

Circle Trail

4.5-mile loop

Narrative for counterclockwise travel

0 mile. Start at the Interpretive Center and follow the Circle Trail, (combined with the Dry Lake Trail, Mammoth Nature Trail and Ice Age Trail) to the left.

0.2 mile. At the sign post, continue ahead on the Circle Trail (combined with the Ice Age Trail), leaving the Dry Lake Trail and Mammoth Trail.

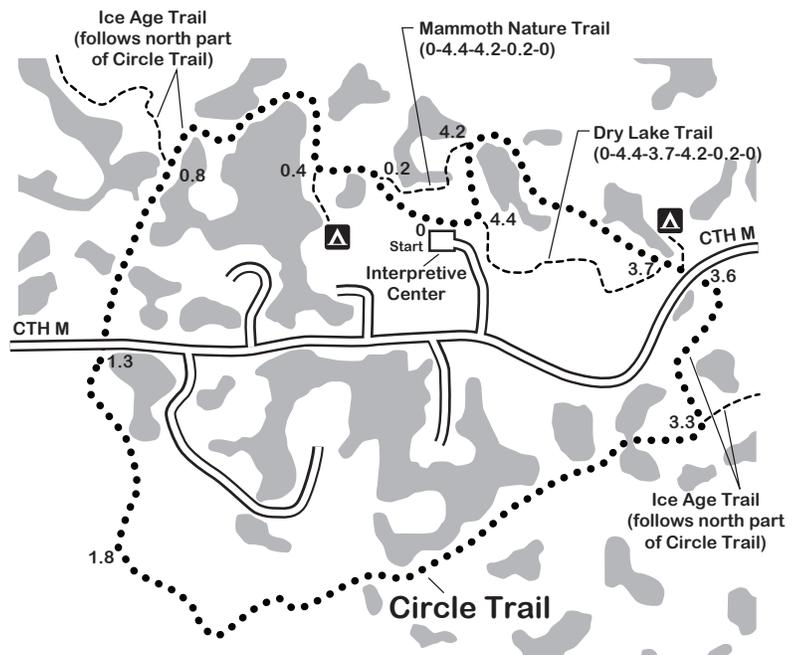
0.4 mile. Shortly after skirting the north end of a beaver meadow, the Circle Trail makes a sharp right at the sign post onto an abandoned logging road. An "outpost" campsite is located 700 feet on the spur trail to the left (south).

0.8 mile. Past the foot bridge between the two lakes (North Shattuck), bear left at the sign post and map to continue on the Circle Trail, leaving the Ice Age Trail.

1.3 miles. Pass through the parking area and cross County Highway M.

1.8 miles. Look for the post with a white, routed #5 on it. The hill is an esker, an S-shaped ridge of sediment that was deposited along the bottom of a melt water stream. The stream was running through a tunnel beneath the ice.

3.3 miles. The Circle Trail turns very sharply left (275 degrees) at the sign post, map and bench. The Ice Age Trail joins the Circle Trail from the east.



3.6 miles. Cross Chippewa County Highway M. Just after crossing CTH M, the Circle Trail turns left at the sign post. An "outpost" campsite is located 300 feet on the spur trail to the right (north).

3.7 miles. The Circle Trail continues ahead at the sign post. The Dry Lake Trail joins the combined Circle Trail and Ice Age Trail from the left. The lakes of this area were formed when blocks of ice buried in glacial deposits melted and left depressions (kettles) in the earth. The wooded hills (hummocks) are made of deposits that slid off ice blocks and filled intervening low areas.

4.2 miles. Just after crossing the second foot bridge, the Circle Trail turns left at the sign post, leaving the Dry Lake Trail and joining the Mammoth Nature Trail.

4.4 miles. The Circle Trail turns right at the T (and sign post), joining the Dry Lake Trail.

4.5 miles. Turn left and return to the Interpretive Center. End of trail.

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