

# Backpack Shelter Camping in the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit

The Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest maintains five, year-round backpack shelters for rustic camping along the 31 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Additionally, one backpack shelter is available from April 1 through November 30 at the Zillmer Trail area. Each site offers a roofed shelter, fire ring and pit toilet. Drinking water is available less than a mile from each shelter.

These sites are not accessible by vehicle. All camping equipment must be backpacked in and all refuse packed out. A camping permit is required and you must camp at a designated shelter campsite.

Only one reservation (camping party) is allowed per site per night. Reservations are limited to ten persons per site and to one night per site. Another site may be reserved for a second night and a third site for a third night. You must *call* Reserve America at (888) 947-2757, TTY (800) 274-7275 to make backpack shelter reservations. Shelter reservations can not be made online.

Reservations are recommended and are required for stays longer than two nights along the trail. First-come, first-served camping permits may be available for shorter stays at one of the park offices. Plan ahead as site availability is limited on weekends and in summer. Call the forest to determine potential availability before traveling any distance.

If all the backpack sites are reserved for one night of your hiking trip, consider staying that night at the Mauthe Lake campground.

## Emergency Information

Shelter 1 is in Washington County, Shelters 2, 3 and 6 are located in Fond du Lac County and Shelters 4 and 5 are in Sheboygan County. All three counties offer 911 emergency services. Be aware of and be prepared to provide your location in the forest by the closest mile marker and/or road crossing.

Driving directions to local hospitals and clinics are available at any forest office. Some include:  
West Bend Clinic, 262-334-3451      Agnesian Clinic (Fond du Lac), 920-926-8492  
St. Agnes Hospital, 920-929-2300      Aurora Health Center (Plymouth), 920-449-7000

Stay informed of local weather conditions. In the event of severe weather, stay in your shelter. Do not seek cover in your vehicle due to the possibility of high winds and the threat of falling trees. Tune in to one of these local radio stations for weather watches or warnings:

1450 AM KFIZ, Fond du Lac      92.5 FM WBWI West Bend  
1470 AM WBKV West Bend      107.1 FM K107 Fond du Lac



## SHELTER 1 – “Kewaskum Shelter”

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| <b>Location:</b>     | Southern-most shelter in the forest, just southeast of Kewaskum. Less than 0.5-mile hike north from County Highway H. Located about 7.5 miles south of Shelter #2. |
| <b>Site Info:</b>    | Set in a maple forest. Shelter has a dirt floor, with sleeping benches on three sides.                                                                             |
| <b>Water:</b>        | Hand pump just a short distance from the parking lot.                                                                                                              |
| <b>Parking:</b>      | Small lot on County Highway H.                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Park Sticker:</b> | Not required when using the County Highway H parking lot.                                                                                                          |



## SHELTER 2 – “Mauthe Lake Shelter”

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| <b>Location:</b>     | About 1.5 miles north of the village of New Fane. Hike in about 0.3 miles from County Highway S and 1.2 miles from the Mauthe Lake entrance. Distance from Shelter #1 is 7.5 miles. Distance from Shelter #3 is about 5.7 miles. |
| <b>Site Info:</b>    | Set in a maple forest. Shelter has a dirt floor, with sleeping benches on three sides.                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Water:</b>        | Insulated wellhead spigot behind the entrance station at Mauthe Lake.                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Parking:</b>      | Small lot on County Highway S, or parking lot at the Mauthe Lake entrance.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Park Sticker:</b> | Not required at the County Highway S parking lot. Sticker required at Mauthe Lake.                                                                                                                                               |



## SHELTER 3 – “Dundee Shelter”

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| <b>Location:</b>     | Southeast of the village of Dundee. Hike in about 0.5 miles from the Division Road parking lot, on a spur off the main Ice Age Trail. Distance from Shelter #2 is 5.7 miles. Distance from Shelter #4 is about 7.2 miles. |
| <b>Site Info:</b>    | Set in a thick, mixed-hardwood forest. Shelter has a dirt floor, with double-wide sleeping benches on three sides.                                                                                                        |
| <b>Water:</b>        | Insulated wellhead spigot behind the entrance station at Mauthe Lake, or hand-pump at Butler Lake.                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Parking:</b>      | Butler Lake Recreation Area, or turnout parking on Division Road.                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Park Sticker:</b> | Sticker required at Butler Lake. A sticker is not required for parking on Division Road.                                                                                                                                  |



## SHELTER 4 – “Parnell Shelter”

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| <b>Location:</b>     | North of the village of Parnell. Hike in about 0.8 miles from the Parnell Tower parking lot, on the joint Parnell Tower Trail/Ice Age Trail. Distance from Shelter #3 is about 7.2 miles. Distance from Shelter #5 is about 3.0 miles. |
| <b>Site Info:</b>    | Set in a thick, mixed-hardwood forest. Shelter has a concrete floor, with sleeping benches on three sides.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Water:</b>        | Insulated wellhead spigot at the Parnell Tower parking lot.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Parking:</b>      | Parnell Tower parking lot.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Park Sticker:</b> | Sticker is required at the Parnell Tower parking lot.                                                                                                                                                                                  |



## SHELTER 5 – “Greenbush Shelter”

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| <b>Location:</b>     | The northern-most shelter in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, just south of the village of Greenbush. Hike in about 0.3 miles from the parking lot on the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive. Distance from Shelter #4 is about 3.0 miles. Distance from the Greenbush Group Camp is about 1.1 miles. |
| <b>Site Info:</b>    | Set in a maple forest. Shelter has a dirt floor, with sleeping benches on three sides.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Water:</b>        | Hand pump, just a short distance from the Shelter #5 parking lot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Parking:</b>      | Shelter #5 parking lot, Greenbush Picnic Area, Greenbush Group Camp                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Park Sticker:</b> | A park sticker is not required at the Shelter #5 parking lot. A sticker is required at the Greenbush Picnic and Group Camp.                                                                                                                                                                    |



## SHELTER 6 – “Zillmer Shelter”

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| <b>Location:</b>     | West of the village of New Prospect – <b>NOT ON THE ICE AGE TRAIL</b><br>Hike in about 0.9 miles from the parking lot at the Zillmer trailhead on County Highway SS, or 1.5 miles from the Ice Age Visitor Center.            |
| <b>Site Info:</b>    | Set in a maple forest. Shelter has a dirt floor, with sleeping benches on three sides. Small springs and a creek are nearby (water not potable).<br><b>Open seasonally, April-November. Closed to camping December-March.</b> |
| <b>Water:</b>        | Insulated wellhead spigot at the County Highway SS parking lot.                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Parking:</b>      | Zillmer Trail parking lot on County Highway SS, or the Ice Age Visitor Center on State Highway 67.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Park Sticker:</b> | Required on County Highway SS. Not required at the Ice Age Center.                                                                                                                                                            |

