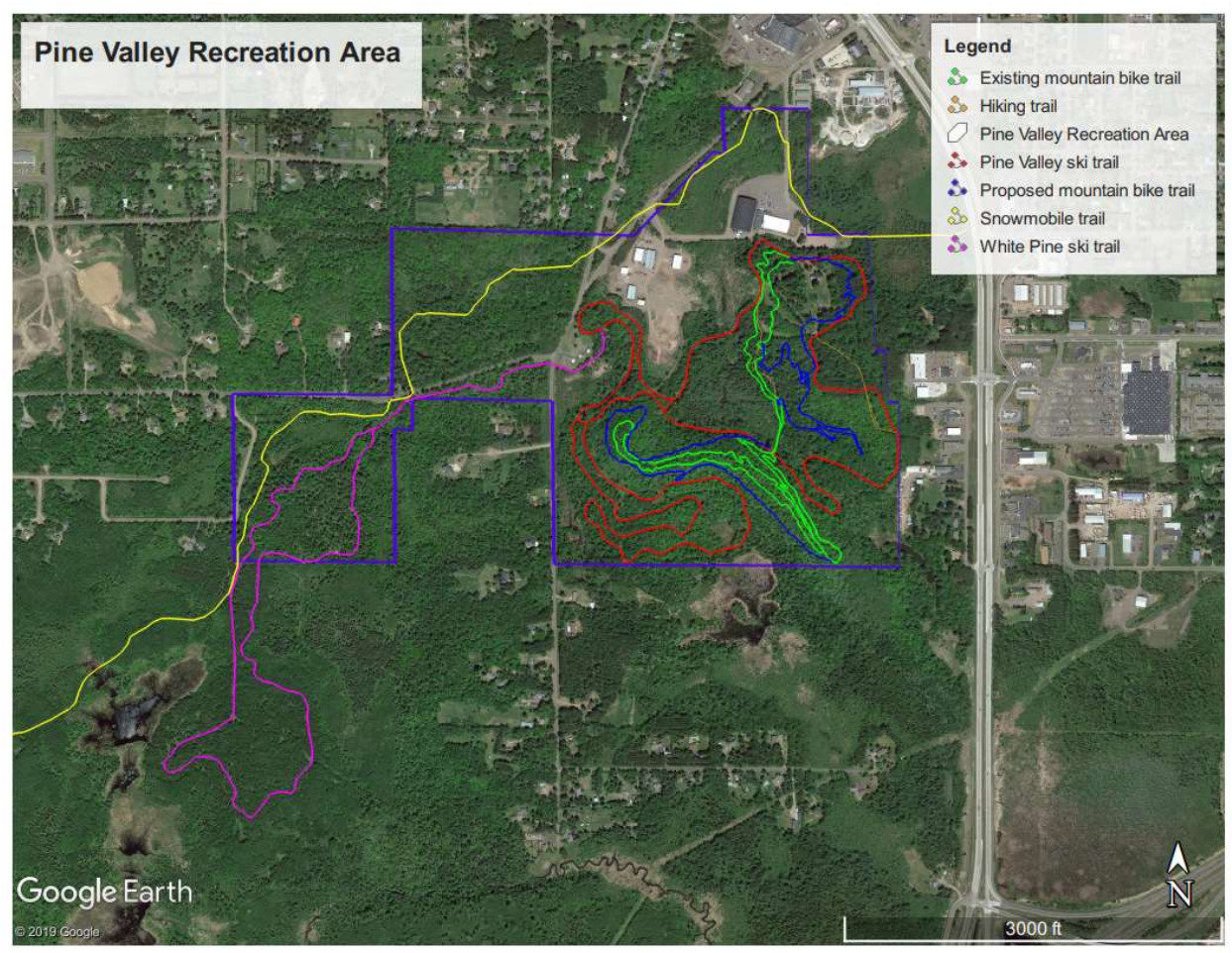
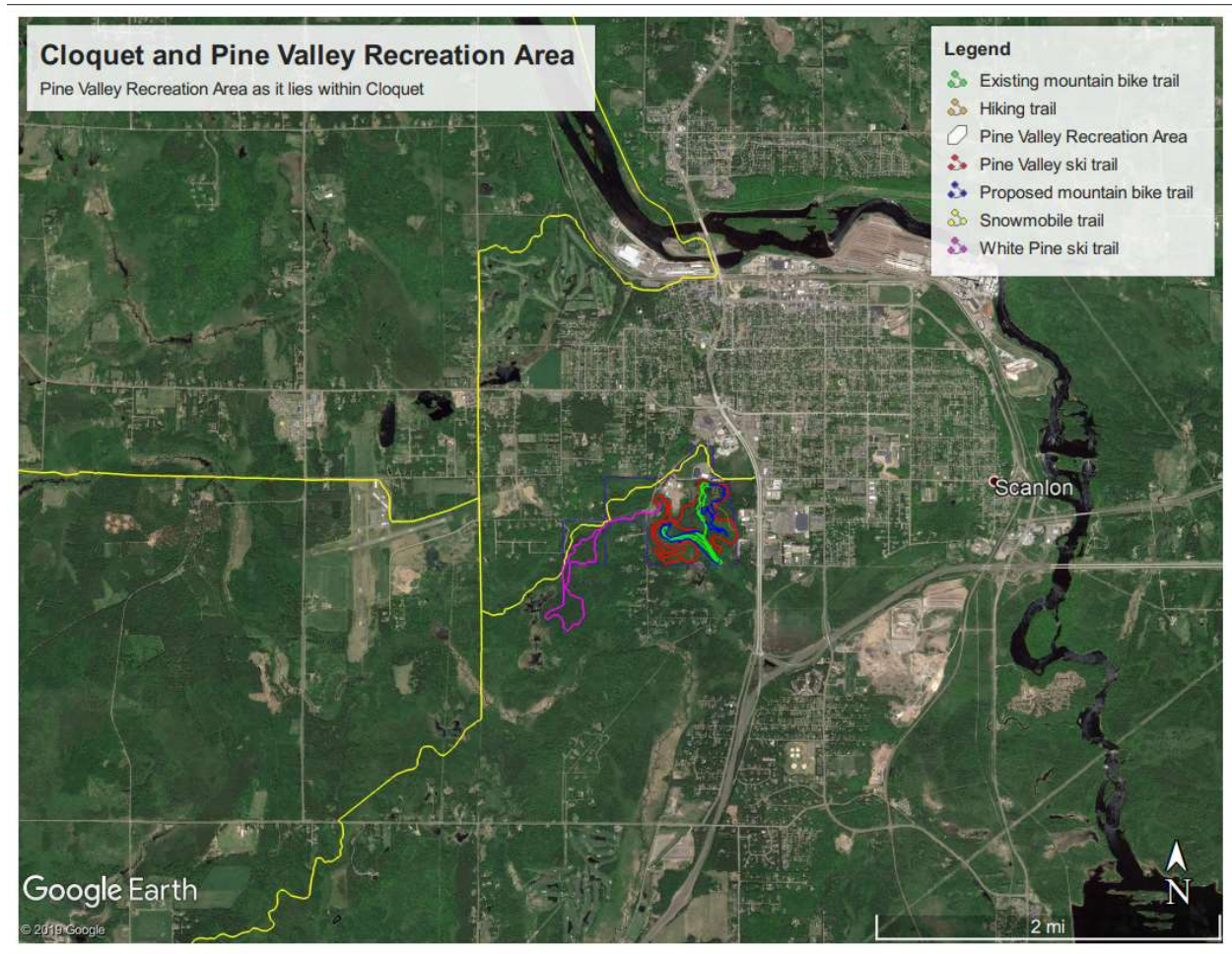


Location Description:

Pine Valley Recreation Area, a city owned recreation area of 243 acres, is in Cloquet Minnesota at 1106 Olympic Dr. (latitude 46° 42' 22" longitude 92° 27' 45"). It is located one quarter mile west of MN State Hwy 33, one mile north of the MN Hwy 33 and I35 Interstate, and 1.5 miles south of the St. Louis River. Hwy 33 is a major corridor for north-south traffic between the Metro Area and the Arrowhead Region. Pine Valley lies on the west edge of Cloquet's major shopping district. To the west of Pine Valley are a few scattered houses, the Fond du Lac Reservation, and many acres of northern Minnesota forests. See attached map.

