

Shingobee Recreation Area

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST SERVICE



The Shingobee Recreation Area is nestled among the rolling hills of the Shingobee River Valley. It is located five miles southwest of Walker, Minn.

HISTORY

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

Ski slopes, trails and a toboggan slide were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 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 chalet and tow ropes for downhill skiing.

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. Volunteers taught skiing to children. The Shingobee Winter Sports Playground operated intermittently as a downhill ski area until 1984.

Today, hikers and cross-country skiers continue to enjoy the scenic rolling hills and wetlands of the area, on the trails maintained by the USDA 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.

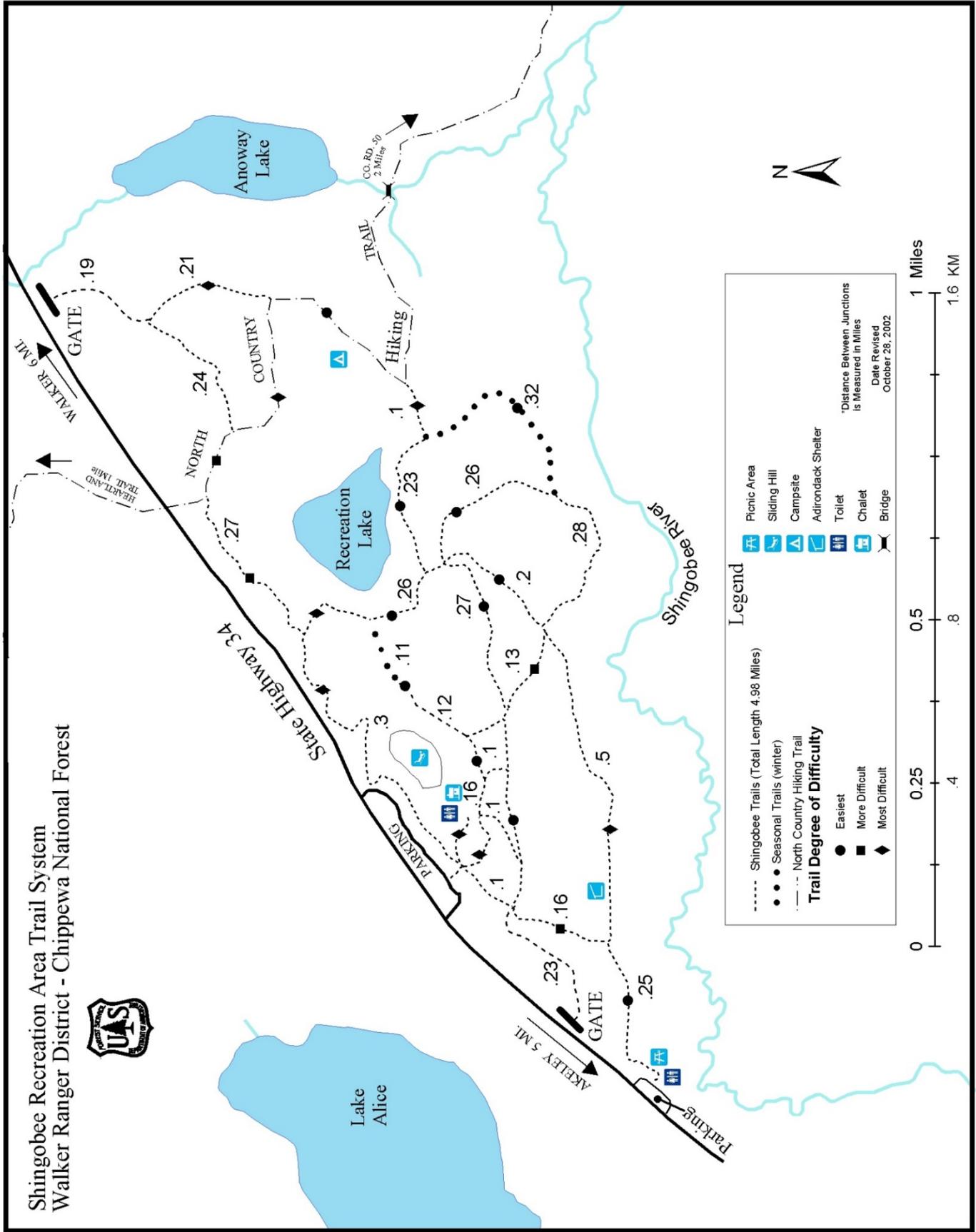
The ski trails are intermediate to advanced in difficulty and are groomed and track-set each winter. Visitors are encouraged to use caution when sledding and skiing in the winter due to steep slopes and changing environmental conditions. Sections of the trails may be wet in the spring. A sliding hill and a weekend warming chalet are also available for winter fun. A hike-in campsite is available. Campers will need to bring in water and pack out all garbage.

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 ever-changing forest.



Shingobee Recreation Area Trail System
Walker Ranger District - Chippewa National Forest



Legend

- Shingobee Trails (Total Length 4.98 Miles)
- Seasonal Trails (winter)
- - - North Country Hiking Trail

Trail Degree of Difficulty

- Easiest
- More Difficult
- ◆ Most Difficult

- ☐ Picnic Area
- ⚡ Sliding Hill
- ⛺ Campsite
- ⛶ Adirondack Shelter
- 🚻 Toilet
- 🏠 Chalet
- 🌉 Bridge

*Distance Between Junctions is Measured in Miles
Date Revised October 28, 2002

