

shingobee



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST "CELEBRATING 100 YEARS" 1908-2008

Nestled along the rolling hills of the Shingobee River Valley, the Shingobee Recreation Area is located five miles southwest of Walker, Minnesota, along State Highway 34.

HISTORY

Shingobee is named after the Ojibwe word for the cedar, spruce, and balsam trees which border the Shingobee River and Shingobee Bay of Leech Lake.

Ski slopes, trails, and a toboggan slide were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) in the early 1930s. Crews were led by Max von Dalen who had experience in winter sports development in Germany. In the later 1930s, the Forest Service and local supporters built the warming chalets and tow ropes for downhill skiing. Volunteers taught skiing to children. Shingobee was one of the first downhill ski areas in Minnesota and attracted visitors from throughout the midwest to try the "new winter sports fad." In the 1940s, skiers were shuttled from Walker to the slopes. The Shingobee Winter Sports Playground operated intermittently as a downhill ski area until 1984, when it became uneconomical and difficult to compete with larger ski resorts. Today, hikers and cross-country skiers continue to enjoy the scenic rolling hills and wetlands of the area on the trails maintained by the Forest Service.

DESCRIPTION

The Shingobee Recreation Area provides a variety of summer and winter activities. The area offers six miles (9.4 km) of trails for

hiking, hunting, birdwatching, primitive camping, and cross-country skiing in the heart of Minnesota's northwoods. A sliding hill and a weekend warming chalet are also available for winter fun. Sections of the trails may be wet in the spring. The ski trails are intermediate to advanced in difficulty and are groomed and track-set each winter. Visitors are encouraged to use caution when sledding and skiing in the winter due to steep slopes and changing environmental conditions. A hike-in campsite is available; campers will need to bring in water and pack out all garbage.

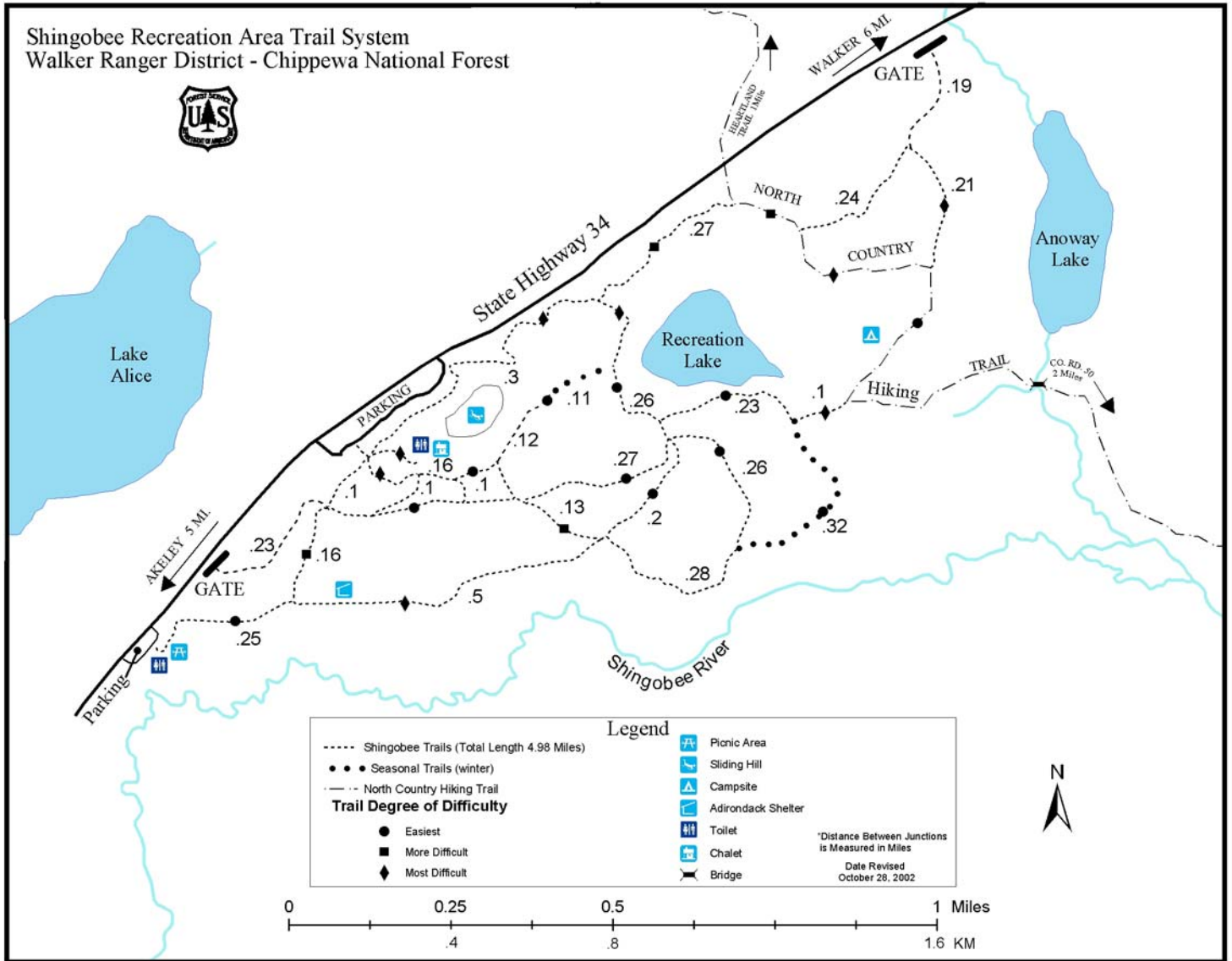
The warming chalet is open during winter weekends. The chalet is also available for use by non-profit groups and can be reserved by calling the Walker Ranger District.

MANAGEMENT

The Shingobee area is managed to provide a scenic spot for recreationists, habitat for wildlife, and wood for local industry. Recreationists have an opportunity to see the effects of other forest resource management activities such as harvesting and reforestation amidst an everchanging forest.



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For more information contact:
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