



WOODTICK TRAIL

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST SERVICE



You are about to journey along the 13-mile auto tour known as the Woodtick Trail. Built along an 1890's railroad grade used originally to haul logs to a Longville sawmill, the Woodtick Trail now takes visitors around scenic lakes and wetlands. As you travel the Woodtick, be prepared to stop and enjoy the different points along the way. Signs on the roadside mark areas which coordinate with the brochure. You may choose to just drive through this auto tour or take advantage of the trail stops to get out and stretch your legs a bit. Posts marking the trail will be on the right hand side. Enjoy!

1. Junction of Woodtick Trail and Highway 371

The Woodtick auto tour begins at the junction of Highway 371 and Forest Road 2107, the "Woodtick Trail".

2. Woodtick Fields (.4 mile)

This area is an example of the homesteaders who tried unsuccessfully to farm the area. The open fields, wind rows and old home sites are signs from the past. One family living along the Trail became the proud owners of a Model T, but unfortunately, had no where to drive it. The boys in the family were enlisted to grub out a roadway along the old railroad grade. The days were hot, the work was hard and buggy! The boys, tired of all the 'ticks they were pulling off themselves, grimly nicknamed the area the "Woodtick Trail" and the name has... stuck!

3. North Country Trail (.6 miles)

The North Country Trail crosses the Woodtick Trail at this point. A quarter-mile walk down this trail to your right will bring you to the Woodtick impoundment. The impoundment is an excellent waterfowl nesting area and a good place to watch for ducks in the spring and summer. The North Country Trail itself is an extension of a national trail which connects the North Dakota and the Appalachian Trail in New York.

Seventy miles of continuous trail have been completed within the Chippewa National Forest. Maps of the NCT trail are available at any Forest Service office.

4. White Spruce Plantation (1.1 miles)

The trees on your left were planted in 1968. In managing area such as this, the Forest Service now looks at the whole ecosystem, rather than one piece. As a result, this area will not only be managed for timber, but considerations such as water quality, wildlife habitat, sensitive plants, and cultural heritage are also taken in.

5. Parking for North Country Trail (2.1 miles)

Those wishing to take a longer journey along the North Country Trail may want to park their vehicles here. The North Country Trail is open to non-motorized uses, including hiking, hunting, and skiing.

6. Road Cut (3.2 miles)

Look to your left. What seems to be a natural slope in the land is actually a sign left from the days when the railroad grade was being constructed. Soil from this hillside was used to raise the railroad grade up from the wetlands you see on your right. Watch for the eagles flying overhead!

7. Diamond Lake Intersection (3.3 miles)

If you take a left at this intersection, you will find the Diamond Lake backcountry campsite. Because they are more remote and offer a primitive camping experience, campers may use these sites free of charge. Diamond Lake campsite offers a carry-in boat launching area, wilderness latrine and tent pad. Diamond Lake is located 1.6 miles off the Woodtick Trail. The road to your right leads to Stoney Lake and Country Road 122, a shortcut to Hackensack. The small lake to your left is used by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a walleye rearing pond. The Woodtick trail continues east or straight ahead.

8. Webb Lake Swamp (4.8 miles)

This wetland on your right is typical of those Congress ceded to Minnesota in the 1870's. The State agreed to ditch and drain these areas to make them suitable for farming. Fortunately, the idea did not take hold. Today, we understand that wetlands this size hold large quantities of rainfall and allow this water to slowly sink into the ground, recharging underground aquifers. The Chippewa National Forest has more wetlands than any other National Forest in the country. These lakes and wetlands provide habitat for a myriad of unique plants and animals.



9. Beaver Lodge (6.3 miles)

Beavers built the lodge on your left in 1985. By plugging the culvert under the road, these aquatic engineers created a new habitat for themselves and the many critters that benefit from this type of wetland. Take some time to sit and watch this area. What other animal signs do you see? What plants seem to benefit from the beavers work?

10. Stocking Lake (7.0 miles)

Stocking Lake is managed by Cass County. It is known locally for its great pan fishing. Boat access to the lake is carry-only.

11. Moccasin Lake Access (9.4 miles)

This popular lake not only offers great pan fishing opportunities, but also includes some scenic backcountry camping sites for those planning an overnight visit. On the southern end of the lake, campers can hike to the campsite spot located on the old boat landing site. Visitors may also wish to boat to the campsite directly across from the new boat landing.

12. Aspen Regeneration (10 miles)

The land to your left was cut in 1976 and has grown back naturally to quaking aspen, and a variety of other trees. Today, there are approximately 15,000 young trees per acre. Aspen is not only a main tree used in producing chipboard and paper, it is also a key species for wildlife such as grouse, whitetail deer and beaver.

13. Goose Lake Trail (12.1 miles)

The road on your right is an entrance to the Goose Lake Trail system. This trail system provides hunters and skiers with a recreation experience away from motorized traffic. The trail head is located on County Road 5, just south of the Woodtick Trail. The trail is groomed through a grant-in-aid program and ski passes are required.

14. North County Trail Head and Parking (12.3)

Another access point to the North Country Trail. Going south will take you into the Goose Lake hiking trails, going north will bring you to Hazel Lake.

15. Junction of Woodtick Trail and County 5 (13.2)

We hope you enjoyed your tour down the Woodtick Trail. As the seasons change, so does the spectacular scenery along this drive. The Chippewa National Forest invites you to experience the Woodtick a number of times throughout the year!

If you wish to continue to Longville, turn left off of the Trail. Turn right if you plan on traveling to Hackensack.

For more information on the Woodtick Trail, contact the Walker Ranger District at:

218-547-1044

Or the Chippewa National Forest web site:

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