

Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit

Lone Tree Bluff

**Scenic Overlook
and Self-Guiding Nature Trail**



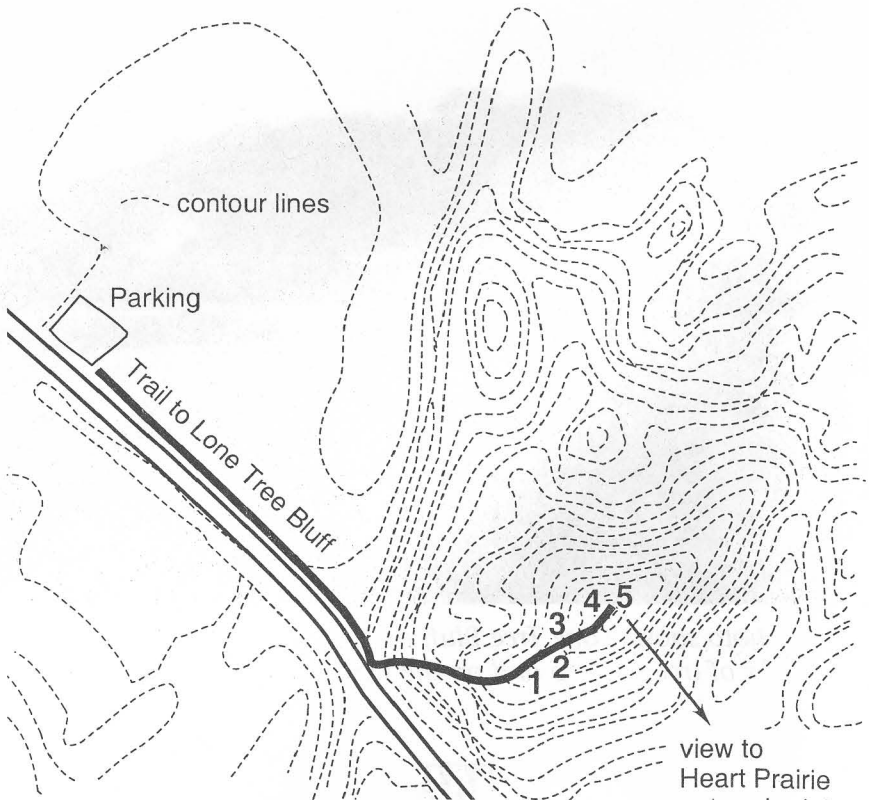
This photo shows Lone Tree Bluff as it appeared in 1905. Notice the lack of trees on top and on the west side of the hill.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
PUB-PR-227 2001

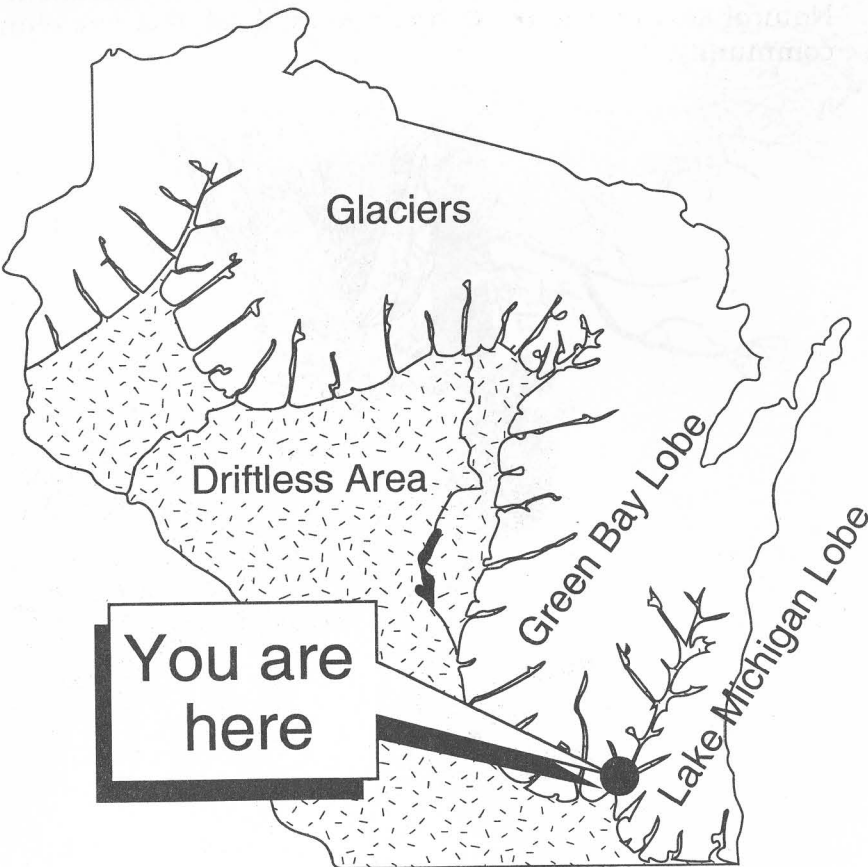
Welcome to Lone Tree Bluff Scenic Overlook

