



Department of Natural Resources

2006 Governor's Environment and Natural Resources Bonding Requests

Deputy Commissioner Mark Holsten

February 2, 2006

Presentation Overview

2006 Capital Budget Request

- Context
- Current status and priorities
- Expected results

Questions and Discussion

DNR's 2006 Capital Budget

Meeting targets for:

- Health and safety
- Forests
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Outdoor recreation
- Assets & trust fund lands



A STRATEGIC CONSERVATION AGENDA 2003-2007

Measuring Progress
Toward Mission



March 2004
Version 1
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

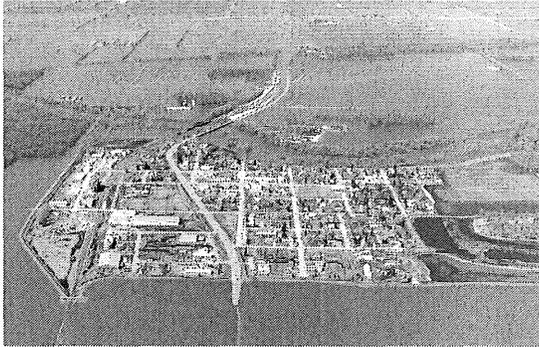
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2006 Capital Budget Health and Safety

- Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants
- Dam Repair / Reconstruction / Removal

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants

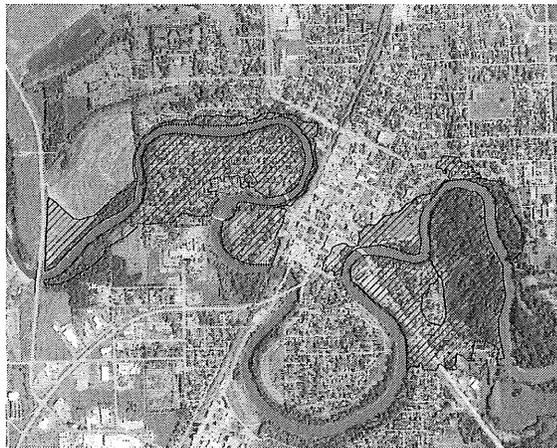
(\$ 9 million)



Oslo, MN, during the Red River Flood of 1997. Damage costs from the 1997 Red and Minnesota Rivers floods exceeded \$1.5 billion.

- Major floods in 1997, 2001, 2002, & 2004 created awareness
- By removing homes from flood plains, DNR & communities save expenses & danger when floods occur
- Cost-sharing grants reduce or eliminate flood damage

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants



Shaded purple areas are neighborhoods at risk from flooding. The City of Crookston has expended more than \$2 million, to date, as a local share of flood control projects.

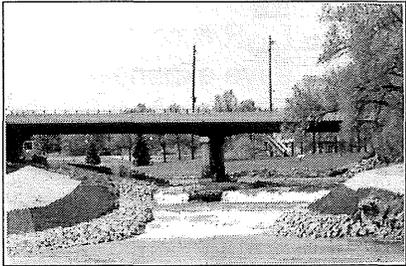
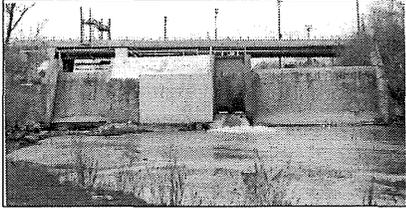
*Example:
Crookston
neighborhoods*

Homes at Risk

Sampson's	233
Jerome's	162
Chase/Loring	41
Riverside	11
Ash Street	14
Total	451

Dam Repair / Reconstruction / Removal

(\$ 2 million)



Before and after photos of the Cannon Falls dam site on the Little Cannon River

- Over 800 public dams
- Most over 50 years old, requiring ongoing & emergency repairs
- Expected results:
 - Rehabilitate aging, high hazard DNR dam (New London)
 - Address safety emergencies

Dam Repair / Reconstruction / Removal



Aerial photo of the New London Dam site. If the dam failed, the area inside the yellow line would be flooded up to 12 feet deep.

*Example:
New London*

- High hazard dam, built in 1866
- Number 1 on the dam safety project priority list



2006 Capital Budget Forests

- Large Scale Conservation Easements
- State Forest Land Reforestation
- State Forest Land Acquisition

DNR's Conservation Agenda: Forests A Vision for the Future

A substantial and protected forest

A healthy and resilient forest

A sustainably managed forest



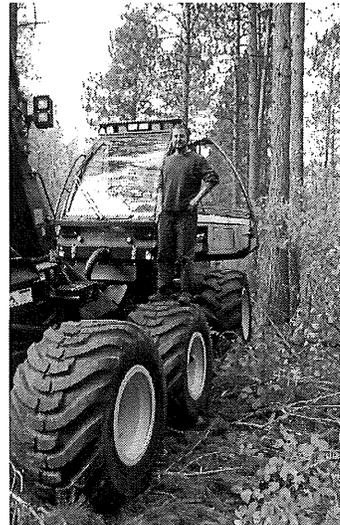
Impact of Wood Products Manufacturing on Minnesota's Economy

U.S. Department of Labor Statistics for 2003

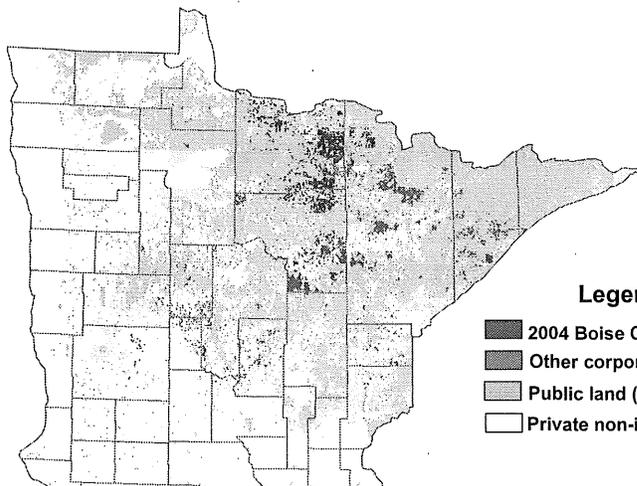
Employment	
Pulp, Paper, Board Plants	4,382
Converted Paper Products	10,563
Lumber and Wood Product Manufacturing	15,421
Wooden Furniture and Related Products	8,626
Logging (full and part-time)	3,000
Totals	41,992

Wages Paid to Forest Industry Employees	
Total Wages Paid	\$1.73 billion

Source: U.S. Department of Labor statistics as reported by Minnesota Forest Industries in "Minnesota Forests: A Quick Look at the State of a Never-ending Resource"



Challenge: Rapidly Changing Ownership Corporate Forest Lands



Nearly 1 million acres of large, mostly undeveloped private forest are at risk of being converted into smaller parcels.

Challenge: Rapidly Changing Ownership TIMOs

- Increasing sales to timber investment management organizations (TIMOs)
- Increasing forest parcelization and development

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
PRIME HUNTING/RECREATIONAL LAND

12 PARCELS NEAR CROMWELL, MN
Ranging from 10 to 40 acres, offered individually or any combo

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, AT 7:00 P.M.

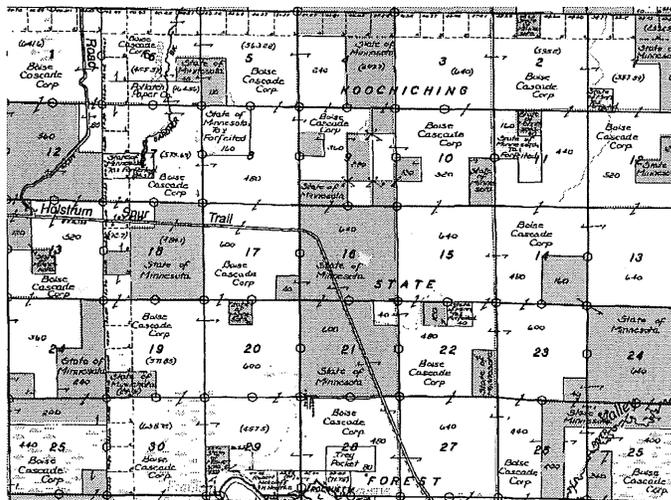
AUCTION LOCATION: TOBIE'S IN HINCKLEY (Located just off I-35)
Open House: 10/1, 10-12 p.m., or view at your own convenience.

For a brochure or to receive real estate email alerts call 763-295-8150 or visit www.TheREALestateAUCTIONEERS.com

ALLIANCE REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS
Rick Daniels or John Cargill - Lic. #5604004



Challenge: Resulting Loss of Large Forest Tracts Example: Koochiching County

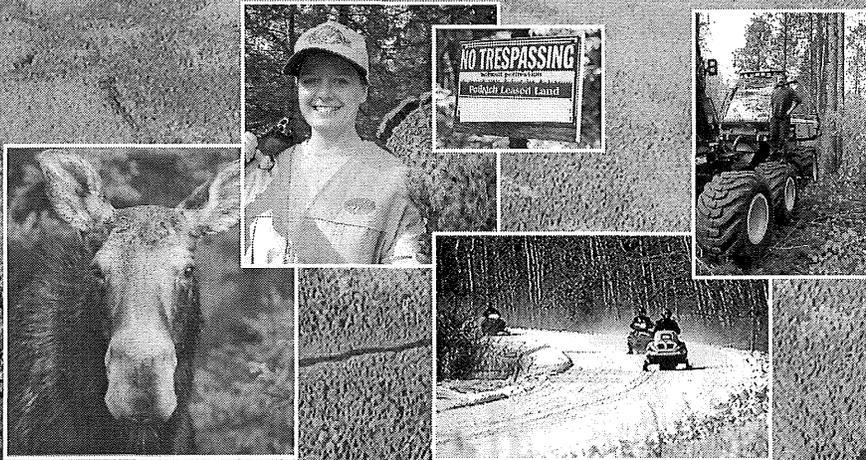


Numerous forest values depend on large, undeveloped forest tracts

Challenge: Loss of Large Forest Tracts Causes...

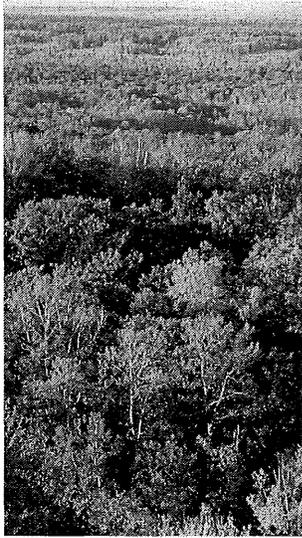
- Decreases in wildlife habitat
- Reduced recreation opportunities
- Decline in the available timber base
- Increased health & safety costs for wildfire suppression

We have a window of opportunity to conserve large, undeveloped tracts of land



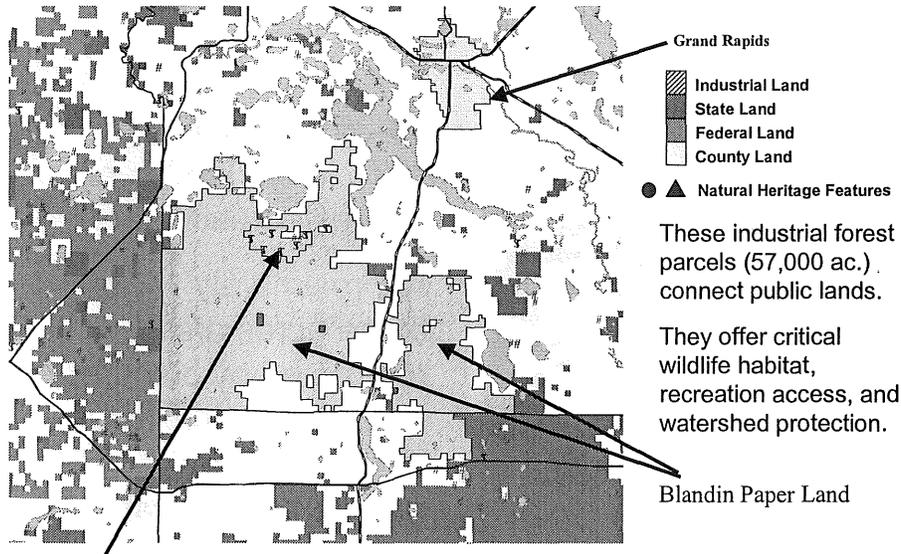
Large Scale Forest Conservation Easements

(\$10 million)



- Acquire easements on approx. 20,000 acres of private corporate forest lands
- Leverage public/private financing through MN Forest Legacy Partnership

Example: Forest Parcels Meeting Criteria



Liila Forest Products (Rajala tract-1600 acres and Minnesota's highest funding priority for FFY 2007 application to Forest Legacy)

Minnesota Forest Legacy Partnership
Funding Targets

State Bonding (MN DNR) \$10 million

Other Potential Funding Source	Target Amount
Private Funds (primarily foundations)	\$12 million
Federal Forest Legacy Program	\$2 million
Landowner Contributions	\$2 million
Total (State and Other)	\$26 million

State Land Reforestation

(\$ 4 million)



- 30-35,000 acres of state forest lands are reforested each year
- Approximately 1/3 of these acres are reforested by planting & seeding each year. The remainder regenerate naturally.

State Forest Land Acquisition

(\$ 4 million)



Private-land development within forest boundaries threatens access & management options on adjacent state forest lands.

- Acquiring private lands & permanent easements within state forest boundaries promotes:
 - public access to state lands
 - public safety related to wildfire suppression
 - appropriate forest management

2006 Capital Budget Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- Wildlife Area Acquisition and Improvement
- Native Prairie Bank Easements and Development
- Fisheries Acquisition and Improvement
- Waterfowl Habitat Structures
- Fish Hatchery Improvements
- Stream Protection and Restoration
- SNA Acquisition and Development

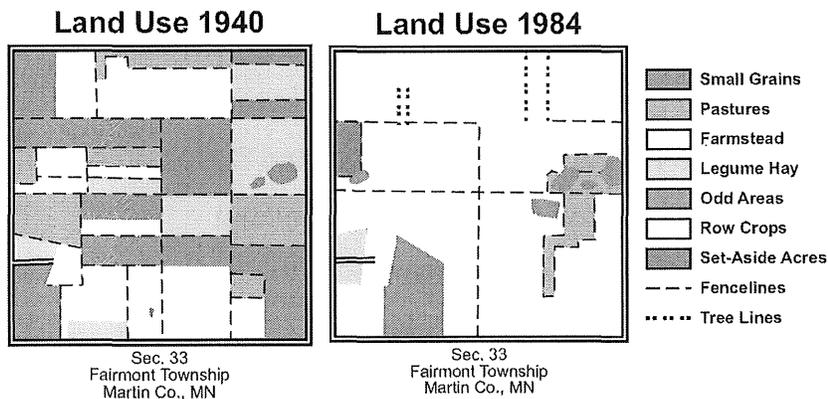
DNR's Conservation Agenda: Fish & Wildlife

A vision for the future

- Great fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities
- Stable and healthy fish and wildlife populations and high quality habitat to support them
- Strong conservation partnerships and a strong stewardship ethic in Minnesota



Challenge: Changing agricultural land use



Rural Minnesota has changed dramatically; land use has become more and more simplified reducing the quality of wildlife habitat.

Wildlife Area Acquisition and Improvement Citizen Advisory Committee

A citizen's advisory committee recommended 702,200 acres of additional WMA lands in the next 50 years

Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Minnesota Deer Hunters Association

The Nature Conservancy

Minnesota Waterfowl Association

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Board of Soil & Water Resources

Game and Fish Coalition

Pheasants Forever

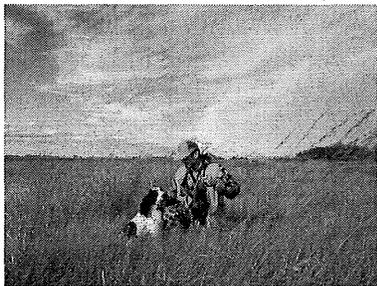
Izaak Walton League

Minnesota Land Trust

Trust for Public Land

Wildlife Area Acquisition and Improvement

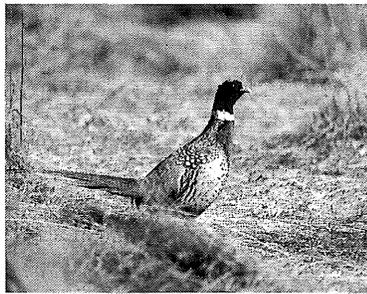
(\$15 million)



Minnesota's current Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system:

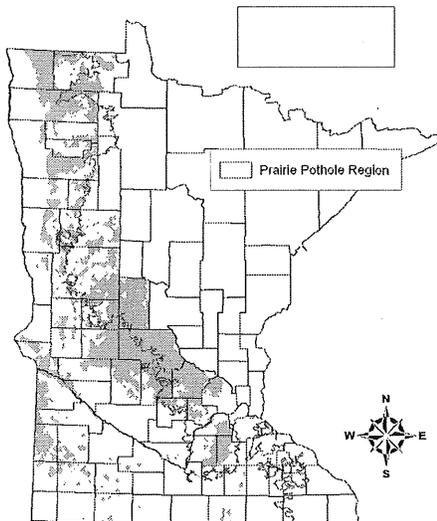
- 1,380 WMAs
- 1.2 million acres of public land for hunting, hiking, birding...
- WMAS provide opportunities to maintain & restore prairie-wetland complexes & other fish & wildlife habitat

Wildlife Area Acquisition and Improvement

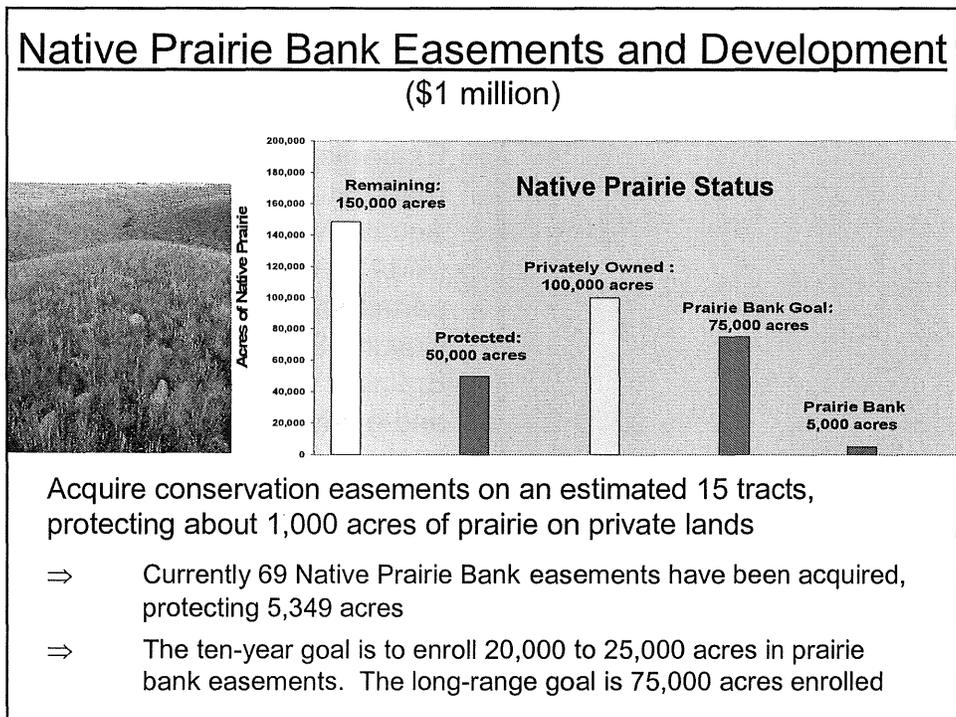
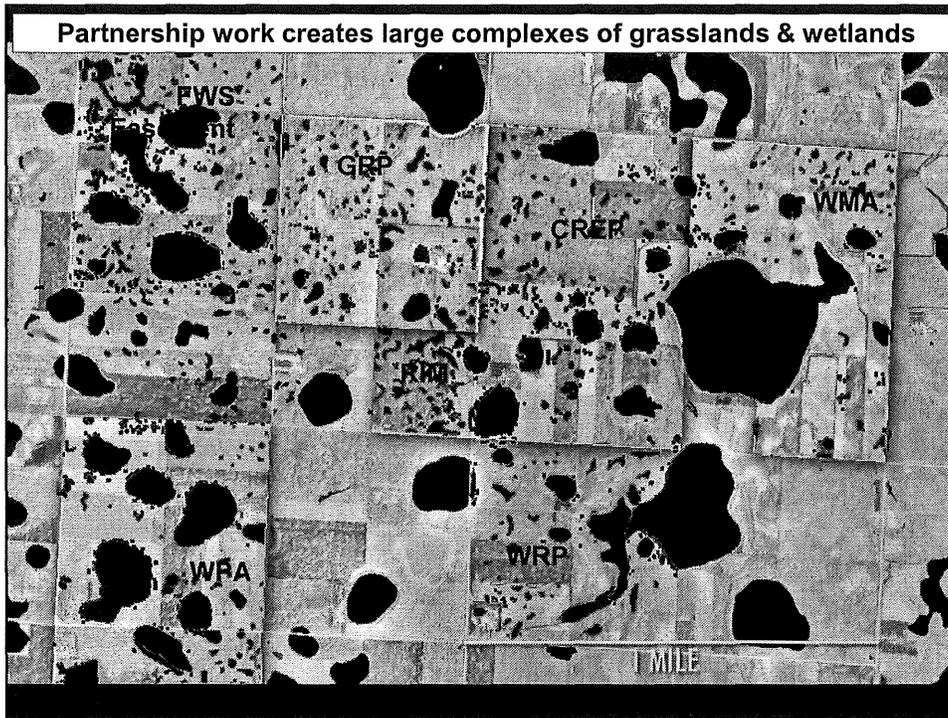


- Accelerate acquisition and improvement of WMA lands in partnership with private nonprofit organizations and other state and federal agencies
- DNR's acquisition target is about 6,000-7,000 acres in 2006
- Ongoing challenge:
Rising land prices

A New Strategy: The "Working Lands" Initiative

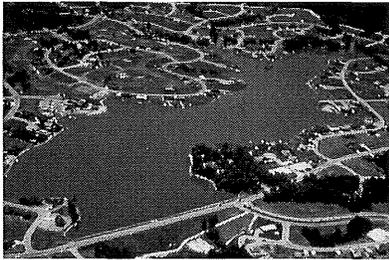


- A new strategy to help unify, coordinate, and improve conservation investments in Minnesota's prairie pothole region
- Partners include: DU, PF, TNC, MWA, NRCS, BWSR, USFWS and others
- Identifies focus areas to create large complexes of wetlands and grasslands to improve fish and wildlife and enhance water quality and soil conservation



Fisheries Acquisition and Improvement

(\$ 4 million)



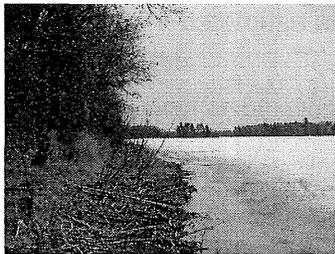
- Shoreland areas are rapidly being developed
- DNR acquires fee title or permanent easements to:
 - conserve fish & wildlife habitat along high-quality shoreline & trout streams

Fisheries Acquisition and Improvement



Example Completed Project

DNR established a 234 acre Aquatic Management Area (AMA) (in green) through a partnership including the Cuyuna Scouting community, Brainerd Chapter MNDHA, and a private donation.

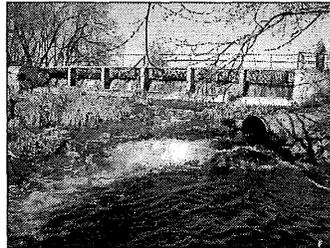
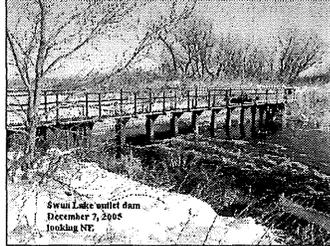


Proposed Project

Protect up to an additional 125 acres and 3,350 feet of shoreline (in red).

Waterfowl Habitat Structures

(\$ 1 million)

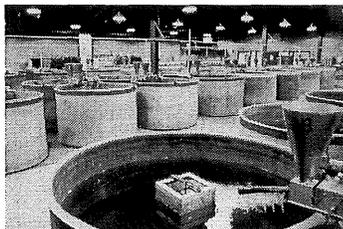


Water control structures for water level management & waterfowl habitat

- DNR manages over 1,000 dikes, dams, water control structures & fish barriers on shallow lakes and wetlands
- Many structures need replacement to improve habitat and/or maintain existing investments
- Expected results: Over 11,000 acres of improved shallow lake and wetland habitat

Fish Hatchery Improvements

(\$ 1 million)

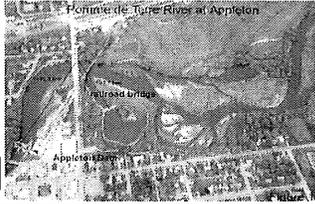


In FY05 fish hatcheries helped DNR stock nearly 270 million fish in MN lakes and streams

- Regular fish hatchery maintenance keeps production at peak efficiency
- Improvement priorities:
 - Ensuring a disease free and quality product
 - Meeting production goals
 - Cost efficiency

Stream Protection and Restoration

(\$ 2 million)

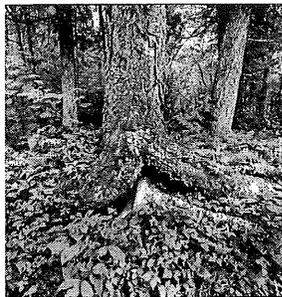
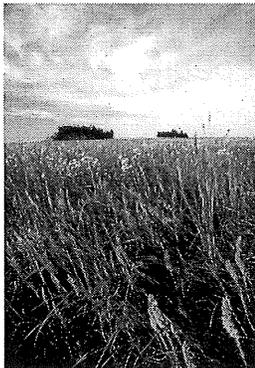


- Restorations improve
 - Property values
 - Fish & wildlife habitat
 - Fishing & recreation
 - Water quality & availability
 - Reduces erosion & downstream flooding

Stream restoration on the Pomme de Terre River in Appleton. About 30 % of MN streams have historically been channelized

SNA Acquisition and Development

(\$ 3 million)



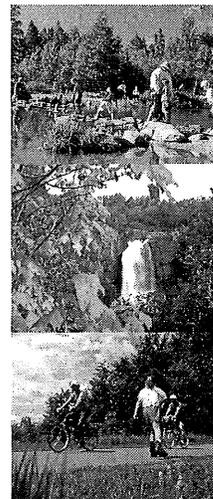
- 140 SNAs protect high-priority plant, animal & natural community resources like prairies

2006 Capital Budget Outdoor Recreation

- State Park Building Rehabilitation
- State Park Infrastructure Rehab and NR Restoration
- State Park and Recreation Area Acquisition
- State Park Camper Cabins
- Water Access Acquisition, Development, and Fishing Piers
- State Trail Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Repair
- OHV Recreation Area

Conservation Agenda: Outdoor Recreation A Vision for the Future

- Minnesota sustains a high-quality and diverse outdoor recreation system
- Lands and waters remain healthy; recreation will not compromise the long-term health of the resource base
- The public (of all abilities, backgrounds, and interests) have a satisfying and safe outdoor recreation experience



Challenge: Meeting the needs of a growing Minnesota population

Minnesota population and recreation lands

Year	Acres (US Forest, USFWS, NPS, DNR, Met Council)	Population	Acres per person
1983	11,426,462	4,141,458	2.7
1991	11,645,000	4,440,859	2.6
1995	11,758,000	4,660,180	2.6
1997	11,834,000	4,763,390	2.5
2000	11,857,806	4,919,479	2.4

Source: MN Dept. of Administration

Recreation land has not kept up with population increases.

Challenge: Meeting the needs of a growing population while conserving resource health

Trails and Waterways Facts

- All-Terrain Vehicle registrations growing rapidly
 - 12,235 in 1984
 - 236,683 in 2005
- Minnesotans love boats
 - 629,291 watercraft registrations in 1984
 - 854,110 watercraft registrations in 2004 (1 boat for every 6 people)
- Average size and horsepower have increased
- Increasing demand for bike trails miles and maintenance

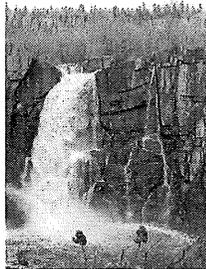
Challenge: Meeting the needs of a growing population while conserving resource health

Minnesota Parks Facts

- **8 million annual state park visitors**
 - 1 in 3 Minnesotans visits a state park each year
 - 16% of all visitors are national or international tourists
 - 86% of visitors are day-users; 14% are overnight guests

State Park Building Rehabilitation

(\$ 3 million)



Minnesota parks have spectacular features and recreation opportunities



Buildings such as above, in Grand Portage State Park, are inadequate to meet access, space, and interpretive needs.

- Building rehabilitation promotes a safe & quality park experience
- The system has over 1,600 buildings
- 619 buildings & structures on the National Register of Historic Places

State Park Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Natural Resources Restoration

(\$ 3 million)

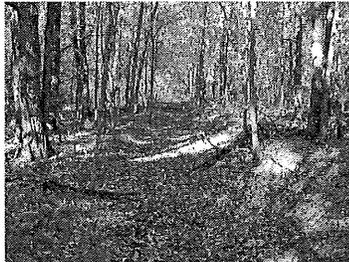


Example of bridge needing repair

- State park & recreation system contains approx.
 - 220,000 acres of land,
 - 32 miles of roads, 1,255 miles of trails, and 72 bridges
 - Utility systems for 66 parks and 6 recreation areas

State Park and Recreation Area Acquisition

(\$ 2 million)



Sites may have historical, natural, and recreational significance

- Many parcels within statutory state park boundaries are facing development pressure
- Acquisitions from willing sellers:
 - protects natural resources, enhances recreation, & improves management
- Approx. 15% of the 267,000 acres within state park boundaries is privately owned

State Park Camper Cabins

(\$ 2 million)

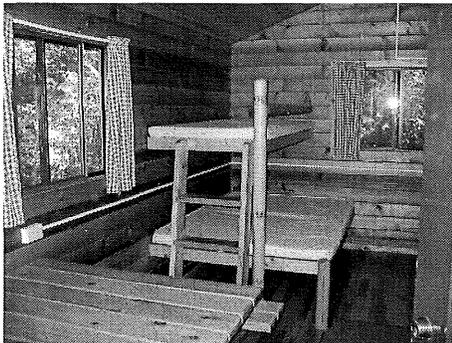


35 Camper Cabins are currently available for rent in state parks. Many locations are booked up to one year in advance.

- Camper cabins:
 - Provide affordable recreational lodging and attract new users
 - Generate revenue—many sited in parks with high demand & year-round use
- Expected results: Up to 75 new camper cabins around the state.

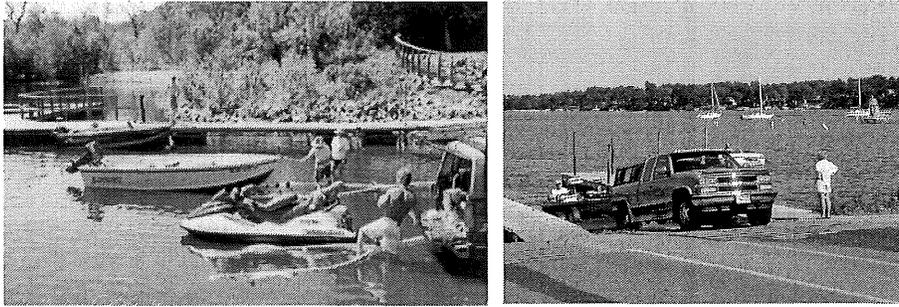
State Park Camper Cabins

Typical Camper Cabin Annual Cash Flow



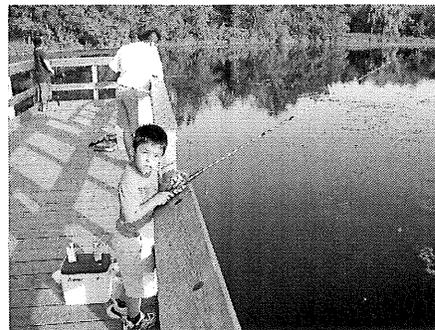
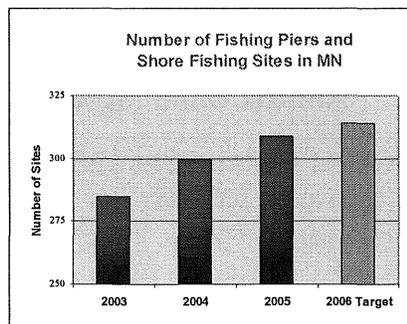
Gross Rental Fees (150 nights, \$39 / nt.)	\$5,850
Operating Costs	\$2,500
UF Debt Service (20-yr bonds)	\$2,133
Net Revenue	\$1,217

Water Access Acquisition, Development and Fishing Piers (\$ 3 million)



- The current system has more than 1, 550 boat access sites. Minnesota has 853,5000 licensed boats.
- Priorities based on: willing sellers, lakes & rivers where access is non-existent or inadequate, & other natural resources and recreation criteria

Water Access Acquisition, Development and Fishing Piers



- The current system has over 300 fishing piers and shorefishing sites. These provide important access for non-boating anglers.
- Priorities based on: accessibility, natural resources features, and local participation
- There are about 50 pier requests waiting

State Trail Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Repair

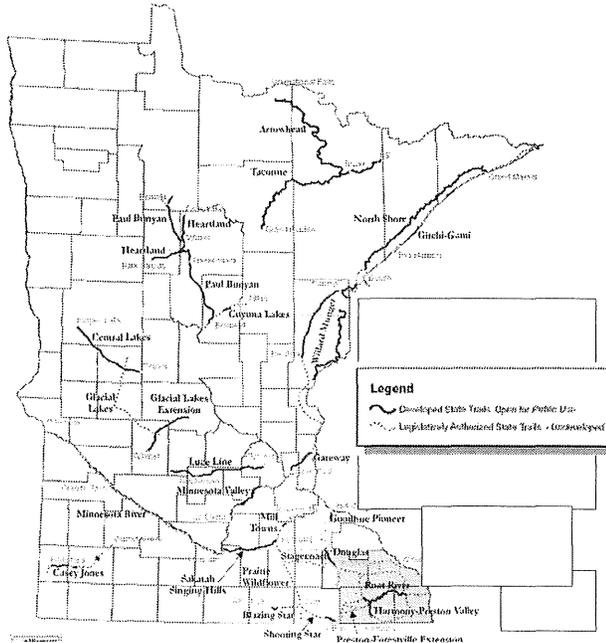
(\$ 2 million)



Rehabilitation and repair – key for safety

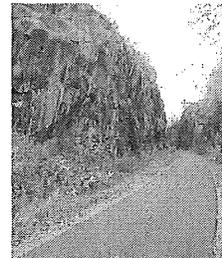
- Rehabilitation projects reduce future maintenance costs & extend life of facility
- Priorities are based on field assessments of public safety & trail integrity.

State Trail Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Repair



• State trails are high-quality attractions with year-round use

• 58% of legislatively authorized trails are currently developed



ORV Recreation Area

(\$ 1.5 million)



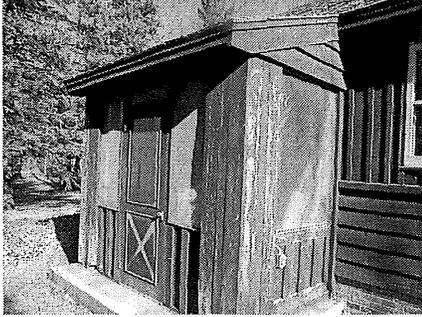
- State-owned OHV recreation areas (e.g., Iron Range OHV Recreation Area at Gilbert, MN) provide specialized technical trail-riding opportunities
- Demand exists in southern Minnesota, where there are fewer acres of public land for developing an ORV site
- Priorities based on:
 - Location, willing seller, & existing opportunities

2006 Capital Budget Assets and Trust Fund Lands

- Statewide Asset Preservation
- Buying Out Our Trust Fund Lands

Statewide Asset Preservation

(\$ 2 million)

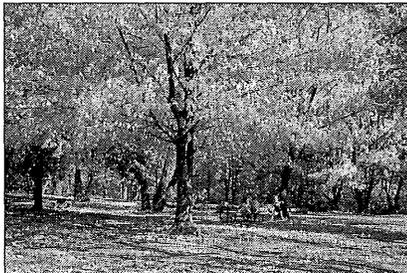


Example of building in need of repair

- DNR has identified more than \$26 million in deferred asset preservation projects statewide
- Includes roofing, plumbing & heating, electrical, & structural improvements—necessary to maintain building values
- Expected results: Reduction in injury & illness, improved air quality, enhanced accessibility, & preservation of capital investments

Buying Out Trust Fund Lands

(\$ 1 million)

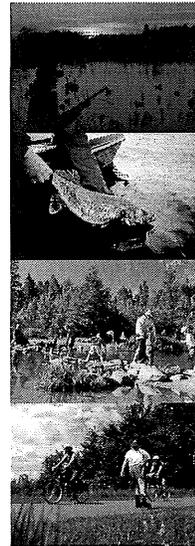


- Since the 1980s DNR has worked to remove school trust fund lands within state parks through land exchanges & boundary changes
- Buyouts fulfill fiduciary responsibilities for trust fund lands
- Focus will be on in-holdings in state parks. This includes 461 acres in Nerstrand Big Woods

MN Department of Natural Resources 2006 Capital Budget

Meeting targets for:

- Health and safety
- Forests
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Outdoor recreation
- Assets and trust fund lands



Notes

Department of Natural Resources
2006 Capital Budget Recommendation

2006
Governor's Rec

Health and Safety

1. Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants	9,000
2. Dam Repair / Reconstruction / Removal	2,000

Forests

3. Large Scale Forest Conservation Easements	10,000
4. State Land Reforestation	4,000
5. State Forest Land Acquisition	4,000

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

6. Wildlife Area Acquisition and Improvement	15,000
7. Native Prairie Bank Easements and Development	1,000
8. Fisheries Acquisition and Improvement	4,000
9. Waterfowl Habitat Structures	1,000
10. Fish Hatchery Improvements	1,000
11. Stream Protection and Restoration	2,000
12. SNA Acquisition and Development	3,000

Outdoor Recreation

13. State Park Building Rehabilitation	3,000
14. State Park Infrastructure Rehab and NR Restoration	3,000
15. State Park and Recreation Area Acquisition	2,000
16. State Park Camper Cabins	2,000
17. Water Access Acquisition, Development and Fishing Piers	3,000
18. State Trail Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Repair	2,000
19. ORV Recreation Area	1,500

Assets and Trust Fund Lands

20. Statewide Asset Preservation	2,000
21. Buying Out Trust Fund Lands	1,000

Total Capital Budget Recommendation **75,500**



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants

Governor's Recommendation: \$9,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request provides state cost-sharing grants to local governments for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program under Minn. Stat. § 103F.161. This program allows the DNR to make cost sharing grants of up to 50% of non-federal project costs to implement measures that reduce or eliminate flood damage in cooperation with federal, state, and local governments. Additional benefits include habitat improvements with the construction of impoundments and the creation of natural open space in the flood plain. Flood damage reduction is a performance indicator in the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007."