Pine Valley Recreation Area is recognized both locally and regionally as a multipurpose outdoor recreation and sporting area. 14,000 years ago the last continental glacier deposited a kame and an esker in this location forming the backbone for Pine Valley. The 1918 devastating Cloquet Fire wiped out most of the forest in Pine Valley and all of Cloquet, but left scattered red and white pines which have become old growth reminders. Today Pine Valley has 11 miles of multi-use hiking, biking, skiing, and snowmobile trails along with 4 ski jumps from beginner to expert, a chalet, picnic area, parking lots, and hockey facility.





Other Project Supporters

Cloquet Public Works,
Cloquet Parks Commission,
Cloquet Nordic Ski Club,
Cloquet Esko Carlton Mountain Bike Club,
Carlton County Commissioners,
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa,
Cloquet School District,
Northern Minnesota Track Club,
Cloquet Chamber of Commerce,
Boy Scouts of America,
Andrew David,
John Cavanaugh,
Tim Krohn,
Tom Urbanski,
Greg and Karen Williams,
John Fryc,

Mark Hagen,

Regional Significance Statement (75 word limit)

Pine Valley recreation Area created in 1961 is 243 acres of northern Minnesota forest containing pre-1918 Cloquet fire old growth trees on a well-drained kame and esker. It is heavily used for ski jumping, Nordic skiing, mountain biking, running, hiking, picnicking, events, hockey, and snowmobiling. Due to its unique soils, its trails are available in nearly all weather conditions - wet or dry. Its ski jump is one of only a few in the nation.

Overview/Description of Park or Trail (500 word limit)

Pine Valley Recreation Area encompasses 243 acres of northern Minnesota forest that has two well drained eskers, some dry flat lands, and wet lands that act like a sponge. Most of the forest grew up after the infamous 1918 Cloquet Forest Fire that devastated Cloquet making the woods between 60 and 100 years old. A few old growth red and white pine escaped the fire.

Pine Valley is year round facility - ski jumping, skiing, and snowshoeing when there is snow; and biking, hiking, and running when the snow is gone. The mountain bike trail is multiuse all year while the main ski trail is for skiing and ski jumping are used only in winter. The chalet is used all year.

Pine Valley's attractions are 4 ski jumps from 5 meter to 45 meter, a 5.5 K competition quality skate and classic ski trail, a 2.3 mile mountain bike trail to be extended to 5 miles, a 2.3 recreation skate and classic ski/snowshoe trail, 1.5 miles of groomed snowmobile number 238, a chalet and picnic area, two ice hockey arenas, one outdoor ice hockey rink, and parking lots.

The Cloquet Nordic Ski Club makes Pine Valley its home. Ski jump practice for anybody is Tuesday and Thursday nights. Sunday afternoon is Nordic ski day for all kids beginning at age 3. The club sponsors two jumping and Nordic ski events a season, which brings in participants from as far away as Chicago. High school teams will stay in Cloquet and use Pine Valley for a day while on their way to other events further north. Recreational skiers come from around the area to ski.

The Cloquet Esko Carlton Mountain Bike Team uses Pine Valley as one of their practice sites. Runners, hikers, walkers, bikers, and dog owners use all the trails at Pine Valley on a daily basis.

The most unique natural feature about Pine Valley is its well-drained esker and kame. In this area of Minnesota there are many acres of poorly drained wetlands and wet clay soil hillsides. Pine Valley trails are open for use shortly after spring break up. The mountain bike trail was especially constructed on these well drained eskers to be open a few hours after any major rain. This feature attracts bikers and hikers from other areas closed due to wet conditions.

Pine Valley is home to multiple sporting events, such as the City Ski Meet, the Pine Valley Invitational Nordic Combine, the Pine Valley 5.5K, 11K, and Lost Forester runs, the Rotary Color Run, the NMTC Pine Valley Trail Series Run, and the Easter Egg Hunt. The hockey facility is home to the Cloquet Hockey Association,

1.5 miles of groomed snowmobile trail number 238 pass through Pine Valley. The Wood City Riders maintain trail 238, which is on the DNR snowmobile trail map. Pine Valley's parking lots can be used as a trail-head for the snowmobilers.

The chalet is used by all the clubs and events. It is rented out for parties, weddings, family events, and community events.

General Site Characteristics

Pine Valley is natural outdoor recreation area with a unique land formation and a forest created by the 1918 Cloquet fire and the logger's saw. The main part of Pine Valley or about 160 acres contains an esker, a kame, a meltwater fan deposit, and a valley with wetlands. The remaining 80 acres also contains gravelly and sandy drift, but is much flatter. These soils are very well drained and dry out very quickly after being wet. There are about 10 to 15 acres of forested wetlands within the area.

Geologically, Pine Valley encompasses a very rare geological formation. As per the Geologic Atlas of Carlton County and the Southern Portion of St. Louis County, Pine Valley has an exceedingly rare Qli formation, which is an ice-contact deposit having an esker, a kame, and a meltwater fan deposit.

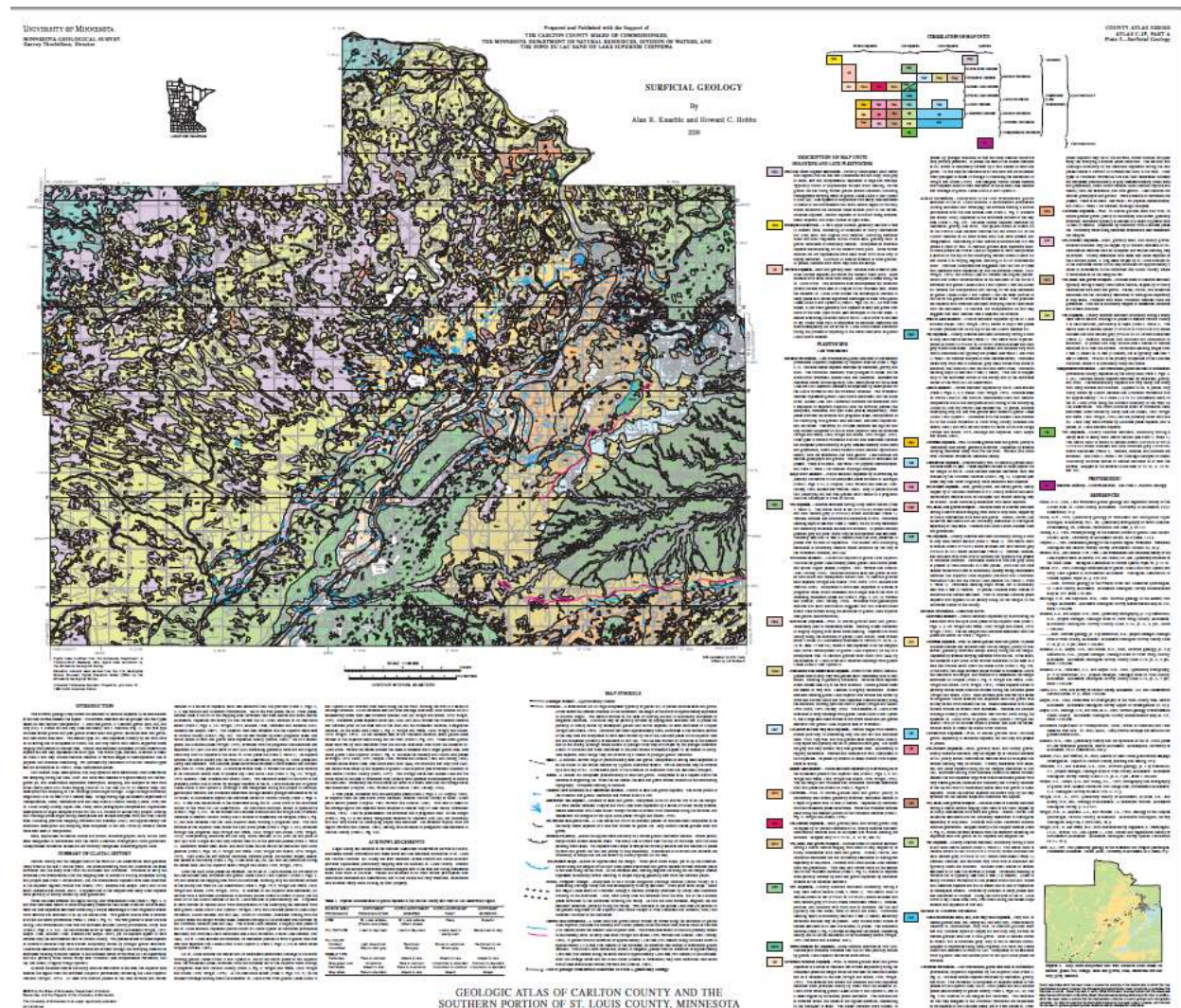
- Ice-contact deposits are glacial deposits containing sand, gravelly sand, and cobbly gravel. They are chiefly associated with esker, fan, and kame deposits.
- Eskers are a sinuous, narrow ridge of predominantly sand and gravel, interpreted as having been deposited in an ice-tunnel or ice-walled channel by a glacial meltwater stream. When the ice melted, the sand and gravel formed mounds on the surrounding topography. Currently the mountain bike trail encircles the top of the esker while the main ski trail encircles the base of the esker.
- Kames are a conical hill composed predominantly of sand and gravel. Interpreted to be a deposit within the confines of supporting ice. When the ice melted, the sand and gravel formed mounds on the surrounding topography. The Pine Valley ski trail and ski jump are on the kame.
- Meltwater fan deposits consist of sand and gravel; interpreted to be an alluvial fan at an ice margin. All fans located between Cloquet and Park Lake were deposited by a series of tunnel valley streams. Eskers associated with these tunnel valleys formed as stream flow decreased along the terminal and recessional ice margins of the Split Rock phase.


