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Ski trails

From/ 15C

shelters, camping, connects with Minn./Wis. Boundary Trail.

Chaska (55318)—Jonathan-Chaska (612) 448-4700, Jonathan Assn., Lake Village Center, Chaska—9-mi. beginner to advanced. . . . Carver Park Reserve (612) 472-4911, west of Victoria between Hwys. 5 & 7, 9.9-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, ski rental, instruction by reservation, map, parking fee, tent camping.

Cokato (55321)—Carl A. Johnson Co. Forest, 7 miles north of Cokato, 1½ miles east of County Rd. E, 2-K intermediate trail.

Cottage Grove (55016)—Valleywood Ski Trail (612) 458-2828, 5.1-mi. of connecting loops between Cottage Grove, Oak Park, Pine Tree Pond Park; maps, shelters and parking in area.

Hastings (55033)—Lebanon Hills Park (612) 437-6608, Dakota County Parks Dept., 8502 127th St.; 1 mile west of Hwy. 3 on Cliff Rd.; 8-mi. marked and groomed. Map at parking lot. Toilets.

Spring Lake Park—(612) 437-6608, Dakota County Parks Dept., 8502 127th St., 2 miles west of Hastings on County Rd. 42, north on Idell ½-mi. to E. 127th St.—5-mi. marked and groomed trail, maps at parking lot. Toilets. Closed Christmas.

Jordan (55352)—Minnesota Valley Trail (612) 492-6400, Rt. 1, trails at Louisville Swamp Unite (Carver Rapids), 6-mi. marked and groomed, intermediate, map, toilets, shelter, parking. . . . Lawrence Wayside, 5.8-mi. marked and groomed, beginner, map, parking fee, toilets, shelter.

Lake Elmo (55042)—Sunfish Lake Park, Hwy. 212 between 694 and Lake Elmo, 4-mi. marked, beginner to advanced, 3 loops, map, parking.

Lakeville (55044)—Minnreg Ski Touring Center, Honeywell Country Club, Minnreg exit off I-35W, (612) 435-6166; 15-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to advanced; 10-K lighted; ski rental and instruction, map, trail-use fee, parking clubhouse, ski shop, trails connected with Ritter Park. . . . Ritter Park (612) 469-4431, 195th St. west of 35-W, Parks and Recreation, City Hall, 15-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced; map, rest rooms, parking fee.

Marine-on-St. Croix (55047)—William O'Brien Park, (612) 433-2421, 9.8-mi. marked and groomed beginner to advanced; map, pit toilets, limited pack-in.

Maple Plain (55359)—Baker Park Reserve, (612) 473-4693, 9.3-K marked and groomed beginner to advanced, ski rental, instructions, map, chalet, snack bar, barn picnic area, toilets, parking fee.

Minneapolis—Columbia Ski Touring Area (612) 348-2121, 33rd & Central Avs. NE., 2.2-K beginner to intermediate, rentals, instruction, food service, rest rooms, chalet. . . . Hiawatha Ski Touring Area (612) 348-2121, 46th St. & Longfellow Av. S., Minneapolis 55406, 3 lighted trails up to 3-K each, marked and groomed, rentals, instruction, map, chalet. . . . Theodore Wirth/Karku Touring Center (see third paragraph above).

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department also lists casual skiing (untracked trails) around Lake Calhoun (3½ miles, beginner and intermediate), along Minnehaha Creek (between Humboldt & Cedar Avs., intermediate through advanced—some streets to cross), at Northeast Park (16th Av. & NE. Pierce St., 2 miles, beginners), and at Shingle Creek Park (between 53rd Av. N. & Webber Park, 3 miles, beginners.)

Minnetonka (55343)—City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., (612) 933-2511, has information on five areas all with marked and groomed beginner to intermediate trails, maps: Big Willow Park, Evergreen Park, Long Lake Park, Meadow Park and Purgatory Creek Park.