How DNR prioritizes

High priority projects will protect human lives; protect large numbers of structures from periodic flooding; protect a smaller number of structures from frequent flooding; and/or leverage federal funds for federal flood control or hazard mitigation projects. Removing homes from the floodplain in communities that have suffered repetitive losses is the highest priority. Medium priority projects generally protect a small number of structures from less frequent flooding; provide floodplain management tools such as flood elevations, maps, or flood warning systems; or provide planning or feasibility studies for possible future projects. Low priority projects include projects that are not part of a watershed or comprehensive plan; projects solely to protect highway or transportation facilities; or the acquisition or protection of undeveloped lands.

It is needed because

Projects need to be completed to provide protection from future flooding events. Major floods in 1997, 2001, 2002 and 2004 created significant awareness of the damage floods can cause. Damage costs from the 1997 Red and Minnesota Rivers floods exceeded \$1.5 billion. It is very cost effective to prevent flood

damage instead of fighting floods, repairing and rehabilitating homes, businesses, and infrastructure after floods have occurred.

Demand for flood hazard mitigation projects exceeds this bonding request. Additional needs include acquisition and levee construction, flood-proofing homes and establishing lake outlets.

Project locations

Potential projects include:

- ◆ purchase and removal of residential and commercial structures from the floodplain;
- ◆ relocation of businesses;
- ◆ construction of levees and floodwalls;
- ◆ construction of control structures and diversion channels; and
- ◆ construction of impoundments.

Impact on operating budget

Current DNR staff funded by General Fund appropriations will administer the flood hazard mitigation projects.

For further information contact:

Kent Lokkesmoe, Director
DNR Division of Waters
500 Lafayette Road, Box 32
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4032
Phone: (651) 259-5701
Fax: (651) 296-0445
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DNR Division of Waters
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St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4032
Phone: (651) 259-5669
Fax: (651) 296-0445
E-mail: ed.fick@dnr.state.mn.us



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Dam Repair, Reconstruction, Removal Governor's Recommendation: \$2,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is part of an ongoing Dam Safety Program to manage Minnesota's public dam infrastructure. Dams maintain water levels on most of our recreational lakes, providing significant recreation, tourism, and economic benefits. For example, Mille Lacs, Minnetonka, and Ottertail Lakes all depend on dams to maintain water levels and surrounding property values.

This program also includes the removal or modification of hazardous or obsolete dams that no longer provide significant public benefits and whose rehabilitation would not be cost effective or good for the environment. In many cases the removal of a dam returns the river or stream to a more natural condition. Removal and modification of river dams is a performance indicator in the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007."

How DNR prioritizes

Public safety is the most important consideration in prioritizing dam safety projects. Other considerations include water level control, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, flood control, water supply, and economic benefits. Minn. Stat. § 103G.511, Subd. 12 requires the DNR to submit a dam safety project priority list to the legislature by June 1 of each odd-numbered year. Project priorities are subject to change based on results of dam safety inspections, readiness of local project sponsors and other factors.

It is needed because

Minnesota's public dams infrastructure includes over 300 dams owned by the state, counties, cities, and watershed districts. Most of these public dams are over 50 years old and require ongoing repairs to maintain their structural integrity and to prevent public safety hazards. Emergency repairs must be made when dam failure threatens public safety or damages property. About ten percent of Dam Safety Program

capital budget appropriations is reserved for emergencies involving dams. Any emergency funds remaining at the end of the two-year bonding cycle are used on high priority dam projects. Consistent, long-term funding of about \$2 million per biennium is necessary to adequately maintain public dams and to remove dams that are obsolete or safety hazards.

Project locations

Potential projects include:

- ♦ Removal, rehabilitation, or modification of dams to improve safety and to restore fish passage
- ♦ Replacement of dams to improve safety and to restore fish passage
- ♦ Repairing dams to maintain lake levels

Of this request, \$1.8 million is for the rehabilitation of an aging high hazard DNR dam in the City of New London and \$.2 million is for dam safety emergencies.

Impact on operating budget

Current DNR staff will administer the bonding funds for dam projects.

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Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Large-Scale Forest Conservation Easements Governor's Recommendation: \$10,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$10 million to acquire forest conservation easements on approximately 20,000 acres of private forestlands. DNR's capital budget request will serve as a catalyst for public/private financing of large-scale forest conservation easements.

How DNR prioritizes

The focus will be on larger, contiguous blocks of forest ownership at greatest risk of being sold, subdivided, and developed. Opportunities will be pursued with willing industry and other large forestland owners.

The state forest stewardship committee reviews conservation easement proposals and recommends priorities to the DNR. DNR makes the final determination of priority conservation easement projects for submittal to the USDA Forest Service for consideration for matching federal Forest Legacy funding.

Criteria used in evaluating proposals include:

- Size (Larger = Better)
- Adjacency to public lands
- Public access/use opportunities
- Timber management opportunities
- Ecological resources – wildlife and critical habitat
- Cost per acre

It is needed because

A small-window of opportunity exists to positively affect a historically important forestland ownership trend that threatens to forever change the character of Minnesota's "north woods."

Thousands of acres of northern forestlands owned and managed for decades by timber and mining companies are being sold in large chunks to timber investment management organizations (TIMOs). Examples include:

- Louisiana Pacific's sale of all of its MN timberlands to a TIMO in 1998
- Consolidated Paper's sale of all of its MN timberland eventually to a TIMO in 2003
- Boise Cascade's sale of its MN timberlands (309,000 acres) to a TIMO in 2005.

TIMOs and the investors they represent generally have a shorter-term outlook and see these lands as being worth a lot more in real estate transactions than as a source of trees or wildlife habitat 50-years down the road. Nearly 1 million acres of large, largely undeveloped private tracts of Minnesota forests are at risk of being sold and converted into smaller parcels.

This opportunity is important to Minnesota because these forestlands provide large blocks of essentially undeveloped forest that is increasingly important as unfragmented wildlife habitat, as a sustainable source of timber for the state's forest industries, and land that has generally been open to the public for outdoor recreation.

Conservation easements provide a critical, cost-effective tool to:

- Provide long-term conservation of valuable blocks of undeveloped forestland
- Maintain forest industry-related jobs
- Maintain public recreational access
- Preserve ecological functions of forest (i.e., habitat, air, and water quality)
- Keep corridors of undeveloped private forest connected to public forestland.

With increasing development pressure and rapidly escalating land values in northern Minnesota, the window of opportunity to act will be short-lived. Once these large blocks of contiguous, undeveloped forests are transformed into smaller, developed parcels, there will be no turning back.

The risk of development in these large tracts of unfragmented forest is real and growing. Development in the forested region of the state is increasing at alarming rates. Housing densities in northern Minnesota increased 25% from 1990 to 2000. Forestland values have also jumped six fold since 1989, from about \$200 per acre to \$1,200 per acre or more.

Statewide trends show a continually growing number of small "non-industrial" private forest landowners, each one owning smaller and smaller parcels of land. Smaller parcel size increases the fragmentation of Minnesota's private forests (e.g., each parcel accessed by a road, each road leading to a cabin or house, etc.), making these lands less valued for wildlife habitat, less available and more difficult to manage for timber production, and less available for recreational use.

There are no signs of these trends slowing down. Between 2000 and 2030, nearly every county from the north end of the Twin Cities to Itasca County is expected to grow 50% or more in terms of the number of households.

Approximately 42% of Minnesota's forests are privately owned (i.e., 6.9 of the 16.3 million acres of forest land). Of this, 1.2 million acres are private industrial and corporate holdings. Maintaining some of these lands as larger blocks of intact, working forests has clear benefits to Minnesota.

Forest Legacy is a federal conservation easement program operated by the U.S. Forest Service to prevent the loss of productive timberland, fragmentation of important and threatened forestland, and the parcelization of forest ownership. The easement allows the landowner to manage the property under a sustainable forest management plan for timber, wildlife, water and recreational values, but prevents the land from being subdivided or developed for non-forest values. The federal program pays landowners up to 75% of the easement cost. State dollars will be used to provide the 25% match required to qualify for federal funds for acquisition of the conservation easements.

Project locations

- **The Itasca Area** portions of Itasca, Koochiching, and Cass counties. Mix of shoreline and non-shoreline.

- **Other Critical Areas** portions of the Brainerd Lakes-Walker area with substantial shoreline; and other areas with threatened private forestlands.

Impact on operating budget

DNR and its partners will provide professional services, such as negotiation, appraisal, survey, and title work, to obtain the easements.

Once purchased, conservation easements will require long-term maintenance by the DNR, including:

- Monitoring
- Long-term management
- On-going landowner relations

For further information contact:

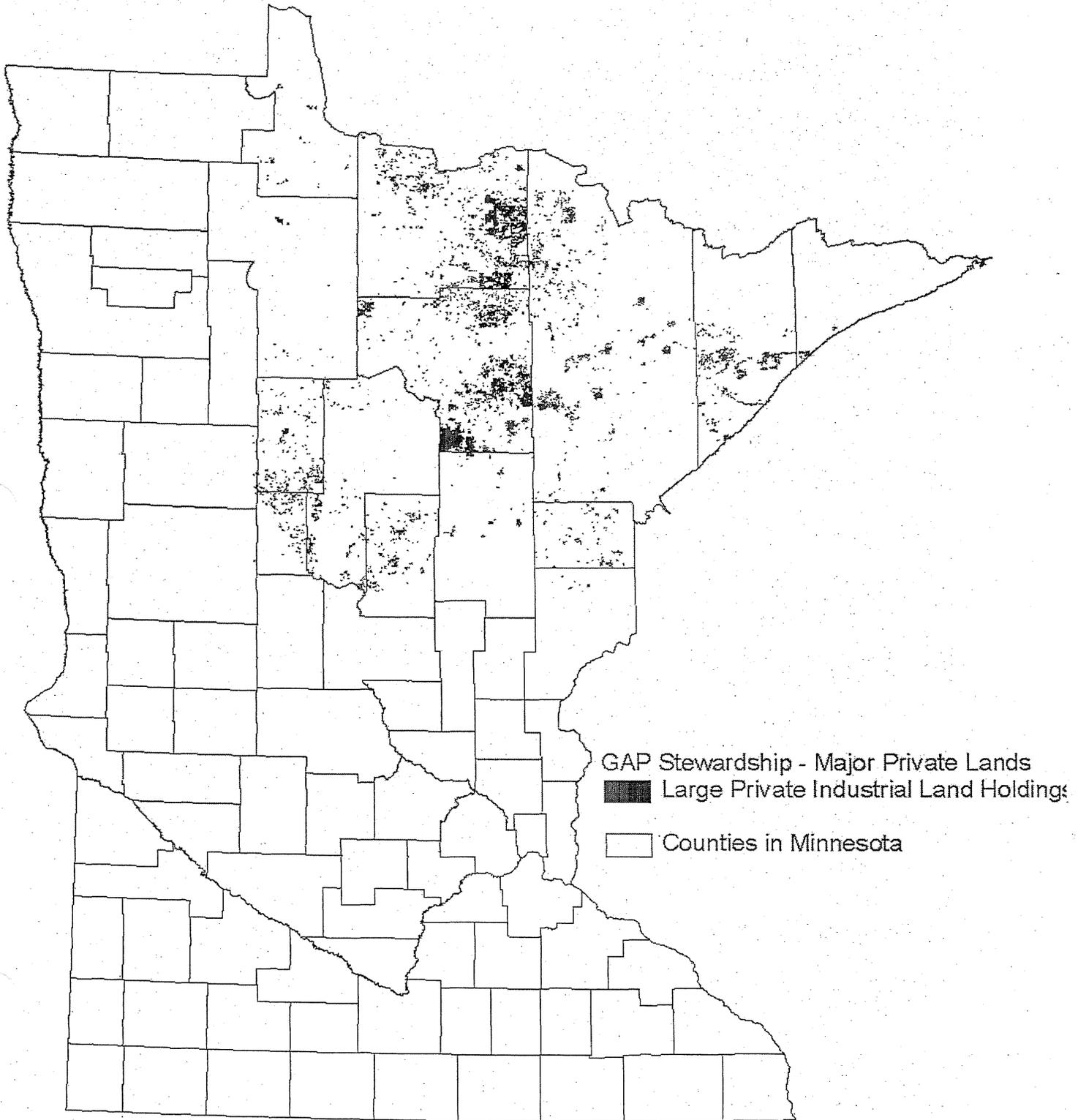
Brad Moore, Assistant Commissioner for Operations
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Large-Scale Forest Conservation Easements Opportunity Areas Approximately 1 Million Acres





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET State Land Reforestation Governor's Recommendation: \$4,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$4 million in state funds to adequately address Minn. Stat. § 89.002, subd. 2 that requires:

- reforestation of all harvested state forestlands;
- maintenance of all state forests in appropriate forest cover, plant stock, growth rate, and health; and
- restoration of native plant communities on state forestlands to address biodiversity and productivity issues.

How DNR prioritizes

Minn. Stat. § 89.002, subd. 2 requires:

- Reforestation of all harvested state forestlands;
- Maintenance of all state forests in appropriate forest cover, plant stock, growth rate, and health;
- Restoration of productivity on state forestlands to address biodiversity and productivity issues.

It is needed because

Careful, adequate, and full reforestation:

- Improves a long-term asset that increases in value over time. Forests return millions of dollars to Minnesota's economy in the form of forest products, secondary products (such as paper), recreational opportunities that support the tourism industry and ecological values that sustain our quality of life;
- Seeks to fulfill "A Vision for the Future" for Minnesota's forests as described in "*A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007*" that calls for "healthy" and "resilient" forests and forests that are "sustainably managed to provide a diversity of benefits"; and
- Addresses the long-term sustainability of Minnesota's forests, which should be considered a capital investment.

Project locations

There are about 30 to 35,000 acres of state forestlands reforested each year. These lands are scattered among 58 state forests. See map of state forests.

Approximately 10,000 acres of 30,000 are reforested by planting and seeding each year. About 5,000 acres are site prepped annually to prepare the sites for planting and seeding.

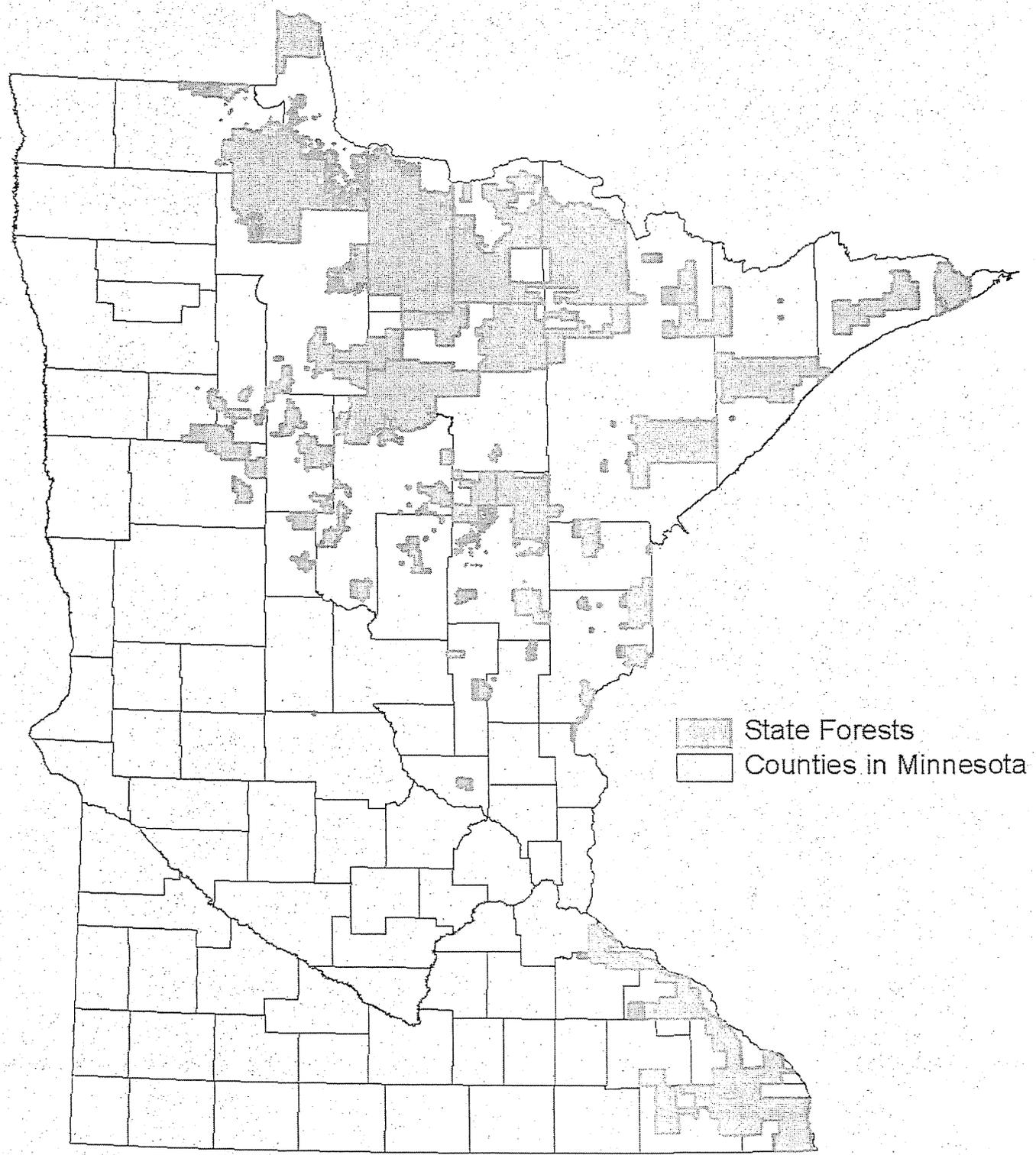
Impact on operating budget

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry operating budget does not contain sufficient funds to plant and seed all sites that should be artificially regenerated, while at the same time, provide adequate protection of these areas after they are planted. Capital investment will help meet reforestation goals and statutory requirements.

For further information contact:

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State Land Reforestation General Project Locations





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET State Forest Land Acquisition Governor's Recommendation: \$4,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$4 million to acquire private lands within state forest boundaries to reduce development pressure on private land that threatens management options on adjacent state lands and to provide long-term access. These parcels would also help address trespass problems on state lands.

Acquisitions are critical because when private in-holdings are developed within state forests, management and use of adjacent state lands are often incompatible with the desires of private landowners. Acquisitions will also provide access to state lands to ensure appropriate forest management activities, public access for recreational opportunities, and public safety, particularly wildfire suppression.

How DNR prioritizes

Acquisitions of private in-holdings from willing sellers are pursued to resolve incompatible development interests and to provide access to state lands that ensures appropriate forest management activities, public access for recreational opportunities, and public safety, particularly wildfire suppression.

It is needed because

The Division of Forestry administers nearly 4.4 million acres of the roughly 5.7 million acres of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administered land. Minnesota has 14.7 million acres of commercial forestland. These lands are about equally divided between public and private ownership. Forestry manages about 20% of the commercial forestland in the state.

Project locations

Also, more dollars will be needed to help fund major collaborative acquisition efforts with private nonprofit organizations and other state and federal agencies. A potential acquisition project with The Nature Conservancy and Camp Ripley

entitled the "Central Minnesota Prairies to Pines Partnership" can play a key role in meeting the long range forest acquisition goal.

Impact on operating budget

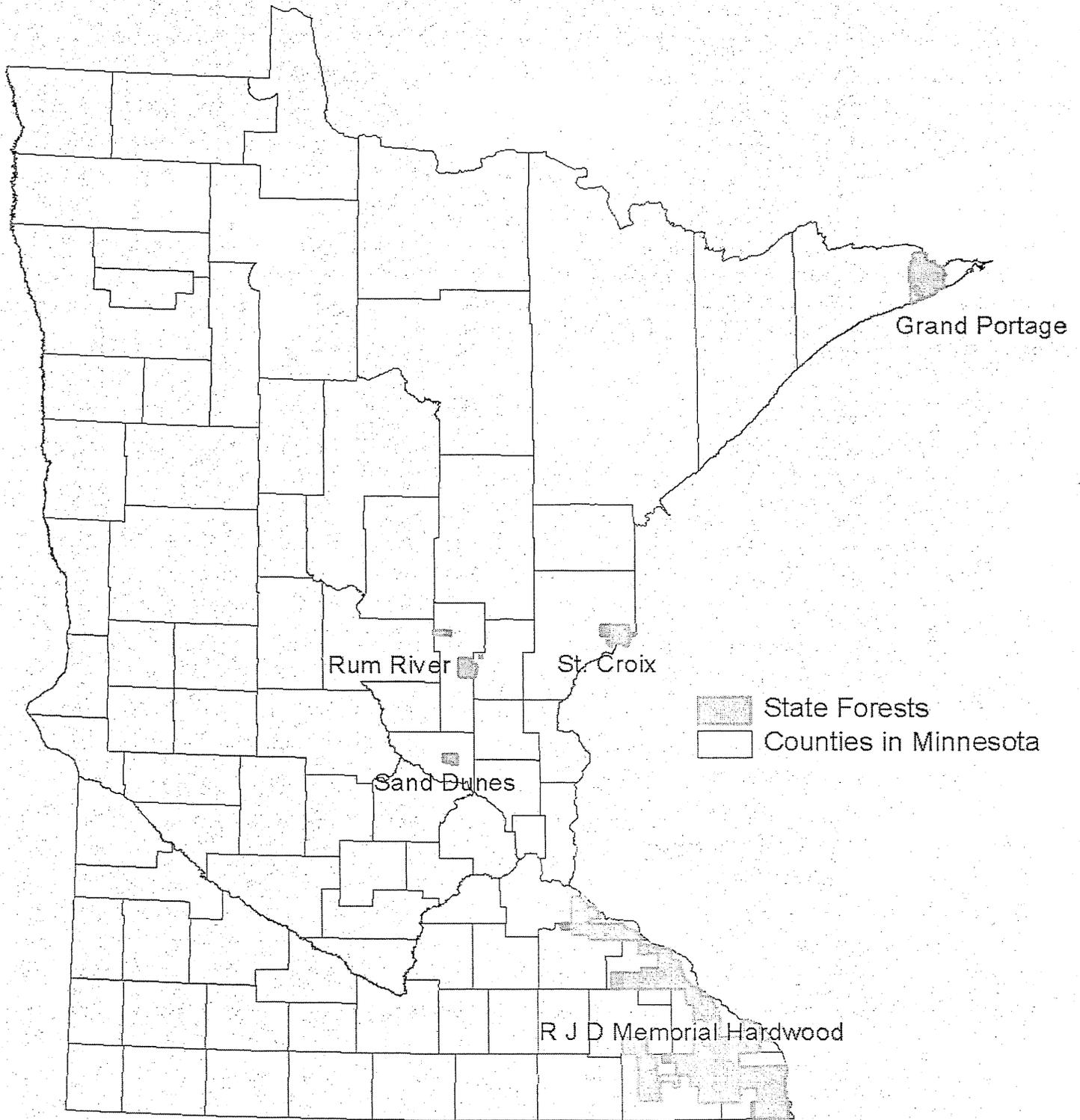
The acquisition of state forestlands will increase the payment in-lieu-of-taxes made under M.S. 477A.12.

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DNR Capital Project Priorities as of January 2006

State Forest Land Acquisition Priority State Forests





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

Wildlife Area Land Acquisition and Improvement

Governor's Recommendation: \$15,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request will accelerate acquisition and improvement of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Minnesota has one of the finest systems of publicly owned WMAs in the country (1,380 units; 1.2 million acres in 86 of 87 counties). These areas allow Minnesota citizens and nonresidents to enjoy wildlife and share our natural heritage. WMAs are also important for conserving surface water; preserving unique vegetation, natural beauty and open space; and providing areas for outdoor recreation compatible with wildlife management.

How DNR prioritizes

Statewide WMA land acquisition and development priorities are guided by a number of criteria combined with specific biennial priorities of the DNR, and recommendations from the Citizen's Advisory Committee Report on long-range acquisition goals and priorities for the WMA Program. High priority is given to larger land acquisitions that will complement wetland, shallow lake, and grassland complexes; key inholdings or additions to existing WMAs; and acquisitions that protect and improve shallow lakes, seasonally flooded wetlands, restorable wetland basins, and other key waterfowl habitat.

It is needed because

Accelerated state acquisition dollars will be needed to help fund major collaborative acquisition efforts with private nonprofit organizations and other state and federal agencies. Existing partnerships such as the Habitat Corridors Partnership and the Metropolitan Area Habitat Corridor Projects play a key role in meeting the long-range WMA goals.

Project locations

Potential projects include:

- ♦ Purchasing 6,000 to 7,000 acres for WMAs directly from willing landowners.

- ♦ Developing and improving WMA user facilities, access roads, and trails.
- ♦ Partnering with private conservation organizations and other state and federal programs to acquire a similar amount of land for WMAs.
- ♦ Restoring prairie/grasslands, open/brush lands, and wetlands to support wildlife populations on newly acquired WMAs.
- ♦ Modifying an existing water control structure on Marsh Lake in a cooperative project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to enhance ecological and recreational values.

Impact on operating budget

Lands acquired as part of the WMA system present a future commitment for maintenance, development, and management costs. In the short-term, initial infrastructure costs (boundary survey, posting, parking lot and user facilities, building removal, well sealing, road approaches, etc.) are estimated to be \$13,000 to \$15,000 per parcel (an average of 10% of purchase value.) Payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) would also increase to cover the newly acquired lands.

In the mid-term and long-term there is also a continuing commitment for development and maintenance on new WMA lands. Habitat restoration costs may include grassland development, forest or woody cover development or improvement, brushland management, and food plot development. These costs can be funded by other bonding requests, Game and Fish Funds, Heritage Enhancement Funds, Environmental Trust Funds, or private organizations.

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Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

Native Prairie Bank Easements and Development

Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

Purpose of this request

State funding of \$1 million is requested for prairie bank easement (PBE) acquisition and development.

Approximately \$950,000 of this funding request would be used to enroll an estimated 15 tracts, protecting about 1,000 acres of prairie on private land. At the present time, 69 PBEs have been acquired, protecting 5,349 acres of prairie land. All currently enrolled and proposed easements are perpetual. The long-range goal of the Native Prairie Bank program is to protect 75,000 acres of native prairie on private land. In the next 10 years the goal is to enroll about a third of this 20,000-25,000 acres).

About \$50,000 of this request would be used for PBE development to protect and enhance prairie resources. Development efforts include activities such as restoration of small old-fields within larger native prairie tracts, fencing, signing, and cutting trees that have encroached onto the prairie.

How DNR prioritizes

The Native Prairie Bank Program was established by the 1987 legislature to allow private landowners to protect native prairie on their property through a conservation easement with the DNR. To qualify, a tract must be covered by native prairie vegetation and have never been plowed. Eligible tracts are prioritized based on factors including: size, quality and diversity of the native prairie habitat; occurrence of, or suitable habitat for rare species; location of the tract relative to other native prairie tracts and/or public land; and potential for long-term habitat management and enhancement.

It is needed because

Native prairie is Minnesota's most endangered natural habitat type. The state once had over 18 million acres of prairie. Today less than 1% remains (150,000 acres) and we continue to lose an estimated 1,000 acres per

year. Prairies provide excellent wildlife habitat for nesting waterfowl, pheasant, and other upland nesting birds. The remaining remnant native prairies are in jeopardy of being lost forever unless they are protected now.

Project locations

The protection of Minnesota's remaining native prairie has statewide significance and benefits because it is Minnesota's most endangered habitat type and is home to more than 100 different species of rare and endangered plants and animals. This request is consistent with the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007" target to enroll more than 2.5 million acres in conservation land retirement programs by 2010 and conduct at least 50 management projects on native prairie each year.

Impact on operating budget

As new PBEs are acquired the annual operating budget will increase accordingly. Administration responsibilities include monitoring landowner compliance with easement conditions and providing stewardship advice and assistance to landowners to maintain or improve the condition of their native prairie. Acquisition of PBE adjacent to existing DNR lands or PBE sites often results in no increase or an actual decrease in long-term management costs, since problems emanating from adjacent lands are eliminated (e.g. soil erosion, noxious weeds, and trespass). The level of funding needed for program management will depend upon the number of new PBEs acquired as well as their location relative to other DNR lands.

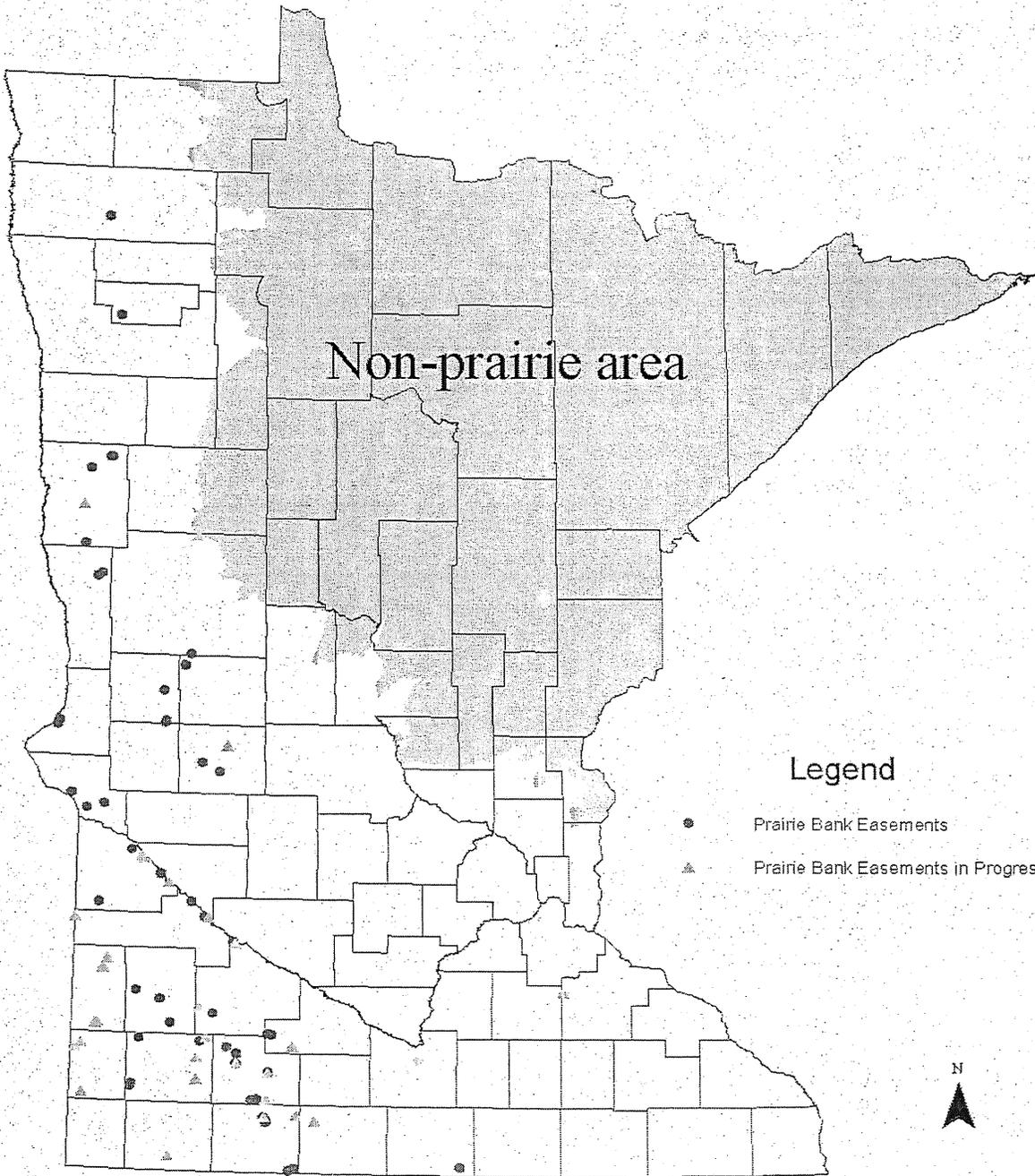
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Date: February 1, 2006

Native Prairie Bank Easements and Development

DNR Capital Project Priorities as of January 2006



1/18/06

50 0 50 Miles



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Fisheries Acquisition and Improvement Governor's Recommendation: \$4,000,000

Purpose of this request

Funds will be used to acquire fee title or permanent conservation easements on lakes and streams. Lake/stream protection and management efforts will also be implemented, including aquatic plant restoration, bank stabilization, and aeration.

How DNR prioritizes

AMA Acquisition is guided by criteria identified in Minn. Stat. §86A.05 and Minn. Rules 6136.0700. Parcels that meet these criteria are further prioritized according to funding guidelines provided in the AMA biennial spending plan. Due to the rate shoreline habitat is disappearing, there is an urgent need to take advantage of strong opportunities as they become available. High priority is given to quality shoreline projects that include partner involvement, a strong commitment on the part of the seller, and to parcels located on designated trout streams.

It is needed because

The DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007" provides a framework of indicators of performance and target results for achieving the department's mission. This framework has provided direction and guidance on the construction of the capital budget. This initiative will assist in meeting two performance indicators: Number of shoreline miles protected in Aquatic Management Areas and Brown trout population levels and miles of easements on southeastern Minnesota trout streams. The Aquatic Management Area acquisition program is an essential partner in providing water access sites, which is another performance indicator.

Project locations

The department depends on outside funds for doing large-scale habitat improvements and for acquisition opportunities that cannot be funded with operational funds. These funds will be used to work in those corridors of the state and on projects that are not

currently identified in either the Heritage Enhancement or Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) appropriations. Through the AMA acquisition program, state funds have the ability to leverage large amounts of private land or cash donations. From 2003 to 2005, the department acquired over \$12 million of AMA fee title and easement lands, of which \$4.6 million (just under 40%) came from partners in donations of land or cash. These purchases protected 2,300 acres and 42.3 miles of shoreline.

Impact on operating budget

The funds for this project will provide for the purchase of easement or fee title interest in properties where willing sellers are identified. It will provide angler access and protection of aquatic habitats. The funds will also be used to support habitat improvements that may be done in cooperation with local watershed efforts. There will be no or minimal impact on administrative or staffing budgets.