This natural area contributes to the biodiversity of Cloquet. On the high ground are the woods comprise of areas of trees between 60 and 100 years old and other areas 25 to 30 years old. There are remnant old growth red and white pines over 100 years old. The trees in this area comprise red and white pines, oaks, white spruce, balsam firs, maples, birch, and white cedar. There are tamaracks, spruce, and tag alder in the wetlands that act like a sponge in adsorbing and holding excess water runoff during heavy rains. There are beaver in the wetlands. Other wildlife are squirrels, skunks, deer, bear, and in the western edge of the recreation area the Otter Creek wolf pack makes occasional appearances.

The ski trails are divided into two parts – the main competitive and hilly trail and the west flatter trail. The main ski trail is 5.5 km long and during winter is for skiing only. The west trail is 2.3 miles long. It has its own parking lot at the intersection of two roads. This trail is used for skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, skjoring, and dog walking in winter. During no snow seasons all trails are open to biking, hiking, and running.

A major part of the west trail is on Fond du Lac Reservation land and has a permit issued by the Fond du Lac Band. The permit is for three years; and, as of date, the city and band have had 3 sets of permits. It may be possible to expand the mountain bike trails by building on Fond du Lac land.

The only development in the area other than the trails are the chalet, ski jump, picnic area, hockey arenas, and parking lots. There are two roads that divide the main 160 acres from the west 80 acres. The developed area encompasses about 12 acres. The city maintains the city garage within this area, but its acreage was not included in the park size.



Land Information Department - Resource Management Division
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa - Cloquet, Minnesota
I hereby certify that the within instrument was filed in
this office on July 16, 2019 at 11:22 AM Doc# 201907020
Timothy J Krohn, Land Information Manager
By 

LAND USE PERMIT AGREEMENT

This Agreement, by and between the **Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**, 1720 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720 ("FDL"), and the **City of Cloquet, 1307 Cloquet Avenue, Cloquet, MN ("the City")**, shall be governed by the following terms and conditions:

1. **Subject Parcels and Purpose.** FDL grants a permit to the City for the use of the following Permitted Property:

Pine Valley Ski Trail located in the South Half of Section 27, Township 49N, Range 17W. (See Exhibit A, attached.)

The City is permitted to enter upon the Permitted Property only for maintenance and use of a cross country ski trail.
2. **Term.** The term of this Land Use Permit Agreement is the 2019 to 2022 ski seasons, commencing on **June 1, 2019** and continuing through **May 31, 2022**.
3. **Termination.**
 - 3.1 This Land Use Permit Agreement is subject to cancellation by FDL at any time upon written notice.
 - 3.2 The City covenants that at the termination of this Land Use Permit Agreement by lapse of time or otherwise, it shall remove its personal property, restore the Permitted Property to its original condition, and desist entry upon the Permitted Property.
4. **No Rent or License Fee.** The City shall owe FDL no rent or license fee under this Land Use Permit Agreement.
5. **Duties of FDL.** FDL shall allow access to the Permitted Property by the City, its authorized representatives and the general public for the purposes of maintenance and use of a cross country ski trail.
6. **Duties of the City.**
 - 6.1 The City shall allow access by FDL and FDL Band Members to the entire Pine Valley Ski Trail at no charge or fee during the life of this Land Use Permit Agreement.
 - 6.2 The City shall not use the Permitted Property at any time for any purpose outside the scope of this Land Use Permit Agreement.
 - 6.3 The City shall not assign, sublet, or otherwise transfer its interest in this Land Use Permit Agreement without the prior written consent of FDL.
 - 6.4 The City shall make no alterations, additions, or changes in the Permitted Property without the advance consent of FDL.
7. **Insurance.**
 - 7.1 **Property Damage.** It shall be the duty of the City and FDL to maintain insurance or self-insurance on their own property, both real and personal. Notwithstanding anything apparently to the contrary in this Land Use Permit Agreement, the City and FDL hereby release on another and their respective partners, officers, employees and property manager from any and all liability or responsibility to the other or anyone claiming through or under them by way of subrogation or otherwise for loss or damage covered by said insurance, even if such loss or damage shall have been caused by the fault or negligence of the other party,







Additional Supportive Information

Provide any pertinent information that will help the Commission in its evaluation of the regional significance of a park or trail. This is especially important when no master plan is available. Also provide any information related to previously completed cost estimates for acquisition, development, operations, maintenance, and programming. Also indicate if any development phasing has been considered.

In 1961 the Northwest Paper Company donated initial 40 acres of the Pine Valley Recreation Area. This was shortly followed by a chalet and ski jump. Throughout the 1960's, 70's, and 80's Pine Valley was the home of high school championships and Olympic athletes.

A master plan for the Cloquet parks and trails was made in 2014. However, this online application software was not able to attach it to the application. The master plan was not made for the GMRPTC's strategic plan so it will not make GMRPTC's requirements. A strategic plan meeting GMRPTC's requirements will be provided. Many items in the plan were implemented; one of them being the initial 2.3 miles of mountain bike trail. The final length of the mountain bike trail is planned to be 5 miles. The master plan also includes updating the current chalet and renovating the ski jump

In addition to the woods and trails of Pine Valley, two ice hockey arenas, one outdoors hockey rink, and a senior center exist within the recreation area. We realize that these facilities are outside the scope of the GMRPTC's mission and funding is not available to them. However, they do bring in a large number of people for daily hockey practices and club, high school, and

semi pro games. A small percentage of these people also use Pine Valley's trails throughout the year.

Also within the recreation area is the city's garage. It too does not meet the scope of the GMRPTC's mission. It is well screened from view so as not to detract from a user's natural experience.

The vision for Pine Valley is to complete the planned 5 miles of mountain bike trail, rebuild or remodel the chalet, renovate the ski jump, pave the parking lot, install snow making equipment, build an interpretative center, and provide more signage to the entrance to the Recreation Area. Of these items, only the completion of the mountain bike trail is currently slated for construction in the summer of 2020. It has a budget of \$125,000, which is being paid for by grants, donations, city funds, and fund raising events.

Future potential plans for a mountain bike trail would include extending the trail to the Pine Valley land west of Spring Lake Road and to include Fond du Lac Indian Reservation land, another 80 acres or more. Another 4 miles of trail could be built on this land, which is flatter than Pine Valley proper and thus encourage more beginner bikers and provide more snowshoe and hiking experiences.

Cloquet was burnt to the ground except for two buildings in the forest fire of October of 1918. A historical interpretative center will explain the significance of hunting and gathering, logging and forest fires in the Minnesota forests to the Native Americans and European settlers.