Monticello (55362)—Harry Larson Memorial Forest, 8 mi. west on County Rd. 111, 3-K intermediate, toilets. . . . Lake Maria State Park (612) 878-2325, 21-K marked & groomed, beginner and intermediate, map, winter camping. . . . Manitou Lakes (612) 536-5700, Northwest YMCA, 35-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, map, lodge, picnic table, toilets, shelters, parking donation . . . Montissippi, west of Monticello, 3-K beginners, toilets, picnic tables.

Orono (55356)—Luce Line Trail, (612) 296-2553, Plymouth to Orono, 6-mi. marked and groomed beginner trail; second segment, Orono to Watertown, 12-mi. marked and groomed beginner trail. Maps from DNR office, 1200 Warner Rd., St. Paul 55106.

Osseo (55369)—Elm Creek Park Reserve, (612) 425-2324, 13351 Elm Creek Rd. northwest of Osseo, 9.3-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, rentals, instruction by reservation, toilets, picnic area, parking fee.

Prior Lake (55372)—Cleary Lake Regional Park, (612) 447-2171, 9-K marked and groomed beginner to intermediate, ski rental, map, toilets, snack bar, instruction by reservation, parking fee.

Richfield (55423)—Wood Lake Nature Center, (612) 861-5407, 735 Lake Shore Dr., 3-mi. beginner to intermediate, ski rental, toilets, shelter, parking.

Rockford (55373)—Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, (612) 473-4693, Hennepin County Rd. 55, 1-mi. west of Hwy. 55 near Rockford. 8-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, map, picnic areas, fireplaces, toilets, shelters, parking fee.

Rogers (55374)—Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, (612) 473-4693, 9.3-K marked and groomed, intermediate to advanced, maps, pit toilets, shelters, parking fee.

St. Paul—Battle Creek (612) 777-1361, Ramsey County Park Dept., 1850 White Bear Av., St. Paul 55109, 2-mi. marked and groomed advanced; instruction, map, chalet, snack bar rest rooms. . . . Ft. Snelling State Park (612) 727-1961, Hwy. 5 & Post Rd., 15.8-mi. marked and groomed beginner trail, map, toilets, shelter. . . . Highland Golf Course (612) 699-6082, Edgecumbe Rd. & Montreal, 315-mi. marked and groomed beginner to intermediate, rentals, instruction, map, food service, rest rooms. . . . Keller Golf Course (612) 484-3011, Hwys. 61 & 36, 2-mi. beginner to advanced, parking, equipment sales, rentals, instruction, toilets. . . . Mendota Heights (612) 452-1850, trails at Friendly Hills Park (2-mi. beginner to advanced) and Valley Park, 2.5-mi. beginner to advanced. . . . Phalen Park (612) 778-0424 or 292-7400, 10-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to intermediate, rentals, instruction, food, toilets, shelter, parking.

Stillwater (55082)—Pine Point (612) 439-6058, 11661 N. Myeron Rd., 5-mi. marked and groomed beginner to advanced, map, picnic tables, barbeque grills, toilets. . . . South Washington County Park (612) 439-6058, 5.3-mi. beginner to advanced marked and groomed, map, picnic tables, barbeque grills, toilets.

Savage (55378)—Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve (612) 447-6913, 15-K marked and groomed intermediate to advanced, map, toilets, snack bar, parking fee.

Arrowhead

Aitkin (56431)—Brown Lake, 2-mi. north of Aitkin on Co. Rd. 24, 6-mi. marked and groomed intermediate. . . . No Achen Ski Trail, 9-mi. marked and groomed beginner to advanced, map at courthouse in Aitkin.

Bigfork (56628)—Scenic State Park (218) 743-3362, 5 mi. east of Bigfork on County Rd. 7; 13-mi. marked and groomed trails.

Biwabik (55708)—Wine Creek Ski Touring Trail (218) 865-6315, Giant's Ridge Ski Area, 4.2-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to intermediate, map, food toilets, parking.

Carlton (55718)—Jay Cooke State Park (218) 384-4610, 3-mi. east of Carlton on Hwy. 210; 30-mi. marked and groomed, intermediate to advanced, camping, toilets, shelter, parking.

Cloquet (55720)—Pine Valley Ski Area, Hwy. 33 on Amory Rd., 7.5-mi. marked and groomed intermediate to advanced; used for competition; map, trail use fee, food service and rest rooms at chalet, instruction available.