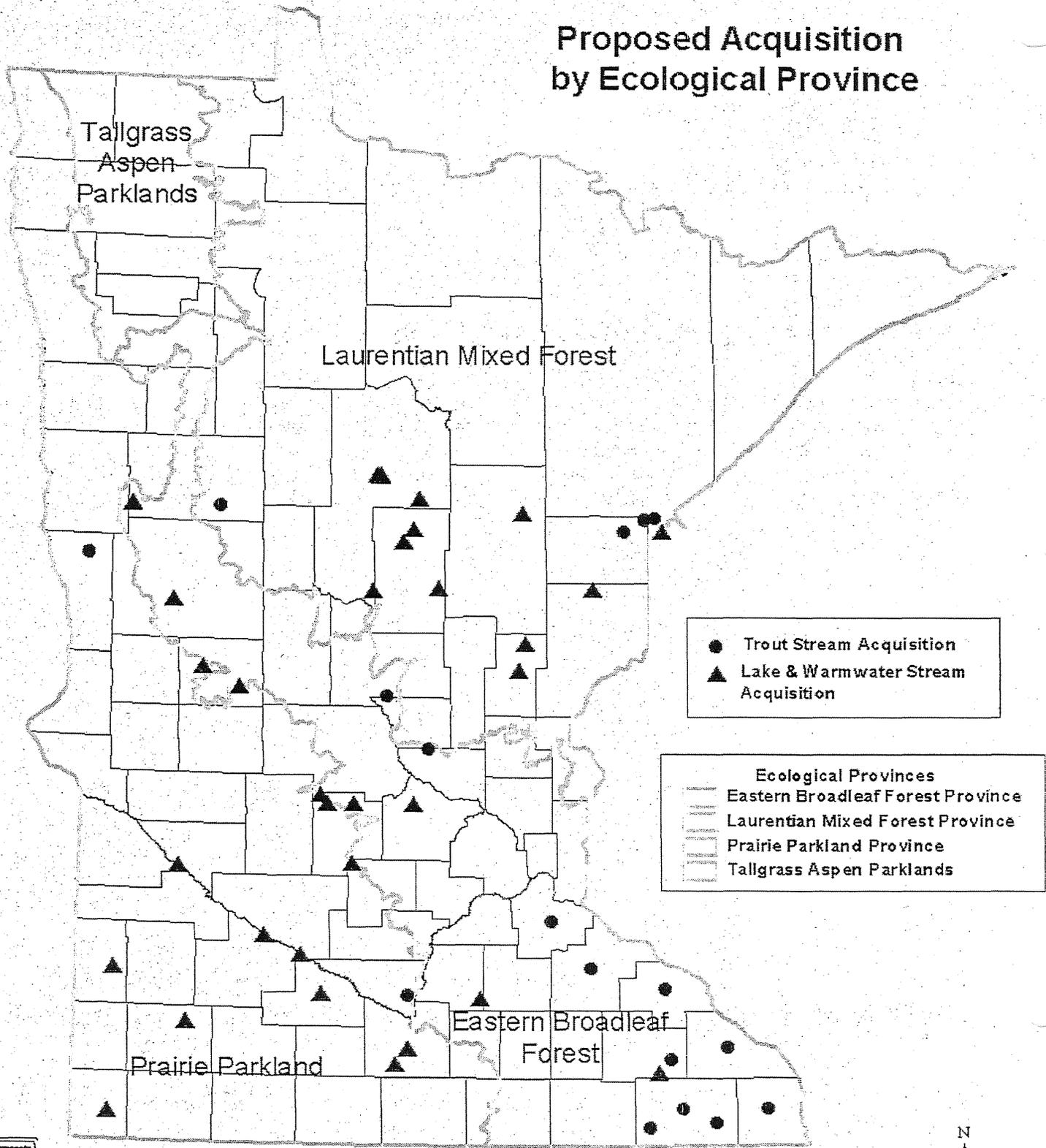
For further information contact:

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2006 Capital Budget

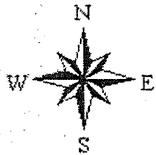
Fisheries Acquisition

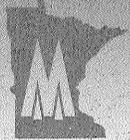
Proposed Acquisition by Ecological Province



● Trout Stream Acquisition
▲ Lake & Warmwater Stream Acquisition

Ecological Provinces
Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province
Laurentian Mixed Forest Province
Prairie Parkland Province
Tallgrass Aspen Parklands





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Waterfowl Habitat Structures Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

Purpose of this request

The DNR Section of Wildlife Management manages more than 1,000 dikes, dams, water control structures and fish barriers on shallow lakes and managed wetlands across Minnesota. These structures provide core waterfowl habitat on designated wildlife lakes.

This request is for new construction or replacement of four large dike and water control structure systems to preserve and enhance capital investment in important wetland complexes and remove one obsolete dam to restore a stream to its natural course.

These systems will protect and enhance over 11,000 acres of waterfowl impoundments located on Wildlife Management Areas and meet our responsibility for water level management on two important designated wildlife lakes encompassing over 5,500 acres of wetland habitat.

This initiative will assist in meeting two performance indicators in the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007": Number of prairie wetland complexes and Minnesota's share of the yearly Mississippi River Flyway duck harvest. The improved wetlands managed and restored with the water control structures will also improve hunter satisfaction, which is another performance indicator.

How DNR prioritizes

Waterfowl habitat structure projects are chosen for their potential to improve significant shallow lake resources important to migrating waterfowl and waterfowl hunters as one component in meeting targets in the DNR's Strategic Conservation Agenda for increasing Minnesota's share of the Mississippi Flyway duck harvest. Priority projects for capital investment are chosen because they have statewide significance and recognition, their size and scope are appropriate, they protect and improve major existing

capital investments, and preliminary designs are completed or underway.

It is needed because

Many of the large dike, dam, water control structures, and fish barrier structures under DNR management are deteriorating and are in need of replacement. These projects will also provide better habitat for waterfowl in accordance with the DNR's Minnesota Duck Recovery Plan.

Project locations

Potential projects include:

- ◆ Removing and replacing inadequate or failing water control structures
- ◆ Repairing and improving existing water control structures and dikes
- ◆ Breaching an existing dike to allow flowage system to be managed in a natural state
- ◆ Creating an outlet structure to allow lake habitat restoration

Impact on operating budget

There would be no major impacts on the agency's operating budget. The water control structures that would be improved with this request are important components of managed wetlands on state lands. Operating budgets have not and will not be adequate to fund the capital nature of these improvements.

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Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Fish Hatchery Improvements Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

Purpose of this request

Minnesota has invested in building 16 hatchery facilities statewide. Through its operating budget, DNR raises species including walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, trout and salmon to stock into Minnesota's lakes and streams. Below is a chart showing the FY05 production of some of Minnesota's more popular game fish.

FY05 Stocking Outcomes

Activity	Fish Stocked	Lakes/Streams Stocked
Walleye Fry	262.2 million	253
Walleye Fingerlings, Yearlings, and adults	3.3 million	414
Muskellunge Fingerlings	22,300	61
Trout & Salmon (All Sizes)	3 million	275

The Department's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007" has provided direction and guidance on the construction of the capital budget. This initiative will assist in meeting two performance indicators: Pounds of walleye fingerlings stocked and Lake Superior steelhead catch rates. The culture and stocking program will also improve angler satisfaction, which is another performance indicator.

How DNR prioritizes

Priorities for hatchery improvements are chosen through a statewide process that considers both immediate needs as well as meeting defined DNR production goals and outcomes. Improvement priorities are based on whether or not the facilities have the essential equipment to ensure that a disease free and quality product is produced, that the approved production goals can be met, and whether it will be more cost efficient for the program. Production priorities are established through approved individual water management plans that look at angling demand and water body assessments.

It is needed because

Regular maintenance on hatchery facilities is needed to keep production at its peak efficiency. Potential projects include:

- ◆ Improving the waste water effluent system, flood control system, and oxygen generation for raceways
- ◆ Repairing outlets on walleye rearing ponds
- ◆ Installing or upgrading water lines and heating systems for walleye and muskie production
- ◆ Dividing walleye production ponds
- ◆ Upgrading a tank for walleye fry production
- ◆ Installing a degasification system for walleye production
- ◆ Emergency generator replacement, motor control center replacement, and installation of a heat pump system for heating fish culture water

Project locations

The state owns and operates 16 fish hatchery facilities statewide. The map on the reverse side of this fact sheet shows the locations of the hatcheries.

Impact on operating budget

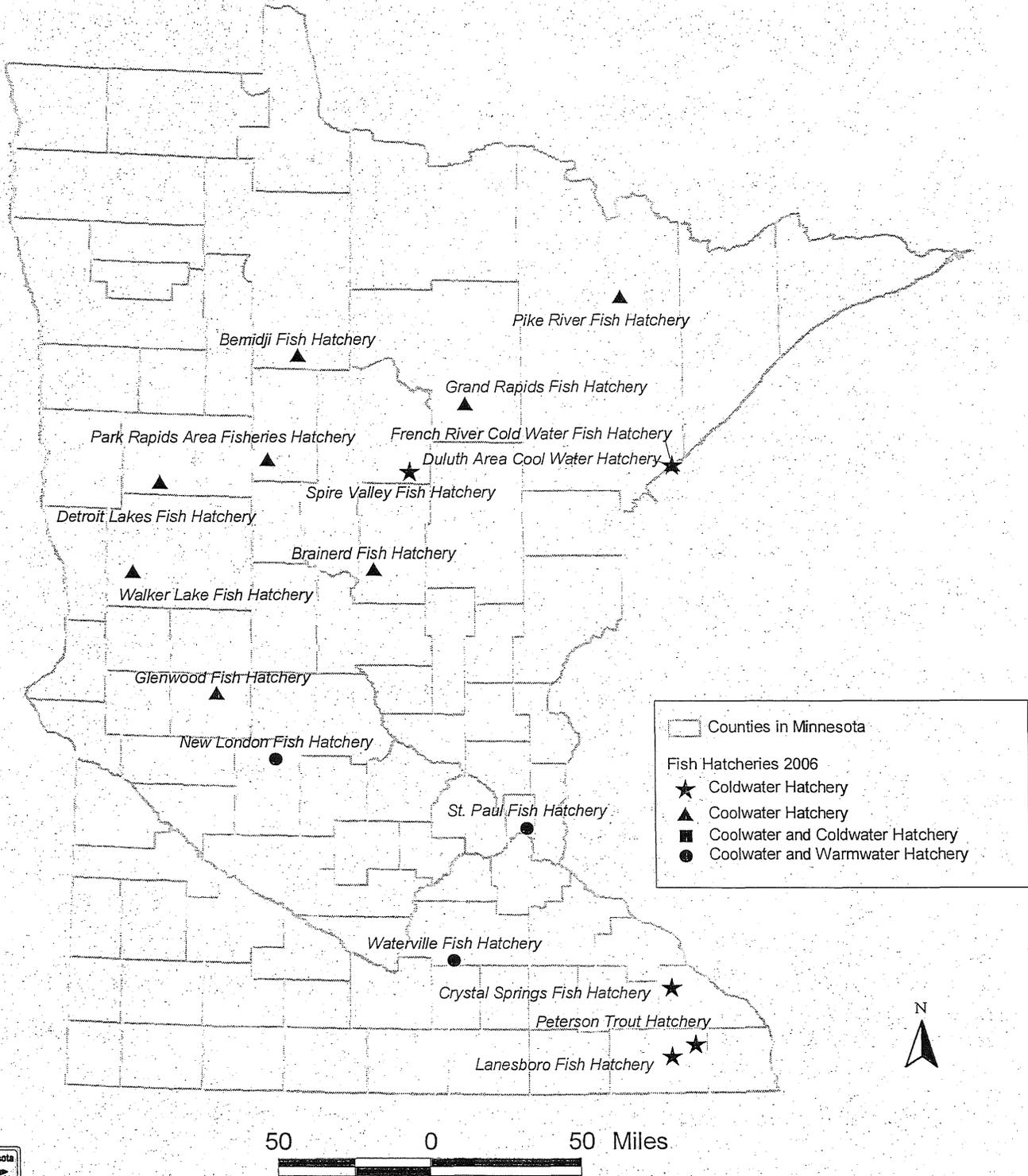
There would be no major impacts on the agency's operating budget. The Section of Fisheries spends about 18% of its operating budget on fish culture and stocking. The hatchery facilities that would be improved with this request are important components of the state's fish culture program.

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2006 Capital Budget

Fish Hatchery Improvements





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Stream Protection and Restoration Governor's Recommendation: \$2,000,000

Purpose of this request

Minnesota's streams have been degraded by channelization and the construction of dams. Channelization reduces stream length, eliminates fish and wildlife habitat, and increases erosion, sedimentation, and downstream flooding. Dams block migration of fish and other aquatic species and reduce the overall productivity of streams by interfering with sediment and nutrient transport. Stream restoration provides opportunities to improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality while reducing erosion and downstream flooding.

How DNR prioritizes

Projects are chosen through a statewide selection process based on potential for resource improvement, local community interest, and public benefit. Project costs include engineering, conducting surveys for development of topography maps, developing design plans and specifications, producing bid and specifications packages, and final construction.

It is needed because

Restoration projects involve removal or modification of dams, constructing stream channels to a more natural pattern, constructing riffles for bed stability, bank stabilization, and landscaping. Stream channel design requires specialized knowledge of watershed hydrology, river morphology, and stream ecology to ensure that restored streams provide ecological and recreational benefits.

Project locations

This request will have statewide benefits because projects are located in several geographic areas. There are also public safety benefits to this proposal because dam removal or modification can eliminate a drowning hazard. This request is consistent with the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007" priority to restore degraded streams and remove or modify unsafe dams.

Impact on operating budget

None.

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Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET SNA Acquisition and Development Governor's Recommendation: \$3,000,000

Purpose of this request

State funding of \$3,000,000 is requested to acquire and develop lands as Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) statewide. This will result in about 300 – 1,600 acres of SNAs depending on location land value and willing sellers.

This request has statewide significance because it supports the highest priority plant, animal and natural community resources throughout the state (including native prairie). This request is consistent with the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007" priority to meet the long-term goal of having 500 SNAs by 2085. The department estimates that development of critical SNA sites would cost more than \$3.6 million during the next six years.

How DNR prioritizes

Priorities for SNA acquisition are identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey, historical data, immediate threats to critical parcels and first hand knowledge of a site. This process allows the SNA program to meet multiple protection objectives (communities and species/geological features) at one site. Protection efforts also require a continual review of the existing public land base to determine the occurrence of rare species, geological features, and plant communities.

It is needed because

SNAs are sites of statewide significance that preserve examples of rare plant communities, geological features, and rare and endangered species habitat. Examples are native prairie and habitat for rare plant and animal populations, e.g. orchids. SNAs provide high quality recreational and educational opportunities including hiking, bird watching, hunting and nature photography. These unique resource sites are in danger of being lost unless they are protected now.

At present there are 140 SNAs with 184,635 acres. Of this total, 146,238 acres are in 16 ecologically significant peat lands protected by the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991. This request follows a Long Range Plan approved by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). It prioritizes acquisition of natural areas and lands adjacent to existing sites. Minnesota has identified approximately 500 natural features that need to be protected; therefore, we estimate that 500 SNAs need to be established by 2085.

Project locations

See attached map of long range protection goals across the state.

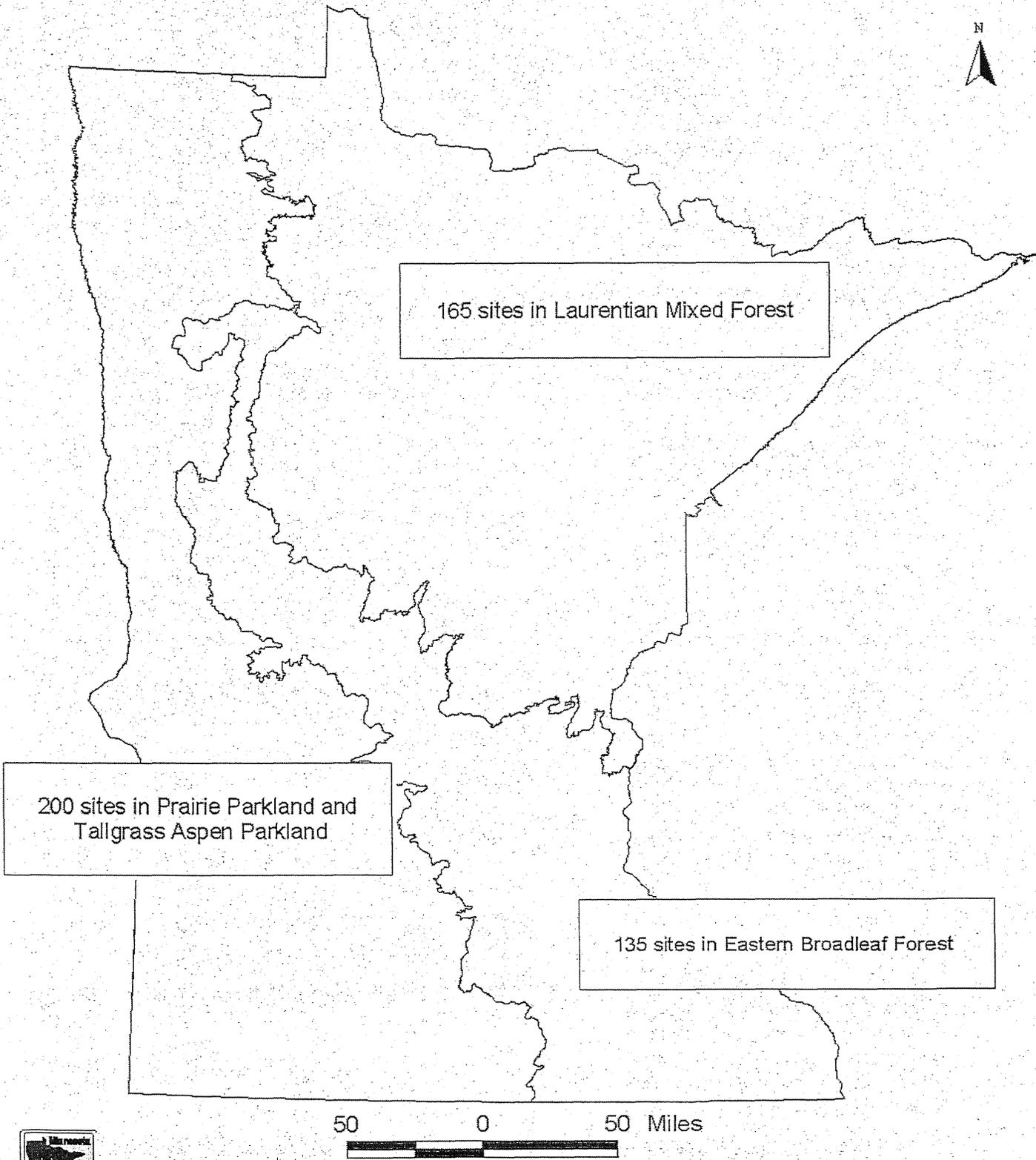
Impact on operating budget

As new SNAs are acquired, the annual operating budget will increase. Acquisition of lands adjacent to existing SNA sites can result in a decrease in management costs when problems emanating from adjacent lands are eliminated (e.g. soil erosion and noxious weeds).

For further information contact:

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Scientific and Natural Areas: 2085 Year Projection Goals





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET State Park Building Rehabilitation Governor's Recommendation: \$3,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request will provide \$3 million to fund building rehabilitation and replacement projects within the state park system. This capital project request for Minnesota state parks continues the capital investment initiative begun in 2002 and is focused on rebuilding and repairing existing buildings to ensure a quality experience for approximately eight million visitors each year. This request also includes funding for a new visitor center at Grand Portage State Park. This project is being developed cooperatively between DNR, the Grand Portage Band, and Mn/Dot, and will serve as a highway rest area as well as a visitor center.

The state park system consists of 66 parks, six recreation areas, eight waysides, one state trail, and 54 forest campgrounds and day use areas. The system includes more than 1,600 buildings, 1,255 miles of trails, 332 miles of roads, 72 bridges, 6,500 campsites, 6,500 picnic sites, 75 group camps, 40 beaches, and 135 water access sites. There are 619 buildings and structures that are on the National Register of Historic Places and many date from the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) and are more than 65 years old. Douglas Lodge, probably the most well-known building in the state park system, was built in 1905, the same year as the state capitol.

How DNR prioritizes

The state park and recreation area system contains more than 1,600 buildings and structures, many of which are historically significant. Rehabilitation projects are prioritized based on safety, compliance with codes, user needs, and long-term structural preservation.

It is needed because

Projects funded by this request will include rehabilitation of existing sanitation buildings, visitor centers, and contact stations to meet current codes;

provide easily maintained spaces; enhance user safety; and enhance accessibility. Replacement buildings will be constructed when rehabilitation is not feasible or financially prudent. Historic buildings will be repaired and reconstructed to historic appearance and function, to the extent possible, in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office.

Project locations

Projects in this request are located throughout the state within the state park system. The Grand Portage State Park visitor center/highway rest area will be developed on Highway 61 near the Canadian/US border. A complete list of building rehabilitation and replacement project priorities is available. Priorities may change as facility deficiencies are identified and project readiness changes throughout the biennium.

Impact on operating budget

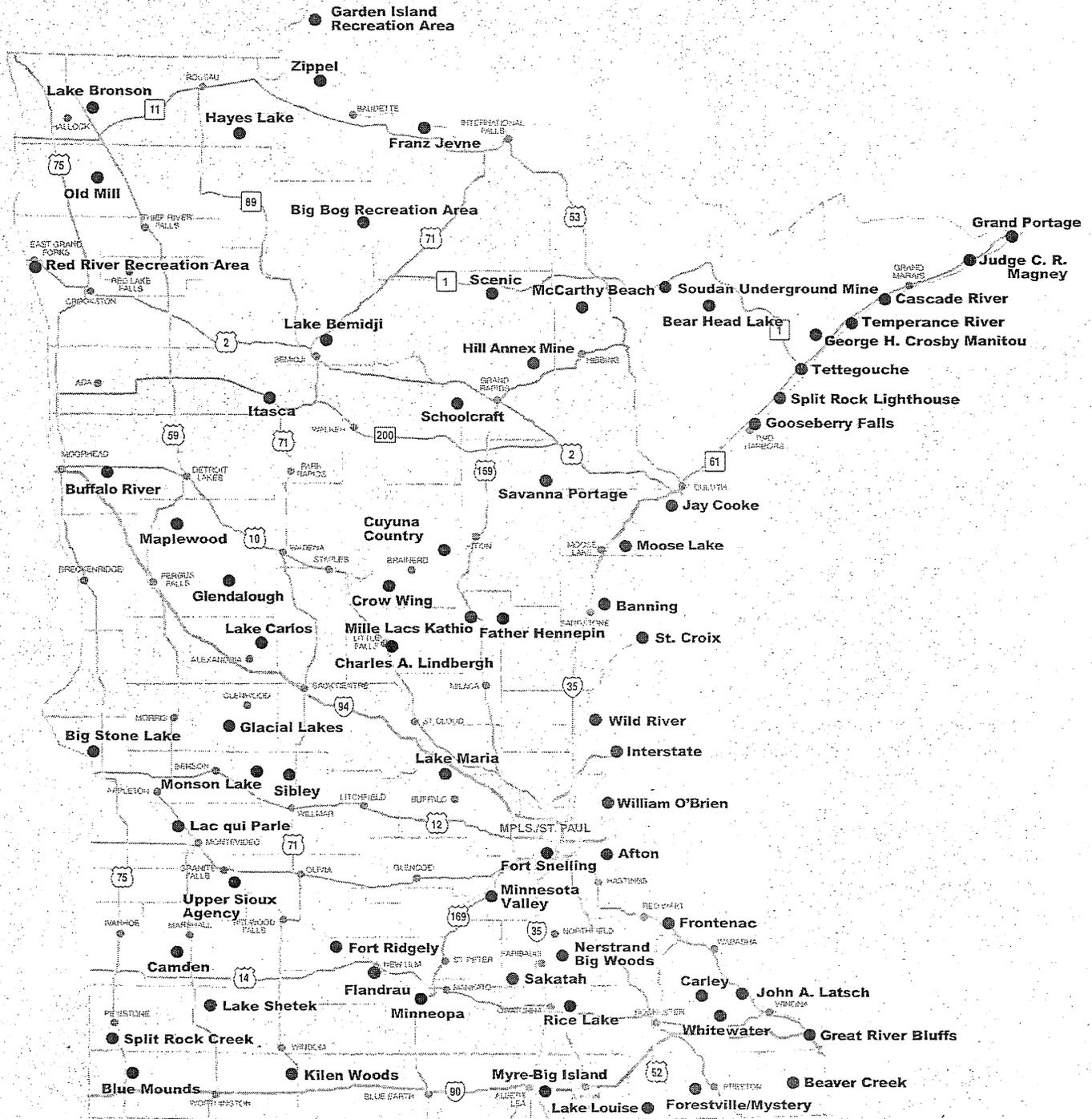
These projects will not result in a reduction to the agency's operating budget. However, there will be efficiencies gained throughout the system allowing staff to serve the public more effectively. Lifespan of historic buildings will be extended; reliability and safety of utility systems, roads, and bridges will be greatly strengthened; and maintenance costs for buildings affected will be reduced. Clean, well-maintained facilities will increase user satisfaction in campgrounds, picnic areas, and swimming beaches, and will promote additional park usage and revenue growth.

For further information contact:

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DNR Capital Budget Request January 2006

Minnesota State Park System



1-23-06





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

State Park Infrastructure Rehabilitation & Natural Resource Restoration

Governor's Recommendation: \$3,000,000

Purpose of this request

Projects funded by this request will include safety improvements to trails, restoration of forest, prairie, and wetland areas, erosion repair, upgrades to water and sewer systems, bridge replacements, and campground rehabilitation. Safety and public health improvements will be the highest priorities, followed by resource restoration projects and recreational facility improvements.

How DNR prioritizes

The state park and recreation area system contains approximately 220,000 acres of land, 332 miles of roads, 1,255 miles of trails, 72 bridges, and utility systems to support day-use and camping areas in 66 parks and six recreation areas. Projects to rehabilitate infrastructure, preserve cultural resources, and restore native vegetation are prioritized based on safety, environmental significance, state park mission, compatibility with park master plans, and recreational significance.

It is needed because

This capital project request for Minnesota state parks continues the capital investment initiative begun in 2002 and is focused on repairing and restoring park landscapes and infrastructure to ensure a quality experience for approximately eight million visitors each year.

The Minnesota state park system was established in 1891 with the creation of Itasca State Park, and is the second oldest state park system in the United States. The state park system consists of 66 parks, six recreation areas, eight waysides, one state trail, and 54 forest campgrounds and day use areas. The system includes over 1,600 buildings, 1,255 miles of trails, 332 miles of roads, 72 bridges, 6,500 campsites, 6,500 picnic sites, 75 group camps, 40 beaches, and 135 water access sites. Individual state parks operate almost like small cities, hosting over 800,000

overnight guests each year. Each state park requires its own system of roads, water supply and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, electrical distribution, and recreational infrastructure.

Project locations

Projects in this request are located throughout the state within the state park system. The projects currently prioritized for this request are approximately 50% road and bridge projects, 15% campground and day use, 15% utilities, 10% natural resource restoration, and 10% trail rehabilitation. A complete list of infrastructure and resource project priorities is available. Priorities may change as deficiencies and failures are identified throughout the biennium.

Impact on operating budget

These projects will not result in a reduction to the agency's operating budget. However, there will be efficiencies gained throughout the system allowing staff to serve the public more effectively.

For further information contact:

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DNR Division of Parks and Recreation

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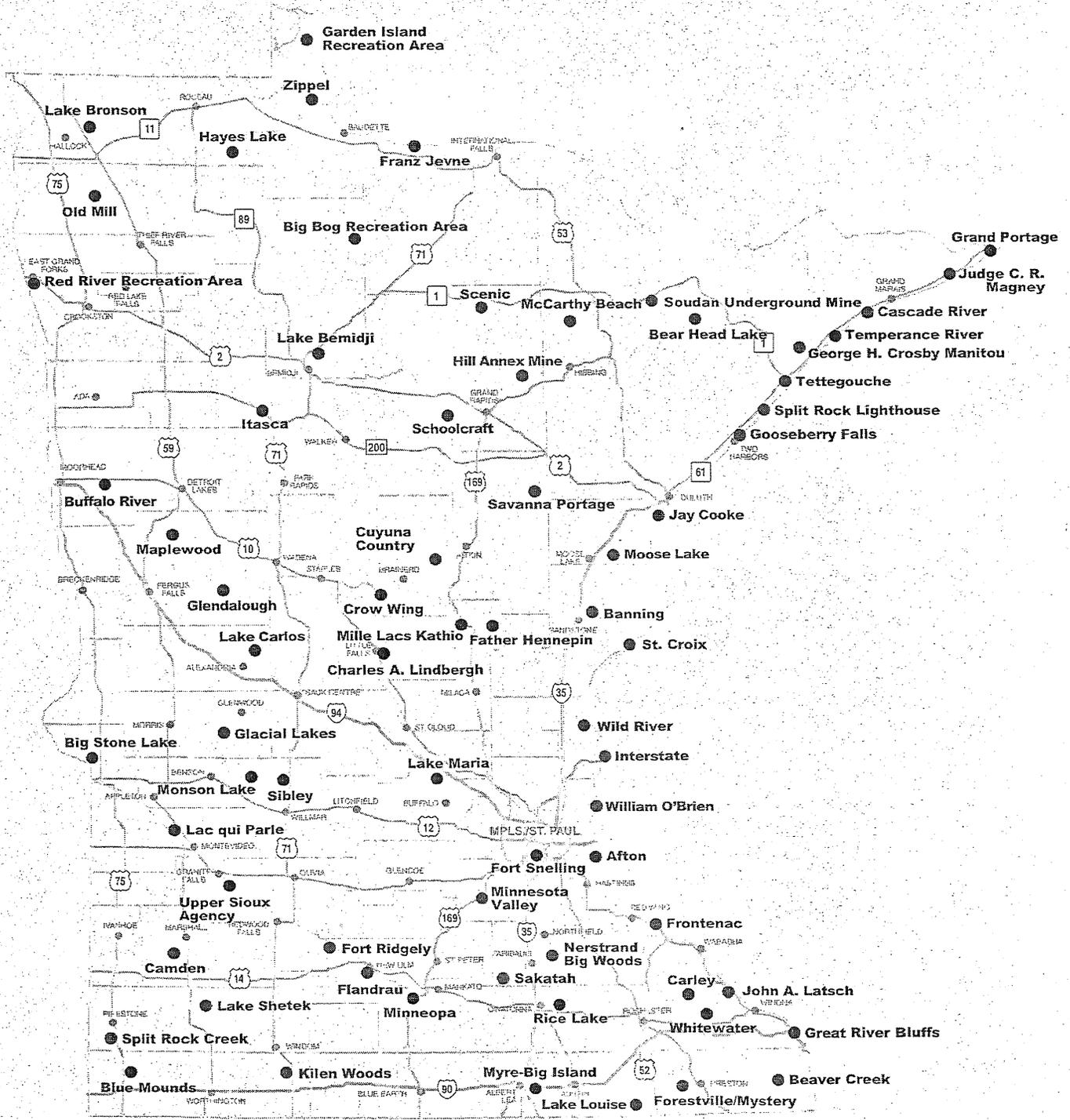
Phone: 651-259-5593

Fax: 651-296-6532

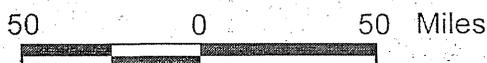
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DNR Capital Budget Request January 2006

Minnesota State Park System



1-23-06





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET State Park and Recreation Area Acquisition Governor's Recommendation: \$2,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request for \$2 million in state funds is to acquire private lands from willing sellers within legislatively established state park and recreation area boundaries. Many of these parcels are facing imminent development pressure.

How DNR prioritizes

Acquisitions of private in-holdings within statutory state park boundaries are undertaken to protect natural resources, enhance recreational opportunities, and improve operating efficiency. Potential acquisitions are prioritized based on statutory mission, park management plan, and agency strategic planning.

It is needed because

The state park system continually faces management challenges caused by private in-holdings within state parks. In many cases, these private parcels separate park management areas and create physical barriers to maintaining contiguous recreation and natural areas within the park. Many of these parcels are facing residential or commercial development pressure that would be incompatible with traditional park uses.

Project locations

Approximately 15% of the 267,000 acres within state park statutory boundaries is privately owned. Cost to acquire all of these private in-holdings would range from \$30 million to \$50 million.

Impact on operating budget

In most cases, acquisition of in-holdings has a neutral impact on the state park operating budget. This is due to increased efficiency gained by managing more continuous and contiguous natural and recreational areas that are already receiving services. In some cases, natural resource restoration projects may be necessary to restore forest, prairie, or wetland areas. This work would require additional project funding from either the State Park Working Capital Account

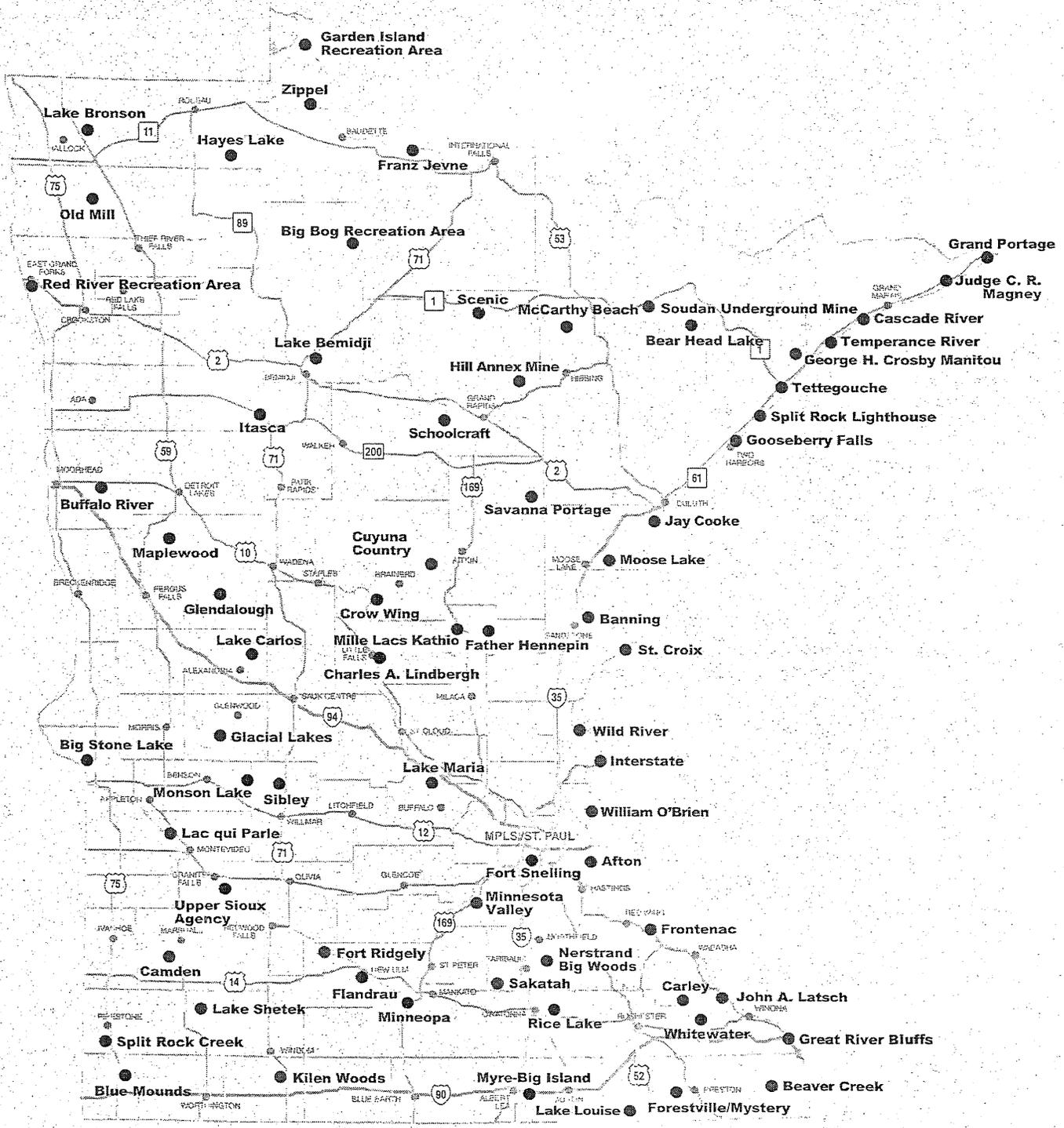
(revenues derived from merchandise sales) or from other capital bonding funds earmarked for resource restoration.

For further information contact:

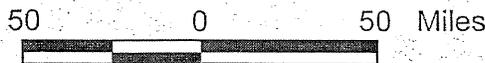
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DNR Capital Budget Request January 2006

Minnesota State Park System



1-23-06





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET State Park Camper Cabins (user financing) Governor's Recommendation: \$2,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$2 million in user-financed state bonding funds to construct up to 75 small rustic overnight cabins in popular state park locations around the state. At current rental rates, each camper cabin installation should generate enough net income to cover bond debt service and provide a small amount of income for state park operations. A more detailed report about location criteria and income projections is available.

How DNR prioritizes

A strategic goal of the DNR is to increase the number of camper cabins in the system to provide affordable recreational lodging and attract new users. New sites have been prioritized based on compatibility with park master plans, ability to attract users and generate revenue, proximity to utilities and sanitation facilities, and proximity to trails and recreational features.

It is needed because

This request for additional camper cabins is user-financed, as stated above. Operational costs for renting and maintaining the cabins have been incorporated into the net income projections, so if properly sited in popular locations there should be a small amount of revenue generated by each cabin that will go toward state park operations. After the debt service is retired, a more significant amount of annual cabin rental revenue will go toward state park operations.

Project locations

The state park system currently has 35 camper cabins, located in 20 different parks. Camper cabins sleep five to six people in bunks, with a table and small stove or heat source. They have no running water or sanitary facilities, and cooking is not allowed. They typically have a screen porch, and a picnic table and fire ring are supplied outside. Water is available from a common tap nearby, and sanitary facilities are either

vault toilets or adjacent campground sanitation buildings. The intent of this program is to provide a camping experience for people that does not require a tent or recreational vehicle.

Impact on operating budget

This request for additional camper cabins is user-financed, as stated above. Operational costs for renting and maintaining the cabins have been incorporated into the net income projections, so if properly sited in popular locations there should be a small amount of revenue generated by each cabin that will go toward state park operations. After the debt service is retired, a more significant amount of annual cabin rental revenue will go toward state park operations.