It is the dream of the Ski Club to have snow making ability and for summer jumping. This would transform the jumping community. There is water available. The problem that needs solving is how to make the water cold enough for snow making. The water in the city pipes is 55 degrees; it needs to be about 32 degrees. There is a place in the park that could be transformed into a holding pond and maintain the natural aesthetics.

The ski jump is over 50 years old and though structurally sound could stand a rejuvenation.

Jumping in the summer would also be transformative. The nearest hills used in the summer for jumping are in the Metro Area and at Coleraine.

The parking lot and entrance need to be upgraded. Currently, the parking lot is gravel and subject to wet spots. Upgraded lighting will discourage unwanted parking and activity.

The chalet is over 50 years old and is in need of serious improvements. The windows have wire grid over them to prevent breaking and entering. The bathrooms do not have doors on the stalls. The sinks are away from the door, because they were originally designed to be entered from the outside, but now are entered from the inside of the chalet. The kitchen area is small cramped and out of date. The timing/storage shed needs to be modernized also.

Every Sunday while there is snow enough for skiing and jumping about 100 people from 3-year olds to 70-year olds participate in the Pine Valley Nordic Ski Club's family outings, which include cross country skiing and ski jumping. The club has over 200 members who come from Cloquet, Esko, Carlton, Wrenshall, Duluth, Cromwell, Saginaw, and Hermantown.

The Cloquet school district has combined with the Esko and Carlton school districts to form multiple sporting teams. The Cloquet Esko Carlton (CEC) has cross country ski team, cross country running team, and hockey team which practice and hold events at Pine Valley facilities.

There are between 70 and 90 high school participants on the ski team. The high school cross country team also has a like number of participants. When the team holds a ski meet various teams from the high school's 16 school Section 7 participate. These teams come from as far away as Ely. High school sectional meets could be held here again if improvements were made to the chalet and parking lot.

Mountain biking is a new fast growing sport. The Cloquet Esko Carlton Cycling Team is no exception and are members of the Minnesota High School Cycling League. They have members from throughout the area. The club uses Pine Valley's mountain bike and ski trails for at least one practice a week.

The Boy Scouts of America Troop 171 uses Pine Valley for skills training in nature study, orienteering, camping, outdoor cooking, search and rescue and winter sports. Pine Valley has been the location of many Eagle Scout projects as the troop has given back to the community. It has been the site for Scouting ceremonies and regional events such as "Fun with Sons".

The Northern Minnesota Track Club uses Pine Valley as one of its runs in its trail series, which is a set of six mostly trail runs each spring and fall. Runners participating in this trail series come Duluth, Superior, Cloquet, Moose Lake, and surrounding area. Each run has on average more than 100 runners.

Between 50 and 200 people come to the ski jumping, Nordic skiing, and running events. The Easter egg hunt brings in 400 people. High school and club practices have 25 to 50 participants. Daily there is usually between one and four cars in the parking lot every hour between both parking lots giving a sense of use.

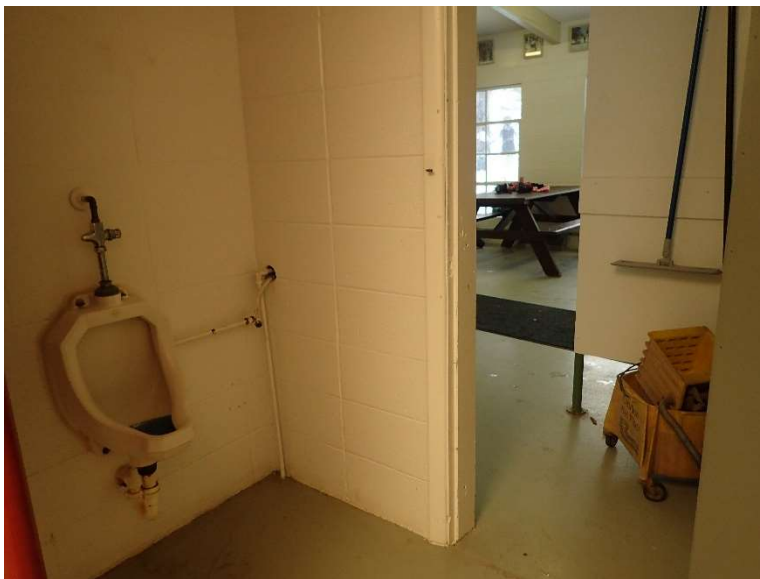
People from the Twin Cities come up to the Arrowhead to ski. An example of this are the forty members of The North Star Ski Touring Club who come to ski for the weekend. They are from the Twin Cities and rented out rooms at the University of Minnesota's Forestry Center, which is 3 miles west of Pine Valley in Cloquet and the Fond du Lac Reservation. They expressly came to ski at Pine Valley and other ski trails in this area.

On a bright sunny Saturday morning before an oncoming snow with the temperatures in the high teens and low twenties with a half inch of new snow from the night before, there were on Pine Valley West (the trail west of Spring Lake Road) 14 skiers, one hiker, and 9 dogs using the trail. The users came from Cloquet, Carlton, Wrenshall, Perch Lake Township within Fond du Lac Reservation, Barnum, and Duluth. Due to a hockey tournament, the hockey arena parking lot was full and overflow parking filled up the skier's parking lot.

Letters of support from the Cloquet Esko Carlton Cycling Team, Boy Scouts of America, Cloquet Schools, Wood City Riders Snowmobile Club, Cloquet Ski Club, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Andrew David show the broad area wide support for Pine Valley and its importance to Cloquet and the region.

Cloquet made a previous application for Regional Designation in 2015, application number 15-015D.





Classification Details

Classification 1: Provides a Special High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Pine Valley provides a natural setting of mature upland and lowland northern Minnesota forests, with even some old growth pines. Once on the trails, which are all natural surface, a person will have a sense of solitude deep within the woods miles from anybody else and development. The pines in Pine Valley are among the most numerous, oldest, and tallest in the region. There are no roads crossing the trails nor roads inside the park, they are only along some of the edges. There is a connector trail from the main trail area to the trail area called Pine Valley West, which does cross a road. Two parking lots are conveniently located at the trail heads.

Pine Valley with its esker and kame, ski jump and rope tow, well maintained trails, chalet, picnic area, and parking lot are of high quality. 2.5 K of the ski trails are lighted. The ski jump and rope tow are also lighted. During the ski season, the ski and bike trails are groomed. The ski

trails are groomed for both skating and classic. During the non-snow season the trails are open to hiking and biking.

Pine Valley is a destination unto itself. Besides every day hiking, biking, skiing, ski jumping, hockey playing, dog walking/running, snowmobiling, Pine Valley is the site for teams to practice and hold events. The Cloquet Esko Carlton ski team, Cloquet Nordic Ski Club, Cloquet Esko Carlton Cross Country team all hold practices and events at Pine Valley.

The Community Education Program sponsors an Easter egg hunt.

The Rotary Color Run, the Lost Forester Adventure Runs, and the Pine Valley Bike and Run events all take place in Pine Valley.



Left: Levi Nelson finished first in Saturday's Color Run at Pine Valley. Below: Runners burst through the last cornstarch color cloud on their way to the finish line. Bottom: Olivia Kowalke enjoys a snow cone after her race. Photos by Caleb Swanson / Pine Knot News



Runners have a color blast

Caleb Swanson
news@pineknotnews.com

Dozens of runners and volunteers gathered to have fun and honor the late Cole Drechsler during the Cloquet Rotary Club's annual Color Run Saturday, June 13. Their transformation from the start to the finish line rivaled caterpillars turning into butterflies. The Rotary Club, the local Junior Rotarian program and the Drechsler family worked hand-in-hand to create a colorful race that Cole would have loved.

"He provided lots of color," Dawn Drechsler said in last week's interview with Pine Knot News.

It was a humid day but that did not stop the enthusiastic crowd who came out to run, jog, or walk Pine Valley's 2.5-kilometer loop. Much like Cole, the volunteers made sure the runners were draped in colors. When runners were not getting pelted with colored cornstarch they had the chance to participate in a



silent auction, with all proceeds going toward a Cloquet Ed Foundation Scholarship in Drechsler's name. Proceeds from the annual Color Run go toward helping the Rotary's charitable efforts, including many different school and community activities and special causes. Find out more at www.cloquetcolorrun.com.

