



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

State of Minnesota
St. Paul

KARL F. ROLVAAG
GOVERNOR

To the People of Minnesota:

Minnesota's heritage of natural beauty offers many recreational opportunities to her people and to the thousands who visit the state each year. The management of our recreational land and the development of additional areas has become increasingly important.

The growing population with greater wealth, more leisure time and increased mobility will place heavy demands on the areas and facilities now dedicated to recreation use. To meet such demands, we should utilize the financial resources placed at our disposal.

The state has made significant progress in the natural resource and recreation field, but there is still much to be done. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 is one of several federal programs which will contribute substantially to meeting the state's recreation needs.

This plan is a preliminary study of our recreational assets and the goals for future development. Planning and effective coordination between private and public agencies at all levels of government will help determine our action program.

We dedicate the plan to the purpose of expanding and enhancing Minnesota's outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs of this and future generations.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl F. Rolvaag".

Karl F. Rolvaag
GOVERNOR

P/ R42.4-1965
296

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STATE OF MINNESOTA

Skipping to pages 248-252

PRIVATE PICNIC AND SPORTS AREAS

At this time, the number and location of private picnic and sports areas is not known as no inventory has been made. However, these areas are known to be quite popular and usually charge 25 cents to one dollar per car. They are usually within an hour's drive of a city or group of towns with a population of 50,000 or more. A combination of day-use recreation facilities is often offered. Opportunities here include a club house for banquets and regular food service. A small lake for swimming, fishing and boating is often offered in conjunction with picnicking and sports such as volleyball, tennis and horseshoe pitching.

PRIVATE VACATION FARMS AND RANCHES

Many city people are discovering refreshing vacations at Minnesota's vacation farms or ranches. An example is the Big Stone Farm for children which charges \$25 per week. According to an inventory by the Soil Conservation Service, in 1964 there were seven vacation farms. One is planned north of the Twin Cities and proposes year around recreation including ice skating, bridle paths, fox hunting, picnic and sports areas, etc.

The appeal of farm vacations rests on release from the confinements of city life and the opportunity to return to the great open spaces. The mystery and fascination that farming holds for most modern city bred Americans holds great potential for this type of development. Parents appreciate the opportunity for their children to experience country life.

An indication of the recreational facilities offered by farmers is given by Farmers' Home Administration, reporting seven loans for farm recreation as of May, 1964. The Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service is undertaking a detailed survey of farm recreational areas and facilities.

PRIVATE HORSEBACK RIDING STABLES

There are some 100 riding academies or clubs in Minnesota, mostly at resorts throughout the state in conjunction with fishing, swimming and other outdoor activities. There are several riding academies around the Twin Cities.

The largest share of horseback riding is done by horse owners. There are about 160,000 riding horses in the state owned by some 42,000 persons. Minnesota ranks as the third largest horse owning state in the country.

SKI RESORTS

In Minnesota there are 36 known ski areas shown on the following map, June 30, 1964. This list was compiled by the Department of Conservation. All are under private ownership. Ski resorts can be more than a place to ski. They can offer other types of recreation such as tobogganing and skating, and a chance to relax for a weekend. The following information was adapted from the survey conducted by the Bureau of Business Development - Economic Research of the University of Minnesota, State Department of Business Development and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis described on page 119.

Facilities at Ski Resorts (Number of resorts with facilities)

<u>Skiing Facilities</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Upper Michigan</u>	<u>N. W. Wisconsin</u>
Ski School	18	7	14
Ski Patrol	16	9	13
Ski Shop	11	6	13
Equipment Rental	18	7	14
Equipment Repair	8	7	10
Ski Jumps	10	3	2

Ski Lifts

<u>Type of Lift</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Upper Michigan</u>	<u>N. W. Wisconsin</u>
Rope	75	30	62
J-Bar	2		
T-Bar	4	6	8
Poma	3		
Chair	2	2	
Total Number of Lifts -	86	38	72

The predominant tow facility is the rope tow. All the rope tows listed are not regularly used as ski lifts. Some substitute in case of T-Bar or chair lift failure. Others serve as feeders to larger lifts. Rope tows are also used to handle unusually large crowds.