For further information contact:

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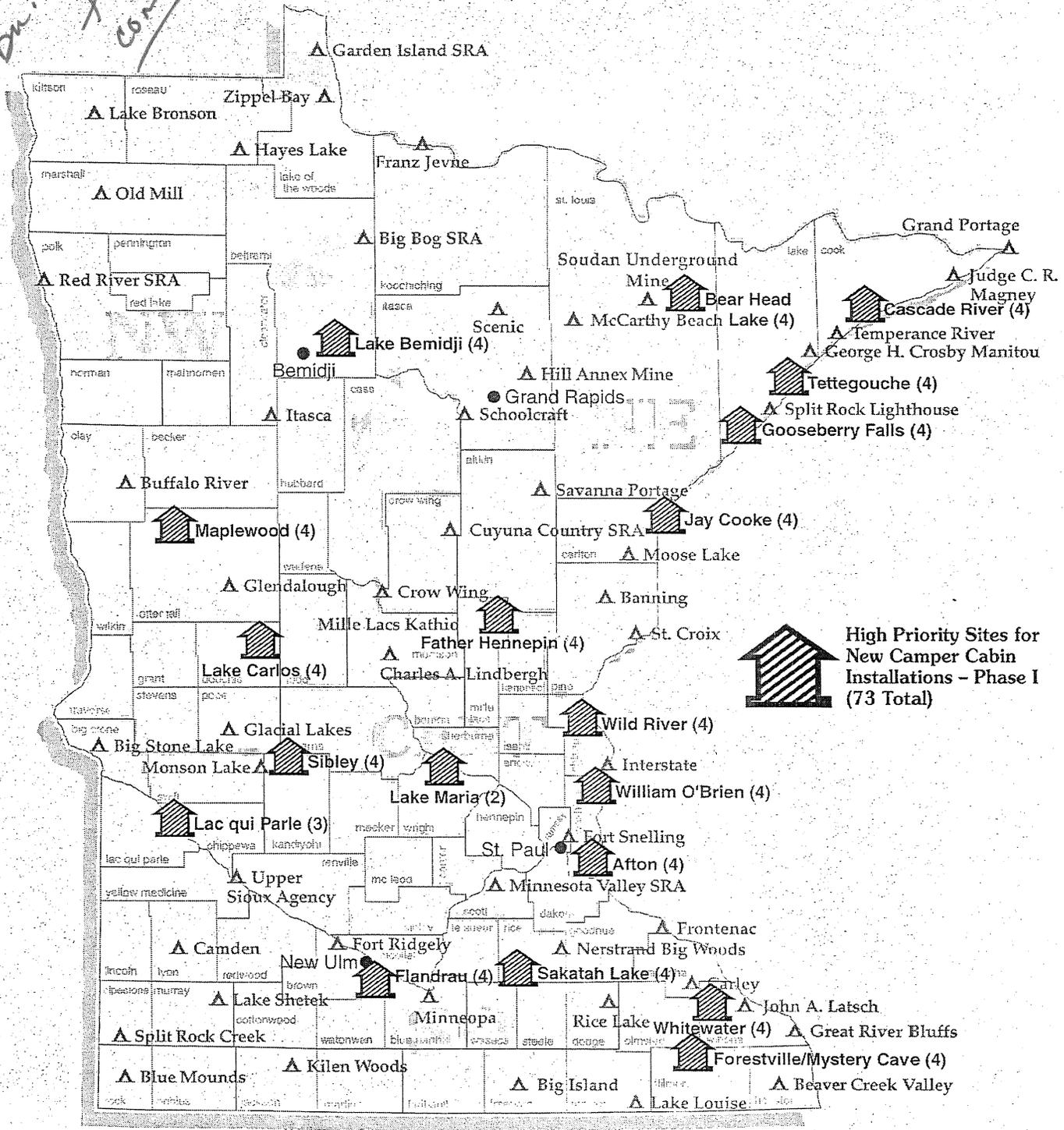
Fax: (651) 296-6532

E-mail: larry.peterson@dnr.state.mn.us

DNR Capital Budget Request January 2006

High Priority Sites for New State Park Camper Cabins (Phase I)

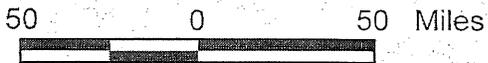
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High Priority Sites for New Camper Cabin Installations - Phase I (73 Total)



1-23-06





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

Water Access Acquisition, Development and Fishing Piers Governor's Recommendation: \$3,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$3 million (\$2 million acquisition / \$750 development / \$250 fishing pier shorefishing) in state funds to provide the public with new and improved boat access, fishing piers and shorefishing sites throughout the state. This proposal will allow for acquisition, development and rehabilitation of boat access sites, and construction of fishing piers and shorefishing sites.

The current statewide system includes more than 1,560 boat access sites and over 300 fishing piers and shorefishing sites. The cost of lakeshore is rapidly escalating and the competing demand for lakeshore by the public continues to increase. Also, with the continuing technological improvement in boating and fishing equipment, the demand for quality, easy-to-use facilities is becoming essential to the recreational boating experience that the Minnesota angler and boater expect.

How DNR prioritizes

Boat access sites are selected for lakes and rivers where public access is non-existent or inadequate, and the body of water meets the following criteria:

- lake size and shape; water clarity; other physical characteristics
- fish and wildlife characteristics
- proximity to population centers
- location in areas of high demand

The program only works with willing sellers, so it is often not possible to work exclusively through an acquisition priority list.

Fishing pier sites are selected using the following criteria:

- accessibility
- landside physical characteristics
- water depth
- availability of the fishery
- local participation in maintenance and operation

It is needed because

Minnesota is known for its lakes. We currently are fourth in the nation with 853,500 licensed boats and rank first per capita in boat ownership, with one boat for every six people. The number of boat licenses is increasing about 1% per year.

The DNR's Water Recreation Program has a statewide list of boat access acquisition and development projects totaling over \$10 million and a backlog of fishing pier requests of over 70. Nearly all fishing pier and shore fishing projects, and some boat access projects, are developed and maintained in cooperation with local governments.

About 10% of the projects will have non-state participation that includes direct financial contributions, land donations, and in-kind services such as maintenance and operation of the facilities.

Project locations

The larger high quality lakes are top priority for boat access based on the DNR prioritization criteria.

Fishing Pier /Shorefishing project proposal applications are received throughout the calendar year and each proposal is ranked on an annual basis. Presently there are 45-55 formal applications for Fishing Pier / Shorefishing projects which are not referenced.

Impact on operating budget

Maintenance funds are provided for access sites statewide through the Water Recreation Account. To reduce operating costs, the DNR emphasizes cooperative projects. Sites are developed with state capital funds and local units of government operate and maintain the sites (especially for fishing piers and shore fishing sites).

For further information contact:

Mike T. Markell, Program Manager

DNR Trails and Waterways

500 Lafayette Road, Box 52

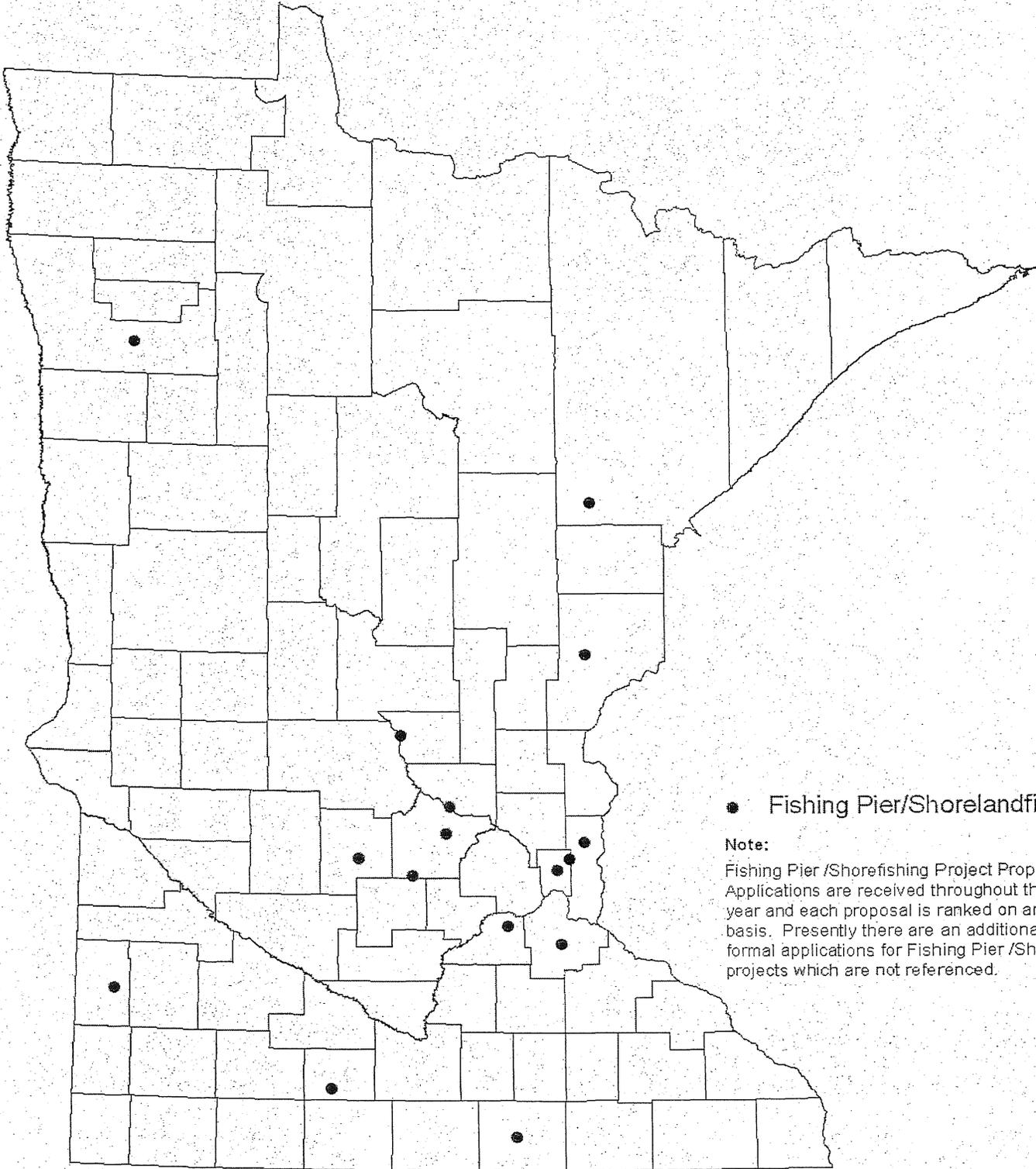
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4052

Phone: (651) 259-5624

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E-mail: mike.markell@dnr.state.mn.us

Trails and Waterways-Fishing Pier/Shorefishing Project Priority Needs



● Fishing Pier/Shorelandfishing

Note:

Fishing Pier /Shorefishing Project Proposal Applications are received throughout the calendar year and each proposal is ranked on an annual basis. Presently there are an additional 45-55 formal applications for Fishing Pier /Shorefishing projects which are not referenced.

50 0 50 Miles





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

State Trail Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Repair Governor's Recommendation: \$2,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$2 million in state funds to repair state trails. The department has identified more than \$6 million in trail repair and rehabilitation needs. This request funds the most immediate repair needs, which are threatening the integrity of state trails. These major trail projects include culvert replacement, repair of bridges, erosion control and associated rehabilitation.

For further information contact:

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How DNR prioritizes

Priorities are determined based on field inspections of state trails. Funding is recommended for repairs on 5 state trails. Without these repairs public safety and the integrity of the trails may be jeopardized.

It is needed because

These trails offer great potential for return on state funds because they have become high-quality attractions with year-round use. They have gained a reputation on a statewide basis and have support from both local governments and citizens. These rehabilitation projects will help reduce future maintenance costs and help extend the life of the facility. It should be noted that cost estimates for these projects are only preliminary and the actual costs will not be known until final bid selection and approval.

Project locations

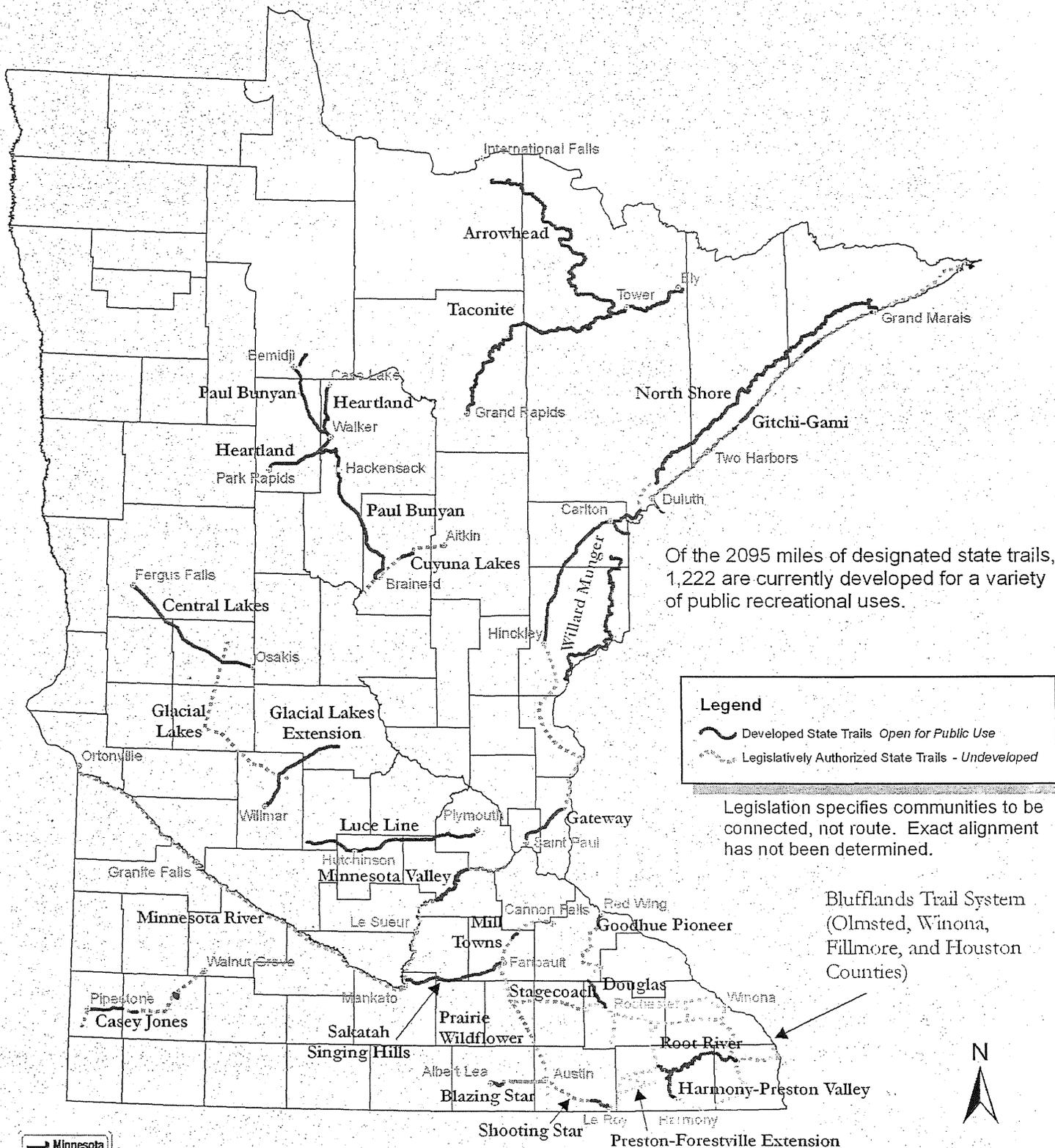
Funding repair priorities of this request will focus on the following State Trails: Willard Munger, Sakatah, Glacial Lakes, Root River, and Paul Bunyan Trails. See attached State Trails Map.

Impact on operating budget

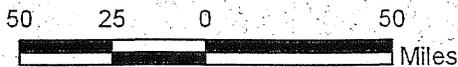
It is anticipated that the completion of these repair projects will allow for the continued use of these trails, will protect the initial capitol investment, and will help safeguard against additional major structural failures.

DNR Capital Project Priorities as of January 2006

Trails and Waterways State Trails



01/18/2006





Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET ORV Recreation Area (user financing) Governor's Recommendation: \$1,500,000

Purpose of this request

This request is for \$1.5 million to acquire a public off-road vehicle (ORV) recreation area in southern Minnesota. This effort is identified in the DNR's "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007". This proposal is for user financing from the Off-Road Vehicle Account; debt service will be paid by user fees.

How DNR prioritizes

Off-road vehicle recreation areas are prioritized based upon location, willing seller, and other existing opportunities. The DNR is exploring opportunities for a future site in southern Minnesota.

It is needed because

Minn. Stat. § 84.803, Subd. 2, (2) states that the purpose of the ORV fund is for "acquisition, maintenance, and development of off-road vehicle trails and use areas". Despite efforts to date, only eleven miles of ORV trails have been established outside of the Iron Range OHV Recreation Area. Many miles of forest roads exist for ORV touring, but technically challenging trails have proven difficult to locate. These specialized technical opportunities are more easily provided in state-owned OHV Recreation Areas, like the Iron Range Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area at Gilbert, Minnesota.

Project locations

Although a number of sites have been identified by ORV enthusiasts and their supporters, it remains uncertain which or how many of these sites would actually be purchased. Legislation in 1996, and again in 1999 authorized an OHV State Recreation Area in northeastern Minnesota. Likewise, demand exists in southern Minnesota, except there are far fewer acres of public land on which to consider the development of an OHV site.

Impact on operating budget

The state will own the newly acquired ORV only riding site. The state will seek to partner with local trail clubs or local units of government to operate the site.

For further information contact:

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Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Statewide Asset Preservation Governor's Recommendation: \$2,000,000

Purpose of this request

The DNR has identified more than \$26 million in deferred asset preservation projects for agency facilities statewide. These facilities support the DNR Conservation Agenda by serving recreational, work place, and public interaction needs. These projects are focused on maintenance and repairs needed to maintain existing building values. The DNR contends facility maintenance has been under funded for many years. The result is a "capital iceberg" of deferred maintenance. This request represents a minimal level of funding necessary to check the growth of the DNR "capital iceberg" and to resolve the most urgent problems, particularly problems eroding the capital value of state owned buildings.

How DNR prioritizes

Projects are prioritized based on the following criteria:

1. Health and safety
2. Hindered use
3. Other code violations
4. Preventative maintenance

It is needed

To reduce risk of illness and injury, improve indoor air quality, enhance accessibility, preserve the capital investment in facilities for long term use and increase security. Funding this request will be devoted to all aspects of asset preservation including roofing, plumbing and heating, electrical repair and upgrades, energy efficiency improvements, and structural upgrades. As opportunities arise, building systems will be updated using improved technologies.

The DNR continues to invest in human resources by supporting a trained, equipped, and productive work force. Facility condition significantly contributes to the DNR's ability to achieve the state's natural resources management mission. It is in the state's best interest to maintain facilities in a fully functional condition to enhance employee productivity, reduce operating

costs, and protect it's long-term investment in buildings.

Project locations

Deferred Asset Preservation needs have been identified throughout the state.

Impact on operating budget

Funding this request will help the DNR to address the backlog of deferred asset preservation projects. The net result is to slow the erosion of our annual operating budgets. Installation of more efficient building systems and enhancing the energy conservation characteristics of buildings will net operating savings. Adequate funding for maintenance, repair and betterments will result in lower future obligations for more costly deferred facility repair and replacement.

For further information contact:

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Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2006 CAPITAL BUDGET Buying Out Trust Fund Lands Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

Purpose of this request

This request starts the buy out of some of the remaining school trust lands located within the statutory boundaries of state parks. This request for \$1 million is the first of a series of funding requests to complete the trust land buy out when other options have been exhausted.

How DNR prioritizes

Since the 1980s and in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 92.121, the DNR has worked through land exchanges to remove school trust lands located within the state parks. Two more land exchanges are in process to remove school trust lands from Savanna Portage State Park and Tettegouche State Park. Legislation being proposed for 2006 would adjust the boundary of Schoolcraft State Park and thus remove the school lands from the park boundary. In a few instances, such as Hill Annex State Park, there is revenue generation through the leasing of the school trust lands.

This bonding proposal will address some of the school trust lands remaining in state parks and some of the 51,000 acres of school trust lands located within the 18 peatland scientific and natural areas when the options of exchange, boundary changes, or revenue generation activities are not possible.

After completion of the pending land exchanges, there will be about 1,460 acres of school trust lands remaining in state parks that are not generating revenue to the trust fund. The combined estimated value of these lands is between \$3 and \$4 million.

It is needed because

The operating guidelines, written in statute, for each of these management areas limits the department's ability to generate revenue on these trust lands. The condemnation and buy out process will enable the state to fulfill a fiduciary responsibility to the trust.

The lands condemned will remain in state ownership, classified as acquired rather than trust lands, and the trust will be compensated for the value of the lands.

Project locations

The priorities for condemnation will focus on the following:

- ◆ State park in-holdings of 1,461 acres, of which 1,000 acres are in Itasca State Park (Clearwater County) and 461 acres in Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park (Rice County)

Future bonding requests will address:

- ◆ Wildlife management areas, approximately 99,450 acres;
- ◆ State recreation areas, approximately 400 acres.
- ◆

Impact on operating budget

There will be no impact on the agency's operating budget as the trust lands are reclassified as acquired lands and compensation paid to the trust fund.

For further information contact:

William C. Brice, Director
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Division of Lands and Minerals
Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045
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Ozment/Sams

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; natural resources; appropriating money for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of state and local trails; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. STATE AND LOCAL TRAIL ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND REHABILITATION; APPROPRIATION.

Subdivision 1. State trail acquisition and development. (a) \$26,860,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acquisition and development of state trails. Of this amount:

(1) \$1,185,000 is for the Gitchi Gami Trail;

(2) \$1,100,000 is for the Cuyuna Trail;

(3) \$625,000 is for the Munger Trail;

(4) \$2,000,000 is for the Glacial Lakes Trail;

(5) \$2,500,000 is for the Paul Bunyan Trail;

(6) \$2,900,000 is for the Preston to Forestville State Park segment of the Blufflands Trail system;

(7) \$900,000 is for the Rochester to Chester Woods Regional Park segment of the Blufflands Trail system;

(8) \$1,000,000 is for the La Crescent to Houston segment of the Root River Trail system;

(9) \$750,000 is for the Gateway Trail;

(10) \$2,000,000 is for the Goodhue Pioneer Trail;

(11) \$500,000 is for the Casey Jones Trail;

2.1 (12) \$3,800,000 is for the Mill Towns Trail;

2.2 (13) \$3,800,000 is for the Shooting Star Trail; and

2.3 (14) \$3,800,000 is for the Minnesota River Trail.

2.4 (b) The \$1,500,000 appropriated for the extension of the Paul Bunyan Trail across
2.5 Excelsior Road in the city of Baxter contained in Laws 2005, chapter 20, article 1, section
2.6 7, subdivision 14, may be used to match federal funding for the Paul Bunyan Trail.

2.7 Subd. 2. **State trail rehabilitation; appropriation.** \$2,000,000 is appropriated to
2.8 the commissioner of natural resources for the rehabilitation of state trails.

2.9 Subd. 3. **Local trail grants; appropriation.** \$3,250,000 is appropriated from the
2.10 bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for local trail acquisition
2.11 and development grants. Of this amount:

2.12 (1) \$950,000 is for the Mesabi Trail;

2.13 (2) \$600,000 is for the Cedar Lake Trail;

2.14 (3) \$300,000 is for the Vento Trail and Interpretive Center;

2.15 (4) \$300,000 is for the Mankato Minnesota River Trail; and

2.16 (5) \$1,100,000 is for the Great River Ridge.

2.17 **Sec. 2. BOND SALE.**

2.18 To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the
2.19 commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to
2.20 \$32,110,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
2.21 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,
2.22 sections 4 to 7.

2.23 **Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.24 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

Ozment/Sams

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to capital improvements; natural resources; appropriating money for the
 1.3 acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of state and local trails; authorizing
 1.4 the sale and issuance of state bonds.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. STATE AND LOCAL TRAIL ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND
 1.7 REHABILITATION; APPROPRIATION.

1.8 Subdivision 1. State trail acquisition and development. (a) \$26,860,000 is
 1.9 appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for
 1.10 acquisition and development of state trails. Of this amount:

1.11 (1) \$1,185,000 is for the Gitchi Gami Trail;

1.12 (2) \$1,100,000 is for the Cuyuna Trail;

1.13 (3) \$625,000 is for the Munger Trail;

1.14 (4) \$2,000,000 is for the Glacial Lakes Trail;

1.15 (5) \$2,500,000 is for the Paul Bunyan Trail;

1.16 (6) \$2,900,000 is for the Preston to Forestville State Park segment of the Blufflands
 1.17 Trail system;

1.18 (7) \$900,000 is for the Rochester to Chester Woods Regional Park segment of the
 1.19 Blufflands Trail system;

1.20 (8) \$1,000,000 is for the La Crescent to Houston segment of the Root River Trail
 1.21 system;

1.22 (9) \$750,000 is for the Gateway Trail;

1.23 (10) \$2,000,000 is for the Goodhue Pioneer Trail;

1.24 (11) \$500,000 is for the Casey Jones Trail;

2.1 (12) \$3,800,000 is for the Mill Towns Trail;

2.2 (13) \$3,800,000 is for the Shooting Star Trail; and

2.3 (14) \$3,800,000 is for the Minnesota River Trail.

2.4 (b) The \$1,500,000 appropriated for the extension of the Paul Bunyan Trail across
2.5 Excelsior Road in the city of Baxter contained in Laws 2005, chapter 20, article 1, section
2.6 7, subdivision 14, may be used to match federal funding for the Paul Bunyan Trail.

2.7 Subd. 2. State trail rehabilitation; appropriation. \$2,000,000 is appropriated to
2.8 the commissioner of natural resources for the rehabilitation of state trails.

2.9 Subd. 3. Local trail grants; appropriation. \$3,250,000 is appropriated from the
2.10 bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for local trail acquisition
2.11 and development grants. Of this amount:

2.12 (1) \$950,000 is for the Mesabi Trail;

2.13 (2) \$600,000 is for the Cedar Lake Trail;

2.14 (3) \$300,000 is for the Vento Trail and Interpretive Center;

2.15 (4) \$300,000 is for the Mankato Minnesota River Trail; and

2.16 (5) \$1,100,000 is for the Great River Ridge.

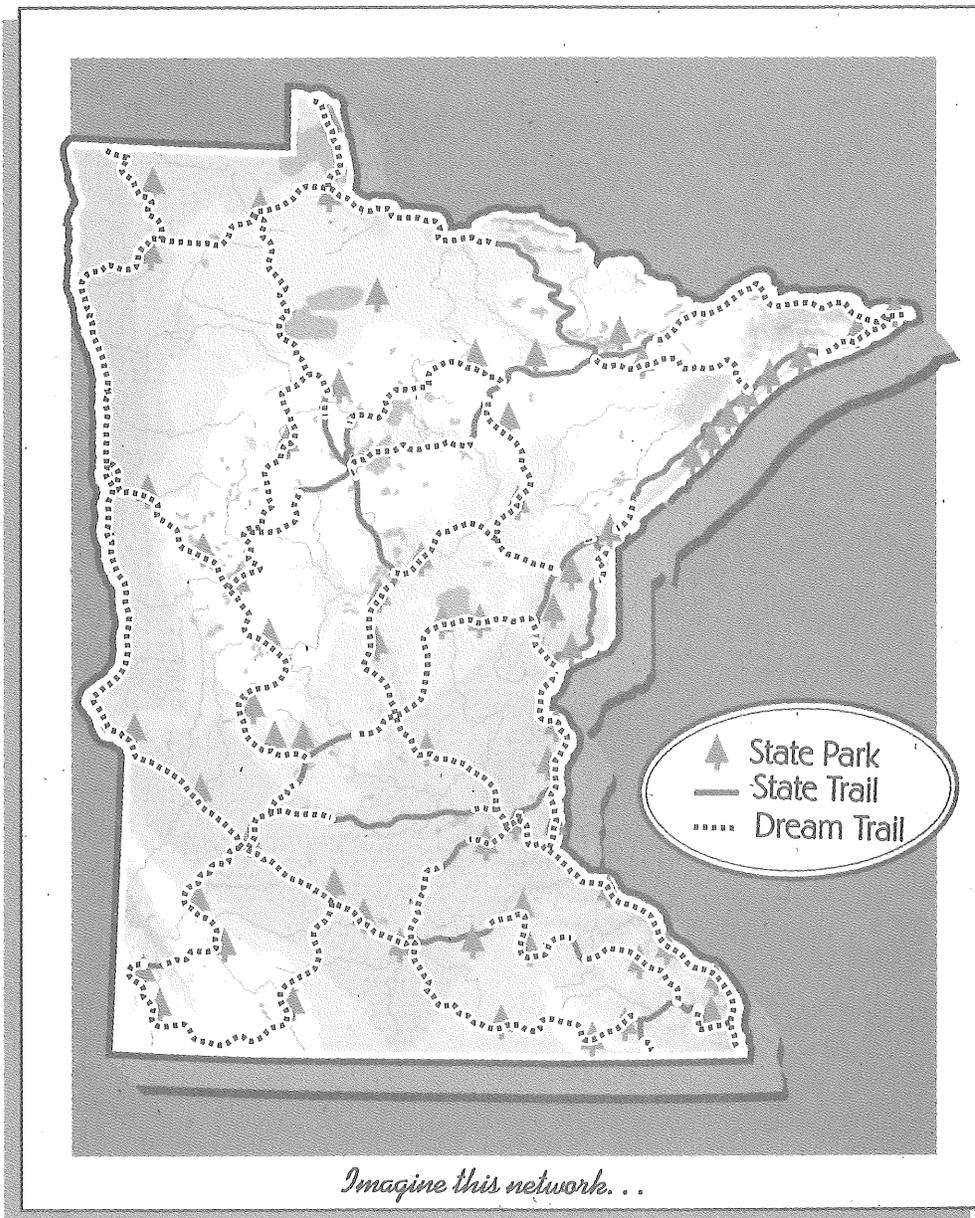
2.17 **Sec. 2. BOND SALE.**

2.18 To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the
2.19 commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to
2.20 \$32,110,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
2.21 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,
2.22 sections 4 to 7.

2.23 **Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.24 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA



Actual trail locations may vary

SAVING SPECIAL PLACES



PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MN
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ST. PAUL MN 55101-1651

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*Don't miss Parks & Trails'
Conference March 3-4, 2006
Details inside!*

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Parks and Trails for Future Generations

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 3-4, 2006
CRAGUN'S RESORT AND HOTEL
ON GULL LAKE, BRAINERD, MINNESOTA



Photo courtesy of Rudi Hargstheimer

Photo courtesy of Coldsnap Photography

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Location: Cragun's Resort, 11000 Craguns Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401 • Phone: (800) 272-4867 or (218) 825-2700 • www.craguns.com

Schedule: Check in and socialize beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Events will continue until 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 4. (See more detailed schedule on back.)

Registration: Attend the full conference or sign up to attend only a portion. Parks & Trails members receive discounted rates. A limited number of scholarships are available to Parks & Trails members. For more information, or if you need help with online registration, please call Parks & Trails at (651) 726-2457.

Lodging and meal information: The full conference registration fee covers lodging and dinner expenses for Friday, March 3, and breakfast and lunch expenses on Saturday, March 4. Saturday night lodging is available at regular rates by calling Cragun's at (800) 272-4867.

Directions: From the north - Follow Hwy. 371 to the second intersection with Cty. Rd. 77. Turn right and continue to Cragun's.

From the northeast - Follow Hwy. 210 to Hwy. 371. Turn right and proceed to Cty. Rd. 77. Turn left and continue to Cragun's.

From the west - Follow Hwy. 210 to Cty. Rd. 18. Turn left and go to Cty. Rd. 77. Turn left and continue to Cragun's.

From the south - Follow Hwy. 94 west to the Clearwater exit. Turn right to Hwy 10. Continue north to Little Falls then follow Hwy. 371 north around Brainerd. Continue north on Hwy. 371 to Cty. Rd. 77. Turn left on Cty. Rd. 77 and continue to Cragun's.

Register today! Become a Parks & Trails member and save money. www.parksandtrails.org

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Affiliation _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I'm a Parks & Trails member. Enclosed is my registration fee for:

Full conference (\$185) Friday only (\$50) Saturday only (\$55)

I'm **not** a Parks & Trails member. Enclosed is my registration fee for:

Full conference (\$210) Friday only (\$75) Saturday only (\$80)

I request vegetarian meals. Special needs (please specify) _____

Yes, sign me up. I want to become a Parks & Trails member today! (\$20)

*Make checks payable to: Parks & Trails Council of MN \$ _____ Total enclosed

**Return registration form and check to: Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota, 275 E. 4th Street #642, St. Paul MN 55101
or register online at www.parksandtrails.org/eventsca.html.**

Parks and Trails for Future Generations

Presented by the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota

Conference Schedule

Friday, March 3, 2006

3 – 5 p.m.

Registration and check-in

5 – 6 p.m.

Welcome reception

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Dinner and opening plenary address

Welcome – Grant Merritt, president, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota

Demographic trends in Minnesota – Tom Gillaspay, Minnesota state demographer

Engaging Generations X and Y in your community cause – David Stillman, co-author, *When Generations Collide: Who They Are. Why They Clash. How to Solve the Generational Puzzle at Work.*

Saturday, March 4, 2006

8 – 9 a.m.

Breakfast

9 – 10 a.m.

Opening session

Welcome – Grant Merritt, president, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota

Recreation trends – what do they mean for parks and trails?

Brad Moore, assistant commissioner, MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Laurie Martinson, trails & waterways director, MN Department of Natural Resources

Courtland Nelson, park and recreation director, MN Department of Natural Resources

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Breakout sessions

• **Tourism trends** – Dr. Ingrid Schneider, Ph.D., director, University of Minnesota Tourism Center

• **The impact of active living on the health of America** – Dr. Michael O'Donnell, editor, *American Journal of Health Promotion*, sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Plenary address – 2006 legislative session

Judy Erickson, government and community relations director, Parks & Trails Council of MN,

Sen. Dallas Sams, chair, Senate Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development

Budget Division and Rep. Dennis Ozment, chair, House Agriculture, Environment and

Natural Resources Finance Committee

1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Breakout sessions

• **ABCs for a successful friends group** (panel presentation)

• **Show me the money! Finding funding for your project**

• **The power of regional collaboration** (case studies)

• **Messaging for effective advocacy**

2:40 – 3:30 p.m.

Breakout sessions

• **Park and trail land acquisition from A to Z**

• **Show me the money! Finding funding for your project**

• **The power of regional collaboration** (case studies)

• **Messaging for effective advocacy**

3:30 – 4 p.m.

Conference closing reception and final remarks

Strategies for tomorrow – Brad Moore, assistant commissioner, DNR

Featured speakers include:



Generations expert, speaker, and writer **David Stillman** is one of the rare Generation X keynoters on the speaking scene today. Recently named to the prestigious list of *Forty Under 40* movers and shakers by *The Business Journal*, David's blend of honesty, irreverence, energy and inspiration earn him the highest marks from corporate and association audiences alike. David is co-author of the best-selling business book, *When Generations Collide: Who They Are. Why They Clash. How to Solve the Generational Puzzle at Work*.



Dr. Michael O'Donnell is founder, president, and editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Health Promotion, Inc.* He is also founder and president of the Health Promotion Research Foundation. Dr. O'Donnell has presented more than 170 keynote, breakout and workshop presentations on six continents. He is an avid swimmer and hiker and strives to achieve the model of health promotion espoused by the *American Journal of Health Promotion*: a balance of physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual health.

Special thanks to our conference sponsors:



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of Minnesota**

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**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**



Event co-sponsors include:

The Trust for Public Land and Audubon Minnesota

Bonding Proposal 2006
Gitchi-Gami State Trail

Funding Match needed: \$1,185,000

Other Funds \$ 1,700,000 (TEA-LU) Federal Enhancements

Funding Priority: Trail Development and Construction

Project Partners: Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Trails and Waterways)

Web Address: www.gitichigamitrail.org

Location:

Project Name:

Project Area:

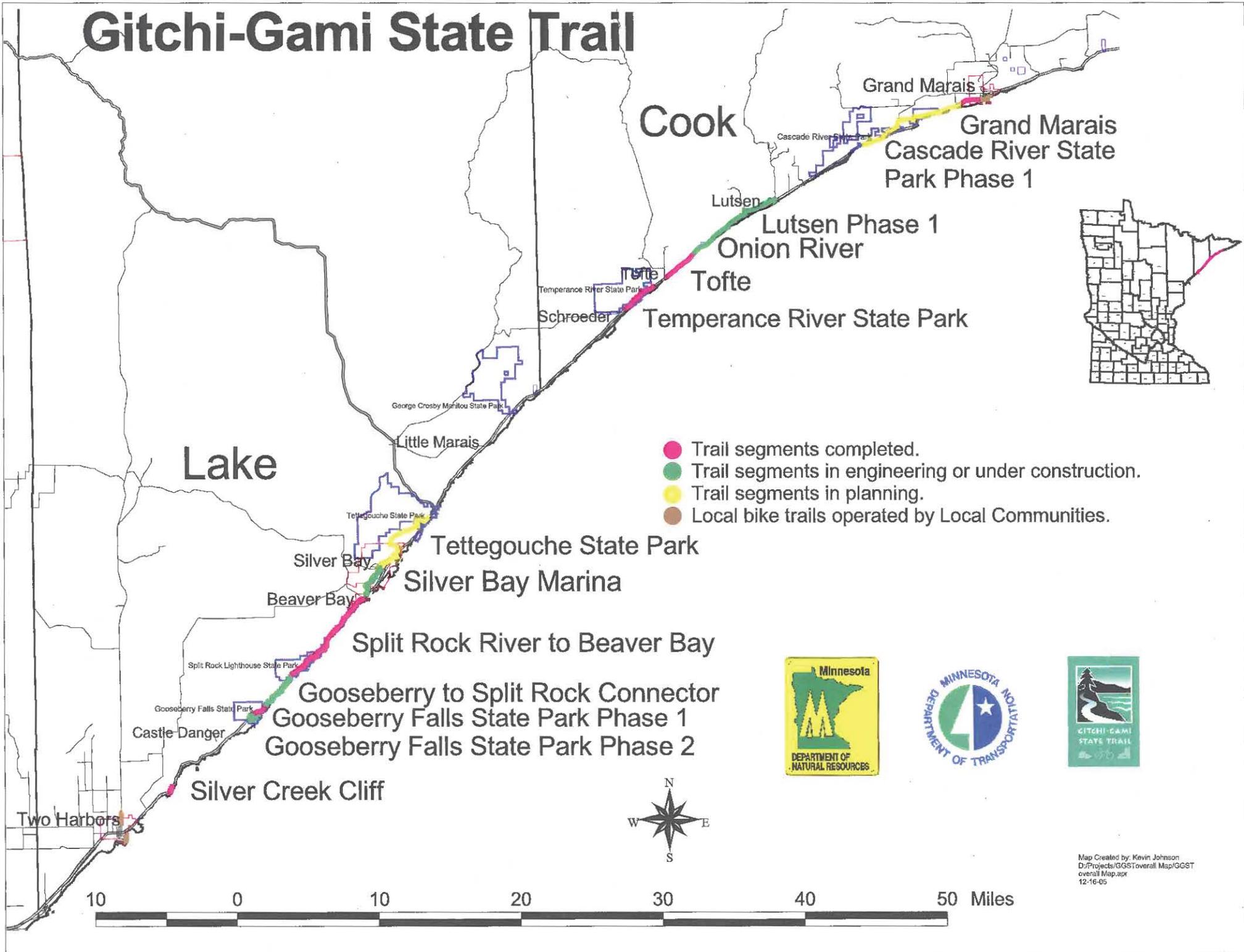
1. Cascade River State Park Phase 1 (8 miles)

(Cascade River State Park to Grand Marais)

I. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: The Gitchi-Gami State Trail was developed to provide a safe non-motorized transportation corridor adjacent to Trunk Highway (TH) 61 from Two Harbors to Grand Marais.

