

 BEAVER CREEK RESERVE
connecting people with nature

Overnight Planner



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BEAVER CREEK RESERVE

connecting people with nature

Our Mission

Beaver Creek Reserve is committed to providing education, resources and opportunities to help people understand and appreciate our natural world and foster a lifetime commitment of stewardship to our planet, Earth.

Beaver Creek Reserve has approximately 400 acres of land nestled along a bend in the Eau Claire River, providing a picturesque setting for people to explore, discover and appreciate the many mysteries of our natural world.

School, scout, 4-H, university, church, community and senior groups, as well as families and individuals visit the Reserve each year to nurture their appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

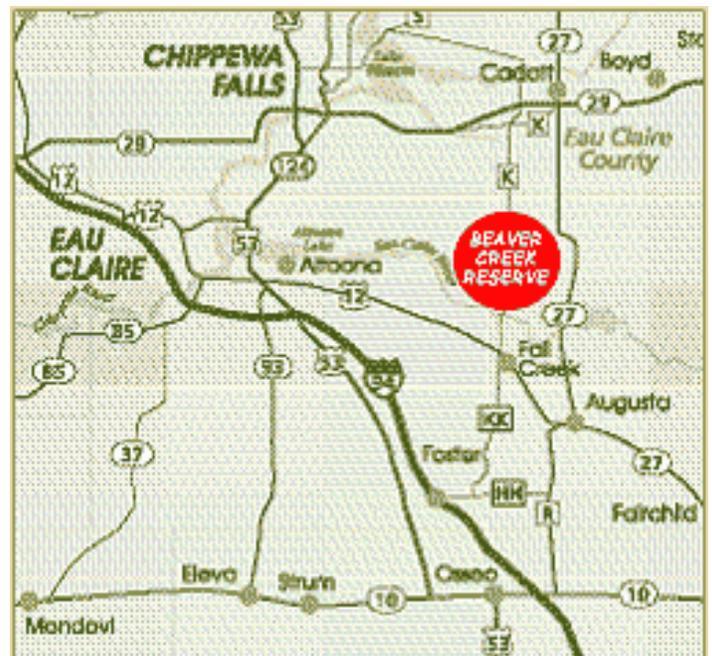


Where is Beaver Creek?

Beaver Creek Reserve is located on County Highway K, 10 miles east of Eau Claire and 4 miles north of Fall Creek.

If you are coming from the south side of Eau Claire, take Highway 12 (Clairemont Ave.) east to Fall Creek and turn left onto Hwy K. The Reserve is four miles north of the village.

If you are coming from the north side of Eau Claire, take the North Crossing east and as you leave town, the road name changes to Hwy Q. Follow Hwy Q until the four-way stop at the intersection of Hwys Q & K. Turn right onto Hwy K; the Reserve is one mile south of this intersection.



Beaver Creek Facilities

Beaver Creek Reserve is situated on 400 acres of land along the Eau Claire River. The property is divided by Hwy. K into the Youth Camp and Nature Center sides.

The Nature Center Side

On the south side of the highway you will find the Wise Nature Center, the butterfly house (open seasonally), Beaver Creek and the Eau Claire River and many trails that allow visitors to explore a river floodplain habitat.

The Wise Nature Center contains a large hands-on discovery room where interpretive displays allow students to learn about local flora and fauna of Wisconsin. The Nature Center also has a large auditorium, two classrooms, wet-lab, observation deck, gift shop and administrative offices.

The Youth Camp Side

The Youth Camp can accommodate 130 campers overnight. The facilities are handicapped accessible and winterized. Many more trails that explore a more upland habitat (in winter these trails are groomed for cross-country skiing –diagonal stride only), Dienhammer Creek and the obstacle course are also located on this part of the property.

Main Lodge – Dining hall, meeting area, restrooms and fireplace. Commercial kitchen stocked with equipment necessary to prepare and serve meals. Seating for up to 130 people

Main Lodge Cabins – Five rustic cabins that sleep 20 campers each, in dorm-style bunks; bedding not provided

Cedar Lodge – Sleeps 30 campers in two dorm style rooms located off of a central kitchen/ meeting area. Two private sleeping rooms also off the meeting room; no bedding provided. Restrooms and showers available by summer 2013.

Shower House and Restrooms – Centrally located in cabin area, shared by all campers.

Hobbs Observatory –See observatory page for more information regarding the observatory. Groups must request observatory programming.