Non-Skiing Facilities

Chalet	24	9	14
Overnight Accommodations	4	2	3
Canteen	19	11	11
Restaurant	7	4	8
Swimming Pool	1		1
Toboggan Slide	5	1	2
Ice Skating	5		4
Sleigh Rides	3	1	3

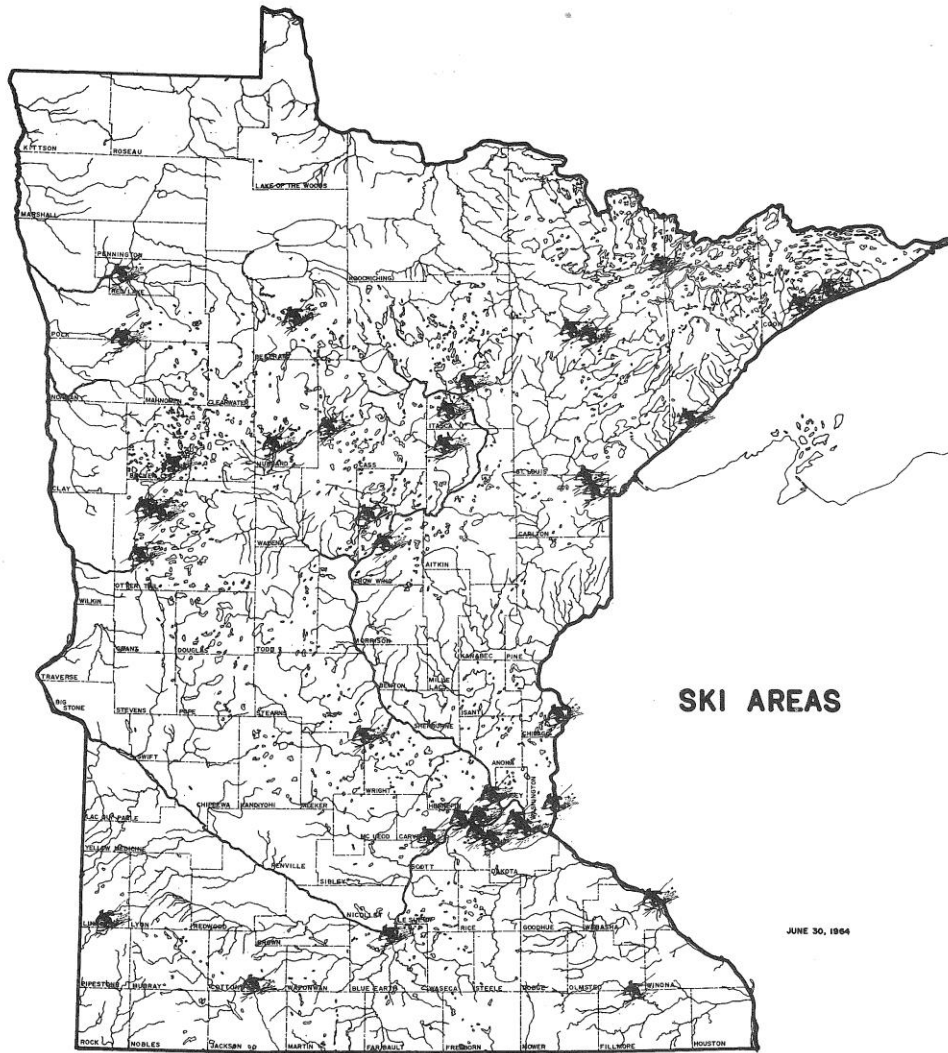
A ski resort can also offer its facilities in the spring, summer and fall seasons particularly if there is scenic quality which adds to the tourist potential. Minnesota has 19 ski resorts with off-season operations.

