

SIBLEY STATE PARK

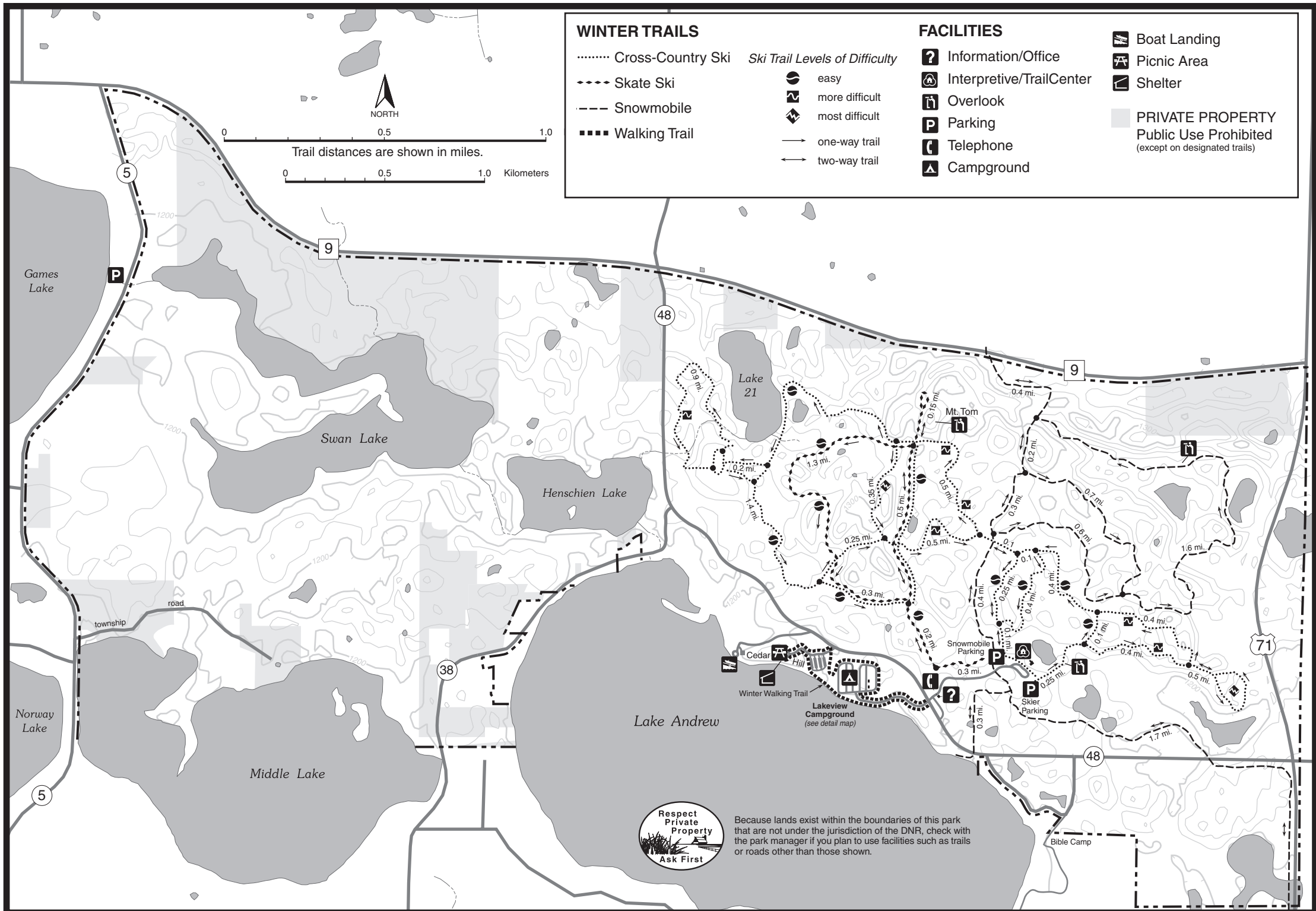
FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 132 semi-modern campsites (53 with electricity)
- 4 Camper cabins
- Dump station, flush toilets and showers
- Modern group center (capacity 128)—reservations required
- 3 primitive group camp sites (capacity 20, 30, 50 each)
- Horseback riders camp (9 campsites)
- Picnic area with 70 tables and an open shelter (capacity 100)
- Swimming beach
- Camping reservations
- Lake fishing
- Boat and canoe rentals and water access
- Interpretive center
- Gift Shop
- 18 miles of hiking trail
- 8.7 miles of horseback riding trail
- 5 miles bicycle trail
- 8.0 miles of cross-country ski trail
- 6.1 miles snowmobile trail
- 2.5 miles of skate-ski trail

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities.
Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you'll be glad you did.