1. **Cascade River State Park Phase 1:** This project will acquire, design and develop an 8-mile segment of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. This trail project connects Cascade River State Park to a completed segment of trail in the community of Grand Marais. This Grand Marais Trail segment was completed by MNDOT in 2003 with the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 61. The DNR has received \$1,700,000 of TEA-LU Federal Enhancements as a funding match to develop this trail segment. Total Project Budget: \$2,885,000
Funding match needed to develop this segment: \$1,185,000

Gitchi-Gami State Trail



Cook

Grand Marais

Grand Marais
Cascade River State
Park Phase 1

Lutsen

Lutsen Phase 1
Onion River

Tofte

Temperance River State Park

Temperance River State Park

Schroeder

George Crosby Maritou State Park

Little Marais

Lake

Tettegouche State Park

Tettegouche State Park
Silver Bay Marina

Silver Bay

Beaver Bay

Split Rock River to Beaver Bay

Split Rock Lighthouse State Park

Gooseberry to Split Rock Connector
Gooseberry Falls State Park Phase 1
Gooseberry Falls State Park Phase 2

Gooseberry Falls State Park

Castle Danger

Silver Creek Cliff

Two Harbors

- Trail segments completed.
- Trail segments in engineering or under construction.
- Trail segments in planning.
- Local bike trails operated by Local Communities.



Map Created by Kevin Johnson
D:\Projects\GGST\Overall Map\GGST
overall Map.apr
12-16-05

GITCHI - GAMI STATE TRAIL

Trail Development Fact Sheet
January 25, 2006

Development Status	Miles	Total Funding	Federal	MNDOT	LCMR	Bonding	OTHER
I. Complete	17.6	\$6,041,545	\$1,828,000	\$2,737,500	\$900,000	\$404,000	\$172,045
II. Development	15.6	\$6,083,080	\$2,036,080	\$855,000	\$2,450,000	\$721,000	\$21,000
III. Planning	15	\$5,385,000	\$3,200,000	\$725,000	\$275,000	\$1,185,000	\$0
	48.2	\$17,509,625	\$7,064,080	\$4,317,500	\$3,625,000	\$2,310,000	\$193,045

Time Table

1	Gooseberry Falls State Park - Phase II	2006
2	Gooseberry to Split Rock State Park	2006
3	Beaver Bay to Silver Bay	2006
4	Lutsen - Phase I	2006 - 2007
5	Cascade River to Grand Marais	2007 - 2008
6	Silver Bay to Tettegouche	2007 - 2008
7	Onion River	2008 - 2009

Paul Bunyan Trail History

The trail follows the original railroad line built in 1893 by Burlington Northern. It is now among the longest paved "Rails to Trails" in the nation. The trail will ultimately link 16 communities between Brainerd/Baxter and Lake Bemidji State Park.

The rail line was abandoned in 1983. In that same year, Pine River was the first community to officially sponsor a resolution supporting the conversion of the rail bed to a trail. It was not until 1988 that the legislature authorized the creation of the Paul Bunyan Trail and first provided funding for the State to enter into a lease agreement with the Burlington Northern Railroad.

In 1992, the DNR trail planning staff began preparing the master plan for the Paul Bunyan Trail. Numerous public hearings were involved in the drafting of this plan. Meanwhile, temporary bridges were placed over rivers at four locations to provide contiguous trail access. That winter, under an interim management plan, the Paul Bunyan Trail was officially opened for snowmobiling.

In 1995, the first 48 miles of the trail were paved. This project represented the largest single-contract trail paving project in the nation.

The completion of the trail is near! Once this final segment along South Lake Bemidji is acquired, the trail will stretch for over two hundred miles. The Paul Bunyan Trail connects Brainerd/Baxter to Bemidji, and the Blue Ox Trail connects Bemidji to International Falls.

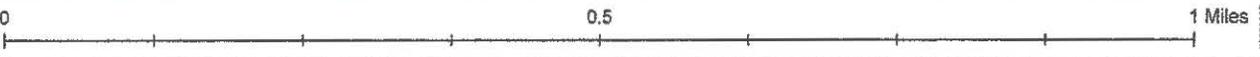


Contact: David J. Minke, City Manager
City of Bemidji
317 4th Street NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 759-3565
dminke@ci.bemidji.mn.us

BEMIDJI PAUL BUNYAN TRAIL CONNECTION PLAN



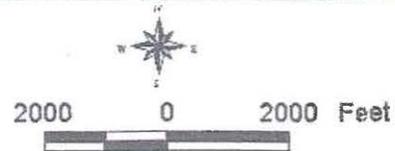
- Bridge
- Existing Trail
- Parcel Boundary
- Trail Option



DISCLAIMER: The City of Bemidji and its various departments are not responsible for the accuracy of the information presented in this map. It is the responsibility of the user to verify the accuracy of the information. The City of Bemidji and its various departments are not responsible for any damages, including consequential damages, arising from the use of this map. The City of Bemidji and its various departments are not responsible for any damages, including consequential damages, arising from the use of this map. The City of Bemidji and its various departments are not responsible for any damages, including consequential damages, arising from the use of this map.



CUYUNA LAKES TRAIL
Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area



- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Scenic Overlook | Camping |
| Boat Ramp | Parking |

**BONDING REQUEST FOR
2006-2007
BIENNIUM**

The Cuyuna Lakes Trail was created for the Citizen of Minnesota by the 2002 State Legislature. It is part of the State Trail system and offers multiple pathways—one paved and one unpaved—to provide multi-use and multi-season recreational opportunities. Construction of the Cuyuna Lakes Trail in 2005 was a cooperative project by the Department of Natural Resources, Crow Wing County, and the Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association.

Funding and right-of-way for the first 5.2-mile segment was provided by the Federal Highway Administration, the State of Minnesota, the Cities of Crosby and Ironton, the Blandin Foundation, the Hallett Foundation, the Initiative Foundation, Bikes Belong, and numerous contributors.

The first segment anchors the trail within the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (CCSRA) which features the Croft Mine Historical Park in Crosby and the former Cuyuna Mining communities of Crosby, Cuyuna, Deerwood, Ironton, Riverton, and Trommald. Planning has already begun for extending paved and unpaved trail segments east to Cuyuna, Deerwood, and Aitkin, and west to Riverton, Brainerd, and Baxter.

The CCSRA boasts 4,500 acres of reforested former mining lands with more than 26 miles of undeveloped shoreland on deep clear lakes known as some of the best scuba diving in the State. In addition to the 5.2 miles of paved trails within the CCSRA there are nearly 50 miles of natural trails and paths for mountain biking, hiking, bird watching, and skiing. Be sure to go to the top of the scenic overlook on the north shore of the Huntington-Feigh Mine.

We are seeking bonding dollars of \$1.1 million to match existing commitment of \$1.2 million in federal funds. This would allow us to complete the following segments of the state trail (about 8 miles in total for this biennium):

1. Southwest from the intersection of Iverson Road & County Road 128 in Crow Wing County through Riverton to the Sagamore unit of the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (CCSRA). Very importantly, this will connect the 2 separate pieces of the CCSRA which are now separated by approximately 1 mile. The length of proposed trail will be approximately 1 1/2 - 2 miles.

2. Eastward from the Croft Mine Historical Museum along 8th Street NE past the city limits of Crosby at Crow Wing County Road # 31, extending to the intersection of State Highway 6 and State Highway 210, and thence eastward along the state highway Right of Way to and through the City of Deerwood to CW Cty. Rd. 10 and then east and south to and along along Cty 10 toward the City of Aitkin as the funding will allow.

3. Coming from the north end of the City of Aitkin at the Great River Road and Aitkin County Road 1, through the City of Aitkin and southwest as far as the funding for this segment will take us to meet the description of (2) above.

Future extensions of the Cuyuna Lakes Trail (CLTA) will extend from the Paul Bunyan Trail in Baxter to the City of Aitkin.

CUYUNA LAKES STATE TRAIL



This new State Trail features the beautiful
Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area
(218)546-5926



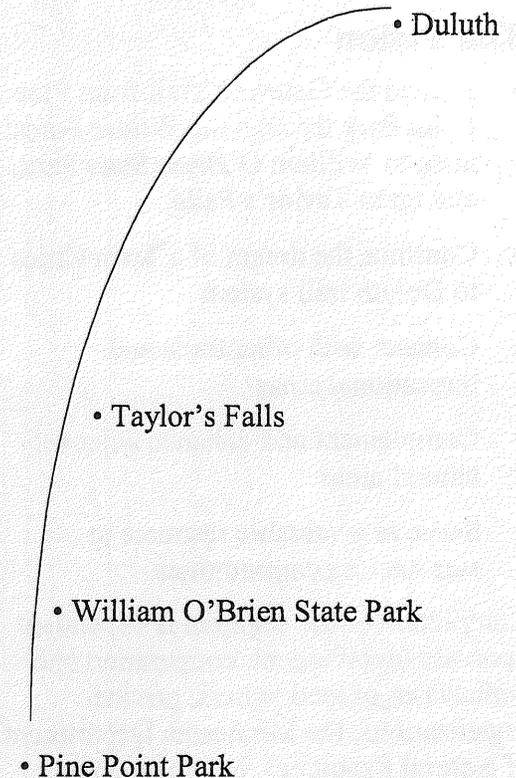
Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association
P.O. Box 111 Crosby, MN 56441

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
Division of Trails and Waterways

It's a Fact!

- **Recreational trails tend to be used by persons living near the trails.** This was found to be the case in a survey conducted by the Gateway Trail Association in 1996. Further, it is the finding of a major study by the National Parks Service in 1992.
- **Land values increase as a result of close proximity to trails.** "Walking and Biking Paths" ranked third out of 39 features identified by homebuyers as crucial factors in home-purchasing, according to a 1994 study by the research firm American Lives.
- **Communities located along recreational trails report increases in their local economies from trail users.** This translates into more jobs for the area and sales tax revenue for the state, resulting in cost-effective public expenditures.
- **Multi-use trails provide convenient access to the outdoors for enjoyment and relaxation** while promoting health and fitness activities and a cleaner environment.
- **Recreational trails are an expression of community pride and character,** and in many cases preserve a region's natural and historical resources. Wildlife populations frequently increase along trails. Bluebird houses line the Gateway Trail and natural prairie plants are flourishing.
- **Crime and vandalism along recreational trails are almost non-existent.** Several studies cite surveys where citizens were concerned about crime before the trails were developed, but found that their fears did not materialize once the trail was completed, and that in some cases, crime actually decreased.

Continuing the Dream - Extending the Gateway Trail *Northward*



*Sponsored by the
Gateway Trail Association*

Continuing the Dream - Extending the Gateway Trail Northward

When the Gateway Trail opened in 1991, it gave families and individuals of all ages an opportunity to participate in their favorite outdoor activities. On a typical summer day, it's common to see people riding horseback on the unpaved portion of the trail, while others run, walk, bike and in-line skate on the pavement. In the wintertime, cross-country skiing is a popular sport.

The Vision

- Extend the Gateway Trail from Pine Point Park through the Wilder Forest area, to William O'Brien State Park, and up to Taylor's Falls.
- Continue the dream of a Twin Cities to Duluth trail system
- Connect with other trails and recreational areas
- Complement and enhance adjacent natural areas
- Serve as a valuable resource to surrounding communities

Completion of the segment is dependent upon the involvement, cooperation and enthusiasm of landowners, private organizations, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, local and county units of government, the Minnesota Legislature and the many friends of the trail system.

Where are We Today?

Now 19 miles in length, the Gateway runs from the State Capitol to Pine Point Park in Washington County. About 9 miles of the trail is a dual treadway for horses. With passage by the Minnesota Legislature of the 1998 bonding bill, funds have been provided to the Department of Natural Resources for planning for the extension northward.

At this point, the Gateway Trail extension is in the very early planning stages. The first phase is for the trail to run from its current end point at Pine Point Park north to Wilder Forest and on to William O'Brien State Park. Unlike the majority of the current Gateway Trail, which was laid on the former Burlington Northern Railroad bed, the extension northward will require the support and cooperation of landowners.

How Can You Help?

The Wilder Foundation has agreed to grant the necessary easements for this segment to pass through its property north of Square Lake. A number of other landowners have given their initial approval to grant an easement on their property, and discussions are continuing with others. While we hope that other landowners will grant easements, this is completely the decision of landowners. Association members do not make these requests lightly. We are willing to answer any questions.

How will the Trail be Used?

The planned design is a paved 12-foot trail, with a separate unpaved trail. As with the current trail, planned recreational uses include hiking, biking, running, in-line skating, cross-country skiing and horse-back riding. Motorized vehicles are not being considered.

Gateway Trail Association

The extension of the Gateway Trail is an effort by the Gateway Trail Association to provide healthy recreational opportunities for individuals and families now and in the future.

If you have questions, please contact:

Gateway Trail Association
C/o Parks & Trails Council of MN
275 East 4th Street
Suite 642
St. Paul, MN 55101-1651



The Gateway Trail Association

Bob Hagstrom, President

Home: 651 439-2737

xccoachbob@iinet.com

GATEWAY TRAIL EXTENSION

\$750,000 needed in 2006

The Legislature authorized the Gateway Trail Extension in 1997

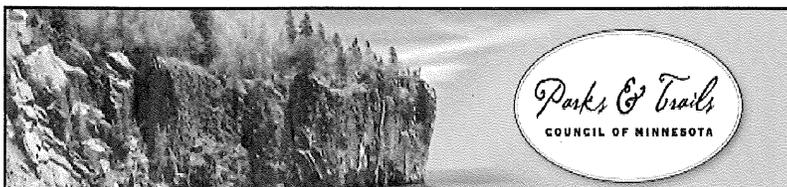
- DNR owns 4.7 miles that are ready to be developed.
- 5.2 miles of easements need to be acquired to reach O'Brien State Park.
- These easements must be purchased from willing landowners; abandoned railroad bed is not available.

FUNDING IS CRITICAL NOW

It is critical to buy easements from willing sellers now or the opportunity will be lost.

- Volunteers and the DNR have worked 8 years to find willing landowners.
- Land in this area is being developed at a rapid pace and prices are rising fast.
- Local governments have signed Resolutions of Support.
- Washington County has signed a Resolution of Support.

Additional contact for more information:



Bill Buell, Trail Volunteer

Phone: 612 804-4583

bbuell@buellconsulting.com



Chester Woods Trail

a Northern Extension of the

Blufflands State Trail System

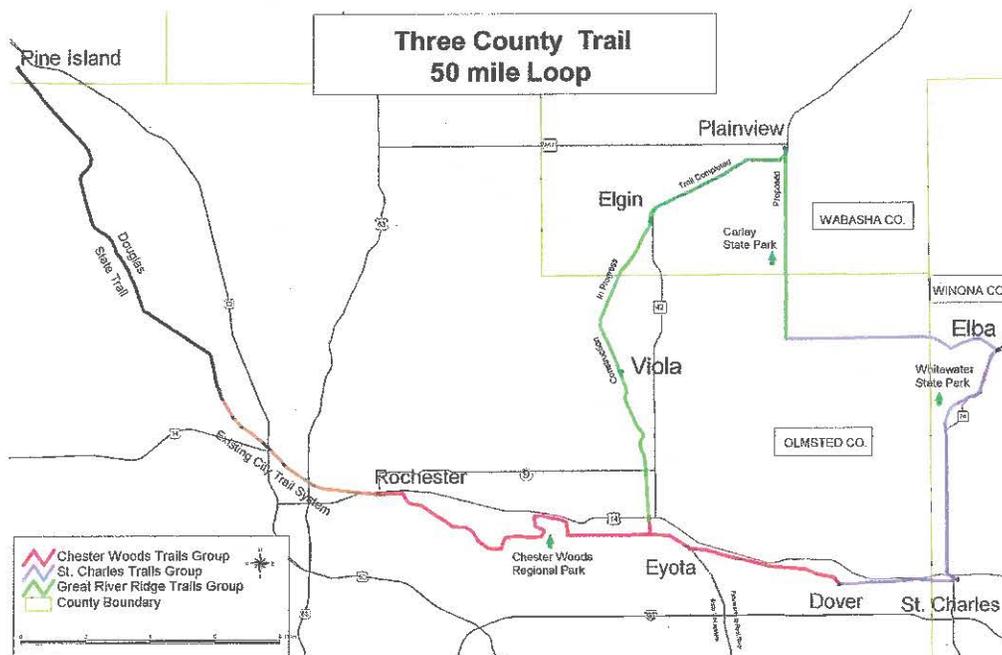


- Part of a planned 50 mile paved trail loop, includes 5 miles of existing Trail (Great River Ridge)
- The 50 mile loop will connect 7 cities, a County regional park & 2 State Parks
- Connects up with 60 miles of existing Rochester City Trails and Rochester's 100 City Parks
- Links thru Rochester to the existing 12.5 mile Douglas State multi-use Trail System
- Chester Woods Trail (Rochester to Dover) was Authorized by State Legislature in 1992
- 1999 we received \$50,000 in bonding for trail planning & acquiring landowner options
- 2005 - \$200,000 bonding received for land acquisition, surveying and archeological survey
- 2006 bonding request for \$900,000 for construction of a finished 5 mile trail.

(breakdown of 2006 bonding request)

- Remaining Engineering	\$ 30,690	- SubGrade:	\$ 307,500
- Clear/Grub Land:	\$ 60,000	- Bituminous:	\$ 210,000
- Bridging:	\$ 200,000	- Fencing:	\$ 38,400
- Culverts:	\$ 6,000	- Contingency:	\$ 47,845

- Future plans to connect to Root River Trail System via Chatfield and Fountain



- Connects cities of Rochester, Eyota, Dover, St.Charles, Elba, Plainview, Elgin and Viola with the Olmsted County Park, Whitewater State Park, and Carley State Park

Trail Supporters for Chester Woods Trail:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Minnesota Council on Physical Activity and Sports
 Olmsted County Commissioners
 City of Rochester
 City of Eyota
 Steps to a Healthier Rochester Community Program
 Southeastern Minnesota Association Regional Trails

National Park Service
 Be Active Minnesota
 Cardio Vision 2020
 City of Dover
 Great River Ridge Trails Group
 Rochester Active Sports Club
 St.Charles Trails Group

If you have questions, please contact Jeff St.Mane, Chester Woods Trails Committee
 Chair at 507-284-1816 or send email to ChesterWoodsTrail@Yahoo.com

\$2 Million request

FAST FACTS:

Length: 40 miles

Cities Connected: Red Wing, Hay Creek, Goodhue, Bellechester, Zumbrota, Mazeppa and Pine Island

Year Authorized: 1994
(Bellechester – 1999)

Expected Uses: Biking, Walking, Running, Roller-Blading, Cross-Country Skiing and Snowmobiling

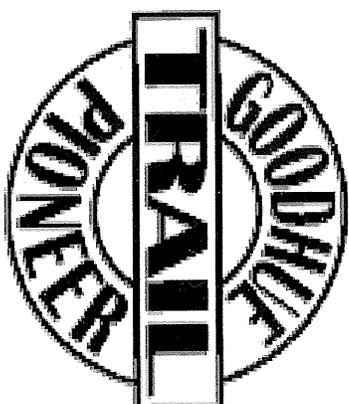
Connections to Other Trails:
connecting link between the Cannon Valley Trail (Cannon Falls – Red Wing) and the Douglas Trail (Pine Island – Rochester)

Informational Contact:

Roxanne Bartsh, President
Goodhue Pioneer Trail Assn.
(218) 732-7174 Home
(651) 565-3015 Work

2006 Minnesota Bonding Bill

Goodhue Pioneer Trail



Thank You for your Support !

Goodhue Pioneer Trail Association

From the President-

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee –

Thank you for your consideration of our project in the 2006 Bonding Bill. The **Goodhue Pioneer Trail Association** has been working since the Trail's Legislative Authorization in 1994 to support this important Trail's additions to the Minnesota State Recreational Trail System. This vital north-south corridor, when completed, will link the cities of: Red Wing, Hay Creek, Goodhue, Bellechester, Zumbrota and Pine Island; as well as connecting two popular existing trails: the **Cannon Valley Trail** (Cannon Falls – Red Wing) and the state's second oldest trail, the **Douglas Trail** (Pine Island – Rochester). Thus far, we have raised over \$2.5 million towards its acquisition/construction through State Bonding and Federal grants.

When completed, the **Goodhue Pioneer Trail** will add 40 miles to Minnesota's wonderful State Trail System. This Trail is designed to be a non-motorized (with the exception of snowmobiles), multi-use facility offering a dual trend for the majority of its length.

The money we have proposed would help us complete a major segment of our trail. We recognize that you have many tough decisions to make in regards to funding of projects by bonding, but we sincerely hope that you will recognize the progress we have made, the strategic importance of this segment to the State Trail System and our tireless efforts over the past 12 years.

Thank you -

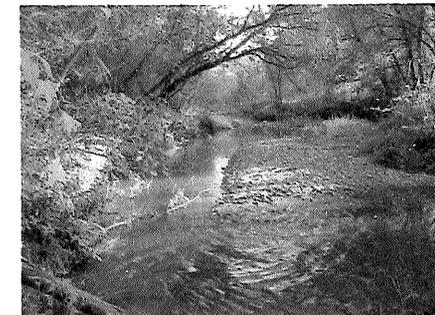
Roxanne Bartsh, President

Goodhue Pioneer Trail

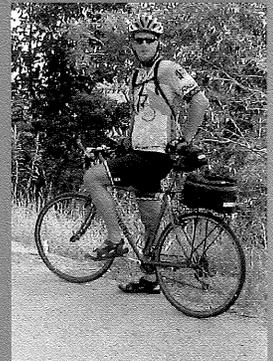
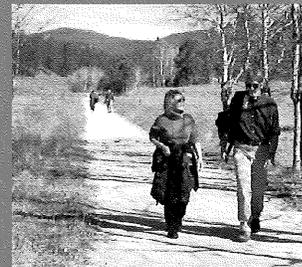
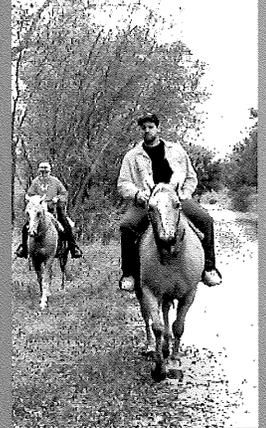


Funding Requested 2006
----- Future
———— Near Completion

Hay Creek Valley Scenes



CASEY JONES TRAIL



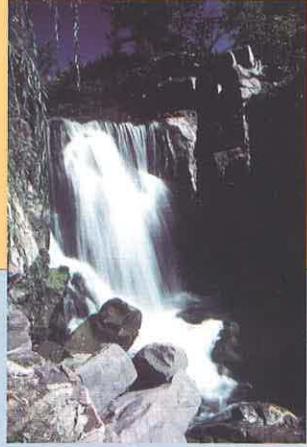
**A SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
TRAIL FOR EVERYONE**

CASEY JONES STATE TRAIL

REDWOOD COUNTY

PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT

283 acres - American Indian Cultural Center, working American Indian crafters, beautiful walking trail and active pipestone quarry pits.



THE BUFFALO RIDGE

The Buffalo Ridge is one of the windiest places in the country and well over 600 wind towers are currently generating electrical power.

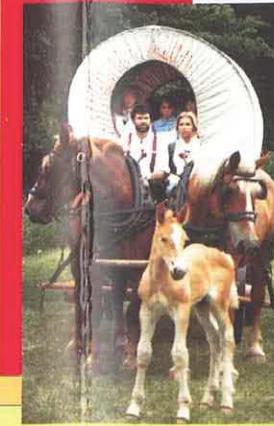


WOODSTOCK



LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK

This monument, erected by the State of Minnesota, marks the graves of victims of the August 20, 1862 Dakota Sioux Conflict.



LAURA INGALLS WILDER MUSEUM AND PAGEANT

A six building complex houses Laura Ingalls Wilder and Walnut Grove history. Pageant portrays the life of Laura as she told it in her book "On the Banks of Plum Creek".

WALNUT GROVE

DES MOINES RIVER HEADWATERS

Dam marks the start of the Des Moines River as determined by early explorers.



CURRIE END-O-LINE RAILROAD PARK AND MUSEUM

This park has a manually operated train turntable, on the National Register of Historic Places.



SONG OF HIAWATHA PAGEANT

A beautiful pageant based on Longfellow's poem, held in a large natural outdoor amphitheater.



PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT

PIPESTONE

PIPESTONE COUNTY

IHLEN SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK

SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK

Split Rock Creek State Park features a beautiful lake formed by a Sioux quartzite dam built of locally quarried stone by the WPA in 1935.

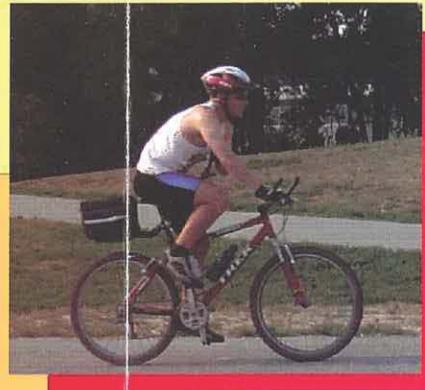


HADLEY

LAKE WILSON

SLAYTON

MURRAY COUNTY



LEGEND

-  GRASS WALKING TRAIL
-  10FT WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL MULTI-USE
-  EQUESTRIAN, HIKING AND SNOW MOBILE USE
-  FUTURE MULTI-USE TRAIL



NORTH

No Scale

In The Beginning

New legislation designating state trails was developed in the late 1960's, and the Casey Jones Trail emerged as the first trail to be legislatively designated. The trail was to run from Lake Shetek State Park to the City of Pipestone. A 13-mile stretch of state-owned abandoned railroad right-of-way that ran from Pipestone east to the Murray County line was opened for horseback riding and hiking in the early 1970's. However, further action lay idle for two decades. In the early 1990's, with a new found public interest in trails, local citizens again recognized the potential for this trail.

By 1996 Murray County completed construction of a six-mile blacktop loop trail connecting Lake Shetek State Park with Currie, and in 1997 a 2-mile section west of Lake Wilson was opened for hiking.



As the new millennium dawned, a group of citizens from Murray, Pipestone and Redwood Counties came together to work toward the development and the expansion of the Casey Jones Trail.

In the Spring of 2002, the Minnesota Legislature amended the State designation to include the six-mile loop trail, an extension northeast from Lake Shetek State Park to Walnut Grove in Redwood County, and an extension south from Pipestone to Split Rock Creek State Park. In the Fall, the group formed a non-profit corporation, "The Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association", to carry on the work until the "dream" is achieved.



The Challenges

Although the Casey Jones Trail is now designated as a state trail covering about 70 miles in three counties, only 21 miles of right-of-way has been acquired and opened to the public for some type of usage. The challenges that lie ahead include: determining exact routes and acquiring the rest of the necessary right-of-way; designing the trail to meet the multi-seasonal - multi-use standard; constructing the trail to these standards and last, but not least, attaining state appropriations and accessing other funding to make this possible.

Why Establish Trails

Trails positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing recreational opportunities as well as influencing economic and community development. Trails provide many benefits, they can:

- Preserve and create natural areas
- Encourage physical fitness
- Strengthen local economies
- Protect the environment
- Provide safe places to exercise
- Preserve historic areas

THE PRIORITIES

Acquire the 4 miles of right-of-way needed to complete the trail from Pipestone to Lake Wilson. Identify specific routes for the rest of the trail and acquire the necessary right-of-way. This would include the following: Lake Shetek State Park northwest to Walnut Grove; Currie southwest to Slayton; Slayton west to Lake Wilson; and Pipestone south to Split Rock Creek State Park; design and construct the Pipestone to Lake Wilson section as a dual treadway trail; complete design and construction of other sections.

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

FRIENDS OF THE CASEY JONES TRAIL
MINNESOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM
MINNESOTA D.N.R.
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, RTCA
PIPESTONE COUNTY
MURRAY COUNTY
REDWOOD COUNTY



For more information,
please contact:

**FRIENDS OF CASEY JONES
TRAIL ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 57
SLAYTON, MN
56172



Casey Jones State Trail

Request Amount: \$500,000

Use: Acquisition

Where: Anywhere within the designation area of the Casey Jones State Trail

Why: It is essential that funds are available for DNR to begin identifying and obtaining parcels of land that can ultimately be linked together to complete the trail as a multi-seasonal, multi-use state trail.

Why is the Casey Jones State Trail important?

It was the first legislative designated State Trail in Minnesota and, until the Minnesota River Trail was designated, the only one in a 21 county Southwest Minnesota area. With the extension of the Casey Jones State Trail to connect to the Minnesota River Trail, Southwest Minnesota Would have a great back-bone state trail system.

Is this a new request?

No, \$500,000 was approved by the legislature in the 2002 session, but it was cut out of the bonding bill by a line-item veto by the Governor. It was again introduced in the 2004 session and was on its way to approval, but there failed to be a bonding bill. Once again it was in the Senate bonding bill in the 2005 session, but was not in the house and it failed to get into the final bill.

What about the \$1,200,000 appropriation for the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the LCMR?

Those funds, appropriated in the 2005 session, were specifically appropriated to begin development on existing railroad right-of-way between Pipestone and Lake Wilson and to acquire land to close the 4 mile gap. The development will take place on part of the railroad right of way that was acquired by DNR in the late 1960's and was Minnesota's very first section of cross-country recreation rail.

The real need now is to have funding that will allow the beginning of an acquisition process throughout the designated trail route.

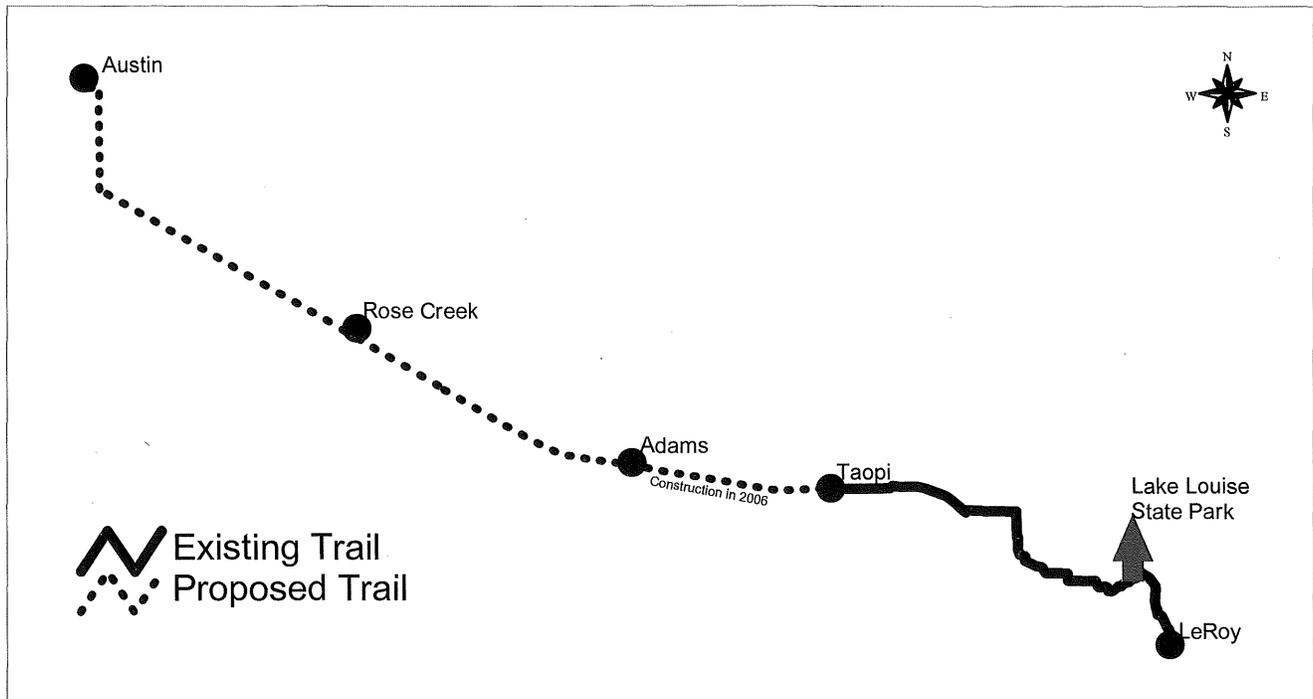
Thank you for your consideration.

Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association

Robert Klinge, President

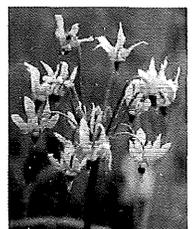
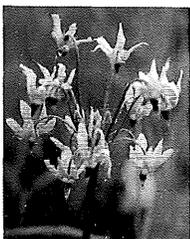
SHOOTING STAR STATE TRAIL

Final Segment--Adams to Austin



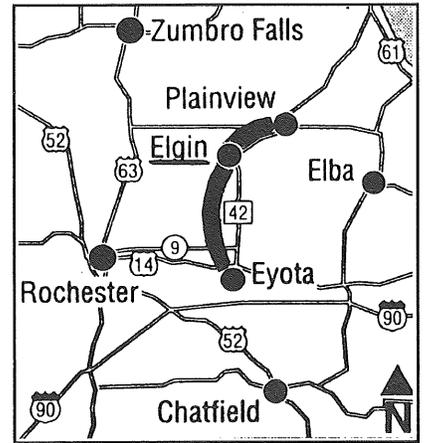
The Shooting Star State Trail will provide additional recreational opportunities as well as give a positive economic impact to the area in southern Minnesota.

- \$3.8 million is being requested for the acquisition of property and construction of the trail between Adams and Austin.
- An easement agreement has been developed with the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency for use of the powerline right-of-way along a portion of the route.
- The trail has the support of all of the communities along the route as well as Mower County and the Prairie Visions citizen's group.
- Segment 1 (LeRoy to Lake Louise State Park) and Segment 2 (Lake Louise to Taopi) have been developed with a combination of State and Federal funds. Segment 3 (Taopi to Adams) will be constructed in 2006, also with a combination of funds.



Great River Ridge Trail

Plainview - Elgin - Eyota



PB graphic



CURRENTLY:

6 Paved Miles
Parking in Elgin
Access from Elgin
Proposed 13 Miles

FUTURE PLANS:

Dual Trail for Snowmobiles
and Horses
Interpretive Sites
Trail Heads
Expanded Trail to
Carley State Park
Link to Root River Trail
and Chester Woods Park

GREAT RIVER RIDGE TRAIL

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- ❖ The trail begins in Wabasha County in Plainview and precedes southerly thru the towns of Elgin and Viola on the former DM&E railroad R.O.W. where it is proposed to linkup with the Chesterwoods Trail at Hwy-14 west of the intersection of Hwy-42 and Hwy-14 near Eyota. The trail includes 30 bridges that cross a multitude of creeks and streams including the North Branch of the Whitewater River and a trailhead facility in Plainview.
- ❖ The Wabasha County Regional Rail Authority, in conjunction with the Wabasha County Board of Commissioners and the Wabasha County Highway Department, has worked to procure, construct, and fund this project beginning in the mid 1990's. Land rights have been secured, construction and maintenance **funding** of approximately **1.9 million** have been obtained to construct and maintain this trail project to enhance the quality of life in Wabasha County.
- ❖ Funding for this project has been acquired from the Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds, State LCMR grants and Local Contributions.

CURRENT PROJECT REQUESTS:

- ❖ Wabasha County Regional Railroad Authority and Wabasha County are requesting State Bonding funds to assist with the completion of the segment of the trail from Elgin thru Viola to Olmsted County Road 9. Completion of the rehabilitation of the 26 bridges in this segment was completed in June 2005.

REQUESTED FUNDING SOUGHT: **1.1 million.**

- ❖ This request includes the cost to complete construction on this 8-mile segment of the trail.
- ❖ When completed, the Great River Ridge Trail will be multi-use which will include snowmobile and horseback riding. This trail will enhance the cultural, and historical beauty of the county and also provide many areas for use as outdoor classrooms due to the diverse features of the trail and also provide economic growth for the county and surrounding areas.
- ❖ The Great River Ridge Trail is part of the proposed Tri-County trail which when complete will include over 50 miles of trails and connect the cities of Rochester, Eyota, St. Charles, Dover, Plainview, Elgin, Viola, and Whitewater and Carley State Parks.
- ❖ Currently the Wabasha Regional Rail Authority and Wabasha County have initiated the process to gain **State Trail Status** for the **Great River Ridge Trail**.