Citizen Science Center – During the school year this facility houses the Wildlands Charter School and during the summer months allows citizen scientists to participate in various studies. Limited classroom and computer lab space available; check with BCR staff for availability. To learn more about programs offered at the CSC please check out our link on the Beaver Creek webpage at www.beavercreekreserve.org



Hobbs Observatory



Imagine the moon, planets and galaxies appearing 200 times larger and 10,000 times brighter than when seen by the naked eye! This special opportunity is available at the Hobbs Observatory.

Hobbs Observatory consists of two domes with computer-operated telescopes, a large lecture room and a resource room. It features a digital camera that allows images from the telescopes to be stored on computer disks or transmitted to a video projector in the classroom. The classroom is also equipped with digital projecting capabilities.

Programs

Groups may schedule a visit to the observatory when they schedule their stay at the Reserve. Groups have two choices for scheduling. The first option is a clear sky only program; this is when your primary objective is to look through the telescope with a possible short inside program. If it is cloudy, then the program is cancelled. Groups can also opt for a cloudy program. If it is clear then the group will look through the telescopes, but if weather does not cooperate, then a more formal, indoor astronomical program will be done. There are several program topics to choose from, and the Observatory Coordinator will be able to suggest age-appropriate material. Another optional program might be to arrange for solar viewing through a special telescope that allows us to safely view the sun.

Visiting the Observatory

Once you have scheduled a visit to the observatory, the Observatory Coordinator will contact the group leader to set up a time and program. Please keep in mind that the telescopes can only be used after sunset (except for the solar telescope); during certain times of the year this means it will be after 10 PM before programming can begin.



The Observatory coordinator determines whether a group needs one or two domes by the number of people in the group.



Scheduling Your Visit

Who can use facilities?

Any organized group can use the Reserve. This includes but is not limited to schools, scouts, 4-H, senior, civic, church and university groups. The overnight facilities are not designed for single family camping. Families and walk-in visitors are always welcome to use the trails and visit the Nature Center.

Fee Schedule

Fees are assessed on a per person basis according to the residency of the individual. Minimum charges apply for all groups.

Adults accompanying overnight youth groups as chaperones are charged the youth rate. The day-use fee is waived for one adult chaperone for every 10 students grades K-12, and one adult is waived for every 5 pre-school students. Exceptions will be made for special needs groups.

Fees are adjusted annually. Please Contact the main office at 715-877-2212 for the current fee schedule.

Deposits/Contracts

Deposits are required to hold a group's reservation and as a security for damages. The deposit charged is determined by the minimum charge for your group. The deposit will be deducted from the total bill if no damage charges apply.

Scheduling a visit

Step 1 – Selecting a Date

Dates are reserved on a first come, first served basis. All groups can reserve the facilities up to 1 year in advance. Contact the Reserve at 715-877-2212 to check availability of a date.

Step 2 – The Contract

Once a date is selected, a reservation /contract will be mailed to the group's leader. The leader should double check the dates and facilities reserved. The contract must be signed and returned with a deposit

by the specified deadline to hold your date. Leaders should make a copy of contract and rules before returning the forms.

Cancellations

Please notify the Reserve as soon as possible if your group needs to cancel a date so that we have a chance to offer the date to other groups looking to use the facility.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations that are made 60 days or more before the date of stay receive refund of deposit less a \$25 administrative fee.

Cancellations less than 60 days before the date of stay lose their deposit.

Step 3 – Activity Schedules

Groups looking to use our equipment and /or staff are asked to send copy of their scheduled activities **at least 3 weeks prior** to their visit. To plan programs please refer to the activities list in the field trip activity planner.

Multiple groups are often scheduled on the same day and with limited staff and equipment available, early requests help us to avoid scheduling conflicts.



Health & Safety

General Supervision

State law requires that overnight groups of unrelated people provide one staff member, 18 years or older, for every 10 campers between the ages of 7 and 18 years. The ratio is 1 adult for every 4 campers age 6 and under.

Group leaders are responsible for supervision of youth at all times. Please be aware that your group may be sharing facilities with other groups. It is your responsibility to see that no conflicts occur.

Youth are not allowed in the following areas without supervision: team-building initiatives, obstacle course, archery range and all buildings. We strongly recommend that all groups utilize the “buddy system” so nobody is ever without someone to help.

Health Supervisor

Each group must have a designated adult responsible for the first aid and health needs of their group. This individual will be responsible for the health history and emergency medical treatment for all campers under 18 years of age.

Overnight Groups

Groups must submit a list of the name, address, phone # of all campers and staff in the group.

State law requires that all overnight campers and staff of age complete a health history form signed by their parent or guardian. The group leader is responsible for obtaining completed forms for each camper and staff.