SIBLEY STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sibley State Park
800 Sibley Park Road N.E.
New London, MN 56273-9664
(320) 354-2055

Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)
1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)
TTY (Telecommunications
Device for Deaf)
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR web site: www.dnr.state.mn.us
State Parks page: www.mnstateparks.info

Sibley State Park is located in Kandiyohi County in west central Minnesota four miles west of New London and fifteen miles north of Willmar. The main entrance to the park is on U.S. Highway 71. Minnesota state highway map index: F-15.

Henry Hastings Sibley, Minnesota's first governor, used the woods of Kandiyohi as his hunting grounds. This wooded, hilly 3,015-acre park that bears his name is located in an area where the grasslands of the west meet the Big Woods of the east.

The name Kandiyohi was taken from the Native American words meaning *Where-The-Buffalo-Fish-*

Come; Kandi meaning **buffalo-fish** and *ohi* meaning **in**. The name refers to the abundance of fish found in the area lakes.

Mount Tom, which rises to an elevation of 1375 feet above sea level, is one of the highest points for fifty miles. It affords an excellent view of surrounding forest, prairie knolls, lakes and farmlands.

GEOLOGY: Four times in the history of Minnesota, glaciers advanced from the north, covering the state with a sheet of ice up to two-miles thick. During the last of these advances, as recently as 10,000 years ago, most of the features of the Minnesota landscape were formed.

Sibley State Park is in the part of the Alexandria Moraine Complex formed by the Wadena Lobe which was later overrun by the Grantsburg-Des Moines Lobe. The rocks, sand, and gravel left by the last glacier make up the drift which formed Mount Tom and the rest of the landscape. These deposits, as deep as 450 feet, are some of the deepest found anywhere in the state.

Many of the 194 lakes in Kandiyohi County are ice-block lakes. These are steep-sided lakes formed by the melting of a large block of ice which was completely or partially buried by glacial till. Lake Andrew and others like it in the county are another type of glacial lake formed in a depression as the ice passed over the land and then melted.

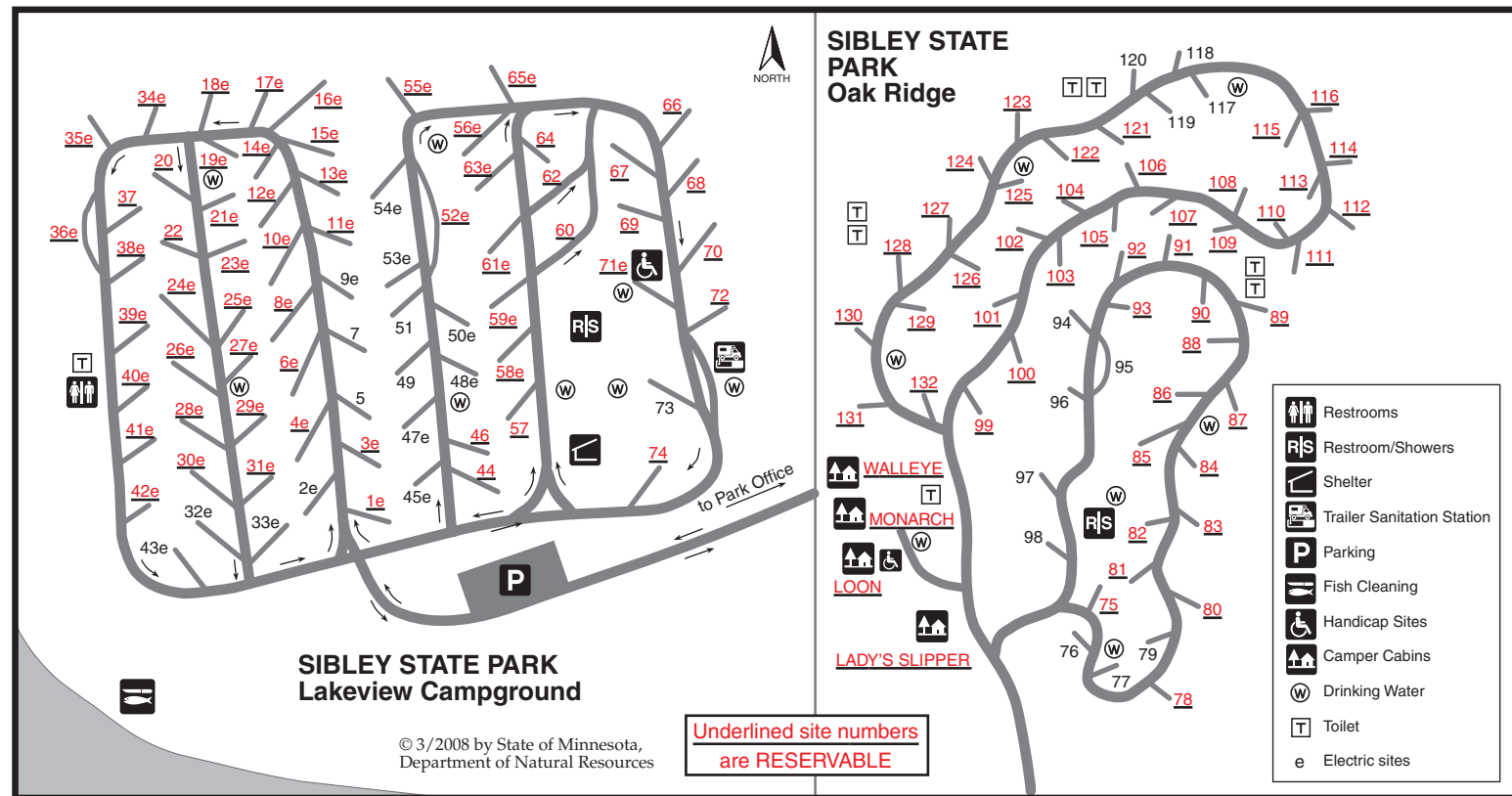
HISTORY: People of many races have used the hill we now call Mount Tom as a viewpoint for both strategic and inspirational purposes. Fragments of stone pipes found there suggest that, like most high places, it may have held spiritual significance to the Dakota Indians.