The Number and Average Length of Ski Trails*

	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Upper Michigan</u>	<u>Northern Wisconsin</u>
Novice	(11)	(7)	(5)
Number of trails	22	19	12
Average length of trail in ft.	1,184	974	1,471
Intermediate			
Number of trails	35	25	20
Average length of trail in ft.	1,125	1,260	790
Expert			
Number of trails	35	10	16
Average length of trail in ft.	951	1,770	1,119

*Parenthesized number indicates number of resorts that comprise the statistics in the above table.

Steepness is the main criterion by which a slope is classified. A steep narrow hill descended at high speed is more expert than a long hill, wide enough for regular turning to retard a skier's speed. Therefore, those classed as expert slopes were shorter than the intermediate slopes as seen in the above table. The average expert slope in Minnesota is shorter than both the novice and intermediate.



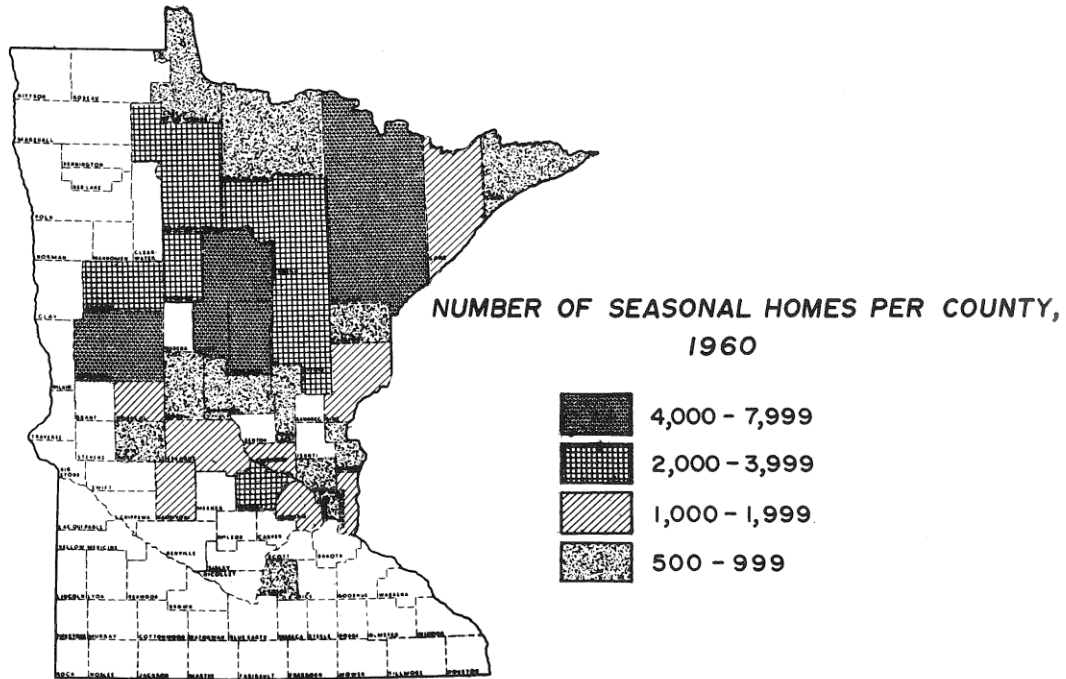
MINNESOTA SKI HILLS

Name and Location	Lifts	Slopes	Long Run	Vert. Drop	Rental	Distance from Mpls. St. Paul	Other Facilities
AITKIN COUNTY Quadna Mt. SW of Hill City	3	14	2800'	325'	Yes	150	Chalet, shop, lunches, lodge sauna & pool etc.
BECKER COUNTY Detroit Mt., Detroit Lakes	4	10	1250'	200'	Yes	200	Chalet, shop, lunches
BELTRAMI COUNTY Buena Vista, North of Bemidji	4	10	1500'	225'	Yes	227	Chalet, shop, lunches
BLUE EARTH COUNTY Skihaven, Mankato	2	2	1500'	300'	Tobog. Only	80	Chalet, snack bar, jumps, tobog. chutes
CARLTON COUNTY Pine Valley, Cloquet	2	2	600'	100'	Yes	150	Modern chalet, 3 jumps
CARVER COUNTY Allen's Thrill Hill, Cologne (Chaska)	1	3	600'	150'	No	28	Toboggan slide
CASS COUNTY Shingobee Ski Area, Walker	1	5	1500'	150'	No	200	Chalet, lunches
CHISAGO COUNTY Val Croix, Taylors Falls	7	11	5000'	258'	Yes	60	Chalet, shop, lunches
COOK COUNTY Lutsen, Lutsen Sawtooth Mt., Grand Marals	4	16	5200'	630'	Yes	250	Chalet, shop, swimming pool, skating
CROW WING COUNTY Breezy Point Estates, Pequot Lakes	2	Open	2000'	220'	Yes	140	Chalet, shop, lunches sauna
French Rapids, Brainerd	3	11	800'	120'	No	130	Chalet, 2 jumps, lunches