Crane Lake—Mukooda Ski Trail, Voyageurs National Park (218) 283-9416, Box 50 International Falls, 56649, 4 mi. north of Crane Lake. 11-k marked, intermediate, food available at Crane Lake, winter camping, parking.

Cromwell (55726)—Fond du Lac State Forest Trail (218) 644-3664, Hwy. 73 north from Cromwell, 12-mi. marked 7 groomed, map and information from DNR Forestry.

Deer River (56636)—Blueberry Hills (218) 246-2321, 5 mi. northeast, 20-K marked, groomed and tracked, intermediate to advanced. . . . Cut Foot Sioux Trails (218) 246-2123, Box 308, 22-mi. beginner to advanced, marked, mapped, campsites, toilets. . . . Homer's Bowstring Resort (218) 556-4321, 101 Inger St., private trails for guests. . . . Simpson Creek Trails (218) 246-2123, Box 308, 16 mi. north, 12.5-mi. beginner to intermediate, connects to Cut Foot Sioux. . . . Thistledew George Washington State Forest (218) 246-8343, 35 mi. north of Nashwauk on Hwy. 65, Intermediate to advanced, map, camping, toilets.

Duluth (65810)—Spirit Mt. Recreation Area (218) 628-2891, 10-mi. south of Duluth, exit off I-35. 12-K marked and groomed (1.5-K lighted), beginner to advanced, ski rental, instruction, map, use fee, campground, housekeeping villas, food service, toilets, lounge. . . . Magney-Snively, 7.5-K marked and groomed, intermediate. . . . Chester, 2.4-K marked and groomed, beginner. . . . Hartley, 2.4-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced. . . . Amity-Lester, 9.7-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced. . . . Lester Park Golf Course, 2.6-K marked and groomed beginner. . . . Superior National Forest (218) 727-6692, Box 338, 91-K groomed, 268-K marked, beginner to advanced trails, maps, food, lodging in area.

Ely (55731)—Camp Northland (218) 365-2115, box 689, 50-mi. marked, mostly in BWCA; 6 cabins, 2 bunkhouses, sleep up to 80, meals and map at lodge, toilets, showers, sauna, parking. . . . Coxy Pond Trail (218) 365-3134, 12½-mi. north of Ely, 5-mi. marked, parking, maps. . . . Hegman Lake Trail (218) 365-3134, 15 mi. north of Ely, 3½-mi. marked, parking, maps. . . . Hidden Valley (218) 365-3231, box 267, 10-mi. marked and groomed, intermediate to advanced, sleeping-bag accommodations for groups, food service at downhill chalet. . . . Whispering Pines Trails on Big Lake (218) 365-2129, 70-K marked and groomed, maps, housekeeping cabins, meals by prior arrangement.

Grand Marais (55604)—Bearskin Lodge (218) 388-2292, Gunflint Trail Box 10, 48-K marked and groomed. . . . Cascade Lodge (218) 387-1112, 30-mi. marked, groomed and tracked, beginner to advanced, rentals, instruction, group tours, maps, lodge, cabins

Grand Rapids (55744)—Amen Lake (218) 326-2019, 4-mi. intermediate to advanced, connect at Suomi Hills. . . . Camp Mishwaka (218) 326-5667, 14-K marked and groomed, map, trail use fee except for guests, cabins. . . . Golden Anniversary State Forest Trail (218) 327-1734, 3-mi. southeast, 8-mi. marked, beginner to intermediate, map from DNR District Forester, 1201 E. Hwy. 2. . . . Sugar Hills (218) 326-9461, box 369, 80-mi. marked and groomed, rentals, instruction, map, lodge, dining, ski shop, rest rooms, luxury condos, convention center. . . . Wabana Trails & Wildlife (218) 326-2019, 16-mi. north, 5.5-mi. marked intermediate, map in Grand Rapids court house, County Land Dept.

Hill City (55748)—Quadna 1-800-662-5796, 12-mi. marked and groomed, intermediate, rentals, instruction, map, lodge, campsites, motel townhouses, food service, lounge, rest rooms, indoor tennis.