Peter Broberg, the only member of his family to survive the Dakota War of 1862, along with many other local residents appreciated what nature had to offer in the Mount Tom and Lake Andrew area. In 1919 they were successful in getting the state legislature to provide money to purchase the land which would become Sibley State Park.

From 1919 to 1934, the county was responsible for maintaining the park, though little development was done. Realizing that this area was a popular spot for more than just local people, the legislature authorized Sibley a state park in 1934.

In 1935 the federal government sent the Veterans Conservation Corps to Sibley. For the next three years, this group of up to two hundred men built roads, buildings, and trails within the park. When the V.C.C. camp was finished, they left behind \$700,000 worth of granite buildings and a beautiful state park.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE: For centuries prairie



fires burned across the grasslands of Minnesota, preventing forest from becoming established. Protected somewhat from fire by the lakes to the south, oak savanna—a mixture of oak and prairie became the main vegetative cover of the area. Through suppression of fire, the forest became the predominant vegetative cover and is dominated by oak, ironwood, basswood, hackberry, green ash, and aspen. Only on the knolls which were unsuitable for farming and too dry for the forest do we see remnants of short grass prairie. In an attempt to perpetuate these grasslands, some fields which had been cleared and farmed by the settlers have now been restored to native prairie grasses.

Most of the wildlife in the park are species that forests support; white-tailed deer, red and gray fox, raccoons and ruffed grouse. Shrews, bats, mice, ground squirrels, red and gray squirrels, mink, bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, and cardinals are a few other species visitors can expect to see as they hike the trails of Sibley. In the marsh you may see muskrats, beaver, mallards, bluewinged teal, and wood ducks swimming or watch the blue herons or egrets as they elegantly stalk their prey. Overhead you may watch the red-tailed and broadwing hawks as they search for food. The lakes provide habitat for nesting loons.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM: Have you ever visited a state park and wanted to know more about its plants, animals, legends and lore? Sibley State Park offers a year-round interpretive program where you and your family can experience nature as it changes through the seasons. Information concerning hikes, videos, powerpoint presentations and other activities can be found on park bulletin boards, at the contact station, and in the interpretive center.

Come experience the sights and sounds of Sibley!

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules.
- The park is open year-round. On a daily basis, the park gate is closed from 10:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. the following morning except to registered campers.
- Camp only in designated locations.
- The use of firearms, explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows and all other weapons is prohibited in state parks.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are al-

- lowed only on park roads, not on trails.
- Enjoy park wildlife and plants, but please respect them. Do not pick or dig up plants, disturb or feed animals, or scavenge dead wood.
- Build fires only in designated locations, fire rings or fireplaces. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (see "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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Department of Natural Resources

