

Prepared Beavers

Although it is less common to see beavers out and about during the snowy season, you can guarantee that they'll be prepared to stay awake all winter.



Photo by Scott Beld

Preparation begins with building or repairing their lodges. It is often a group effort to get their homestead ready. Beavers will use young trees as building material. To help keep the lodge weatherproof, the beavers will use rocks and mud to seal the cracks between the tree logs.

The lodge is designed to have one chamber within. This chamber is for feeding and drying off. The beavers will also sleep and snuggle up to share body heat in the single room. Up to 8 beavers can live within one lodge. With all that body heat being generated, the chamber will stay above freezing the entire winter. The beavers can stay in their cozy lodge through the harshest months.

While visiting Chippewa Nature Center, take a stroll around the Wetland Area or Peepers Pond to see signs of beaver.

Beaver Bits

By staying inside their lodges, beavers can manage to escape the cold winter conditions. They use an underwater entrance to access food from a cache that was stocked during the warmer months.

The temperature of the water is very cold during their dives. Beavers use their two grooming claws to brush castoreum, an oil created from glands at the base of the tail, through their fur. By grooming themselves, the beavers' fur stays waterproof to keep them well insulated while swimming.



Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

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