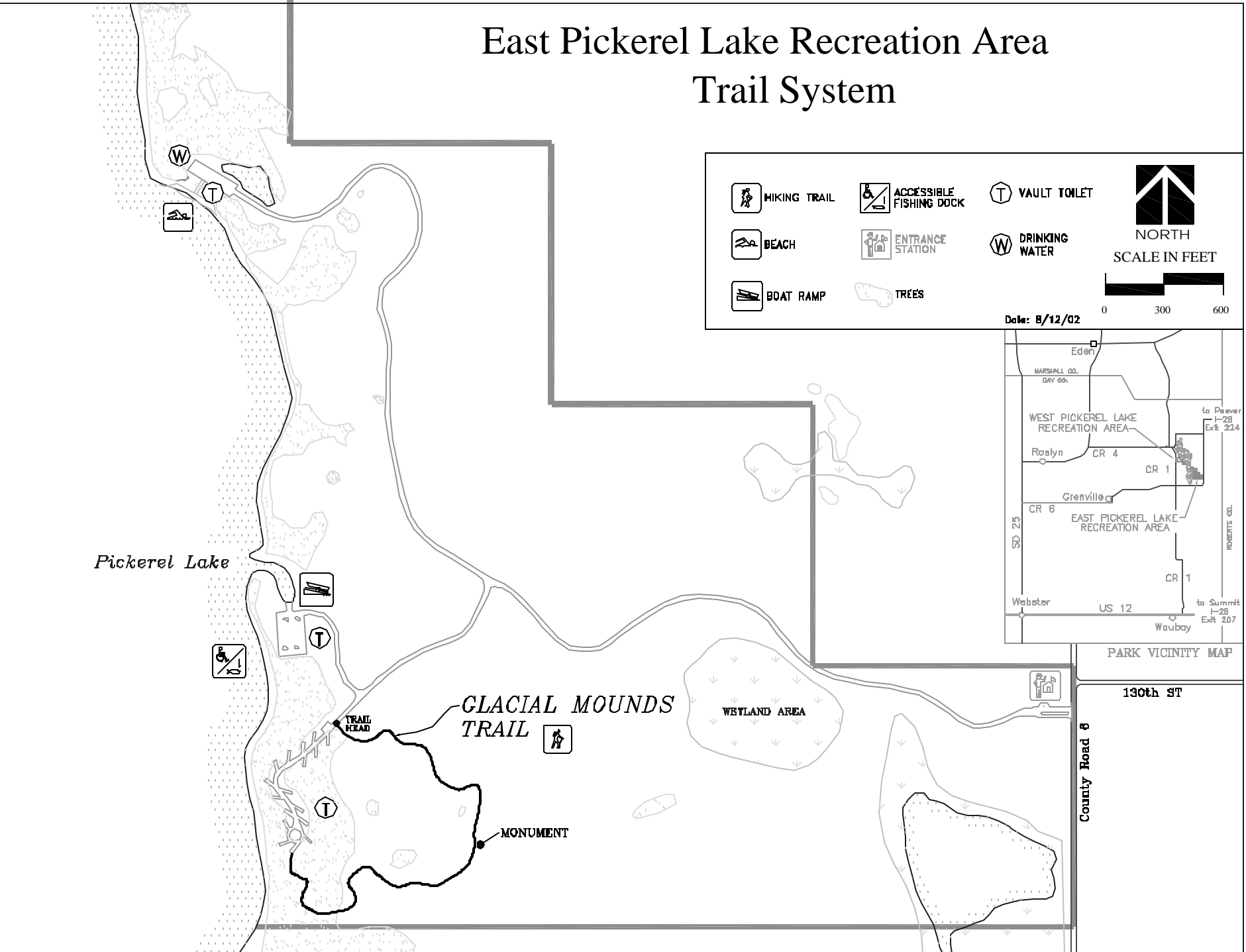
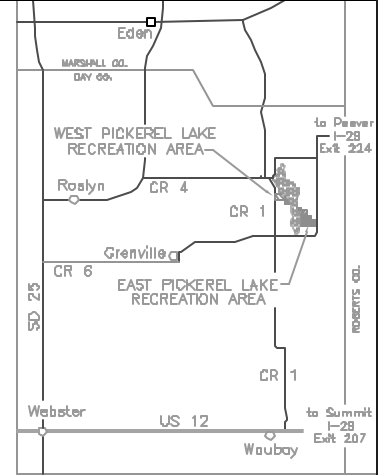


# East Pickerel Lake Recreation Area Trail System



HIKING TRAIL	ACCESSIBLE FISHING DOCK	VAULT TOILET	 NORTH SCALE IN FEET  0 300 600
BEACH	ENTRANCE STATION	DRINKING WATER	
BOAT RAMP	TREES		