An egg-cellent day for Easter fun!



Annual egg hunt draws a crowd

Jana Peterson
news@pineknotnews.com

Thank goodness Easter came later this year. Had it fallen a week earlier, the parking lot at Cloquet's Pine Valley would have been covered in snow.

Instead, the day was bright and sunny — although there were still puddles to be jumped in — offering children and their parents the warmest Easter egg hunt since the city of Cloquet, Cloquet Chamber of Commerce and Cloquet Community Ed started the free annual event seven years ago.

Brightly colored plastic eggs littered the ground at the woodland park, which was divided into sections according to age groups. When the gates were opened at precisely 11 a.m., kids swept through like tiny vacuum cleaners, hoovering up the eggs and depositing them into baskets and plastic bags as fast as they could.

It is a fairly sustainable event, as the



A tiny fan gets a moment to chat with the Easter Bunny in the parking lot at Pine Valley.

children trade in their empty eggs for bags of candy or, in the case of a golden egg, for prizes donated by area businesses. Then the thousands of plastic eggs can be reused the following year.

"The temperature was



Children run helter-skelter across Pine Valley, picking up brightly colored plastic Easter eggs and looking for the special golden ones during the Cloquet egg hunt, held at Pine Valley Park Saturday morning. Close to 400 children participated in the popular annual event. *Photos by Amber Nichols / Pine Knot News*



Little Kyle Jenninson of Cloquet takes great care dumping the plastic eggs into the box so they can be reused next year. The kids all get bags of candy in exchange for their eggs, which are empty when they are hidden at the park.

almost 70 degrees, our best day ever," Community Ed director Ruth Reeves told the Cloquet school board Monday, adding that they had close to 400 kids turn out for the free egg hunt.

5 finish Lost Forester race

Jana Peterson
sports@pineknotnews.com

Cloquet's own wacky race, the Lost Forester Adventure Run, had a record 23 racers this year and 22 finishers (because one had to leave to get to a soccer game). Only five racers, however, officially finished within the required 3-hour time limit, according to organizer and lost forester himself, Tim Krohn.

The Lost Forester is a race in and around Pine Valley recreation area and the Otter Creek Area on the Fond du Lac Reservation, and runners travel across the trails — and through the woods connecting them — instead of on them. Krohn said the race is "eightish miles."

"It depends on the way you choose from the Forester to the finish," Krohn said. "So it can be eight miles, or 11, or somewhere in between."

Here's how the Ultra Signup website describes the Lost Forester race: "between 8 and 10 miles on trail and off-trail up and down the steepest hills, through swamps, creeks, and dense woods in Pine Valley and surrounding area in search of the Lost Forester." The route is an off-trail ribbon line until the runners find the Lost Forester. The runners find their own way back to the finish using a map from the Lost Forester and their compass.

"There's no map to get to the Lost Forester," said



Racers in the Lost Forester race wait for the countdown to begin the race Sept. 2 at and around Cloquet's Pine Valley. All have on "motley" flannel to receive a five-minute time deduction. Photo by Dave Hanson

Krohn, explaining that the racers followed orange ribbons to reach the Forester and get the map. They were also supposed to collect plot or data cards at various locations, but a bear got into one of the plot bags and destroyed all the cards in it before the race, Krohn said.

"So we just skipped that part," said the cheerful Krohn.

Racers got 5 minutes time shaved off for wearing flannel, as usual. Ten men and 11 women ran the race, plus the one who didn't finish and one who signed up but didn't run.

Last year's winner, Cloquet's Tom Anderson, age 50, took first place, finishing in 2 hours, 22 minutes and 59 seconds. He was followed by Scott Hoberg, 41, of Duluth, with a time of 2:27:37.

Third-place finisher was Christopher Hanson, 48, of Nisswa in 2:29:51, followed by Ryan Larsen of Saginaw in 2:30:04. Larsen was the youngest racer, at age 17.

The fifth place finisher — and last person to finish in under three hours — was Andy Holak of Duluth, in 2:38:00.

Krohn pointed out that Anderson actually finished a longer race in less time this year.

"He was getting pushed from behind, so he ended up finishing 15 minutes faster even though the course was half a mile longer," Krohn said. "They really cooked."

Speaking of cooking, all the racers enjoyed pan-cakes after the Labor Day races, which also included 11K and 5.5K trail races. A total of 37 runners also participated in the 5.5K race that morning and 11 in the 11K race.

Krohn said they raised approximately \$2,300 for the Blue House Orphanage in Uganda.

"Their entire budget is about \$50,000 a year to care for about 25 girls, so this will help," Krohn said.



Tim Miller of Cambridge enjoys a wee bit of mud and water in one of the multiple swamps in search of the Lost Forester. Photo by Greg Locijowski



Kara Foucault of Proctor finishes the Lost Forester race by climbing the 40-meter ski jump landing hill and ringing the forest's dinner bell. Photo by Jeff Krohn

Cloquet/Scanlon:
Thank You!
for participating in
the free Energy Analysis project



With the participation of nearly 120 businesses and 130 homes, energy savings of **more than 128,800 kWh** and **435 therms** was achieved through direct installation of energy-efficient products.

That's enough energy saved to:



Power 14 homes
for a year



Take 20 cars off
the road for a year



Save 100 tons
of carbon

KEEP THE ENERGY SAVINGS GOING!

VISIT www.mnpower.com/EnergyConservation
for additional ways to save electricity in your home and business.

VISIT www.minnesotenergyresources.com
for natural gas saving tips and tools.



The Cloquet-Esko-Carlton mountain biking team at Cloquet's Pine Valley practice area Tuesday evening. Photos by Jordan Allen / Pine Knot Sports

Mountain bike team gears up for third year

Jordan Allen
news@pinenotnews.com

On any given Tuesday, Thursday, or Sunday you may see the large group of mountain bikers standing eagerly, roughly in a circle. This group is the Cloquet-Esko-Carlton mountain biking team, and they are itching to get riding on the trails to continue their training for the upcoming races scattered across Minnesota and Wisconsin.

There is a significant age range, with the youngest riders in sixth grade and the oldest preparing to start their senior year of high school.

The CEC mountain biking team has been riding local trails three days a week since early July in preparation for the upcoming competition season that runs August through late October.

Since the mountain bike team's founding in 2017, participation has almost doubled from its original 15-member team to more than 36 student-athletes in the past two years. The members come from throughout the region. As the name implies, many riders are from Cloquet, Esko or Carlton; however, the team reaches out to any sixth- to 12th-grade cyclists in the area. Some riders live as far away as Burnum, while others commute from the Proctor/Hermantown area.

Despite their age- and geographical differences, the thing that seems to connect the team

mates is the desire to have fun and get faster.

"My goal is to get faster," said Hermantown seventh-grader Tyler Fath. Fath is gearing up for his second year on the team and hopes that riding with others will push him to reach his goal. Other members just want to get out, hang out with their friends, and get some exercise. The coaches allow the kids to come up with their own goals, and they try to use cycling to develop the students into the people that they want to be. Head coach Matt Haglin plans to use the bike as a catalyst in order "to develop strong minds, strong bodies and strong character" within each of the cyclists.

The National Interscholastic Cycling Association, an organization that runs the many leagues across the United States, hopes that the student-cyclists will learn the importance of teamwork and respect while encouraging kids to exercise, make friends, and improve themselves as people. The association's mission is best conveyed by Matt's daughter, Layla Haglin, who said that "it doesn't matter how good you are, you just need to come to practice, have fun, and try to get better."

Her mother — who is team director — encourages any teenager or kid who wants to get out, get active or make some new friends, to get involved and join what she believes is "one of the most rewarding things [she has]



Seventh-graders Tyler Fath and Max Foster bike along a trail at Cloquet's Pine Valley during practice Tuesday evening.

ever done."