Hinckley (55037)—Chengwatana State Forest (612) 384-6146, 6-mi. marked and groomed, east of Pine City. . . . St. Croix State Park (612) 384-6591. 20.8-mi. marked, beginner to intermediate, 20.8-mi. groomed beginner to intermediate; 75-mi. groomed for combination ski and snowmobile use.

Hovland (55606)—Grand Portage State Forest, Superior National Forest Border Route Trail (218) 475-2210, (612) 822-0569, 22.5-mi. marked advanced connecting with the Grand Portage trail system; maps from Minnesota Rovers Outing Club, 3701 Pillsbury Av., Mpls. 55409 (self-addressed-stamped envelope).

International Falls (56649)—Falls Country Club Ski Trail, 3.2-mi marked and groomed, map available at entrance.

Isabella (55607)—National Forest Lodge (218) 475-2210, 60-K marked beginner to advanced, rentals, instruction by reservation, map, cabins, lodge with fireplace, family meals, trails connect with Environmental Learning Center. . . . Voyageurs National Park (218) 283-9416, Box 50, east end of Kabetogama Peninsula north of Lost Bay. Must ski 5-mi. across Lake Kabetogama to get to trail. 16-K marked map.

Lutsen (55612)—Cascade State Park (218) 663-7281, 15-mi. marked and groomed, one loop used by snowmobiles to get through park, map, camping shelter, trails connect with Cascade Lodge. . . . Lutsen Ski Area (218) 663-7281, 20-mi. marked and groomed beginner to advanced, rentals, instruction, map, trail use fee for chalet and chairlift use, varied housing, RV hookups, guided tours available, food at downhill ski area.

Heartland

Bemidji (56601)—City Trail, City Arena, 4-K marked, beginners. . . . Buena Vista Ski Area (218) 243-2231, 751-5530, 25-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, rentals, instruction, map, trail use fee, food service and shelters. . . . Kohl's Last Resort (218) 586-2251, 27-mi. marked beginner to intermediate, 5-mi. fenced and groomed, connect with Buena Vista State Forest, map, cottages, restaurant, sauna, game room. . . . Olde Tyme (218) 335-6604, 20-K marked and groomed, connects to Chippewa National Forest, rentals, instruction, maps at lodge.

Brainerd (56401)—Crow Wing State Park (218) 829-8022, 3.6-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, map, toilet, shelters.

Cass Lake (56633)—Home Place Lodge & Ski Tour Centre (218) 335-8802, 25-K marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, trails in Chippewa National Forest, map, facility use fee except for cabin guests, lodge with fireplace.

Mille Lacs Lake (56431)—Wealthwood State Forest Trail (218) 927-2414—North of the lake, 8-mi. marked, beginner to intermediate. Info from DNR Forestry, Aitkin 56431.

Park Rapids (56470)—Itascatur Ski Trail (218) 732-9680, 9.7-mi. marked for advanced only, 2-mi. marked for beginners, parking, primitive privy. . . . Long Pine Park Rapids Trail (218) 732-4111, 9.7-mi. 13-K beginner to intermediate, parking, primitive toilet, map at Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce. . . . Val Chatel (218) 266-3306, 8-K marked and groomed, connecting with Paul Bunyan State Forest. Rentals and instruction, map, trail use fee except guests. Guest rooms, housekeeping units, dining room, cafeteria.

St. Cloud (56301)—Fitzharris/Pirates Cove Touring (612) 251-2844, 18-mi. double-track-groomed, beginner to expert, rentals, instruction, food. Tues.-Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 11-6 p.m., Sun. 12-6 p.m.

Walker (56484)—North Country Trail (218) 547-1044, U.S. Forest Service (part of National Scenic Trail), 38-mi. marked, beginner to advanced, connects with Heartland and Shingobee trails.

Zimmerman (55398)—Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (612) 389-3323, 9-mi. marked, beginner to intermediate. Map, toilets, parking area.