Date: 8/12/02



PARK VICINITY MAP

130th ST  
County Road 8

# **Pickereel Lake Recreation Area**

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## **Glacial Mounds Trail**

**Type of trail:** Hiking

**Trail surface:** Grass

**Rated:** Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas

**Fee required:** Parks Entrance Fee

**Length of trail in miles:** .75 miles

**Location of the trailhead:** Across the road from the comfort station in the campground

**Facilities at or near the trailhead:** Parking, campground

**Facilities along the trail:** None

**Will there be interpretive information available:** No

**What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park:** Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

**Does this trail connect with any other trails:** No

**Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.:** Area resorts

**Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:** Area resorts

**Nearest Chamber of Commerce:**

Webster Chamber of Commerce, 513 Main St., Webster, SD 57274, (605) 345-4668

**Emergency phone numbers:**

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 345-3222

Fire Department – 911

Or (605) 345-3222 is Sheriff's office and they can contact any of the above

**Do most cell phones work on this trail:** Yes

# **Pickerel Lake Recreation Area**

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## **Glacial Mounds Trail**

The Glacial Mounds Trail, east unit of Pickerel Lake Recreation Area, is so named because glaciers formed the lake and the surrounding countryside. A series of glaciers covered this area thousands of years ago. The large, slow-moving masses of ice wore away the earth and formed deep depressions. These depressions would fill with water and freeze again. More ice sheets would go over the top and bury the ice under debris or glacial till. When the ice melted, numerous depressions were formed. When the water table was high enough, the depressions filled with water and became lakes. These lakes and potholes are scattered throughout northeastern South Dakota. Pickerel Lake is one such lake. A walk on the Glacial Mounds trail shows several examples of how the glaciers formed the landscape of this area.

The first part of the walk will be through native prairie, meaning it has never been plowed. It was never plowed because it is very steep. The rocks that are visible in the grass were left on the land by the glaciers as they came through. The glaciers pushed rocks and soil in front of them, leaving this debris behind when the glaciers receded. The rocks are another reason why this area has never been plowed.

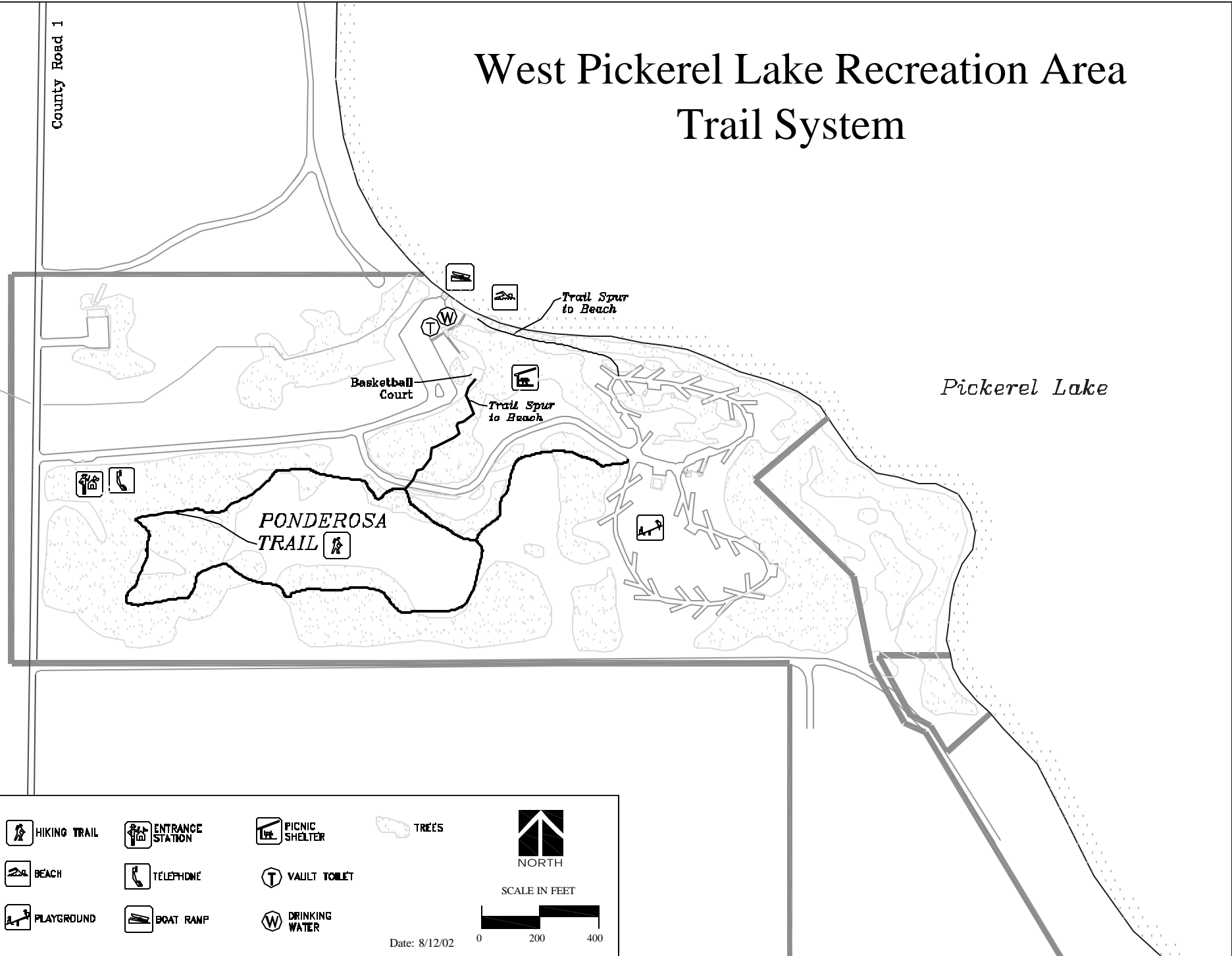
When you get to the top of the hill, be sure to stop and rest a few minutes. The view is fantastic! If you look to the north, you will get a beautiful picture of the lake. This is a great place to come in the fall and see the trees with different colors in contrast to the blue of the lake. If you look to the south, you will see a little knoll sticking out from some hills. That is the highest point in Day County. The benches and granite monument are a tribute to some of the early cabin owners on the lake.