While racing is not required, many of the team's cyclists plan on putting themselves in the test this upcoming season. NICA hosts seven different races across Minnesota and Wisconsin, including one in Duluth. In accordance with NICA rules, the team may race in only five of the races, allowing for two bye weeks. Each race has several

different categories, including middle school, freshman, junior varsity and varsity. Middle school racers — grades 6-8 — race one lap, which is usually around four miles long. Freshman racers go two laps, and junior varsity racers bike either two or three laps. Finally, the varsity, comprised of the best riders on the team, must ride a total of four laps in under 90 minutes.

The team practices at Pine Valley in Cloquet, Spirit Mountain, and other local trails. They encourage any interested students in grades sixth through 12 to register and participate on the team, even though the season has started.

Contact Matt Haglin at cecmib@gmail.com For more information go to minnesotamtb.org

Pine Knot

News

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Jumping right in

Skiers flock to Pine Valley

Jana Polakson
news@pineknotnews.com

Ski jumpers and Nordic combined racers from Chicago, the Twin Cities, Coleraine and Ishpeming, Michigan made their way here Saturday to compete in the first Central Division competition of the season at Cloquet's Pine Valley.

Out-of-town jumpers were astounded by the amount of snow in northern Minnesota. St. Paul's Joe Berens was the official Central Division coach on site Saturday, and called the conditions "wonderful."

More than 2 feet of snow was certainly a good thing for jumping, as the landings at the Joe Nowak Ski Area were nicely groomed. Conditions were not so great for Nordic skiing as fresh snow made for slow racing, said 13-year-old Maxim Glyvka of the Norge Ski Club.

Glyvka was one of only two skiers to jump off the 40-meter jump Saturday, along with Norge teammate Sandra Sproach.

There's a long tradition of ski jumping in this community, which is one of only two cities in Minnesota outside the Twin Cities area with active ski jumps and a local club (Coleraine is the other).

Continued on Page 8



Above: Nathaniel Berg-Stojek flies off the 20-meter ski jump during Saturday's competition at Pine Valley.

Berg-Stojek is a member of the Tri-Norse ski club in central Wisconsin and took first in the U12 age group for jumping and third in Nordic combined.

Left: Cloquet's Ephram Marc lands a 10-meter jump Saturday. Marc placed third in the U10 age group for jumps and fourth in Nordic combined.

Photos by Matthew Moses / Pine Knot News

Ski jumping ...

Continued from Page 1

Longtime Cloquet High School ski coach and teacher Joe Nowak — a Duluth native who had jumped in international as well as local competitions — helped put Cloquet on the ski jumping map in 1960, when he convinced the Northwest Paper Company to donate land to build some proper ski jumps.

Long story short, he was successful. Once the city accepted the 40 acres of land (now home to the Pine Valley ski jumps and trails along with two hockey arenas), Nowak — with lots of help — went to work clearing trees and brush and erecting a temporary wooden jump in the fall of 1961. The park became a hub of activity in the winter months, both for competitors and kids who liked to be outside. There was downhill skiing (where the tubing hills were in recent years), ski jumping and Nordic skiing on the trails that meandered up and down the hills there. In the 1960s and '70s, Cloquet skiers won seven individual jumping titles and 12 jumping team titles, thanks to the facility at Pine Valley.

Today kids (and a few adults) are still jumping off the same 30- and 40-meter jumps that were built with donated steel and volunteer labor in 1963.

A number of Cloquet skiers took first place for their age groups and gender in jumping this weekend.

First-place medals were claimed by the following competitors:

- 5 meter jump: Frances Langer, Claire Biehl and Matthew Gregor
- 10 meter jump: Frances Langer, Brock Peterson, TJ Gregor and Isaac Larson
- 20 meter jump: Kaija Copenhaver, Nathaniel Berg-Stojak, Grant Biehl
- 40 meter jump: Maxim Glyvka and Sandra Sprosch

Cloquet's most elite jumpers and skiers, Aidan and Charlotte Ripp, didn't compete Saturday, as Aidan was in Park City, Utah, at the Nordic Combined Continental Cup and his



Maxim Glyvka, 13, flies off the 40-meter jump at Cloquet's Pine Valley.

younger sister — a freshman at Cloquet High School — was sick. Both may have outgrown the jumps at Pine Valley.

Still, Glyvka brought a little star power.

Glyvka and his dad, Oleg, have made the drive to Cloquet for several years now. Oleg, a former Ukrainian national ski jumping coach, greets familiar faces with a hug, and is happy to talk about his son's progress.

Maxim jumped on two 120-meter hills, one in Wisconsin and one in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He competed at Junior National Championships in Park City, where he didn't do his best jumping.

He placed third on a 70-meter hill at Norge this fall, without snow, in the U16 class, against the national champion (who placed first).

"Last year was probably one of the most phenomenal years I'd ever had," said Glyvka.

He still likes Cloquet, though, its crazy 40-meter jump and the beautiful park that surrounds it.

"The people here are really awesome," Glyvka said. "They make me feel like I'm welcome here. I really appreciate it."

It's a low-key place to compete, with homemade cookies for sale in the concession stand and medals made of freshly cut round wooden discs with the places written in marker.

Longtime and newer parent volunteers keep things running smoothly at Cloquet's nearly 60-year-old Nordic hub.

And the kids keep showing up, generation after generation.



Above: The youngest group of Nordic skiers Saturday speed as fast as they can in a 200-meter race. Luella Marc took first place for the youngest girls group in the Nordic combined race. Right: Frances Langer, 5, shows good form off the 10-meter jump at Pine Valley Saturday. Langer took first place in both the 5- and 10-meter jumps in the U6 age group. Photos by Matthew Moses / Pine Knot News



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We appreciate all the local businesses and organizations that have chosen to support our locally owned and operated Pine Knot News with their advertising dollars. The following advertisers appear in this week's paper.

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Classification 2: Provides a Natural and Scenic Setting Offering a Compelling Sense of Place (300 word limit)

Pine Valley's 243 acres of forest is on the southern edge of the North Shore Highlands Section of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province.

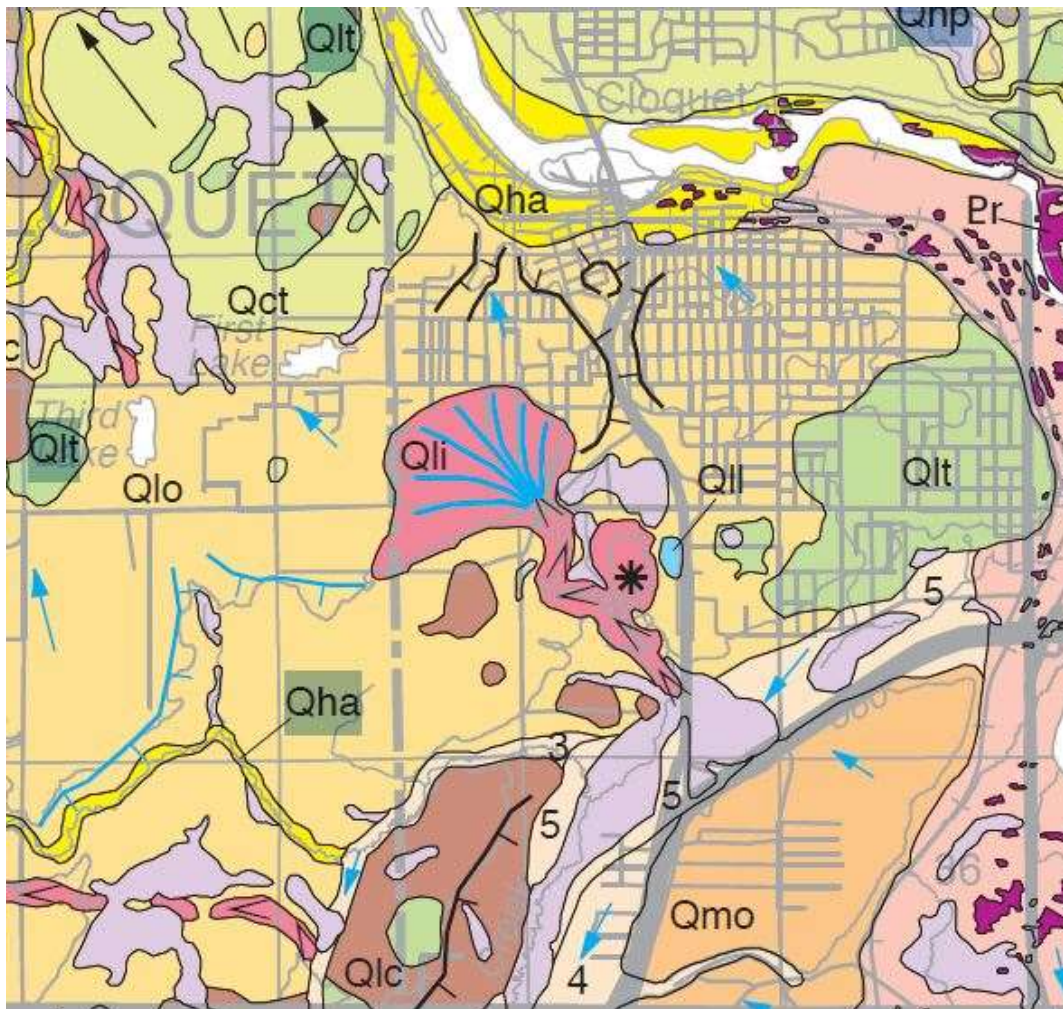
Geologically, Pine Valley encompasses a very rare geological formation. As per the Geologic Atlas of Carlton County and the Southern Portion of St. Louis County, Pine Valley has an

