Geneva Lake Conservancy

Bromley Woods

Bromley Woods protects 81 acres of Kettle Moraine landscape, including an 8-acre kettle pond and oak savanna. It lies within a DNR Conservation Opportunity Area of global importance to migrating forest interior birds, including several warbler species with declining populations. Beginning in 2019, Geneva Lake Conservancy purchased the property through several transactions with funding from the Wisconsin DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program, Pheasants Forever and more than 25 private donors.

The Bromley family immigrated from England in 1837 and began homesteading here on January 6, 1844, while Wisconsin was still a U.S. territory. Native Americans periodically camped on the savanna until about 1900. Six generations of the Bromley family skated on the kettle pond, hiked the forest and picnicked in the oak savanna. Since the 1950s, the savanna has hosted the annual LaGrange 4th of July community picnic and baseball game.

Walking trails cross Bromley Woods' ridges and kettles beside the Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit, near the Nordic Trail system. The deepest kettle lies more than 90 feet below the property entrance. Its bottom extends below the local water table, creating a pond that supports turtles, frogs, a family of beavers and newts—an indicator species of ecological health. Less than 2 percent of the Midwest's oak savanna communities remain intact; oak savannas are a globally critically imperiled ecosystem.

Rules of General Use (Updated 10/27/26)

- Bromley Woods is open for hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, hunting and trapping.
- The preserve is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Camping, fires, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed.
- ATV's and other motorized vehicles are prohibited unless for hunters with disabilities as authorized by a GLC representative.
- Do not trespass on the neighboring properties.

Hunting & Trapping Rules (Updated 10/27/26)

- Hunters may not hunt within (100 yards) of a building or (50 feet) of a property line.
- NO GLC PERMITS REQUIRED. A GLC permit is not required for bow deer hunting, gun deer hunting, trapping or other hunting allowed on the preserve. This does not waive required state licenses, stamps, permits or harvest authorizations.

    • Hunters and trappers must hold all required Wisconsin licenses, stamps, permits and harvest authorizations and carry DNR-accepted proof. Accepted hunting license proof includes a paper copy, an authenticated Wisconsin driver's license, a Go Wild Conservation Card or a DNR-issued PDF displayed on an electronic device; a photograph of a paper license is not valid proof.

• Trappers must follow current DNR trapping regulations, including trap-check intervals for the specific set type. Do not assume that all water sets qualify for a four-day check interval. Traps requiring identification must have an attached metal tag legibly stamped or engraved with the operator's name and address or DNR customer ID number. See the DNR trapping regulations for set-specific requirements.

• Tree stands/blinds may be used but cannot be left up overnight. No nails, screws, or any devices that could damage trees are allowed. The cutting of tree limbs is prohibited.

- Trail cameras are allowed but must be removed daily. No overnight placement in allowed.

• The cutting of trails to hunting stands is prohibited.

- Target Shooting is prohibited.

• Baiting for any reason is prohibited.

• When and where a firearm deer season is in progress, hunters of any game other than waterfowl must wear at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink on outer clothing above the waist; any hat or other head covering must also be at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink. Follow DNR requirements and exceptions.

• Follow current DNR season dates and species-specific shooting hours for the preserve's location. Use the appropriate DNR shooting-hours table and add the minutes specified for the shooting-hours zone; different rules apply to early teal, other migratory birds, spring turkey and other game. GLC's posted sunrise-to-sunset preserve hours remain in effect; state shooting hours do not authorize access outside those hours. See DNR shooting-hours guidance and the current hunting regulations.

All Wisconsin DNR hunting and trapping regulations and applicable local ordinances apply. This list supplements, but does not replace, current regulations. Existing GLC restrictions, including the baiting ban, daily removal of stands/blinds and prohibition on cutting limbs or trails, remain in effect.

For more information on this preserve, contact the Geneva Lake Conservancy at 262-275-5700 or email glc@genevalakeconservancy.org.