For groups staying overnight, **state law requires** the health person to have at minimum the American Red Cross Responding to Emergencies Course AND age appropriate CPR training. Follow this link for information on training and certification in your area. <http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>

Lost Camper

If the missing camper is not found after 10 minutes, alert the Beaver Creek director or staff member on duty of the absence and indicate the following: Camper’s full name, Camper’s group or cabin, physical description, what he/she was wearing, and when and where he/she was last seen.

First Aid Supplies

First aid kits are located in the Main Lodge, Cedar Lodge and the Nature Center. Kits contain supplies necessary for minor injuries. An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is located both in the Nature Center lobby and the Main Lodge.

Medical Emergencies

We strongly recommend that all groups bring a cell phone with them for emergencies.

In case of medical emergency, call 911. 24-hour emergency medical care is available at Sacred Heart Hospital on Hwy. 12 (Clairemont Ave.) in Eau Claire (839-4121) or at Luther Hospital at 1221 Wipple St. in Eau Claire (838-3242).

Accident Report Forms

All accidents must be reported to the Nature Center office and an accident report form must be filled out as soon as possible.

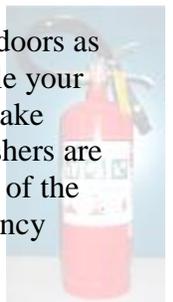
Severe Weather

Severe weather radios are located in the Main Lodge and the Nature Center. Please check that the radio in the Main Lodge is turned to the “warning” setting.

In the event of a tornado or other severe weather warning, proceed to the designated shelter areas. In the camp, the basement of the shower house, the west dome of the Observatory, and interior rooms of the Citizen Science Center are shelter areas. The tunnel under the road would also provide shelter. At the Nature Center the designated areas are the hallway, kitchen or bathrooms on the lower level.

Fire

Evacuate the building and call 911. Close doors as you leave to help contain the fire. Assemble your group in the field by the Observatory and take attendance. Alert BCR staff. Fire extinguishers are located in each building; please make note of the locations. Wait for directions from emergency personnel.



Emergency Vehicle

We suggest each group have at least one vehicle available in case of an emergency.

Rules & Regulations

Adult Responsibilities

The group leader will be held responsible for the use of facilities and conduct of the group. Youth groups must be chaperoned. **State law requires** one responsible adult for every 10 youth between 7 and 18 years of age.

Pets

In the interest of health and safety of all our visitors and wildlife, **pets are not allowed on the Reserve.**

Horses

Horses and horseback riding are prohibited on Reserve property.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not allowed in any buildings or on Reserve grounds except in designated areas which are the areas immediately outside the Main Lodge or Cedar Lodge, outside the main entrance of the Nature Center and at campfire areas. Please properly dispose of your cigarette butts.

Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on Reserve property.

Quiet Time

Quiet time is between 10:00 PM and 6:30 AM. Please respect the rights of those trying to sleep and our caretaker and his family. Adult supervisors are expected to deal promptly with any disruptions.

Campfires

Campfires are allowed in designated areas only. They are prohibited in the sleeping cabins. There is a working fireplace in the Main Lodge.

Firearms/ Hunting

Hunting, trapping and discharging of firearms is prohibited on Reserve property. With permission from the Reserve director, firearms may be discharged as part of an educational program.

Respect for Fauna & Flora

The Reserve is maintained as a refuge. **Picking or collecting of wildflowers, shrubs or other flora is prohibited as well as disturbing wildlife in any manner.** Please show respect.

Off-road Vehicles

Off-road vehicles including but not limited to ATVs, snowmobiles, motorcycles and off-road bicycles are prohibited on the Reserve's trails. All vehicles are restricted to paved roadways.

Parking

Parking is restricted to designated parking areas only. Parking is **NOT ALLOWED** along the roadway through camp or on the grass. All drives and roadways must be left open for emergency vehicles. The area in front of the Main Lodge is for loading and unloading only. Parking in front of the caretaker's residence is for his use only.

Non-discriminatory Environment

Beaver Creek Reserve requests that all persons who use our site demonstrate respect for individual differences. Harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin or ancestry will not be tolerated. Adult chaperones are asked to intervene immediately to defuse any potential harassment. Contact Reserve staff if you need assistance.



Council fire ring located behind the Observatory

Arrival & Departure

Arrival

Groups are encouraged to be prompt when arriving and departing to avoid inconveniencing other groups and Reserve staff. Please be sure times are indicated on your reservation form.

You may go straight to your facilities; no formal check-in is required in most cases.

Check-in time for overnight facilities is 1:30 PM and check-out time is 12:00 PM. If you plan on arriving early or staying late, please inquire if space is available, especially on weekends.

Overnight groups will be provided with a check-out form. Please complete this form and leave it either at the caretaker's home or the Nature Center.
PLEASE, DO NOT TAKE FORM WITH YOU.

