

Strap on Your Skis, Hop on a DSR Bus---

BY CALVIN MAYNE
Free Press Staff Writer

YOU DON'T HAVE to travel hundreds of miles and spend hundreds of dollars to enjoy winter sports.

Almost every type of winter recreational facility can be found within 60 miles of Detroit in thousands of acres of publicly-owned park land.

Accessible within two or three hours, these skiing, tobogganing or skating facilities cost little or no money to use.

Of course, the Weather Man will have to provide some snow before much use can be made of these facilities.

●

WHEN THE SNOW comes, and they're sure it will, skiing enthusiasts will have their choice of three excellent parks owned by the State, all within 60 miles of Detroit.

The Rochester-Utica Recreational Area has miles of ski trails and good hills for tobogganing.

Four ski tows are operated by the Pontiac Ski Club at the Highland Recreational Area. Tobogganing and ice skating are also available.

The Flint Ski Club operates a run and tow at Orionville Recreational Area.

●

FACILITIES of all ski clubs at State parks are available to the public for a small charge.

Major winter sports area maintained by Detroit's Department of Parks and Recreation is at Rouge Park.

Six toboggan slides, a lighted ice skating rink, and ski and sleighing hills are available.

Other major city ice rinks are at Belle Isle, Northwestern Field, Palmer Park and Redford Golf Course. All major rinks are lighted for night skating, and have warm comfort stations with nearby food concessions.

●

ABOUT 250 neighborhood rinks are also open this winter in Detroit.

Two toboggan slides are available at the Redford Golf Course park, Seven Mile and Lahser.

Only 33 miles from City Hall on Grand River (U.S. 16) is Kensington Metropolitan Park, a new development of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

About 200 acres of open hills provide ample space for skiing. Ice skating and ice fishing are possible on parts of Kent Lake which are cleared of snow.

●

MAJOR ICE BOAT races are held each winter on Lake St. Clair.

●

Sports for the Detroiter with a wintry day at his disposal can be found at the Middle Rouge Parkway, between Newburg Road and Northville.

Three artificial lakes are available for skating. All are lighted after dark. Four sodded chutes 600 to 700 feet long—make popular toboggan slides.

Skiing and sleighing are possible on the miles of hills in the Parkway. Heated public comfort stations are used by hikers, and there are picnic tables for winter weiner roasts.

●

OTHER WAYNE COUNTY Road Commission parks are at Lower Rouge Parkway, Inkster; Elizabeth Park, Trenton, and Lola Valley Park, between Five and Six Miles Roads beginning half a mile west of Telegraph in Redford Township.

Ice skating rinks equipped for hockey players are found at all three.

Accessible by DSR or Dearborn buses is the Warren Valley Golf Course with three ice rinks and many hills for skiers.

A ski tow, skating rink and coasting hills are available at Riverbank Golf Course, Northwestern at Eleyen Mile in Oakland County.

●

PUBLIC toboggan and ski facilities are found at Bonnybrook Golf Course, Telegraph and Eight Mile Roads.

Overnight hiking and cross-country skiing facilities, operated at low cost by the American Youth Hostels, are found within 60 miles of Detroit at four more State parks.

Sports enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to join in Hostel activities.

The Pontiac recreational area offers overnight facilities for skiers who like the rugged experience of winter ski hikes.

●

SOUTHWEST of Ann Arbor near Wampler's Lake are thousands of acres of the Irish Hills area, as rugged a skiing territory as is found in Michigan.

The Island Lake area has 3,000 acres of ski hills near South Lyon.

Groups camps accommodating up to 65 persons at a charge of 25 cents a day are found in the 7500 acres of hills and valleys in the Waterloo recreational Area.

Detailed information and directions about these near-by winter sports sites may be obtained from American Youth Hostels, WO 3-7150; Division of Parks of the Wayne County Road Commission, WO 2-7670, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, CA 5860.