Hiawathaland

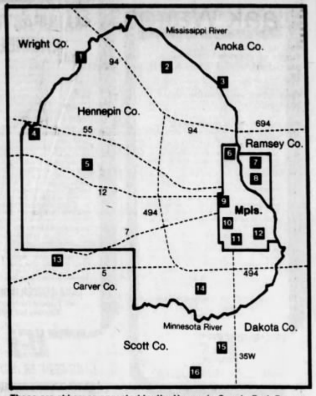
Albert Lea (56007)—Helmer Myre State Park (507) 373-5084—8-mi. marked and groomed. Maps, toilets, shelter, parking.

Altura (55910)—Whitewater State Park (507) 932-3007, 1.3-mi. marked, beginners. Pit toilets.

Austin (55912)—J.C. Hormel Nature Center (507) 437-7519, 4 mi. north of I-90 on NE. 21st St., 12-K marked and groomed beginner trail, rentals, instruction, map, free city campgrounds, toilets, interpretive center, showshoeing.

Caledonia (55912)—Beaver Creek Valley State Park (507) 724-2107—3-mi. marked beginner trail, camping, outdoor sanitation, trail shelter building.

Faribault (55021)—Cannon River Wilderness Area (507) 334-2281, ext. 260, 261, 5-mi. marked beginner to advanced, map at Rice County Parks & Recreation Dept., 216 NW. 20th St., primitive toilet, picnic shelter, parking.



These are ski areas operated by the Hennepin County Park Reserve District and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department: 1. Crow-Hassan Park Reserve; 2. Elm Creek Park Reserve; 3. Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park; 4. Lake Rebecca Park Reserve; 5. Baker Park Reserve; 6. Shingle Creek Park; 7. Columbia Ski-Touring Area; 8. Northeast Park; 9. Theodore Wirth/Karku Touring Center; 10. Lake Calhoun; 11. Minnehaha Creek; 12. Hiawatha Ski-Touring Area; 13. Carver Park Reserve; 14. Hyland Park Reserve; 15. Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve; 16. Cleary Lake Park Reserve.

Lake City (55041)—Frontenac State Park (612) 245-3401, 5-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to intermediate, map, parking, camping, pit toilets, warming house.

Nerstrand (55053)—Nerstrand Woods State Park (507) 334-8848, 6-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to intermediate, map at ranger station, camping, outdoor toilets, shelter building.

Owatonna (55060)—Rice Lake State Park (507), 4-mi. marked and groomed beginners, map, winter camping, outdoor toilets. . . . Kaplan's Woods (507) 455-0800, 2-mi. marked intermediate. Map at Owatonna Park & Recreation office.

Red Wing (55066)—Mt. Frontenac Ski Area Trail (612) 388-5826, 5-mi. marked and groomed intermediate to advanced. Map on site. Accommodations nearby. Parking.

Rochester (55901)—Douglas Trail (multi-use) to Pine Island, (507) 285-7420, 12-mi. marked beginner trail, map at DNR hq., outdoor sanitation. . . . Silver Creek Trail, Quarry Hill Nature Center (507) 289-1687, 4-mi. beginner to intermediate, parking, toilets, shelters on school days.

Wabasha (55981)—Richard C. Dover Memorial Hardwood Forest Kruger Trail (612) 345-3216, 5.8-mi. marked intermediate to advanced, map from DNR box 69, Lake City 55041. Toilets, parking, picnic tables, shelters, camping.

Winona (55987)—O.L. Kipp State Park (507) 643-6849, 8.4-mi. marked beginner to intermediate, map, pit toilets.

Pioneerland

Fairfax (55332)—Fort Ridgely State Park (507) 426-7840, 2.5-mi. marked, beginner to intermediate, toilet in park.

Granite Falls (56241)—Upper Sioux Agency Park (612) 564-4777, 3-mi. marked, beginner to intermediate, toilets in park.

Lakefield (56150)—Kilen Woods State Park (507) 662-6258, 1.5-mi. marked and groomed intermediate, parking, shelter, toilets in park.

Luverne (56156)—Heritage Trail, Blue Mound State Park (507) 283-4892, 4-mi. north of Luverne on Hwy. 75, toilets, shelters, parking, camping.

Montevideo (56265)—Lac Qui Parle State Park (612) 752-4736. 6-mi. marked and groomed beginner to intermediate, toilets, parking, shelters.