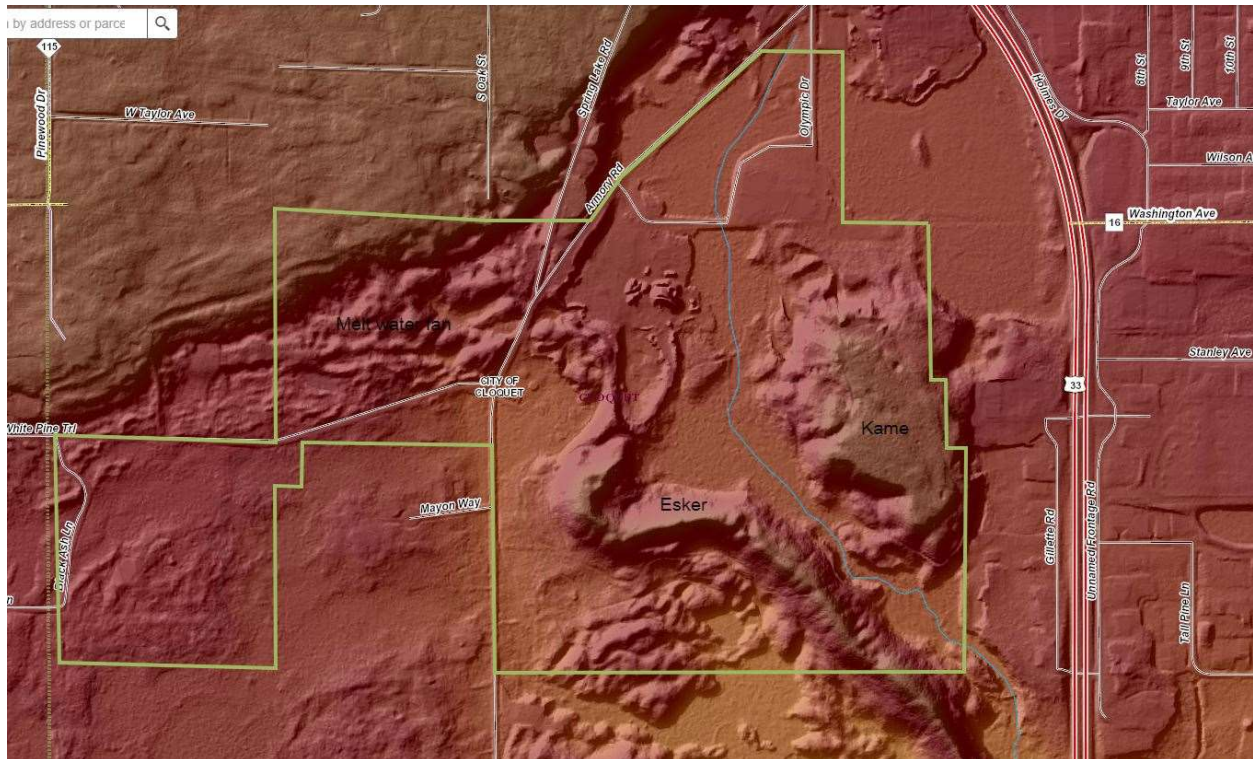
exceedingly rare Qli formation, which is an ice-contact deposit having an esker, a kame, and a meltwater fan deposit. This formation is the only such formation for many, many miles in Carlton County and southern St. Louis Co.

The Cloquet forest fire of 1918 devastated Cloquet and the surrounding forests. As such the forest of Pine Valley is between 25 and 100 years old with remnant old growth white and red pines scattered throughout the park. The eskers, valleys, flat uplands, and wetlands give Pine Valley a sense of solitude and harmony with nature.

Pine Valley is in the City of Cloquet with a population of over 12,000 and adjacent to the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation. There will be by the end of the summer of 2020 11 miles of stand-alone non-motorized trails and 1.5 miles of snowmobile trail. Pine Valley trails are planned to be connected to Cloquet's marked bike lanes, which in turn are connected to the paved bike trail between Scanlon and Carlton, which connects in turn to the State's Munger Bike Trail.

Pine Valley is within 3 miles of a population of 12,000, Cloquet. Duluth, Hermantown, Proctor, and Superior, WI are between 20 and 40 miles from Pine Valley. Together they have a population of about 125,000.





Classification 3: Well-located to Serve a Regional Need and/or Tourist Destination (300 word limit)

Pine Valley is located a quarter of a mile off of Minnesota Highway 33 just west of Cloquet's main shopping district, which are the gateway to the Arrowhead Region along a major north-south thoroughfare between the Metro Area and the Arrowhead Region.

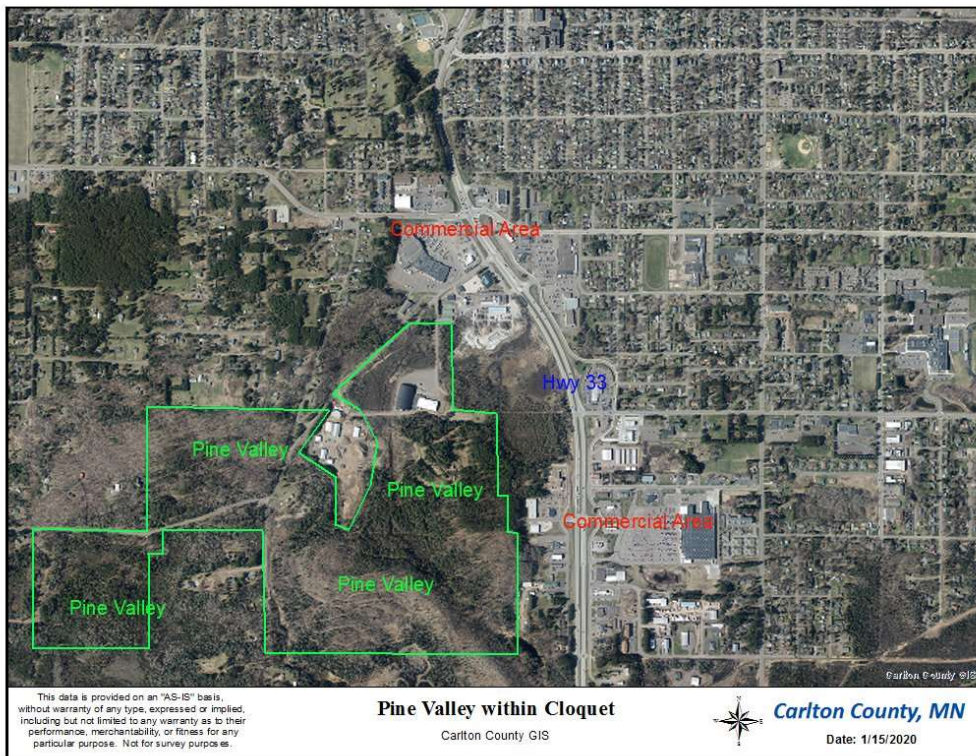
The high school events and other events bring in participants from all over. The Nordic Combine event brings in skiers and jumpers from the metro area, Coleraine, Eau Claire, Madison, the UP of Michigan, and Chicago. The Lost Forester Adventure runs brings in runners from Duluth, the Cities, Brainerd, and even Utah.