This interpretive brochure corresponds to numbered markers along the trail. Hike uphill 89 steps and then walk 1/4 mile to get a bird's-eye view of the glacial landscape. On the way, you'll learn how this bluff earned its name and how the landscape has changed since pioneer days.



1. Kettle Moraine

The Kettle Moraine formed in a narrow corridor between the Lake Michigan and Green Bay lobes of the glacier. When the lobes began to melt some 10,000 years ago, the glacier deposited its load of rock and soil into a series of hills, ridges, and depressions that stretched over 100 miles in length. Lone Tree Bluff is part of this moraine. The bluff stands some 1,050 feet above sea level.



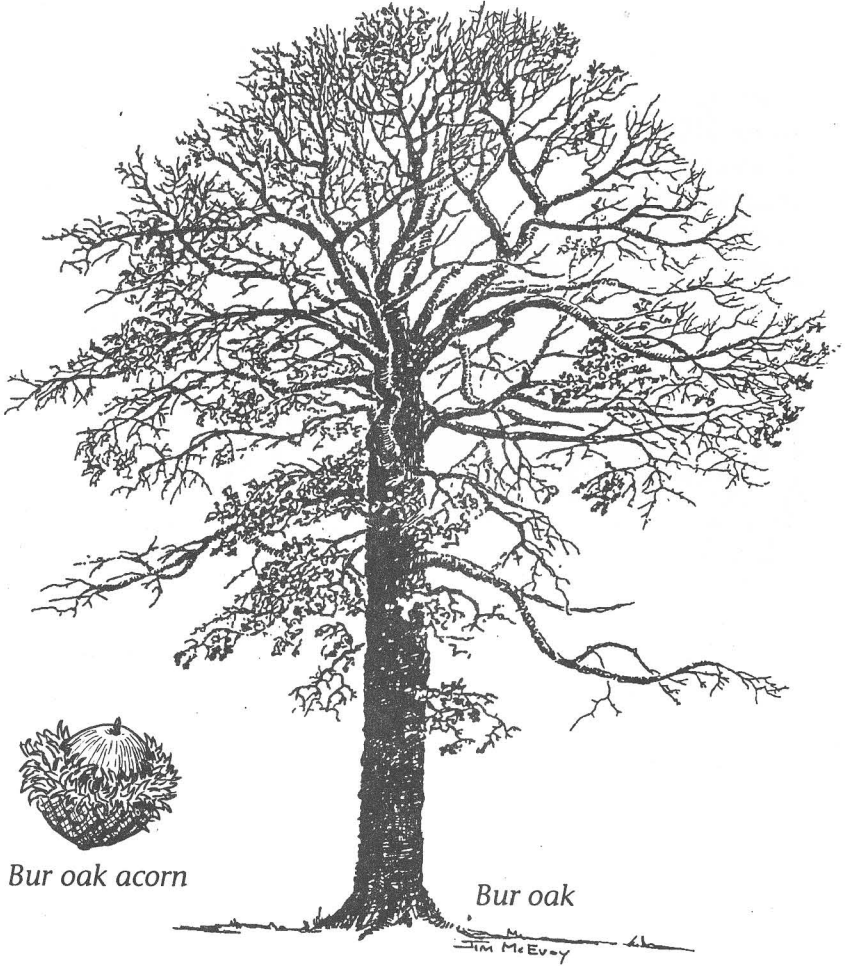
2. Oak Openings

Bur oaks, kittentails, and pasque flowers grow in this oak opening relic. Oak openings were once the most common plant community in the Kettle Moraine region. Oak openings look like grassy parks with bur and white oak scattered about. Wildfires kept these openings free from shrubs and other trees, but as pioneers arrived in the mid-1800s and built homesteads and farms, the fires stopped. Without fire to maintain openings, they grew into oak woodlands. With prescribed burning and brush cutting on this hillside, the Department of Natural Resources hopes to again re-establish this rare plant community.