New London (56273)—Sibley State Park (612) 354-2055, 10-mi. marked and groomed, beginner & advanced trails, map, warming house, restrooms in park.

New Ulm (56073)—Flan..au State Park (507) 354-3519, 4-mi. marked beginner trails shared with snowmobiles. Toilets in park.

Vikingland

Alexandria (56308)—Kensington Runestone County Park (612) 965-2365, 7-mi. marked and groomed, intermediate. Toilets, train shelters, vending machines, heated lodge.

Argyle (56713)—Old Mill State Park (218) 437-8174, 3-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to intermediate, map, picnic shelter, toilets, sliding hill.

Callaway (56521)—Maplelag (218) 375-2986, 34-K marked and groomed, beginning to advanced, beginning instruction available, map, trail use fee except guests, American plan, 11 cabins, 2 Finnish saunas, guided tours, wood stoves, moonlit ski trips, waxing room, no pets.

Carlos (56319)—Lake Carlos State Park (612) 852-7200, 3-mi. marked and groomed, intermediate, pit toilets, shelter building, picnic grounds.

Dalton (56324)—Pomme de Terre Trail (218) 589-8106, 6-mi. groomed. Instruction available. Maps, heated shelter, toilets, parking, trail use fee.

Detroit Lakes (56501)—Community Ski Touring Trails (218) 847-9202, four loops, 10-K marked beginner to advanced trails. Parking at both ends. Food service and rest rooms. Map at Chamber of Commerce, 700 Washington.

Lake Itasca (56460)—Itasca State Park (218) 266-3654, 27-mi. marked and groomed. Beginner to advanced. Map, outdoor toilets, shelters.

Lake Bronson (56734)—Lake Bronson State Park (218) 754-2200, 3-mi. groomed beginner trails, toilets, parking, maps, lodging, food in area.

Pelican Rapids (56572)—Maplewood State Park (218) 863-8383, 17-mi., marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, map, camping, picnic area, toilets.

Red Lake Falls (56750)—Timberlane Ski Touring Trail (218) 253-2437, 4-mi. marked and groomed, beginner to advanced, map, picnic tables, parking lot, pit toilets on trail.

New books

Backcountry Skiing, by Lito Tejada-Flores (Sierra Club, $8.95 paper). This "Sierra Club Guide to Skiing off the Beaten Track" is divided into two sections, the first on preparation (learning about techniques and equipment) and the second on the experience itself. Black-and-white photos and drawings.

Wild Animals of Northwest America, by Arthur and Candace Savage (Johns Hopkins University Press, $27.95). A slick, colorful, large-format book describing and illustrating more than 70 creatures, from bats to whales, from shrews to moose.

Fur Trapping in North America, by Steven M. Geary (A.S. Barnes, $12.95). A guide to trapping techniques and equipment, with descriptions of North American fur-bearing animals and their habitats. Illustrated with drawings and photos.

Snow Camper's Guide, by Raymond Bridge (Scribner's, $15.95). This updated version of a book first published in 1973 contains detailed information on the basics of winter camping and introduces the most recent developments in the field. Black-and-white photos and drawings.

Frozen lakes may be unsafe; how much ice is enough?

With snow and ice falling out of the skies and temperatures gradually creeping lower, Minnesota's lakes are beginning to freeze over, but they may look safer than they are.

The Minnesota Safety Council offers the following guidelines to help judge whether ice is thick enough:

- 2 inches of ice needed to support one person walking.
- 3 inches of ice will support a group of people walking single file, if spread out.
- 4 inches are sufficient for fishing on foot.
- 5 inches of ice needed to support the weight of a snowmobile and rider.
- 7½ inches of ice will support a two-ton automobile.

The Safety Council added a caution that snow cover on lakes acts as an insulator, and will slow the freezing process. It also urges that anyone wanting to walk onto a lake test the ice first to be sure it is frozen over the entire surface, and be alert for patches of thin ice, particularly in sections of the lake that have been covered by snow.

Children, says the Safety Council, should be reminded to wait until lakes have developed a thick coating of ice before skating, playing broomball or other ice-surface games.

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