



Joyce Estate

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST SERVICE

WELCOME

Northern Minnesota's scenic woodland and lake region developed a national reputation as a vacation area in the first three decades of the 20th century.

It was in these north woods that Chicago lumber baron David Gage Joyce developed a summer retreat around Trout Lake the family called Nopeming (Ojibwe word for place of rest).

Joyce equipped his retreat with numerous amenities, combining rustic pleasures with civilized comforts, including a private telephone cable, electric lighting, hot-water system, greenhouse, landscaped grounds, and golf course.

The first buildings went up at the Joyce Estate in the summer of 1917 to provide sleeping quarters.

The construction the following summer focused on utilities and storage structures to supply the estate with electricity, hot water and ice. Most of the estate's buildings, recreational facilities and landscaping were in place by the mid-1920s.

The Joyce family used the estate until 1972. The USDA Forest Service heritage and interpretive programs manages this site that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Visitors can still enjoy many of the features of the unique architecture of the remaining structures or follow a tour by numbered posts to experience the expanse of the estate.

MAIN LODGE COMPLEX

The main lodge and two sleeping cabins – the Joyce cabin and the guest cabins – were the first structures built on the estate, and other structures soon followed. The wooded peninsula on the west side of Trout Lake was the social gathering area for the Joyce family and their guests.

The rustic log architecture and stick work is reminiscent of the architectural style used in the Great Camps of the Adirondacks in upstate New York. The estate buildings were made from native materials, such as logs and stone, to harmonize with the natural landscape.

CABINS ON THE HILL

The “Cabins on the Hill” were constructed primarily for the Joyce’s daughter Beatrice C., the butler, maid, and seaplane pilot. Guests were invited to use these facilities, including the Peterson cabin and the Mary Louise cabin, named for these frequent visitors from Chicago.

GARDEN/GREENHOUSE

The greenhouse was established in 1925 to grow a wide variety of flowering plants planted across the estate. Coupled with a vast vegetable garden and white spruce plantation, this area provided many of the necessities as well as the luxuries of the Joyce Estate.

CARETAKERS AREA

The Joyces hired local people as managers, caretakers, gardeners, cooks, workmen, and seasonal game wardens. For special occasions, butlers and maids arrived from Chicago. The caretaker’s area consisted of 17 buildings including employee sleeping quarters, utility, boat, seaplane, and automobile storage areas, and the power house. At least one caretaker lived on site year round until 1986.

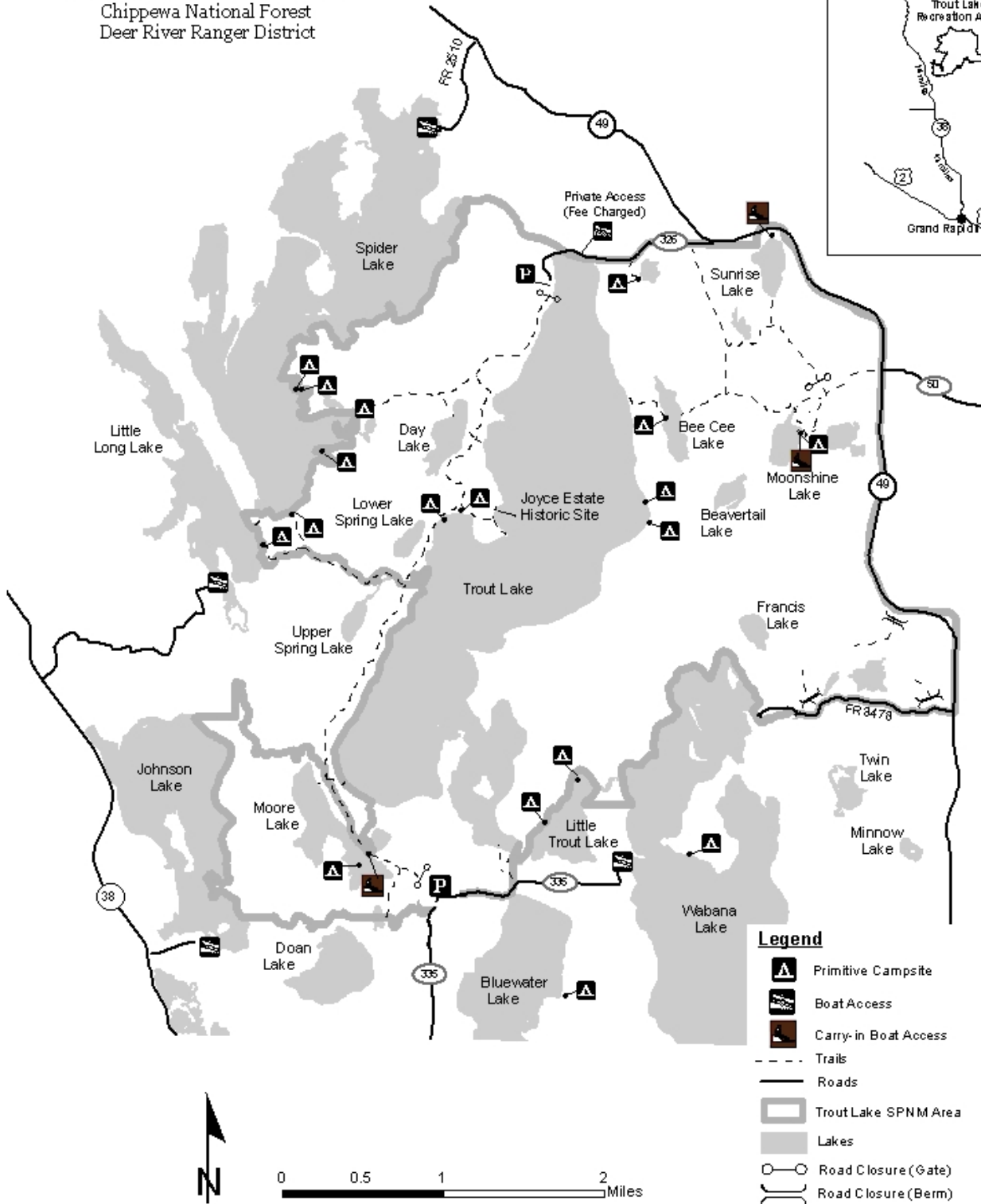
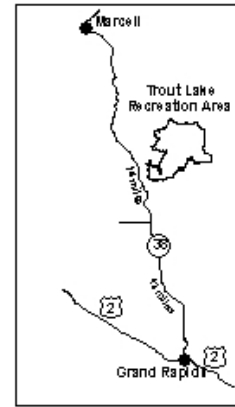
RECREATION

A pitch and putt golf course and accompanying clubhouse was constructed in 1923 along the shore of Trout Lake southwest of the main lodge. The par-three course consisted of nine holes varying in length from 35 yards, nicknamed Joyce Doom, to the 74 yard ninth hole called The Rancho. Golf course rules permitted a player whose ball landed in a bear or deer track to redrop the ball at the same distance from the hole without penalty. Nature has taken back much of the golf course, as well as the clay tennis court that had been at the water’s edge. The estate also had a gun house that stored trapshooting equipment and other firearms.



Trout Lake

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area
Chippewa National Forest
Deer River Ranger District



- Legend**
- Primitive Campsite
 - Boat Access
 - Carry-in Boat Access
 - Trails
 - Roads
 - Trout Lake SPNM Area
 - Lakes
 - Road Closure (Gate)
 - Road Closure (Berm)