Southeastern
Minnesota

DATELINE:
CHATFIELD, FOUNTAIN,
OSTRANDER, PRESTON,
SPRING VALLEY,
and WYKOFF

TRAIL TALK

STATE TRAIL EXPANSION...

TRAIL SYSTEM

Who We Are:

6 communities called the Western Extension of the Root River State Trail Joint Powers Board.

Where We Are:

In Fillmore County going west from Preston to Forestville State Park/ Mystery Cave and from Spring Valley south and west to Ostrander.

Why Fund:

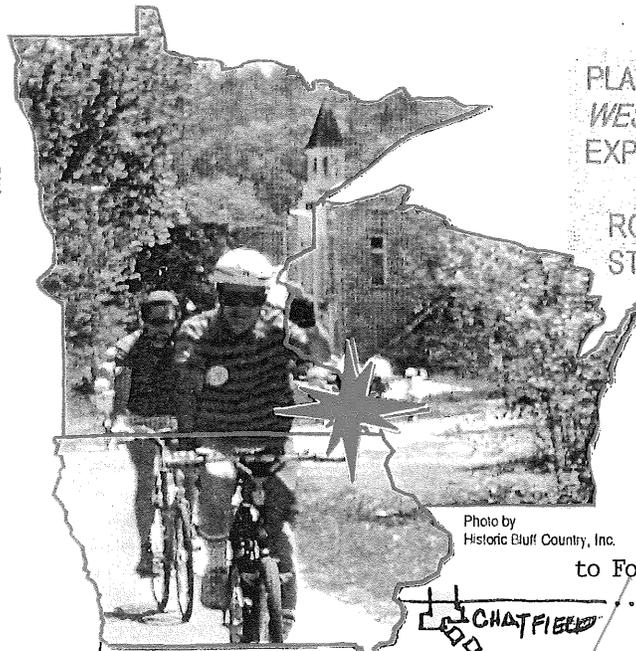
To link the Root River State Trail and it's extensions to Forestville State Park/ *Historic Forestville* and the communities of Spring Valley and Ostrander to Preston, Lanesboro, and Harmony. Funding of this bill continues the renaissance of rural economic revival in Fillmore county Minnesota. Phase I is part of the overall master plan for Blufflands Trail System development commenced in Minnesota in 1992.

When:

Phase I
Construction on Phase I has already begun with the construction of a bridge and a second bridge under construction.

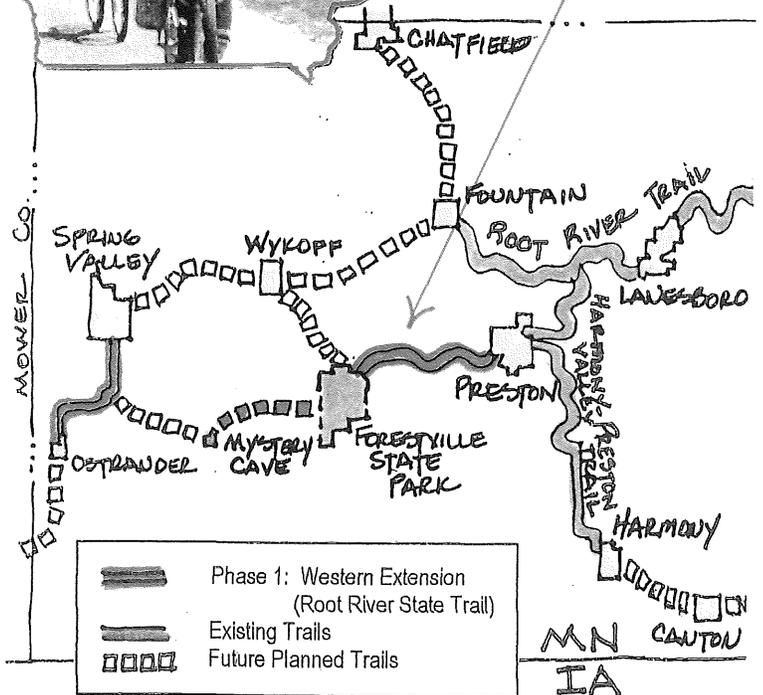
What we need:

\$2,900,000.00 is needed to complete Phase I extending the Blufflands/ Root River State Trail system westward.



PLANNED
WESTERN
EXPANSION OF
the
ROOT RIVER
STATE TRAIL

Photo by
Historic Bluff Country, Inc. Location of trail
to Forestville State Park



Vote Yes..... to the Western Extension of the Root River State Trail

Vision and Goals for the Houston County Trail System

VISION

The Houston County Trail System is people out safely enjoying the natural beauty of this area in all seasons while improving their personal health and well being.

PURPOSE

- Improve the quality of life for local residents.
- Provide a safe place to recreate, and to commute to work or school.
- Showcase the positive scenic, historic, and natural assets and amenities of the area.

GOALS

Overall Goal:

- Complete the Houston County portion of the Blufflands State Trail System by developing a loop trail, connecting with the Harmony/Preston and Root River Trails, that passes through all of the cities in Houston County.

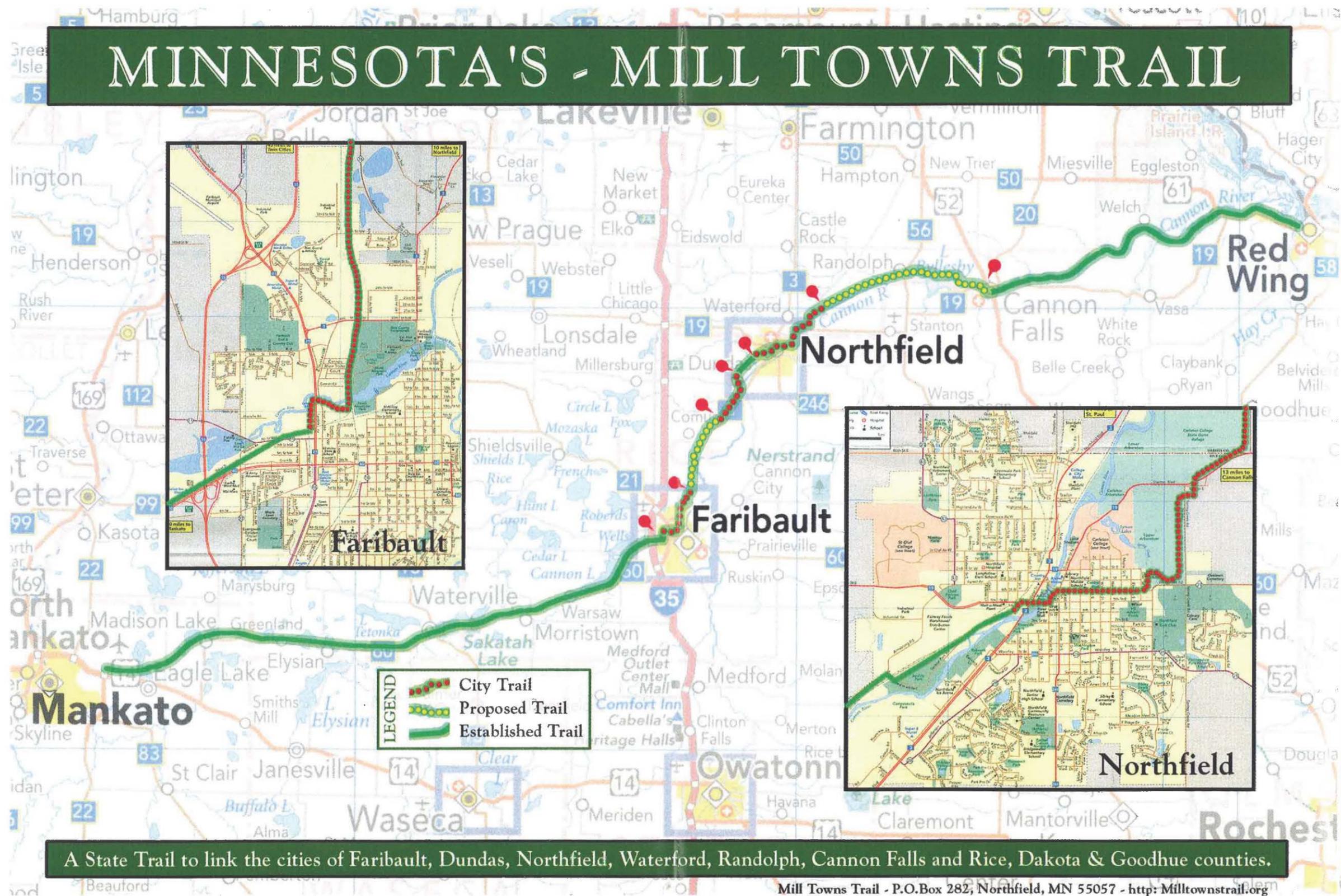
Connection Goals:

- Connect the Wisconsin and Minnesota trail systems in the Seven Rivers Region and the Mississippi River corridor to provide an interstate trail option, making this trail system a pre-eminent trail system in the nation.
- Connect to and complement the Mississippi River trail system, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, and the Historic Bluff Country National Scenic Byway.
- Connect and provide directional signs to points of interest in Houston County in order to encourage appreciation of the area's historic and natural features. Points of interest include:
 - Beaver Creek Valley State Park
 - Historic sites, including: Schech's Mill, the historical village at the County Fairgrounds, and Historic Register buildings and homes in the cities and townships throughout the County.
 - Natural history features, such as: the hills and valleys, the wildlife of the Root River bottoms, and the Blufflands scenery, all part of the driftless region.
 - The Mississippi River and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Community Goals:

- Maximize benefits for local residents and communities as a top priority.
- Pursue the following lower priority community goals where possible:
 - Encourage tourism related businesses, such as lodging and retail services.
 - Build on the success of Houston and other communities with trails to revitalize the downtown areas of Houston County's cities.
 - Increase opportunities for agricultural and eco-tourism, such as the bee farm.

MINNESOTA'S - MILL TOWNS TRAIL



A State Trail to link the cities of Faribault, Dundas, Northfield, Waterford, Randolph, Cannon Falls and Rice, Dakota & Goodhue counties.

Mill Towns Trail - P.O.Box 282, Northfield, MN 55057 - <http://Milltownstrail.org>

Boundary Waters Connection of The Mesabi Trail

This request is for \$950,000 in state funding to secure the right of way, design, engineer, and construct the 17-mile section of the Boundary Waters Connection of the Mesabi Trail located between Bear Head State Park and the International Wolf Center in Ely in northeastern St. Louis County. Federal transportation funds will be used for the 50% non-state match requirement.

The Mesabi Trail is a 132-mile all season bicycle, hiking, skiing trail that stretches through 28 communities across a wide region of Minnesota, including Itasca, Lake, and St. Louis Counties. The Mesabi Trail runs from the Mississippi to the Boundary Waters, the longest paved bike trail in the United States when completed. Funding for the Boundary Waters Connection will complete the Mesabi Trail.

Along the Mesabi Trail, communities offer historic buildings, mining artifacts, ethnic and cultural history, and other treasures that have important statewide significance. The Mesabi Trail travels through state forests, parks, the Superior National Forest, and several community and county parks and preserves. The state has already recognized the uniqueness and statewide importance of the Mesabi Trail through previous funding in state bonding bills and from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. This request will complete the Mesabi Trail.

The Regional Railroad Authority has assumed and will continue to provide for staffing, maintenance, and operating expenses for the Mesabi Trail and the Boundary Waters Connection. In addition, the Authority charges a user fee in the form of a "Wheel Pass" that is dedicated to the long-term maintenance of the Trail. The project will not require new or any state operating subsidies. Further, the project will not expand the state's role in a new policy area, as the state has a long-term commitment to the development of quality recreational trails.

There are no other significant and large bike trails among other local jurisdictions in the region within reasonable distances. St. Louis and Itasca Counties are larger than several states. State trails are being developed along the North Shore of Lake Superior and the Munger Trail into Duluth exists; the Mesabi Trail, along with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, have developed a long-term plan to connect these significant trails. User numbers continue to grow as more and more Minnesotans commit themselves to active lifestyles for themselves and their families. Bicycling remains a universally popular recreational activity in Minnesota.

The Regional Railroad Authority and the St. Louis County Board have passed resolutions in support of the project and have prioritized this project first. A project pre-design is being submitted to the Commissioner of Administration, and the state's project share will not exceed 50% of the total capital cost.



PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA '06 TRAILS INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

275 E. 4TH STREET; SUITE #642; ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1651
January 2006

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota presents its '06 Trails Initiative

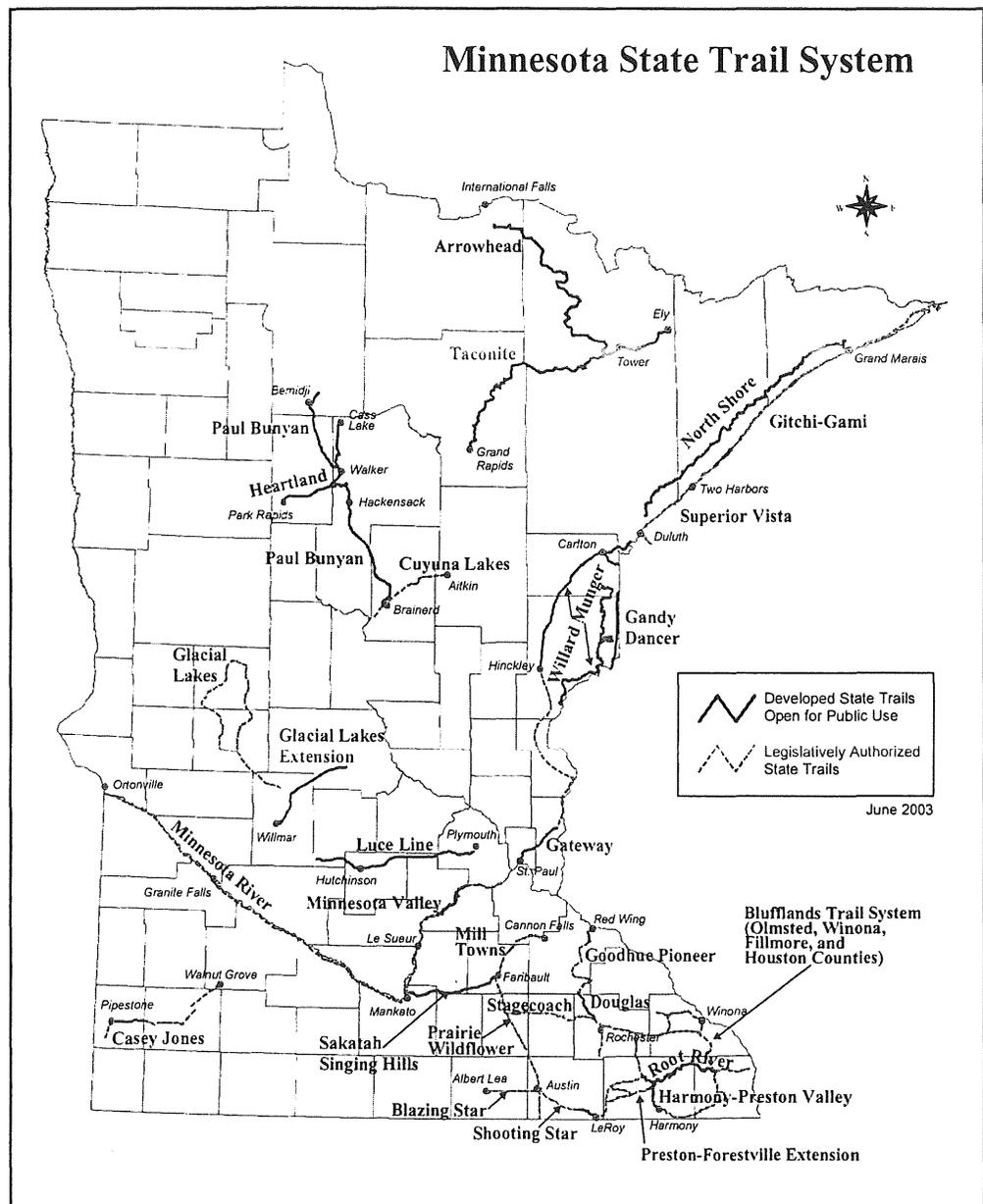
The Parks & Trails Council is proposing a \$32.11 million bonding initiative for state and regional trails for the 2006 legislative session. Funding for our trails is a smart investment in our tourism economy, it encourages economic development and it contributes to healthy citizens.

not completed. The 2006 Trails Initiative places a priority on projects with federal matching funding, existing trails in need of rehabilitation and for completing key trail segments on major trails.

The 2006 Trails Initiative builds on the proposal prepared for the 2004 and 2005 Legislature. That request of \$29 million was partially funded by the 2005 Legislature.

The Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota developed the 2006 Trails Initiative with assistance from many local organizations and citizens from across the state. The projects included are ready to go reflecting the growing demand that local and regional communities have for trails and their desire to increase economic development and recreational opportunities.

The demand for trails will not go away. We need to accelerate and move forward by developing state trails that have been authorized by the Legislature, but which are still



-over-

2006 Trails Initiative

1. Match Federal Funding **\$2,910,000**

Gitchi Gami State Trail **\$1,185,000**

For development from Cascade River State Park to Grand Marias. Project includes \$765,000 in federal funding.

Cuyuna State Trail **\$1,100,000**

For acquisition and development of 39 miles of trail, linking the Cuyuna State Recreation Area to area communities and eventually the Paul Bunyan and the Mesabi trails. State funds complement federal highway funding of \$1.02 million.

Munger State Trail **\$625,000**

To match federal highway funding of \$2.125 million for the Duluth extension of the Willard Munger Trail.

Paul Bunyan State Trail

Adopt rider language allowing the \$1.5 million appropriated to the DNR be used to match \$2.9 million in federal funding.

2. State Trail Rehabilitation

(Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recommendation) **\$2,000,000**

* Projects to be determined.

3. State Trail Acquisition and Development **\$8,150,000**

Glacial Lakes State Trail **\$2,000,000**

To complete acquisition and development of 28 miles of the Glacial Lakes Trail from New London to Cold Spring.

Paul Bunyan State Trail **\$2,500,000**

To complete acquisition and development of the Paul Bunyan State Trail through the city of Bemidji, as well as a bridge crossing Highway 197 in Bemidji.

Blufflands State Trail-Forestville **\$2,900,000**

For acquisition and development of parts of the 8.4 mile trail between Preston and Forestville State Park.

Gateway State Trail **\$750,000**

For acquisition and limited development of a 9.9 mile extension of the trail from Pine Point Park in Washington County to William O'Brien State Park.

4. New State Trail Acquisition and Development **\$15,800,000**

Goodhue Pioneer State Trail **\$2,000,000**

For development of 9 miles of trail between Goodhue and Zumbrota.

Blufflands State Trail-Chester Woods **\$900,000**

To complete acquisition and development of 5 miles trail between the city of Rochester and Chester Woods Regional Park.

Casey Jones State Trail **\$500,000**

For acquisition of the designated trail route from Pipestone south to Split Rock Creek State Park, from Lake Wilson east to Slayton, from Slayton northeast to Currie and from Currie to Walnut Grove.

Mill Towns State Trail **\$3,800,000**

For construction of six miles of trail, three bridges and rehabilitation of 3 miles between Northfield and Dundas. Project includes federal and local funds.

Minnesota River State Trail **\$3,800,000**

For acquisition and development of 8.2 miles between Wegdahl and Granite Falls.

Root River State Trail-Houston **\$1,000,000**

For acquisition and development of a 20 mile trail linking LaCrescent to Houston. Project would provide a link between Wisconsin trails in LaCrosse to the Root River State Trail.

Shooting Star State Trail **\$3,800,000**

To complete the acquisition and development of 15 miles of the Shooting Star State Trail between Adams and Austin.

5. Regional Trails **\$3,250,000**

Mesabi Trail (*match federal funds*) **\$950,000**

Cedar Lake Trail (*match federal funds*) **\$600,000**

Vento Trail/Interpretive Center (*match federal funds*) **\$300,000**

Mankato Minnesota River Trail (*match local and federal funds*) **\$300,000**

Great River Ridge **\$1,100,000**

Trails Initiative Total \$32.11 million



PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

State Parks, Trails and Minnesota's Tourism Economy Fact Sheet

February 2005

Tourism is Key in Minnesota

Minnesota tourism is stronger than it has been in the past four years, gradually improving as consumer confidence grows. Tourism has become a major economic activity in Minnesota. The Travel Industry Association of America is projecting continued slow but steady growth for U.S. travel in both 2005 and 2006 (2% each year).

Travel and tourism in Minnesota generates \$9.2 billion in gross receipts/sales and contributes \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue.

87% of travel in Minnesota is for pleasure and 13% for business, with over 1/2 of Minnesota travel in the

spring/summer (Apr.-Aug.), about 1/4 during the fall (Sept.-Nov.) and nearly 1/4 during the winter (Dec.-March).

Recent results from a Minnesota scenic byway survey found that travelers are attracted by: natural scenery (92 percent); historic sites (68 percent); being off the beaten path (61 percent); parks (56 percent); small towns (47 percent); festivals (39 percent) new routes (23 percent) and arts (22 percent). Bike trails stood out among a variety of attractors to scenic travel routes.

State Parks and Trails Contribute to Minnesota's Tourism Economy

Minnesota's State Park system includes 67 state parks and 6 recreation areas, 8 waysides totaling more than 244,000 acres.

In 2000, Minnesota State Parks served 8.5 million visitors. State Parks generate \$200 million in economic activity annually.

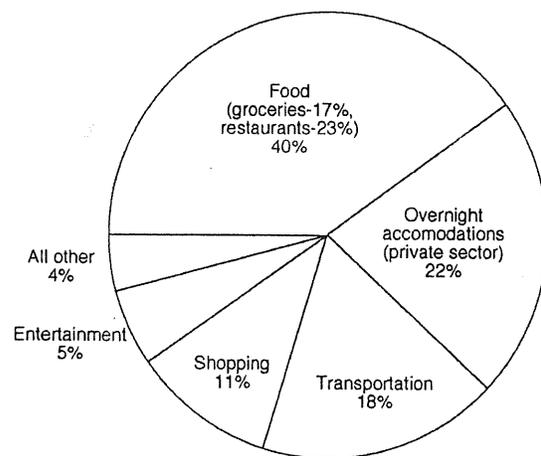
Many top activities enjoyed by travelers – enjoying the great outdoors, exploring our natural and cultural heritage, camping, fishing – can be found in Minnesota's state parks.

Out-of-state and international travelers make up 16% of the use and contribute \$34 million in new money to the economy. Metro residents contribute 36% of all state park visits. 33% of all Minnesotans visit state parks.

- over -

2001 Trip-Related Spending of MN State Park Visitors

Total annual spending = \$177.8 million
(excludes payments to MN State Parks and any other government agency)



PEOPLE SAVING MINNESOTA'S SPECIAL PLACES

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

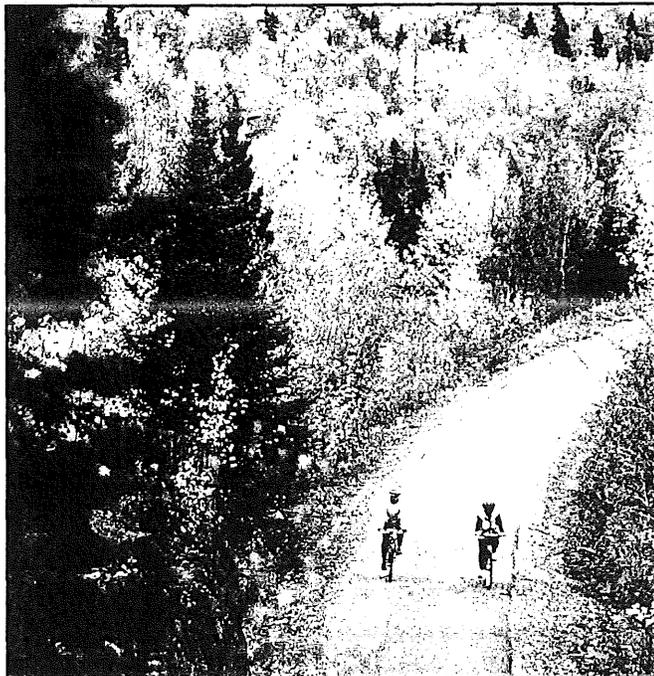
275 E. 4TH STREET; SUITE #642; ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1651

651-726-2457 OR 1-800-944-0707 FAX: 651-726-2458 WWW.PARKSANDTRAILS.ORG

Minnesota's State Trail system includes 24 legislatively authorized trails, (18 are open for public use). There are over 400 miles of paved trails. Many state authorized trails are in varying stages of completion. In addition, many communities have local trail systems, which complement the state trail system and link communities to state parks and trails.

Minnesota's State Trails are an important tourism draw in regions where trails are fully developed. Community revitalization is clearly evident in southeastern Minnesota as a result of the Root River Trail, and just as evident along the Paul Bunyan Trail.

- Biking is the third most popular vacation activity in the United States. Minnesota leads the nation with more paved bikeways than any other state.
- Minnesota's State Trails contribute \$5 million annually to Minnesota's tourism economy between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- Communities with trails can expect to generate between \$300,000 to \$1.5 million of economic activity between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- Trails enhance property values, provide business opportunities and contribute to community pride.



Fall biking along a Minnesota state trail. Photo by Explore Minnesota.

Minnesota Tourism At a Glance:

- Tourism generates \$9.2 billion in gross receipts/sales.
- Tourism contributes \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue.
- Minnesota tourism generates over \$24 million in gross receipts/sales per day.
- Tourism diversifies the Minnesota economy and expands economic activity by bringing new money into state and local communities.
- Tourism is one of the main activities in rural Minnesota.
- Tourism is a key sector of Minnesota's economy, comparable to agriculture in its contributions to the gross state product.
- The top activities for travelers in Minnesota include:
 - Scenic touring 48%
 - Shopping 37%
 - Fishing 36%
 - Visiting friends/family 33%
 - Visiting state/national parks 22%

Minnesota State Park Visitor Spending*
Per Person per Day or Night

Person visiting park and returning home that day spends:	\$15.33
Person visiting park while on a trip away from home spends:	\$42.41
State park camper spends:	\$30.77

*In 2004 dollars inflated using the CPI-U for 2001 to 2004 (=1.067).

Sources:

"Contributions of the Minnesota State Park System to State and Regional Economies," prepared by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources OMBS, August 2002.
www.exploreminnesota.com

For more information, contact the Parks & Trails Council at 651-726-2457.



275 East 4th Street, Suite 642
St. Paul MN 55101-1651

Phone: 651-726-2457
Fax: 651-726-2458

info@parksandtrails.org
www.parksandtrails.org

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Cedar Lake Park
ASSOCIATION

2000 Aldrich Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405

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COMPLETE the PROMISE CEDAR LAKE—MISSISSIPPI TRAIL

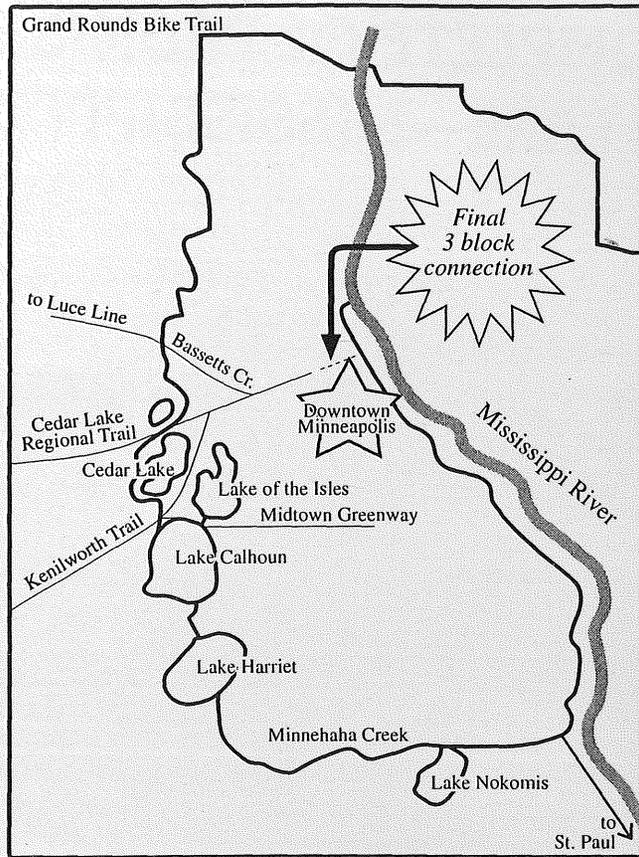


Photo: Meredith Montgomery

Minneapolis is the #1 commuter bike metro area in America. But the lakes-to-river connection, just 3-blocks, still needs state funding. Last year Congressman Martin Sabo's \$3-million appropriation to complete the trail became law.

The City of Minneapolis has committed \$1.3-million. The State of Minnesota is being asked to budget \$1.8-million in this year's bonding bill.

Minneapolis, City of Lakes and Bikes!



The Minneapolis Park Board passed a resolution (08/20/03) to connect the Cedar Lake Regional Trail with “the Kenilworth Trail, Bassetts Creek Trail, Midtown Greenway, and Hennepin County Southwest Corridor systems” to the Mississippi. “Public safety is the number one reason for keeping Cedar Lake Regional Trail in the railroad corridor instead of crossing streets.”

“I am pleased to support the Cedar Lake Trail’s efforts to complete a vision originally conceived of nearly 100 years ago. Once completed, the trail will connect the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and the Mississippi River.”

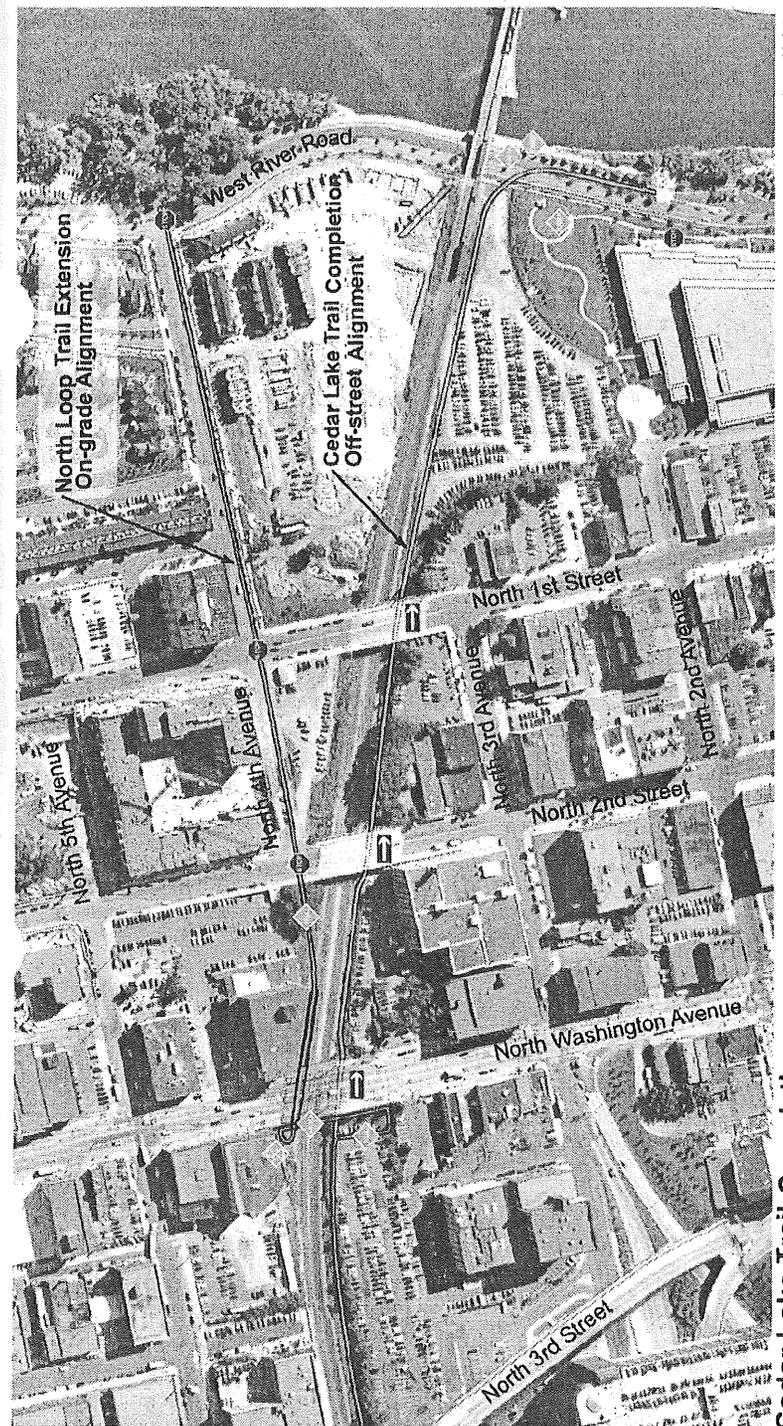
—U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman

“I’ve made it a priority to protect and preserve green space, and increase access for all Minnesotans to enjoy our beautiful natural resources. As part of this commitment, I’ve been working to complete the Cedar Lake Trail.”

—U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo

“As the senior Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have worked to promote bicycling and livable communities...I was especially pleased to support the Cedar Lake Park Trail project to help fulfill the vision of dedicated Minneapolis residents to link this park to the city and the river.”

—U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar



Cedar Lake Trail Completion
Washington Avenue to West River Road

Cedar Lake Trail – Phase 3 Fact Sheet

Project Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide a regional transportation and recreational facility that will improve bicycling and walking mode shares throughout the city. This project has significant transportation, environmental, and health benefits.

Location:

The Cedar Lake Trail (Phase 3) will connect the existing Cedar Lake Trail to the Mississippi River from Royalston Avenue to West River Parkway following the BNSF railroad corridor. The trail will be placed on a combination of private and public property paralleling the railroad corridor.

Regional Trail Connections:

The Cedar Lake Trail (Phase 3) is the final regional trail segment in the SW quadrant of Minneapolis connecting the existing Cedar Lake Trail (Phases 1 and 2) to the West River Parkway Trail. The existing Cedar Lake Trail makes connections the Luce Line Trail, Kenilworth Trail, SW LRT Trail, Midtown Greenway, and Hutchinson Spur Trail. These existing trails serve numerous communities outside the City of Minneapolis including, Chanhassen, Chaska, Eden Prairie, Excelsior, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Independence, Long Lake, Minnetonka, Orono, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, Shorewood, Victoria, and Wayzata.

Projected Use:

Minneapolis Public Works has conducted counts along the existing Cedar Lake Trail approximately ½ mile from the proposed trail extension. The city has counted an average of 750-1000 bicyclists per spring/summer/fall weekday and an average of 1000-1500 bicyclists on a typical spring/summer/fall weekend day. Public Works has observed that there are nearly as many pedestrians as bicyclists and that approximately 25% of bicyclists use the trail in the winter months. Local surveys have found that approximately half of trail users use the trail for transportation purposes and the other half use the trail for recreational purposes. It is projected the number of people using the trail will increase once the remaining trail gap has been completed.

Community Support:

This project is supported by the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Cedar Lake Park Association. This trail segment has been recognized by the Metropolitan Council as a Regional Trail facility and has widespread public support.

Timeline:

Work will begin in the 2006 construction season and the project will be completed in the 2007 construction season.