DAKOTA COUNTY Buck Hill, So. Minneapolis Norski Hill, St. Paul	8 2	14 13	3000' 1500'	309' 165'	Yes Yes	11 8	Chalet, shop, lunches Chalet, shop, lunches jump
Pine Bend, So. St. Paul	4	8	2000'	258'	Yes	12	Chalet, shop, lunches
HENNEPIN COUNTY Cedar Hills, Eden Prairie Moon Valley, Shakopee Mount Normandale, Minneapolis Theodore Wirth, Minneapolis	6 4 4 3	12 Open Open 10	1000' 2000' 2000' 1000'	150' 200' 200' 125'	Yes Yes Yes Yes	18 14 5 0	Chalet, shop, lunches Chalet, shop, lunches Chalet, shop, lunches Chalet, shop, lunches
HUBBARD COUNTY Val Chatel, No. of Park Rapids	5	10	2500'	275'	Yes	205	Chalet, shop, steak house, jump, ice skating
ITASCA COUNTY Mt. Itasca Ski Area, Coleraine Sugar Hills, SW of Grand Rapids	2 11	4 22	1800' 7000'	275' 400'	Yes Yes	190 175	Chalet, shop, lunches, jump Chalet, shop, lunches, swimming pool
LAKE COUNTY Timberland, 3 mi. NW Red Lake Falls Voyageur Skiway, Two Harbors	4	7	1200'	110'	Yes	295	Chalet, shop, lunches
LINCOLN COUNTY Benton Valley, Lake Benton	1	1	1000'	150'	Yes	200	
OTTERTAIL COUNTY Hallaway Hill, 10 mi. E. of Pelican Rapids Old Smokey in Fergus Falls Skidahlen, E. of Pelican Rapids	4 2 1	7 1 4	1800' 480' 2000'	200' 110' 186'	Yes No Yes	210 180 210	Chalet, shop, lunches, jump Warming house only Warming house only

SKI HILLS - Continued

Name and Location	Lifts	Slopes	Long Run	Vert Drop	Rental	Distance from Mpls. St. Paul	Other Facilities
ROCK COUNTY Ski Devil, Fertile	4	6	700'	150'	Yes	275	Chalet, shop, lunches
STEARNS COUNTY Powder Ridge, Kimball Prairie	5	6	1800'	210'	Yes	55	Chalet, shop, lunches
ST. LOUIS COUNTY Giants Ridge, Aurora-Biwabik	5	11	3000'	440'	Yes	210	Chalet, shop, lunches
Hidden Valley Ski Hill, Ely	3	5	1800'	145'	Yes	241	Chalet, jump, tobog. run
Lookout Mt., Virginia	8	15	3400'	302'	Yes	198	Chalet, shop, lunches
Mont du Lac, Duluth	5	13	2300'	310'	Yes	142	Chalet, shop, lunches
WASHINGTON COUNTY Afton Alps, Afton	6	8	1900'	270'	Yes	13-23	Chalet, shop, skating, lunches
WABASHA COUNTY Little Squaw Valley, Wabasha	2	1	1200'	300'	Yes	90	Chalet, jump, lunches, tobog. run

COMMERCIAL LODGINGS AND SEASONAL HOMES



FROM: Projected Urban Growth in the Upper Midwest : 1960-1975 Upper Midwest Economic Study 8