Departure/ Cleanup

The Reserve maintains a self-service philosophy. We are a small staff and in order to keep costs to visitors down, we ask that all groups clean the areas that they used. All groups will be held liable for damage to buildings, grounds and equipment, including graffiti. **Failure to properly clean the facilities will result in a per hour clean-up charge. (Refer to website for current rates.)**

Clean-up procedures are posted in each building. Cleaning supplies for the camp are located in the Main & Cedar Lodges. Brooms, dust pans and trash cans are located in each cabin. Mops and buckets are available in lodge kitchens and the shower house. **Groups must bring their own dishtowels and dish soap.**

Bunks are not allowed to be moved between cabins. State codes allow only a certain number of campers per cabin. Please plan your sleeping arrangements accordingly.

Miscellaneous Information

Food Service

Groups are responsible for creating their own meals. The kitchens are stocked with pots, pans, utensils, dishes, coffee pots, cups etc. Many area caterers will provide meals at the Reserve. Please request a list of caterers from the Reserve office.

The Reserve is committed to sustainable living on our planet; please use dishes provided rather than bringing disposables that end up in the landfill.

Telephone

It is strongly recommended that all groups **bring a cell phone** with them for emergencies; many of the Reserve phones are not accessible after hours, and incoming calls are picked up by our automated-phone system.

Reserve telephones are located in the Main Lodge kitchen, the Observatory and at the Nature Center. These phones should be used for emergencies only.

Insurance

Beaver Creek Reserve is insured under Eau Claire County for facilities and liability. Visitors are responsible for their own health insurance.

Natural Hazards

Beaver Creek is a natural environment. Poison ivy, mosquitoes, deer ticks and bees are a few of the problematic elements that are present during the right seasons. Groups should provide their own insect repellants.

Recycling

Beaver Creek recycles. Not only is it Wisconsin law, but recycling saves money and resources, cuts down on pollution and stops filling of our landfills. Beaver Creek Reserve asks that groups utilize our recycling bins. Even better would be to use containers that can be taken home and re-used.



Recycling

Environmental Considerations

Beaver Creek is committed to sustainable living on our planet. Each year Americans throw away enough paper plates and cups to host 6 picnics for the entire world population. We would like to cut down and ultimately eliminate trash such as this coming from Beaver Creek. We ask that all groups who have students bringing sack lunches bring food in containers that can be taken home and reused. Containers that can be recycled would be the next preference.

Composting is available at the Nature Center for fresh fruits and vegetable scraps.

For overnight groups or groups that will be preparing food on site we ask that you use our dishes, cups and flatware; then allow enough time in your clean up to run the dishes through our dishwasher.

When preparing for your visit please remember that bulk containers are better than individually wrapped items.



Wisconsin Recycling Law

In Wisconsin it is against the law to put the following items into a landfill:

- ↻ Aluminum Containers
- ↻ Cardboard
- ↻ Plastic Containers #s 1 & 2
- ↻ Glass Containers
- ↻ Magazines
- ↻ Newspaper/ newsprint
- ↻ Office Paper
- ↻ Steel Containers
- ↻ Bi-metal Containers
- ↻ Tires
- ↻ Yard Waste – including grass clippings, leaves, and garden debris

Please use the recycling bins located throughout the Reserve.



Building /Room Capacities			
Building / Room	Use	Capacity	Facility Notes
Main Lodge	Dining	130	commercial kitchen, handicapped-accessible restrooms, fireplace
	Assembly	130	
Pine Cabin	Sleeping	20	bunk-style beds, bedding not provided
Oak Cabin	Sleeping	20	bunk-style beds, bedding not provided
Maple Cabin	Sleeping	20	bunk-style beds, bedding not provided
Birch Cabin	Sleeping	20	bunk-style beds, bedding not provided
Olav Cabin	Sleeping	20	cabin may be used as overflow for Cedar Lodge bunk-style beds, bedding not provided
Cedar Lodge	Sleeping & Dining	32	two dorm-style rooms w/ 15 bunks each, two private rooms for leaders, central kitchen and meeting room restrooms and showers (both handicap accessible)
	Assembly	50	
Hobbs Observatory	Classroom	50	restrooms and sink
	Assembly	100	
Citizen Science Center	Classroom	40	6' banquet tables, projection screen, DSL access, kitchen, computer lab
Nature Center Auditorium	Classroom	80	microphone, white projection wall
	Assembly	160	
Savannah Room	Classroom	40	round tables, projection screen, DSL access
Woodland Room	Dining/classroom	60	8' banquet tables, projection screen, DSL access, adjacent kitchen
	Assembly	70	

