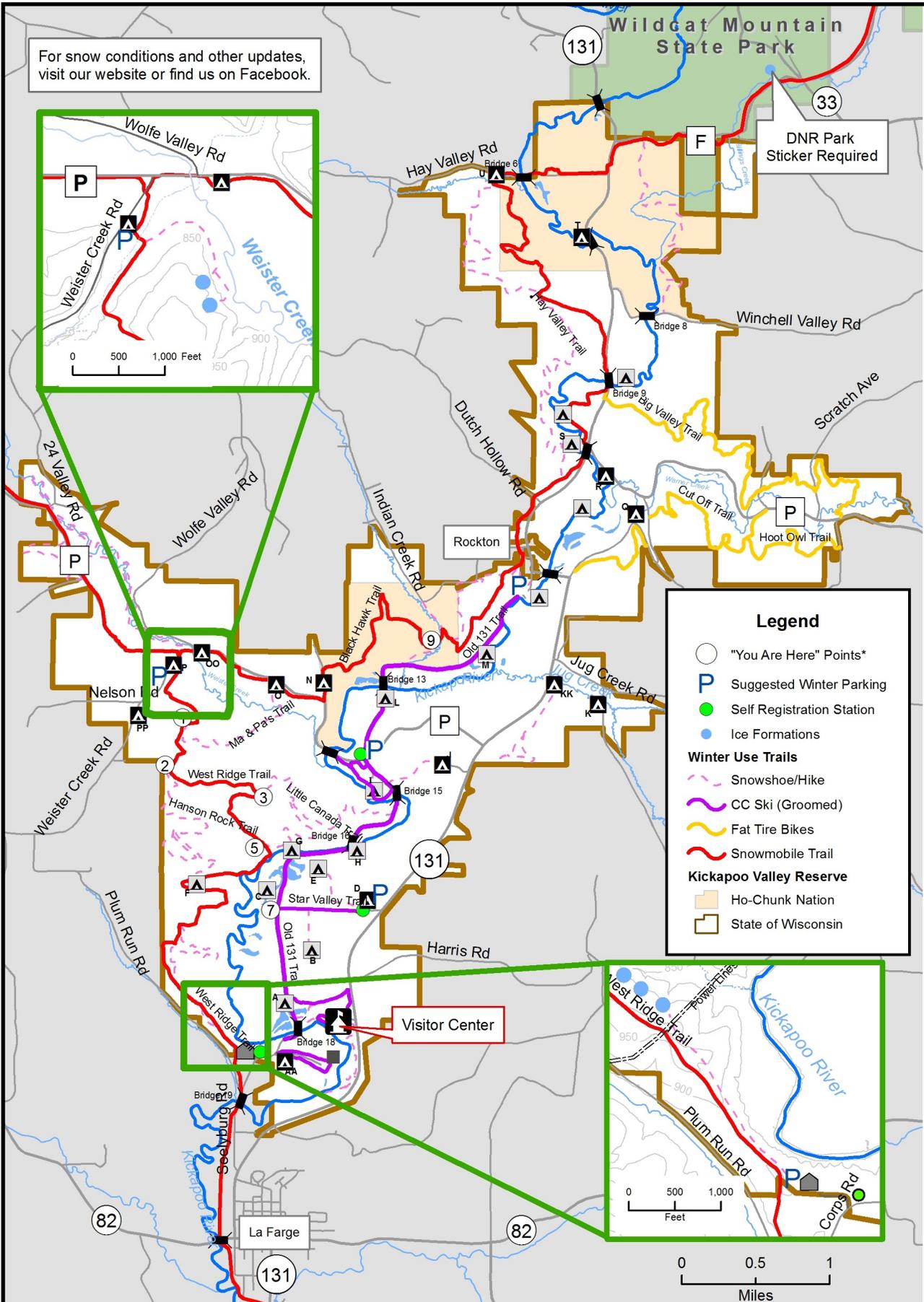
Located west of Corps Rd, on the southern most trail head of the West Ridge Trail by the KVR Maintenance Building, the Valley of the Ice is a must when visiting the KVR in winter.

A series of neighboring rock shelters, cozied and nestled on a north facing slope, have spring water dripping over their edges. As the water freezes, ice "curtains" form across the front, creating a "room" behind the walls of ice. Ice formations and rock shelters are fragile. Safety as well as looking - not touching - is the rule of etiquette when visiting these powerful yet fragile formations. Do not climb, hang, break or slide on the ice. **Leave the ice nice** for the next visitor.

# Kickapoo Valley Reserve Winter Trails

For snow conditions and other updates, visit our website or find us on Facebook.

To purchase a day or annual pass, contact the visitor center or purchase online at <http://kvr.state.wi.us/Events/Registration-Page/>



### Legend

- "You Are Here" Points\*
- P Suggested Winter Parking
- Self Registration Station
- Ice Formations
- Winter Use Trails**
- Snowshoe/Hike
- CC Ski (Groomed)
- Fat Tire Bikes
- Snowmobile Trail
- Kickapoo Valley Reserve**
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- State of Wisconsin

Digitized line are not survey quality.  
 Revised: January 2017  
 Note: The Kickapoo valley Reserve is not part of WI DNR Park System. DNR Park vehicle stickers and trail passes do not apply for KVR use.  
 \*\* The KVR does not have groomed snowshoe trails. Snow shoes are welcome throughout the property, but please do not use the snowmobile trail or tread on cross-country ski tracks. Do not walk, ski, or snowmobile on the Kickapoo river or streams. Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints.  
 \* "You Are Here" points correlate to markers at all trail interseptions.

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Miles