High school teams from outside the area are known to make the trip for a weekend ski practice. They will also stop at Pine Valley for a day while on a trip to an event.

Being just a quarter mile from Hwy 33 the parking lot can be used as a trail-head for the snowmobile trail number 238, which is maintained by the Wood City Riders. Snowmobile trail number 238 runs through Pine Valley on its way to the many other trails in the region. When identified as a trail-head it will be put onto state's and club's trail maps.

People from the Twin Cities come up to the Arrowhead to ski. An example of this are the forty members of The North Star Ski Touring Club who came to ski for the weekend. They are from the Twin Cities and rented out rooms at the University of Minnesota's Forestry Center, which is

3 miles west of Pine Valley in Cloquet and the Fond du Lac Reservation. They expressly came to ski at Pine Valley and other ski trails in this area.



Classification 4: Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region (300 word limit)

Pine Valley fills several gaps with its ski jumps, fast drying trails, convenient location, and multi-use facilities. Pine Valley's 4 ski jumps are the only jumps for 75 miles. Ski jumping is a niche sport and as such there are few ski jumps in the world. In the Upper Midwest, there are only 13 jumps. Pine Valley is a feeder jump to the USSA/US Nordic sanctioned jumps. The Cloquet Nordic Ski Club, which is open to all, is host to youth ski jumping practices every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. In addition, the 5.5 K competition quality ski trail offers a place to practice for Cloquet Esko Carlton ski team and other teams from outside the area.

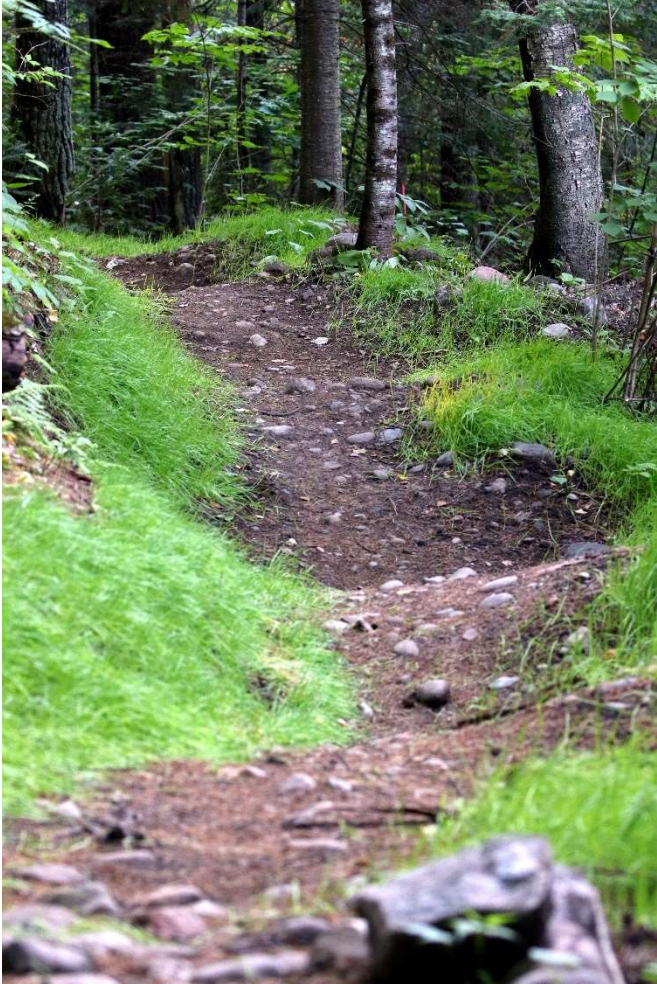
Currently there isn't any other regionally designated park or trail in Carlton County. People come from Cloquet and the surrounding area for a ski, hike, or bike ride.

With the majority of the trails and all of the competition trails on the kame and esker, these trails are the first in the region to dry up and be usable after rains and spring break up. This means people will come and use the trails when others are closed due to being wet.

The chalet and picnic area are conducive to gatherings. The chalet is used by the clubs, completion events, weddings, and other family gatherings.

Pine Valley is a true multi-use recreation area. Besides the ski and mountain bike trails and the ski jump, the snowmobile trail number 238 passes through Pine Valley. The parking lot can be used as a trail-head for the snowmobile trail, which has access to Cloquet's shopping district, Fond du Lac Reservation and its Black Bear Casino, many miles of state snowmobile trails.





To: Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (c/o Tim Krohn)

From: Andrew David

RE: Pine Valley Recreation Area Regional Designation

Date: 26 January 2020

This is a letter of support for granting the Pine Valley Recreation Area in Cloquet a Regional Designation with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Probably the best way I can explain my support, and the relevance for a Regional Designation, is to say that although I live between Warba and Grand Rapids I have been to Pine Valley multiple times over the past decade for competitions, practices and workshops.

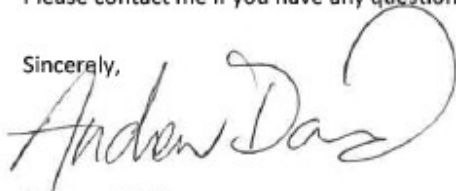
My son was a ski jump and nordic combined athlete from 8-18 years of age and just finished this past year when he went away to college. I am still involved with our home club, the Itasca Ski and Outing Club in Coleraine. That club, like the Cloquet Ski Club, provides recreational and competitive experiences for male and female athletes in ski jumping and nordic combined (a sport that combines ski jumping and cross-country skiing). Because of our proximity we consider Cloquet to be a sister club and each year we attend each other's sanctioned competition events and an unofficial dual site Northstar Cup.

Both of these sites belong to USA Nordic Central Division and when Cloquet hosts their competition in early December it attracts jumpers and nordic combined skiers from throughout the Midwest. I am serious when I say that skiers come from as far away as northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin and the Twin Cities to jump on early season snow in Cloquet. Finally, the Cloquet City Meet held in March often is the last opportunity to jump and ski before the equipment is put away for the winter. It is not an exaggeration to say that Pine Valley is known well beyond the city of Cloquet.

My son learned to hone his jumping skills at Pine Valley, got his first taste of travel in the sport of ski jumping and has made life-long friends with two jumpers from Cloquet (Aidan Ripp and Woody Waugh). Personally, I have skied there and have benefited from the friendships that have developed as a result of my son's involvement in the sport.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Andrew DAVID

19780 County Road 566, Bovey, MN 55709

218.244.6794 andrew.david.mn@gmail.com

WOOD CITY RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB - CLOQUET, MINNESOTA

January 27, 2020

Tim Krohn
Pine Valley Recreation Area
City of Cloquet Minnesota

Dear Mr. Krohn:

I write this letter on behalf of Wood City Riders Snowmobile Club in support of your application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission to obtain Regional Designation for Pine Valley Recreation Area in Cloquet Minnesota. Our club, a 501c3 non profit, maintains over 50 miles of snowmobile trail network around the Cloquet area, including approximately 1.5 miles within the boundaries of the multi use Pine Valley Recreation Area.

As a club founded to support motorized recreation, we also value our partnerships with non-motorized recreation user groups such as biking, skiing and hiking associations, to further enhance symbiotic recreational opportunities for all interests in our area. Pine Valley Recreation Area is certainly an excellent example of an area that offers many amenities for both motorized and non-motorized users for a variety of interests, all while conveniently located right in town.

Please let this letter serve as an official record of our support for Regional Designation for Pine Valley Recreation Area, and for future improvement and development plans allowing for expanded and improved recreational opportunity and access for all types of users in the area.

We look forward to this and future opportunities to provide mixed use recreational opportunity for our area.

Sincerely,



Chris Rokke

President

Wood City Riders Snowmobile Club

Wood City Riders Snowmobile Club PO Box 657 Cloquet, Minnesota 55720 t 218.591.2602

www.woodcityriders.com

woodcityriders@gmail.com

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE CLOQUET AREA SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM SINCE 1970