Pasque flowers bloom in April on rocky southern exposures throughout the Kettle Moraine.

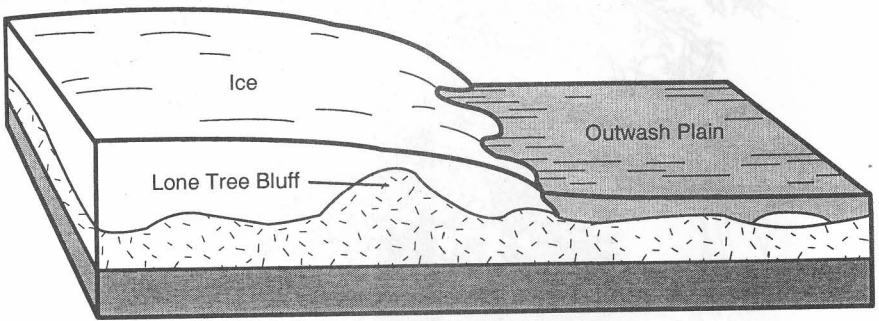
3. The Lone Tree?



The story goes that pioneers named this bluff after a very large bur oak tree that once grew here. Could this stump be the remains of that "Lone Tree"? You be the judge. Based on wood core samples, we know that this tree was the largest and oldest tree on the bluff. Estimates indicate that this tree was 100 years old when the first settlers arrived in the 1830s. This once majestic oak tree died in the 1960s, but its descendants grow strong nearby. Bur oak are easy to spot because of their thick, gnarly bark and "fringe-rimmed" acorns. Look for these unusual acorns on the ground.

4. Outwash Plain

At the base of this bluff is an outwash plain which formed some 10,000 years ago when the Wisconsin glacier melted. These meltwater streams flowed in front of the glacial ice, carrying huge amounts of sand and gravel. In many outwash areas, large fertile prairies developed. These prairies were later plowed and used for agricultural purposes, like this one.



Outwash plain in the making.



Illustration by Helen Wehler.

5. Heart Prairie

In 1837, pioneer James Holden stood at this lookout and saw a wide-open prairie with a distinct heart-shaped outline. That's how the name Heart Prairie originated. Farm fields, pasture and woodlands now stand where prairie once stood, but we keep the name Heart Prairie in honor of its original vegetation.

Thanks for Coming

We hope you enjoyed **Lone Tree Bluff Scenic Overlook**. To learn more about the cultural and natural history of the Kettle Moraine State Forest check out the exhibits at the **State Forest Visitor Center** located on Hwy 59, 3 miles west of Eagle. The complete address and phone is:

Visitor Center
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit
S91 W39091 Hwy 59
Eagle, WI 53119
Phone: 262-594-6200



To experience the Kettle Moraine firsthand, hike another interpretive trail. Brochures are available at the trail head or at the Visitor Center.

- **Bald Bluff:** Native American and Natural History Theme
Cty H, halfway between La Grange and Palmyra
- **Paradise Springs:** Cultural History (accessible trail)
Cty N, NE of Eagle
- **Rice Lake:** Wetlands Theme
Kettle Moraine Drive, Southern edge of Forest
- **Scuppernong Springs:** Cultural History Theme
Cty ZZ, SE of Ottawa Lake
- **Stony Ridge:** Glacial Geology Theme
Hwy 59, State Forest Visitor Center
- **Stute Springs & Homestead:** Cultural History Theme
Cty Z, one mile south of the intersection of Hwy 59.

Help us save resources:

If you no longer have use for this brochure, please return it to the brochure box at the beginning of the trail.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Call 608-266-2181 for more information.



Printed on Recycled Paper

GP11/01