As you start down the hill, you will notice the creek down in the valley to the north. That creek runs into the lake. Many years ago, the creek provided water for a fish hatchery next to the lake. The place where the fish hatchery was is now a free access to the lake just south of the park. Farther down the hill is a grove of trees. The trees are composed of oak, ash, and possibly some elm. This is a natural stand of trees, meaning they were not planted by people. Birds and other animals dropped the seeds and they grew because of the favorable soil and nearby water.


The trail ends in the campground. If you follow the road to the comfort station, you will be at the beginning of the trail again.


# West Pickerel Lake Recreation Area Trail System

County Road 1




-  **HIKING TRAIL**
-  **ENTRANCE STATION**
-  **PICNIC SHELTER**
-  **BEACH**
-  **TELEPHONE**
-  **VAULT TOILET**
-  **PLAYGROUND**
-  **BOAT RAMP**
-  **DRINKING WATER**

 **TREES**

 **NORTH**

**SCALE IN FEET**



Date: 8/12/02

# Pickrel Lake Recreation Area

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## Ponderosa Hiking Trail

**Type of trail:** Hiking

**Trail surface:** Grass

**Rated:** Easy, appropriate for all ages

**Fee required:** Parks Entrance Fee

**Length of trail in miles:** One mile

**Location of the trailhead:** Across from the comfort station to the west in the campground

**Facilities at or near the trailhead:** Restrooms, drinking water (seasonal), picnic tables

**Facilities along the trail:** None

**Will there be interpretive information available:** No

**What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park:** Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

**Does this trail connect with any other trails:** Yes, trail to swim beach

**Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.:** Area resorts

**Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:** Area resorts and steak house

**Nearest Chamber of Commerce:**

Webster Chamber of Commerce, 513 Main St., Webster, SD 57274, (605) 345-4668

**Emergency phone numbers:**

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Or (605) 345-3222 is Sheriff's office and they can contact any of the above

**Do most cell phones work on this trail:** No

# **Pickerel Lake Recreation Area**

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## **Ponderosa Hiking Trail**

The trail at the West unit of Pickerel Lake Recreation Area provides the visitor with a chance to surround him/herself with the sights, sounds, and smells of pine trees. These trees were planted in the 1950s shortly after the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks acquired the land. If you look carefully among all the trees, you can see where the trees were planted in rows. As you walk along this trail, be sure to stop and close your eyes once or twice. Listen to the wind through the trees. Smell the pine smell. Some visitors tell us it reminds them of being in the Black Hills.

Along this trail you will also come across a couple sloughs or potholes. Depending on the year, these areas will be full of water and wildlife or they will be dry and full of cattails and wildlife. The potholes were created by glaciers thousands of years ago. Several glaciers came and went through this area, pushing rocks and soil in front of them. The large holes left behind were formed by the ice that was buried under the soil that was pushed by the glaciers. The ice eventually melted and the soil on top fell, making a depression. The depressions then filled with water. The smaller depressions are called potholes or sloughs, the larger depressions are called lakes. This area of South Dakota is called the Glacial Lake Region because of this potholes and lakes.

There is a place along this trail where you can go across the road to the swimming beach. Please be careful crossing the road if you go that way. Otherwise, the trail ends up back at the campground where you started.