Cedar Lake Trail – Phase 3 Funding Sheet

Project Cost:

\$6,625,000 Construction costs (includes right-of-way acquisition)

\$1,656,250 Design/engineering costs

\$8,281,250 Total project cost

Project Revenue:

\$3,000,000 Federal funding (Congressional earmark)

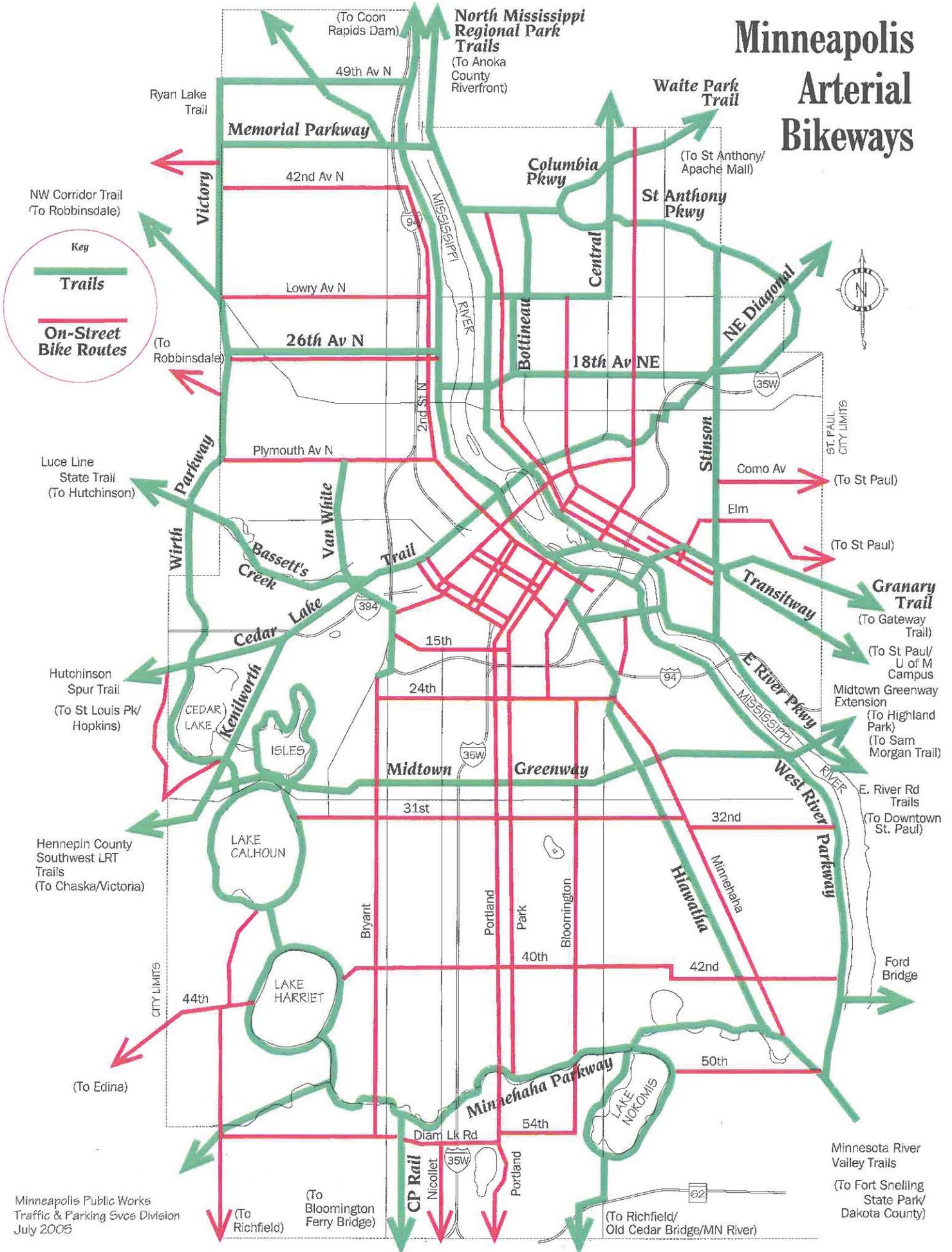
\$2,300,000 Federal funding (TEA-21 Regional solicitation)

\$1,165,000 City of Minneapolis CIP

\$6,465,000 Funding secured

\$1,816,250 Existing need = State bonding request

Minneapolis Arterial Bikeways



CEDAR LAKE TRAIL - PHASE 3



Prepared: October 2005

DOWNTOWN

394

Document can be made available
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**EIGHTY-FOURTH
SESSION**

HOUSE FILE No. 2632

January 19, 2006

Authored by Lanning and Eken

Unofficially referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to capital investment; authorizing spending to acquire and better
1.3 public land and buildings and other public improvements of a capital nature;
1.4 appropriating money for flood hazard mitigation projects in the Wild Rice
1.5 Watershed District; authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT, FLOOD**
1.8 **HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECTS.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. Felton Ditch sub basin. \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the bond
1.10 proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the Wild Rice
1.11 Watershed District for flood hazard mitigation projects within the Felton Ditch sub basin,
1.12 including engineering and design work, acquisition of approximately 1,200 acres, and
1.13 construction and development of the area for floodwater storage. This appropriation is not
1.14 available until the commissioner of finance determines that at least an equal amount is
1.15 available from nonstate sources.

1.16 Subd. 2. Wild Rice flood hazard prevention predesign. \$1,000,000 is appropriated
1.17 from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to
1.18 the Wild Rice Watershed District for predesign of the federally preferred alternative of
1.19 flood hazard prevention work on the Wild Rice River, including geotechnical studies and
1.20 ecosystem restoration analysis and implementation of setback levees and channel/riparian
1.21 corridor restoration along approximately 23 miles of the river. This appropriation is not
1.22 available until the commissioner of finance determines that at least an equal amount is
available from nonstate sources.

2.1 Subd. 3. South Branch storage initiative. \$1,500,000 is appropriated from the
2.2 bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the Wild
2.3 Rice Watershed District for the first year of development of upper basin sites to provide
2.4 floodwater storage and lower off-channel flood storage to control floodwaters from an
2.5 approximately 250 square mile drainage area. This appropriation is not available until
2.6 the commissioner of finance determines that at least an equal amount is available from
2.7 nonstate sources.

2.8 **Sec. 2. BOND SALE.**

2.9 To provide the money appropriated by section 1 from the bond proceeds fund,
2.10 the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to
2.11 \$5,500,000 in the manner, on the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
2.12 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,
2.13 sections 4 to 7.

2.14 **Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.15 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 Fifth Avenue East – Ada, MN 56510
Phone 218-784-5501

Felton Ditch Off-Channel Storage

The Board passed a preliminary resolution in the regular July Meeting to begin the process of establishing a project. This allows work to begin toward the project including engineering reviews and other activities. This is the beginning of the process where the board can initial a project instead of a petitioned project. The Red River Water Management Board approved approximately one third of the funding for the project (1.72 million). Total project costs are estimated at \$6.0 million dollars. The project design has 4,670 acre feet of gated storage and 2,470 acre feet of ungated storage. Total flood storage is 7,140 acre feet.

Wild Rice WD Feasibility Study

The feasibility study is an analysis of using ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction (10 year event) together to achieve both goals. If the project alternative selected is approved for funding the Federal Government would pay 65% of the construction costs. Phase 1 activities are now completed. Phase one was an analysis of a number of alternative projects along the main stem of the Wild Rice. A public meeting was held on September 8th to discuss the results of Phase 1. Phase 2 of the study would involve a more detailed feasibility analysis of the most desirable alternative. Project costs for Phase 2 are estimated at \$2.0 million dollars with the local share of \$1 million.

South Branch Storage Sites

In 2004 the District began reviewing 15 potential flood storage locations upstream on the South Branch. Preliminary environmental reviews have been conducted at the sites and they have been evaluated for permitting constraints. Engineering has estimated costs and benefits of a package of projects to reduce flood damages. A public meeting was held on July 20th to discuss findings and concerns. The Board will have to decide the feasibility of going forward with any of the sites.



Wild Rice Watershed District

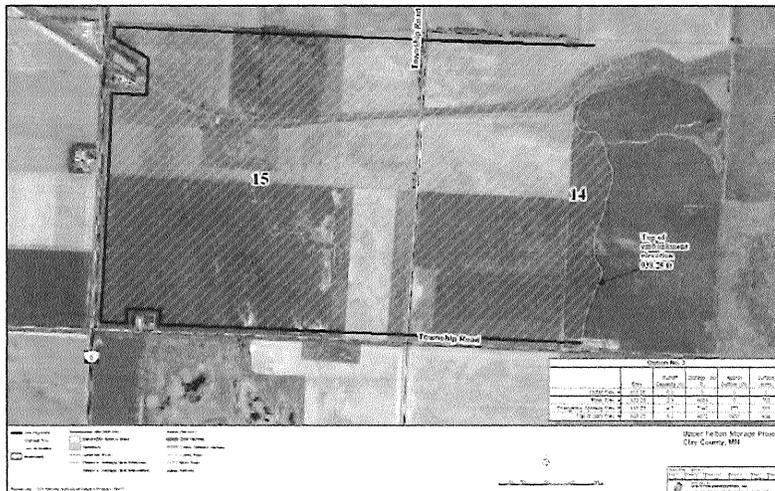
Proposed Upper Felton Storage

Location:

Sections 14 and 15 (Flowing Township), Norman County. Approximately 3 miles south of Felton, MN

Contact:

Warren Seykora, Chairman
(218) 784-5501



Proposed project layout

Background/Purpose:

The Wild Rice Watershed District began pursuing flood water storage within the Felton Ditch sub-basin as part of WRWD Overall Watershed Management Plan.

The primary purpose for the proposed project is to reduce flood damages within Felton Ditch sub-basin as well as downstream along the Wild Rice and Red Rivers. The details of the secondary purposes have not been identified explicitly, however could include a combination of the following; land set-aside, prairie and wetland restorations, education and recreation areas, and low flow augmentation.

The Project:

The proposed project will generally consist of the following project features:

- The project as proposed will control floodwaters from an approximately 29.8 ± square mile drainage area until downstream channel conditions can accommodate the flows.
- The storage area is proposed to have a total capacity of approximately 7,140 acre-feet (4.5 inches), of which 4,670 acre-feet (2.9 inches) will be gated to provide detention times in excess of 30 days if needed.
- The flood pool is proposed to cover approximately 885 acres when full to the emergency spillway crest.

Project Costs/Financing:

The current estimated cost of the project is approximately \$6.0 million. This computes to approximately \$840 per acre-foot of storage. Currently, the Wild Rice Watershed District has proposed the follow cost breakdown to fund the proposed project. The Red-River Watershed Management Board funding was recently approved.

- 50% State of Minnesota
- 32.5% Red River Watershed Management Board
- 8.75% Local Assessment
- 8.75% Other Outside Funding



Wild Rice Watershed District

Phase 2 - Wild Rice River Feasibility Study

Location:

Wild Rice Watershed District,
Ada, MN

Contact:

Warren Seykora, Chairman
(218) 784-5501



Background/Objective:

The Wild Rice Watershed District completed Phase I of the Wild Rice River Feasibility Study in July of 2005. The study was a joint effort between the WRWD and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The main objective of the study was the development of alternatives to provide flood protection against the 10-year summer flood and ecosystem restoration for the Lower Wild Rice River area.

Efforts in Phase 1 of the feasibility study investigated the potential for setback levees, restoration of the river channel between the setback levees, as well as diversions.

Federally Preferred Alternative:

Four alternatives were developed and analyzed in Phase I. The Federally Preferred Alternative (FPA) consists of the implementation of setback levees and channel/riparian corridor restoration along approximately 23-miles of the Wild Rice River.

- The FPA has an estimated cost of \$47.1 million. Any ecosystem restoration project would be cost shared 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal for design and construction.
- The FPA scored a national significance rating of 75 out of a possible score of 80.

In order to proceed with further development of the FPA, and be eligible for the 65/35 future cost share, the WRWD needs to first complete Phase 2 of the feasibility study. Phase 2 will include more detailed analysis such as final plan formulation, geotechnical studies, ecosystem restoration analysis, and other pre-design related tasks.

Phase 2 Study Costs:

Phase 2 of the Wild Rice River Feasibility Study is currently estimated to cost \$2.0 million and to take approximately 2 years to complete.

- 50% Federal Government (USACE) - \$1,000,000
- 50% State of Minnesota - \$1,000,000



Wild Rice Watershed District

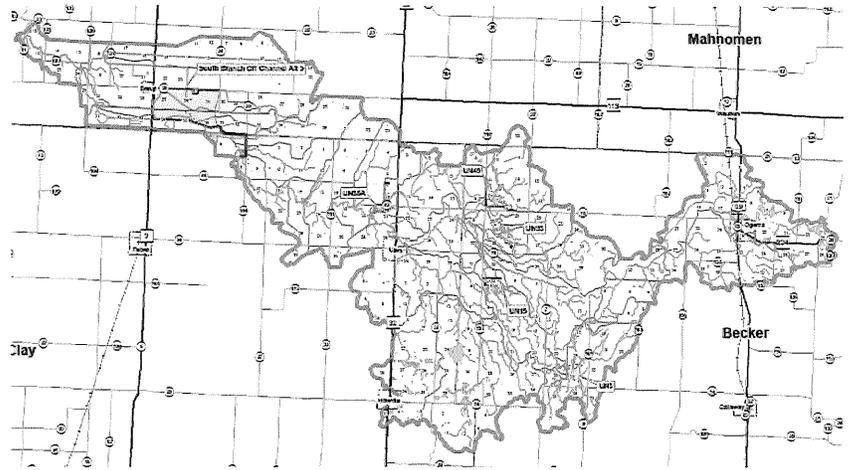
South Branch of the Wild Rice River – Storage Initiative

Location:

Wild Rice Watershed District,
Ada, MN

Contact:

Warren Seykora, Chairman
(218) 784-5501



Map of Proposed Storage Sites within the South Branch sub-watershed

Background/Objective:

In June 2005, the Wild Rice Watershed District completed a Storage Evaluation of the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. This evaluation was completed as a joint effort between the WRWD and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The main goal of evaluation was to identify groups of projects, which would provide a 30-40% reduction in the 10 year discharge at the outlet of the South Branch of the Wild Rice River.

South Branch of the Wild Rice River – Storage Initiative (SBSI):

The SBSI Plan consists of the implementation five sites in the upper basin in combination with one large off-channel storage site in the lower basin.

- The five upper basin sites would provide a total of 6,450 ac-ft of flood storage.
- The lower off-channel storage facility would provide approximately 15,000 ac-ft of storage.

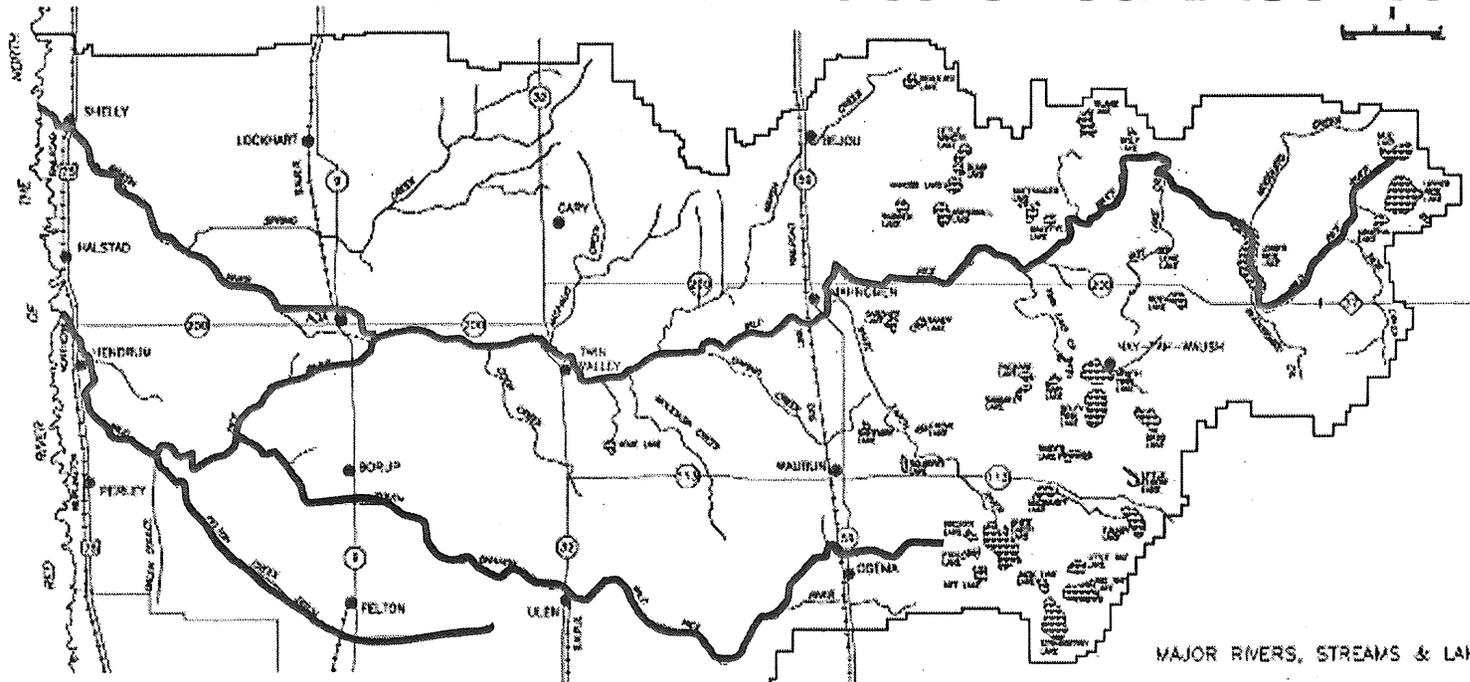
The SBSI Plan would control floodwaters from an approximately 250 square mile drainage area. As proposed, the planned sites provide approximately a 37% reduction in flow in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River at the confluence the Wild Rice River. In addition, the proposed plan would provide substantial natural resource enhancement and significant bank erosion reduction along the South Branch of the Wild Rice River.

SBSI Costs and Schedule:

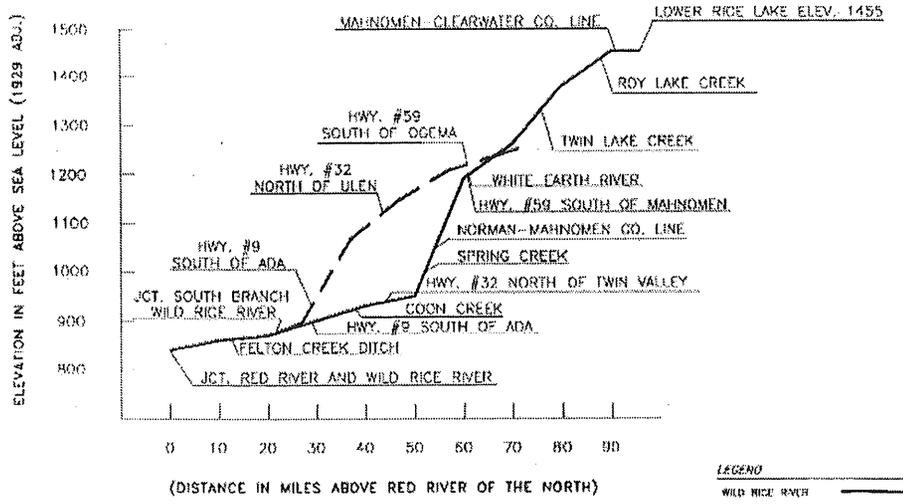
The implementation of the SBSI is currently estimated to cost \$21 million. Due to the scale of the project, the WRWD is estimating it will take an approximate 10-year period to implement. The following cost share for the project is proposed:

- 50% State of Minnesota - \$10.5M
- 35% Red River Watershed Management Board – \$7.35M
- 10% Local Assessment – \$2.1M
- 5% Other Outside Funding – \$1.05M

Wild Rice Watershed District



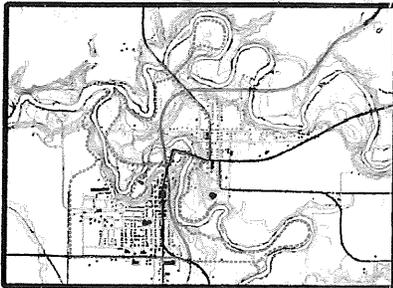
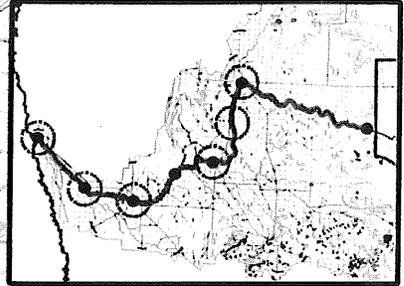
MAJOR RIVERS, STREAMS & LA



LEGEND
 WILD RICE RIVER
 SOUTH BRANCH OF THE WILD RICE RIVER

Elevations Range from
 Approximately 860 to
 2005 across
 approximately 90 miles
 West to East

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



THE CENTER FOR CHANGING LANDSCAPES
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD

124 North Broadway
Crookston, MN 56716
www.redlakerivercorridor.org

October 2005

To Our Partners and Supporters:

It is time to celebrate, time to look back on a planning process that has engaged community leaders, recreational enthusiasts, natural resource managers, and designers. Together, these partners have created a vision for the Red Lake River Corridor that protects and improves the river as a recreational trail and an ecosystem. This common vision incorporates natural and built assets in the communities of Thief River Falls, St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher and East Grand Forks as a regional system.

The designs included in this book describe a regional sensibility for the Red Lake River Corridor. They represent the natural and cultural history of the region, as well as the legacy these communities can hand off to future generations. They illustrate how people from the region and visitors to the region can enjoy a variety of nature-based activities.

The Red Lake River is unique in the state in that it traverses the three major biomes in North America. It represents a diverse and productive fishery. It provides water and energy for some communities on its banks. As the Red Lake River meanders through the peat-rich soils at its source to its confluence with the Red River of the North, it cuts through beach ridges formed by Glacial Lake Agassiz. The river ties our communities to one another; it also ties our present day communities to their historic and future counterparts.

This plan demonstrates the possibilities that emerge when people work together. Several access points have been in place for 30 years, but more are needed. The cities and county parks along the Red Lake River provide important nodes for the regional trail system. This plan leverages the assets of the region: the river, city and county parks, the cooperation of community and agency leaders, to present to the state an opportunity for investing in a recreational trail.

So we celebrate the progress we have accomplished together, and we look forward to working together with you all, partners and supporters, in turning our plans into reality.

Sincerely,

Keith Mykleseth, Chairman

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Northwest Partnership

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

262 Owen
2900 University Ave.
Crookston, MN 56716

Toll free: 877-854-7737
Fax: 218-281-8686
E-mail: kinge002@umn.edu

October 2005

Congratulations Red Lake River Communities!

The work you have completed together represents an ideal for the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Our mission is to connect and enhance resources of the region with the University of Minnesota to develop a sustainable regional community by education and empowering citizens to explore and act on their ideas. You have enacted every verb in that statement in your project.

Connect – you have connected with one another in this region, and you've connected to a great resource at the University, the Center for changing landscapes.

Enhance – your efforts enhance the natural resources of the region as well as the communities.

Develop – you have developed a plan for a future that embraces regionalism and nature-based recreation, a future that can be sustained.

Educate – you have learned from one another, taught each other about your communities, and learned about the power of design.

Empower – you have risen to the challenge of empowering the whole, the joint powers board, as a means of accomplishing great things together.

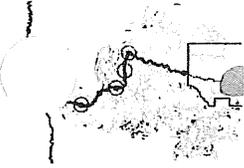
Explore – you have explored the river environment, agency partnerships, recreational potential and leadership possibilities.

Act – you have taken many steps toward your goal already, and are poised to bring new partners to the table as you move to the implementation phase.

Thank you for working together to make this project a worthy investment. We will continue to support you in your efforts to secure state funds to bring the plan to life.

Sincerely

Jon Evert
Chairman



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was produced and completed by
The Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Architecture & Landscape Architecture,
College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota

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Kristin Page, Research Specialist
Andrew Finley, Research Fellow
Christopher Schwalm, Research Associate

This project was completed with the
help and resourcefulness of these
organizations and individuals:

Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board
Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust
University of Minnesota Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
The Communities of the Red Lake River Corridor
Linda Kingery
Kieth Mykleseth
John Loegering



REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

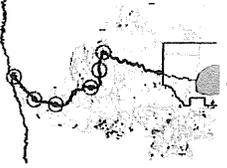
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cala^xumn

College of
Natural Resources
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA





INTRODUCTION

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT WORKGROUP

THE RIVER LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT WORKGROUP is a Joint Powers Board of representatives from each of the cities and counties along the Red Lake River. East Grand Forks, Fisher, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire Thief River Falls, the Red Lake Watershed District, and Polk, Red Lake, and Pennington counties are represented. All the Red Lake River corridor governmental units, except Pennington County, have signed the agreement. Pennington County participates in the planning.

ORGANIZATION HISTORY: The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Workgroup (RLRCEW) began meeting in March of 2000.

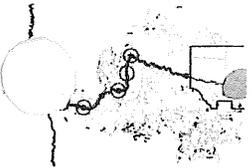
WORK GROUP PARTNERS: The Workgroup has partnered with the Pembina Trail Resource, Conservation & Development Association as a fiscal agent (a 501c3 non-profit) and is closely advised by several federal, state, and local agencies, and several non-profit organizations. The Workgroup routinely consults with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and The Nature Conservancy.

THE RIVER LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT WORKGROUP'S MISSION STATEMENT: The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement (RLRCE) project aims to protect and restore the Red Lake River's natural corridor to enhance water quality and fish and wildlife habitat that will provide for educational, recreational, and economic opportunities.

WORK GROUP STRATEGY: Group activities have focused on a well-defined strategy for successfully integrating all communities into a recreational amenity approach to natural resources management along the river corridor. This strategy began with a project specifically designed to enhance the interactions of communities and visitors with the Red Lake River. It has produced this document, The Red Lake River Corridor Canoe Trail Design.

FUNDING: All cities and counties along the river corridor have provided some base funding support for these activities. Red Lake Watershed District Board of Directors, the University of Minnesota's Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation have provided additional grant funds.

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR CANOE TRAIL DESIGN: The Red Lake River Corridor Canoe Trail Design is the RLRCEW's effort to produce culturally and environmentally sensitive planning and design documents for boat access points, city and county parkland and trails, and a geographic information system analysis focusing on a corridor from the border with the Red Lake Nation to East Grand Forks. It seeks to connect the Red Lake River communities more powerfully and more meaningfully to the river. A community design process led by the Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota in partnership with the people who live in the Red Lake River Corridor developed it.



INTRODUCTION

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR DESIGN SCOPE OF WORK & REPORT ORGANIZATION

The Red Lake River Corridor work includes an analysis of the corridor within a regional context, a projection of future development sites, design and planning of the corridor, corridor segments, communities and site locations. Design work also included the creation of a logo and signature elements to be used along the corridor to give it a recognizable identity, and Red Lake River Corridor Brochures were created in conjunction with the RLRC Workgroup that provide the necessary access and river information for canoe, boating, fishing and other recreational uses. A community design process that engaged citizens and officials was used to gather information, select the sites to be studied, and receive feedback on the design work. This report is organized in the following way:

THE REGION: After the introduction section the regional context and the geographic information system analysis are presented. The region was defined as the Red Lake River Watershed Basin. GIS analysis of this extent was conducted to build the necessary information for a planning and design process. Particular attention was placed on relationships to other statewide considerations

THE CORRIDOR & CORRIDOR SEGMENTS: The corridor scale was developed as that area adjacent to the river course itself for the entire 191 mile length. The effective river buffer was 4 miles and included all communities as well as critical relationships needed for the planning and design of the river corridor. This includes a description of the segment strategy and a character analysis that identifies river segments based on the river character, community locations, and the length of canoe trips. Sites of existing access points, camping sites, and other amenities are identified for each segment, and potential sites for additional ones are suggested.

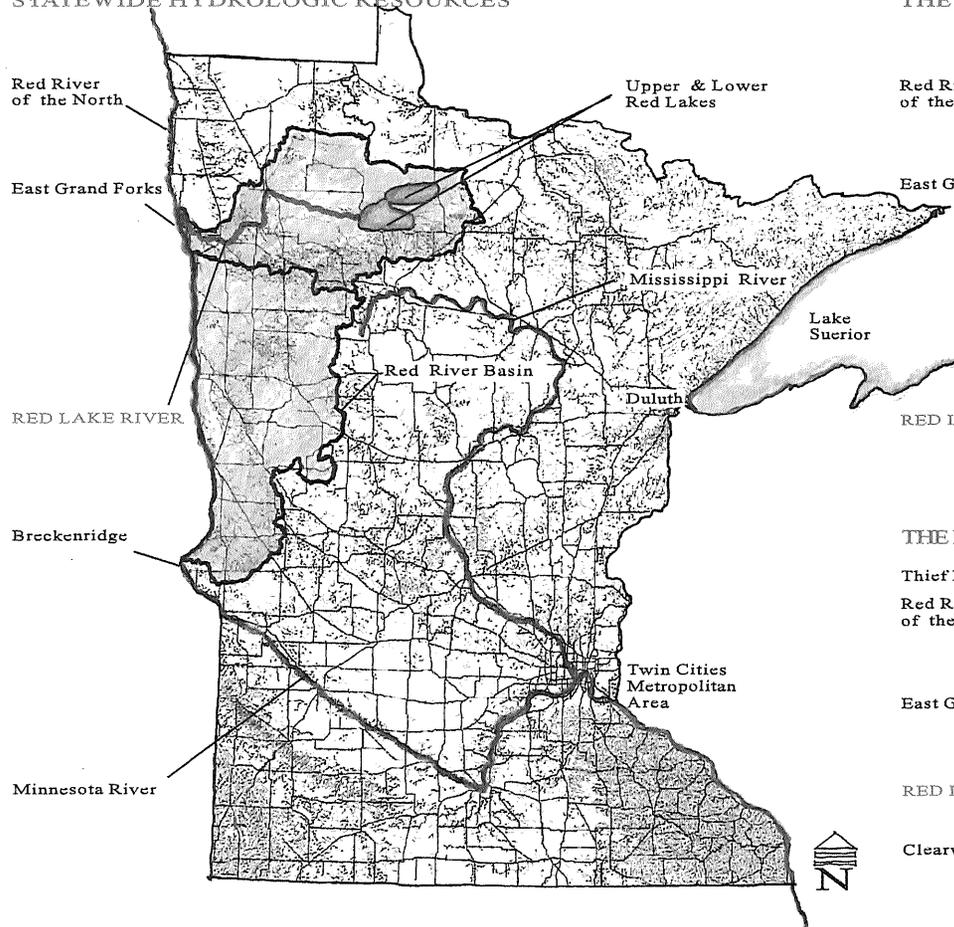
RLRC COMMUNITIES: The design work for local pedestrian trails, boat launches, picnic areas, campsites, etc. is presented community by community starting with Thief River Falls moving down stream to St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher and finally to East Grand Forks.

IDENTITY: These elements were conceived as using the typical style and materials along the entire corridor in order to create a common aesthetic, use recognition, and a regional sensibility among all RLRC communities. The logo, the design vocabulary, and the designs for the signs are presented.

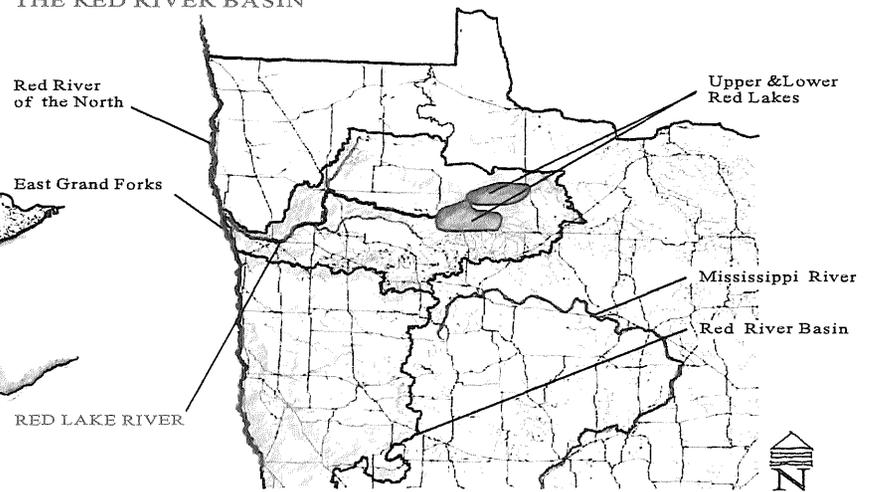
APPENDIX: The brochures, the geographic information system maps, the articles about the trail and other data are in the appendix.



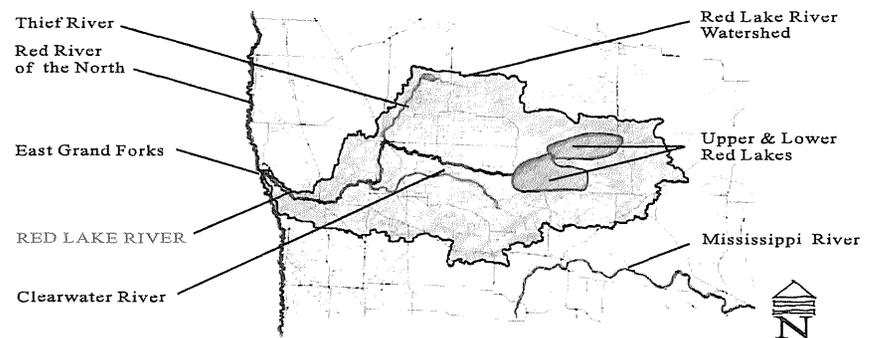
STATEWIDE HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES



THE RED RIVER BASIN

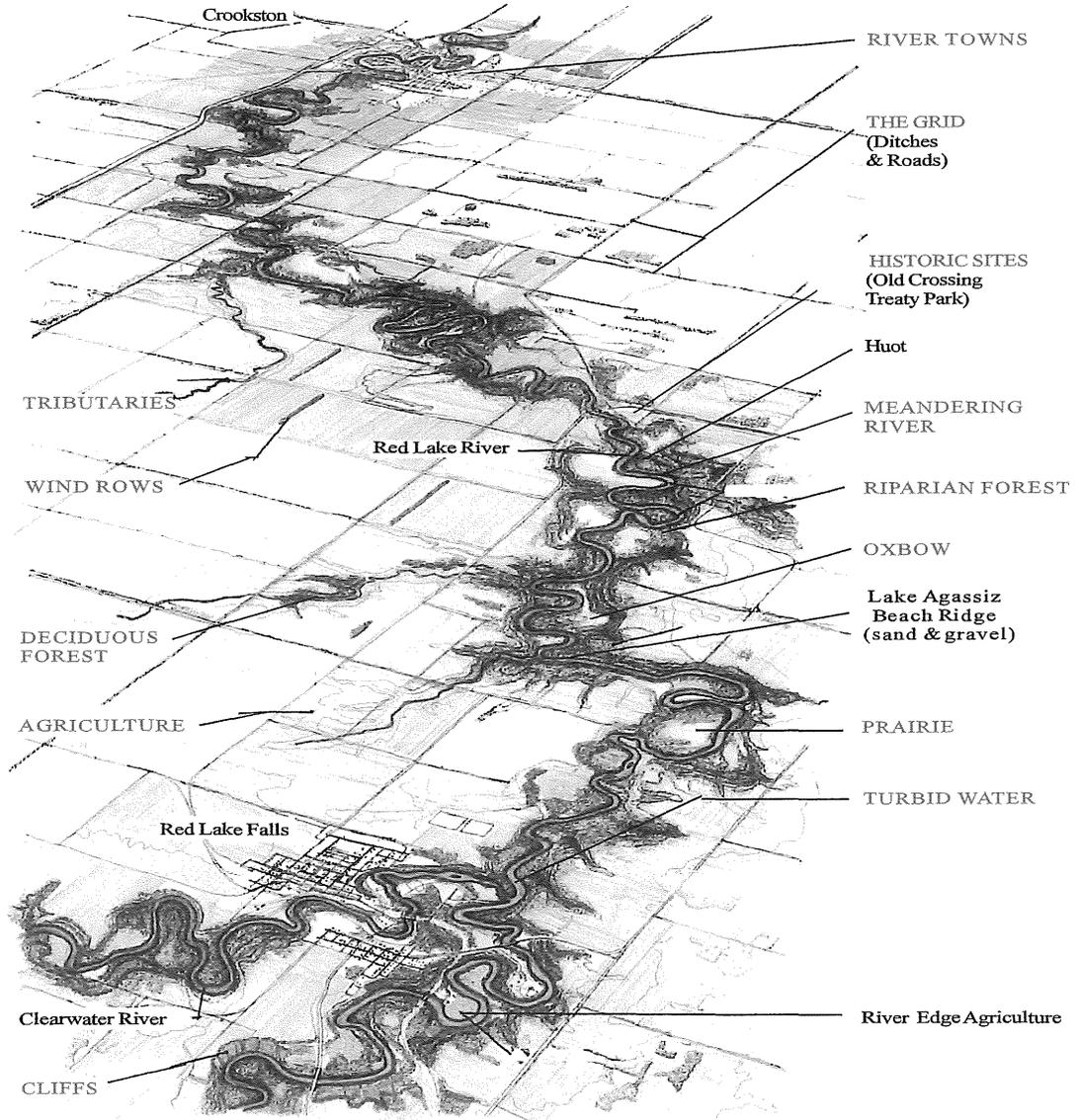


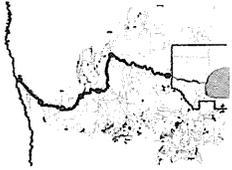
THE RED LAKE RIVER WATERSHED





CORRIDOR COMPOSITION - RED LAKE FALLS TO CROOKSTON





THE CORRIDOR

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR

RIVER SEGMENT STRATEGY & CHARACTER DEFINITION

SEGMENT STRATEGY: Because the 175 mile long Red Lake River Corridor Trail provides a variety of river experiences and has a number of communities on the river, a segment strategy was developed for the trail. Canoeists can travel the entire length of the river or select a route along the trail from the segments.

SEGMENT CHARACTER DEFINITION: The Red Lake River Corridor is divided into six segments based upon: Landscape Characteristics, Length of Trip Based on Paddling 3 Miles per Hour, Community Locations, River Class, and Vegetative Cover. Segment designations are as follows:

HIGH PLAINS VISTA: The site is an historic landing for timber during the logging times in the early 1800's. Today agricultural lands dominate the corridor, but further down the river this segment transitions to more forested riparian areas. Water levels and river current are typically appropriate for novice canoeists.

SCENIC DROP: Between Thief River Falls and Red Lake Falls the river flows through a floodplain forest, but agricultural lands and rural residential lands are also visible from the river. This section is the fastest flowing portion of the Red Lake River. Class II rapids are more common here and boulder riffles make passage difficult at water levels of below 7 feet at the Crookston gauging station low flow difficult below a stage of 7 feet at the Crookston gauging station.

HISTORIC CROSSING: Paddling from Sportsman's Park in Red Lake Falls to Old Crossing Treaty Park near Huot takes about 4.5 hours. The river meanders through floodplain forest and impressive eroding clay banks for 13.5 miles. Canoeing this segment could be tricky at low flow. The current is more rapid here than most of the river with the exception of the segment from St. Hilaire to Red Lake Falls. The river bottom is composed of sandy-clay in slack water areas and the gravel, cobblestone, and boulders in the faster riffles make Class II rapids. Beginners will be challenged and more advanced canoeists will enjoy this fast moving segment.

BEACH RIDGES: From Old Crossing Treaty Park to Crookston the corridor is wonderfully forested. Just upstream approaching Crookston there are agricultural lands and residential areas.

