

# Rep. Duchow: JFC approves funding for Lapham lodge

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Madison, WI – The Joint Finance Committee approved Rep. Duchow’s (R-Delafield) budget request for a new lodge at Lapham Peak in Kettle Moraine State Forest.

“As the only state park with the ability to produce its own snow, Lapham Peak is a popular cross-country skiing destination across our region” said Rep. Duchow. “This gem in our state park system is widely used year-round, and building Lapham Lodge has been a priority for some time.”

The current Evergreen Shelter, built approximately 35 years ago, will be repurposed. The bustling new lodge is planned to have restrooms meeting ADA standards, changing rooms, a large gas fireplace, kitchenette, meeting room, and a large outdoor patio available for year-round use.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources worked with the Friends of Lapham Peak (FLP) to design a lodge that fits the needs of everyone who visits this part of the state forest. FLP is a nonprofit group dedicated to supporting and promoting Lapham Peak. According to the DNR’s website, Friends Groups provide thousands of volunteer hours every year, and assist in cleanups, trail maintenance, and organize special events.

Having raised over \$2.1 million in federal funds and donations, FLP will receive a \$250,000 grant to fund the lodge’s construction. Once construction is complete, the building will be donated to the DNR.

“I am very grateful for the advocacy of the Friends of Lapham Peak, and I hope that Gov. Evers will ultimately approve the project. Lapham Lodge is going to be a great place for new and longtime visitors from around the state to enjoy.”