BELOW THE BEACH RIDGES: The River slows dramatically as it moves from the Lake Agassiz Beach Ridge formations into the flat, wide Red River Valley. This section of the river is popular for fishing and is still floatable even at very low flows, 4 feet at the Crookston gauging station.

LAKE BOTTOM: The Highway 75 Boat Access ramp provides river access only. The concrete boat ramp is located on the Highway 75, a bypass around Crookston. This stretch of the river is a popular fishing destination. The recommended method of travel to Fisher and East Grand Forks is by motorboat because there are no canoe pullouts/boat landings until East Grand Forks. Canoeing this stretch is possible but there is no public camping until East Grand Forks. The distances are long in this stretch; it is 22.3 miles to Fisher. The river is very sluggish, and there is good channel cat fishing.

LOW PLAINS: Like the Crookston to Fisher segment, this section of the Red Lake River is a long haul. The river is slow and meanders in almost complete circles. Paddling from the unofficial carry-in access at Fisher's Landing to East Grand Forks is approximately a long 11-12 hour day of constant paddling. There are no dams and the river is almost always navigable, even during low flows. There are no adequate carry-in/carry-out access points or campsites. Fishing is good, as catfish become more abundant and the presence of pike, walleye, small mouth, drum, and goldeye provide a diverse catch. Boating with a motorboat is recommended here.

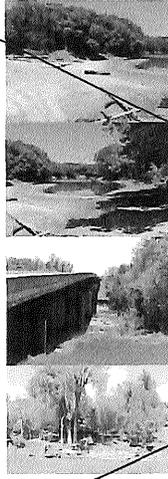


LOW PLAINS

Fisher to East Grand Forks

- CHARACTER**
 Settlement
 Motorboating
 Channel Catfish
 Very Slow Water
 Extreme Meanders
 Turbid Water
 Widening Channel
 Floodplain
 Flooding

EXISTING RESOURCES
 2 Boat Ramps

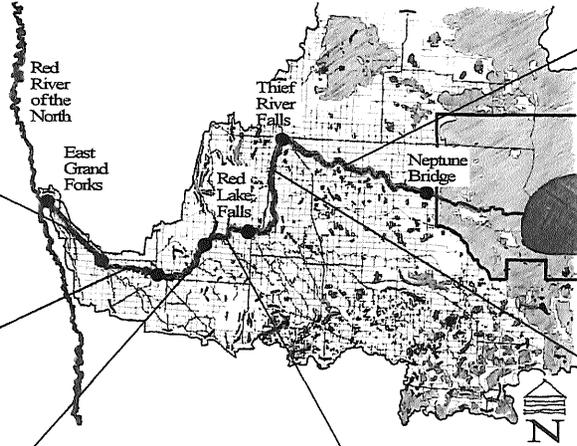
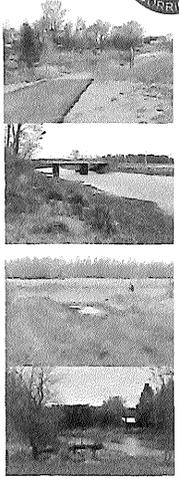


HIGH PLAINS VISTA

Neptune Bridge to Thief River Falls

- CHARACTER**
 Prairie
 Logging
 Agriculture
 Meanders
 Slow Water
 Open
 High Plains

EXISTING RESOURCES
 2 Carry-ins
 1 Boat Ramp



LAKE BOTTOM

Crookston to Fisher

- CHARACTER**
 Settlement
 Motorboating
 Channel Catfish
 Very Slow Water
 Extreme Meanders
 Turbid Water
 Widening Channel

EXISTING RESOURCES
 1 Carry-in



BEACHRIDGES

Hout to Crookston

- CHARACTER**
 Deciduous Forest
 End of Beach Ridges
 Slow Water
 Low Plains
 Red River Valley
 Fishing
 Settlement

EXISTING RESOURCES
 2 Boat Ramps
 1 Campground



HISTORIC CROSSING

Red Lake Falls to Hout

- CHARACTER**
 Rapids
 Rocks
 Clay Banks
 Fast Water
 Deciduous Forest
 Settlement
 Campbell Beach Ridges
 Ox Cart Crossing
 1863 Treaty Park
 Wildlife Viewing
 Sturgeon Fishing

EXISTING RESOURCES
 1 Boat Ramp
 1 Campground

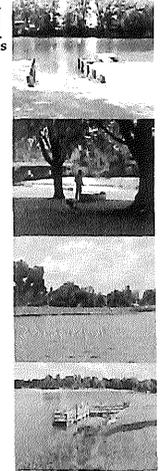


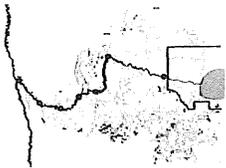
SCENIC DROP

Thief River Falls to Red Lake Falls

- CHARACTER**
 Hydro-electric Power
 Rapids
 Rocks
 Clay Banks
 Fast Water
 Deciduous Forest
 Settlement
 Campbell Beach Ridges

EXISTING RESOURCES
 5 Carry-ins
 2 Boat Ramps
 3 Campgrounds





THE CORRIDOR

RIVER SEGMENT OPPORTUNITIES

THIEF RIVER FALLS TO ST. HILAIRE

126.75 CENTENNIAL PARK BOAT RAMP

There are several access sites as the Red Lake River flows through Thief River Falls' city limits. Centennial Park has a boat ramp, picnic shelter, restrooms, drinking water and parking facilities. Boy Scout Park has a boat ramp and parking. L.B.Hartz Park has a carry-in access, camping, restrooms and parking. Oakland Park has a carry-in access, picnic shelter, restrooms, drinking water and parking facilities. It is just a one hour paddle through Thief River Falls to Oakland Park.

124.5 OAKLAND PARK CARRY-IN

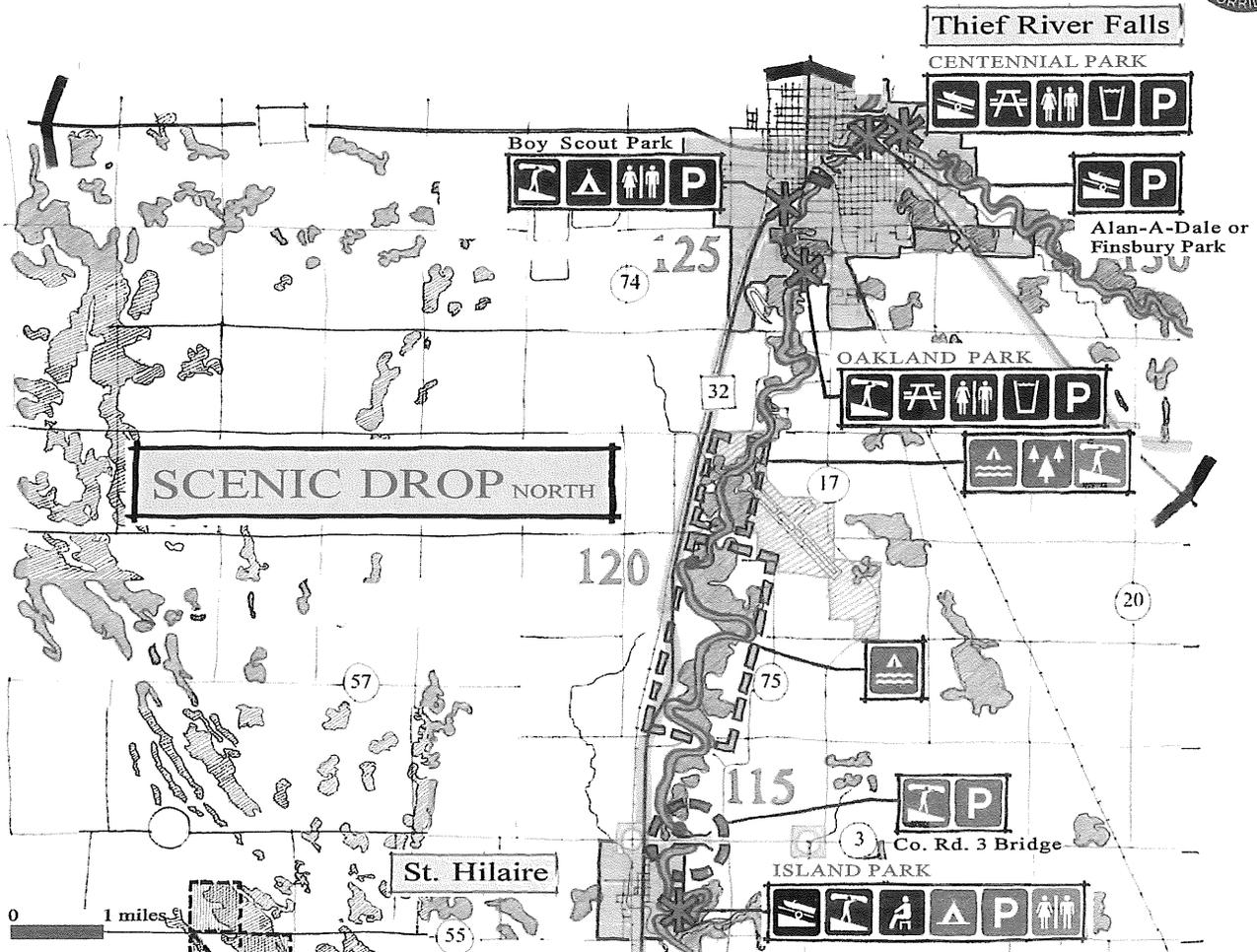
It is a full day's paddle 10.5 miles through rural residential lands, open farm fields and floodplain forest to the next river access at Island Park in St. Hilaire.

- * Environmental restoration of City property.
- * Add backcountry campsites to this river section.
- * Add carry-in and parking facilities at Co. Rd. 3 bridge to facilitate half-day float trips through St. Hilaire.

114.0 ISLAND PARK CARRY-IN

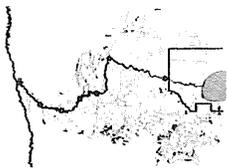
The section of river below St. Hilaire is probably the fastest flowing portion of the Red Lake River. Class II rapids are common and boulder riffles make passage at low water difficult. It is a very long day's paddle 22 miles through open farm fields and floodplain forest to the next river access at Voyageur's View in Red Lake Falls.

- * Add backcountry campsites to this river section.
- * Add carry-in and parking facilities to increase access in this section.
- * Add carry-in facilities at Highway 32 bridge to facilitate half-day float trips through Red Lake Falls.



	Urban Facilities		Communities		Potential Improvements
	Bridge		Road Sign		Potential Camping
	Dam		Road Route		Park, WMA, TNC, SNA
	Inaccessible		River Miles		Public Land

Dot Latch	Carya	Camping	Backcountry Camping	Environmental Restoration	Rest Area	Picnic Area	Restrooms	Drinking Water	Parking	Brown Icons	Black Icons	N



THE CORRIDOR

RIVER SEGMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RED LAKE FALLS TO HUOT

92.0 VOYAGEUR'S VIEW CARRY-IN (Private Concessions and Access)

As you near Red Lake Falls the river affords spectacular views of towering sandy cliffs and impressive eroding clay banks. Here the river cuts through beach ridges left by the now extinct Glacial Lake Agassiz. It is just half a mile through Red Lake Falls to the next access at Sportsmen's Park.

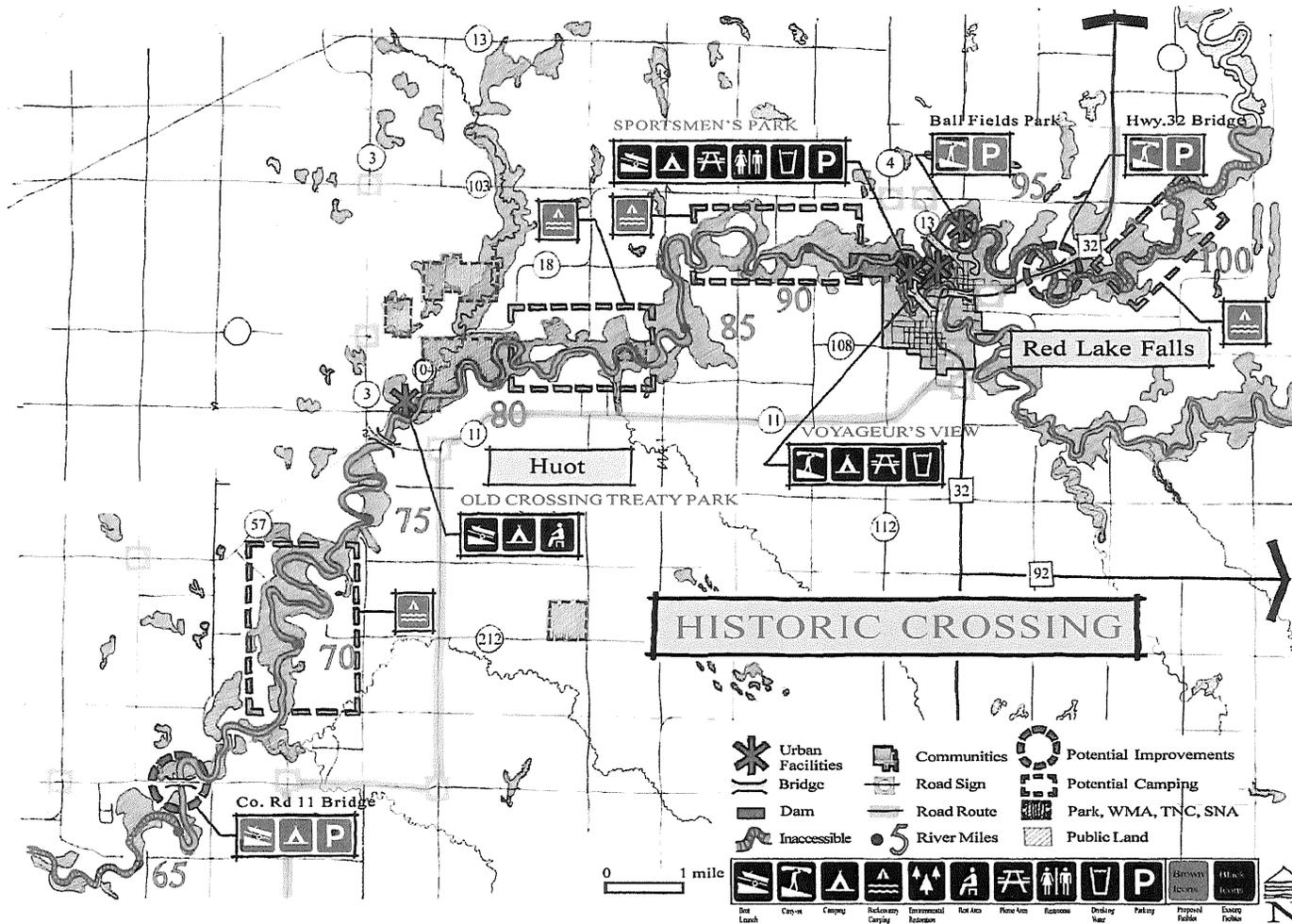
91.5 SPORTSMEN'S PARK BOAT RAMP

Sportsmen's Park boat ramp lies at the confluence of the Clearwater River in Red Lake Falls. It is the historic site of sturgeon spawning runs as well as the original Red Lake Falls Sawmill. It is a full day's paddle 13.25 miles through forest and farm fields to the next river access at Old Crossing Treaty Park near Huot. The current remains rapid in this section of river and boulders occur in the faster riffles (Class II rapids). Canoeing at low water levels can be difficult. Steep banks and eroding shorelines make this section especially scenic.

* Add backcountry campsites to this river section.

78.25 HUOT BOAT RAMP

Old Crossing Treaty Park boat ramp lies at the confluence of the Black River. Adjacent to the park is a DNR Management Area where hiking and wildlife watching opportunities exist. Old Crossing Treaty Park was the site of an 1863 treaty in which the Ojibwe ceded about 10 million acres of land to the United States government. This same site was the preferred location chosen by the Red River oxcart drivers, freighting goods between Winnipeg and St. Paul, to cross the Red Lake River. The river slows dramatically below Huot as it moving down off the Lake Agassiz beach ridge formations and out onto the flat lakebed of former Lake Agassiz on its journey towards the Red River.

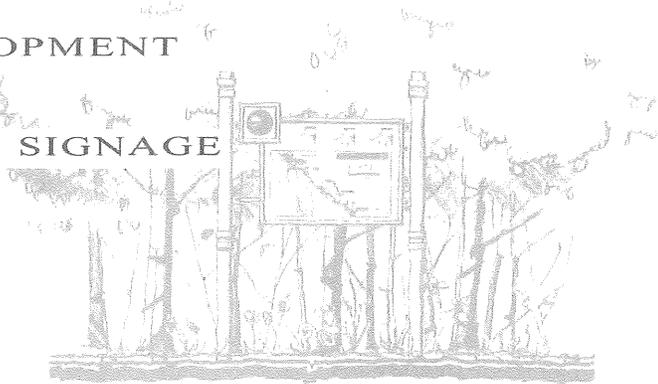


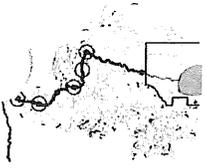
CORRIDOR IDENTITY



LOGO DEVELOPMENT

MATERIALS & SIGNAGE





CORRIDOR IDENTITY

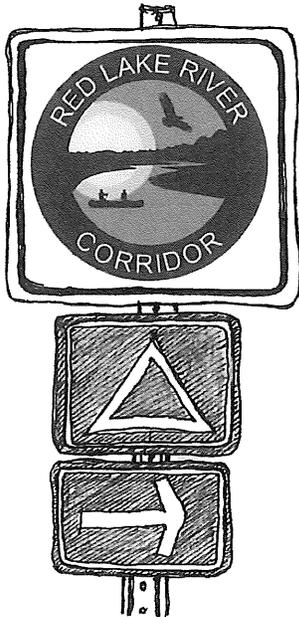
CORRIDOR IDENTITY

MATERIALS & SIGNAGE

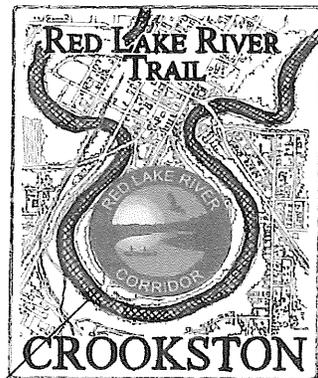
SIGNS: Signs with the logo mark the significant sites along the corridor. Road Signs direct travelers to nearby facilities. They include the Red Lake River Corridor logo on a vertical post. Beneath it additional signs can be attached indicating facilities (i.e. boat ramp, canoe carry-in, campground, etc.) and directional arrows. Gateway signs welcome corridor users to the Red Lake River Corridor communities. Interpretive signs mark special sites and provide information about their historical and recreational significance. Boat Launch signs and canoe carry-in signs at access points provide information about the corridor segments. Backcountry campsites signs designate official campsites. River-mile markers identify river distances. River signs identify water levels, hazards, and travel times.

RIVER LEVEL MARKER: Vertical structures of bundled steel rods are water level markers that indicate the changes in river level. They can be freestanding sculptures in the landscape or applied to other objects such as bridge piers. The markers can be made to correlate water level with water velocity, travel time, hazard level, and historic flood levels.

SIGNS



Signage to be MNDOT style Painted Steel

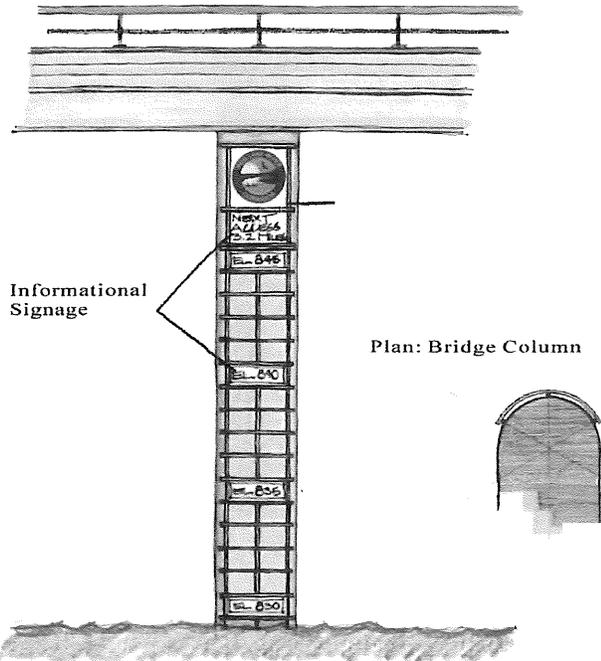


Red Lake River Depicted on Sign with the RLRC Logo

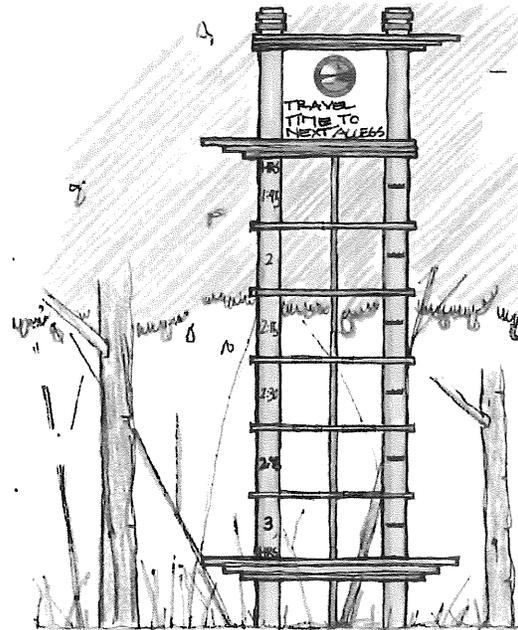


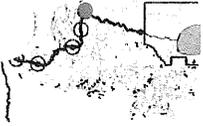
RIVER LEVEL MARKERS

Elevation: Bridge Support Sign



Elevation: Free Standing Sign





RLRC COMMUNITIES

THIEF RIVER FALLS COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS

COMMUNITY TRAILS DESIGN CONCEPT: A community-wide system of trails use the river as a focus from which other "loop trails" extend. The Riverwalk and water trail as the main trails; loop trails connect community resources and make a network of green spaces that tie the community together.

EXISTING RIVERWALK: The historic Riverwalk provides 7.3 miles of walking, biking, and cross country ski trails through town along the Red Lake River & Thief River. The trail passes through 6 city parks, 2 forest trails, recreational areas, historical points and the dam. The additional loops suggested for the Riverwalk seek to unify the remaining disparate elements of the community by connecting to the Riverwalk to the Northland Community College Campus, the downtown area, and the east bank communities multiple amenities such as it's parks and schools.

CAMPUS LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The trail surrounding the Northland Community College campus connects Finsbury and Alan-a-dale Parks to the river-walk and provides bicycle access to and from the campus.

DOWNTOWN LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The Riverwalk's downtown section runs through the historic depot district along Davis Avenue and Main Avenue. Parkway street trees along the rail corridor create a new destination and link to the existing recreation system in the city.

COMMUNITY LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The focus of the community loop of the Riverwalk is to make deliberate connections between the parks, and schools in this part of the community. The roadside and sidewalk trail connections are suggested to provide increased safety for the children of the neighborhood.

NEW OAKLAND PARKWAY: Oakland Parkway acts as an extension of Oakland Terraces Park. The new alignment creates a visual connection from Highway 32 to the park and the river. The street trees separate the neighborhoods from the industrial and commercial land uses.

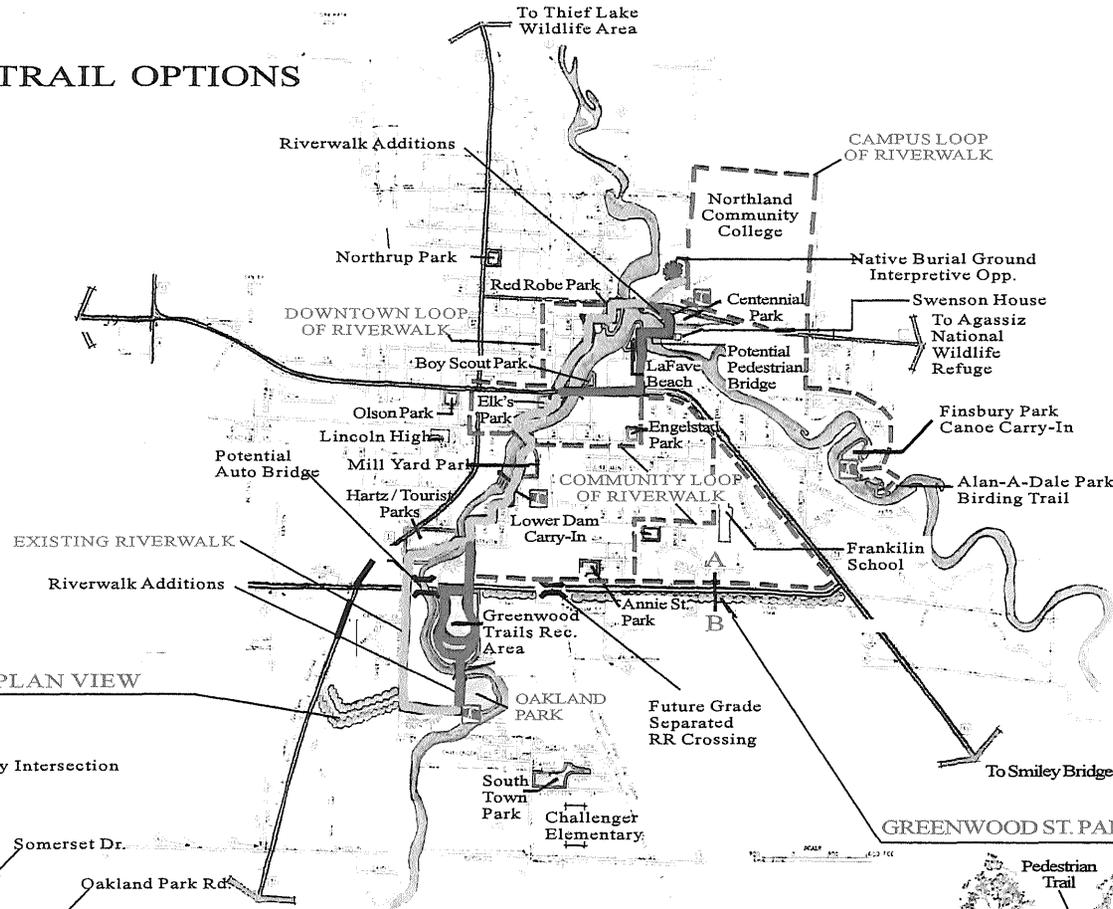
OAKLAND PARK: A southern river-walk terminus and a loop trail connect both the land and water trails. Park improvements create new amenities for the community in the unique riverine landscape.

GREENWOOD ST. PARKWAY: This new parkway creates a new amenity across the community. The parkway increases connections for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. This parkway is possible because of the potential for a bridge seen on the north side of the Greenwood Trails Recreation Area providing more connections across the community for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

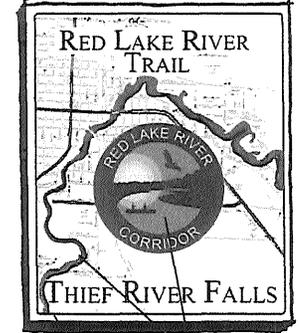
RLRC TRAIL SIGN: The road sign marks the river-walk, the community trails, the river trails and trail access locations. Signs placed at strategic locations throughout the community strengthen the connections between community, its special amenities, and the river. These locations also provide opportunities to interpret natural and cultural assets.



COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS

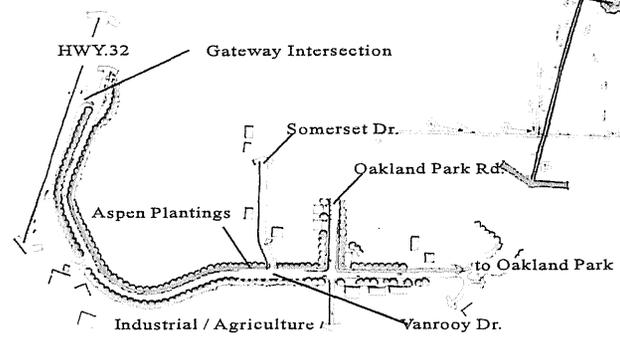


RLRC TRAIL SIGN

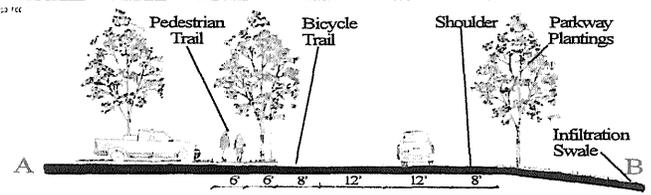


Thief River Falls Section of the Red Lake River Depicted on Sign with the RLRC Logo
 Signage to be MNDOT style Painted Steel

OAKLAND PARKWAY PLAN VIEW



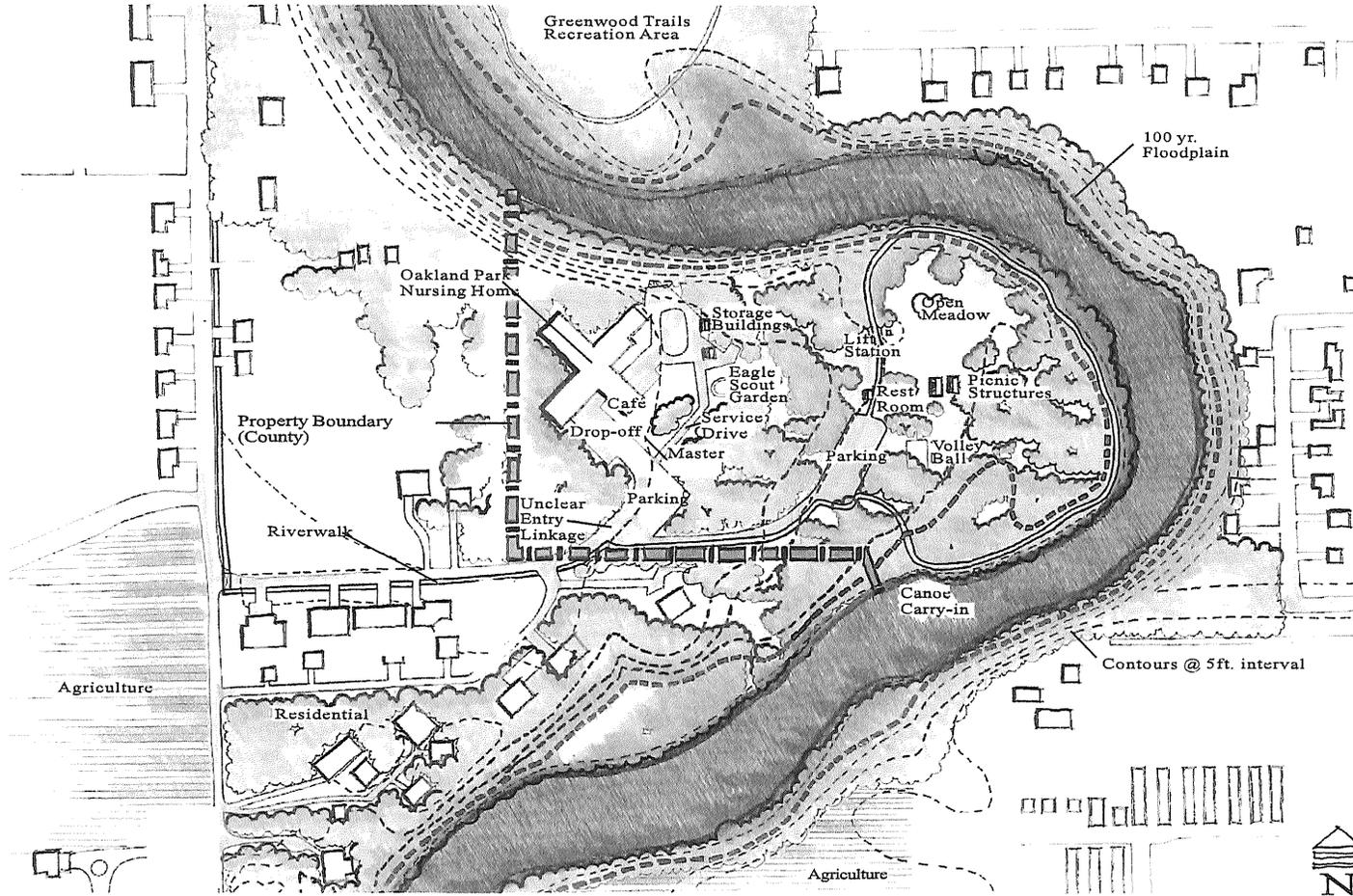
GREENWOOD ST. PARKWAY SECTIONAL VIEW



- Existing Riverwalk
- Proposed Riverwalk
- Riverwalk Loop Trails
- City Parks

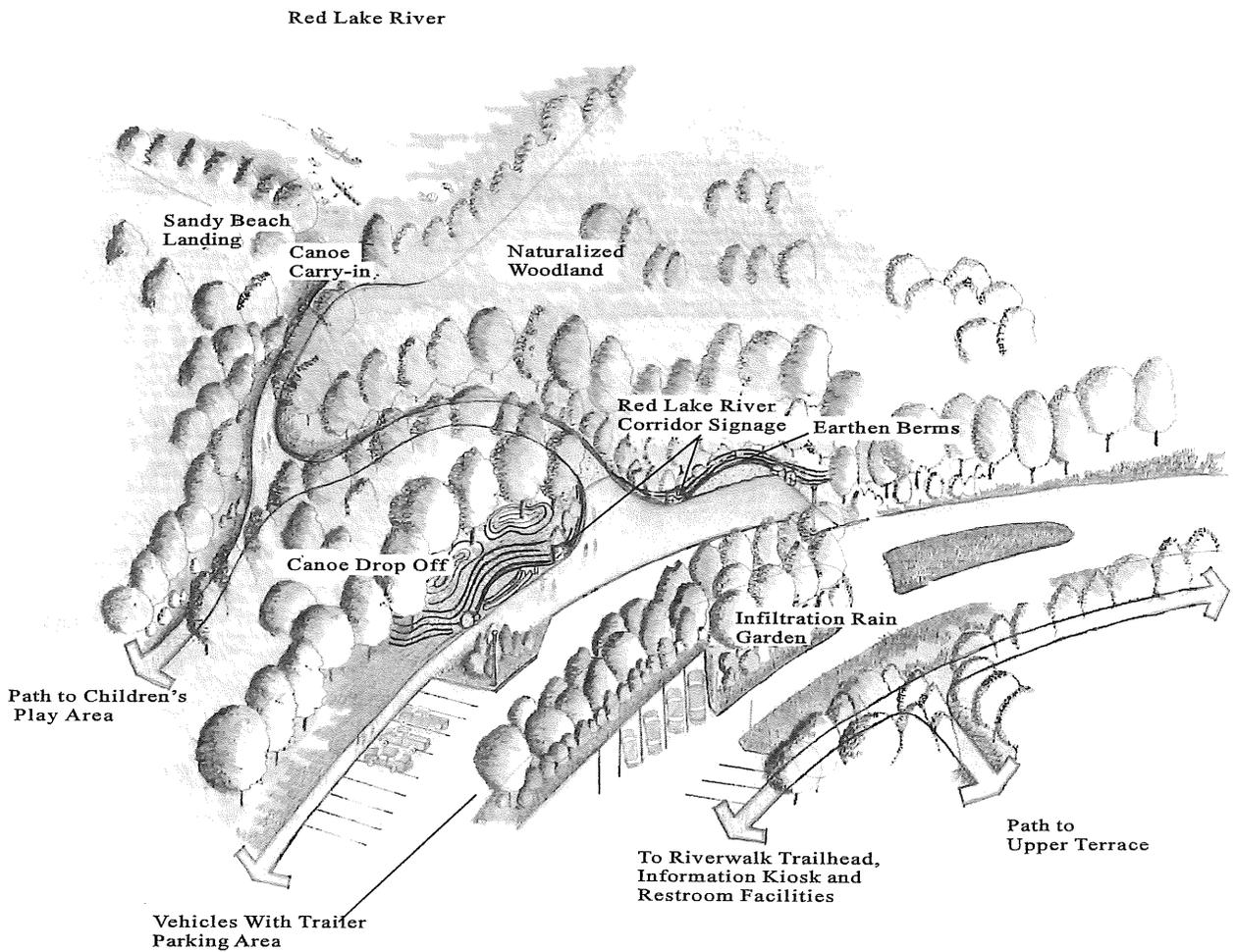


EXISTING CONDITIONS





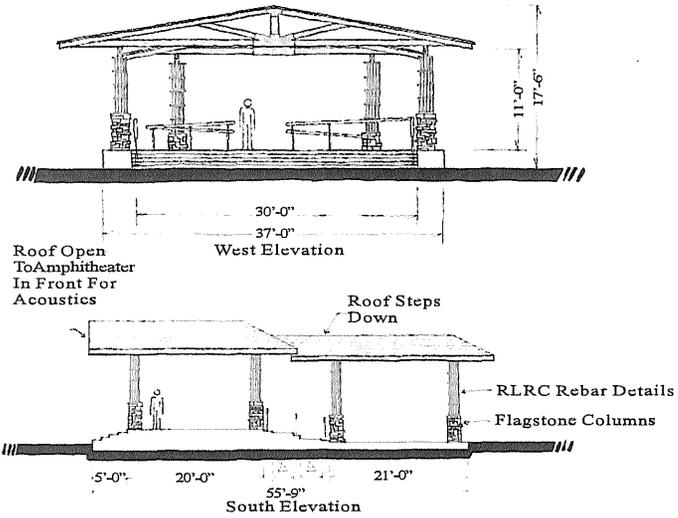
TRAILHEAD & CANOE CARRY-IN



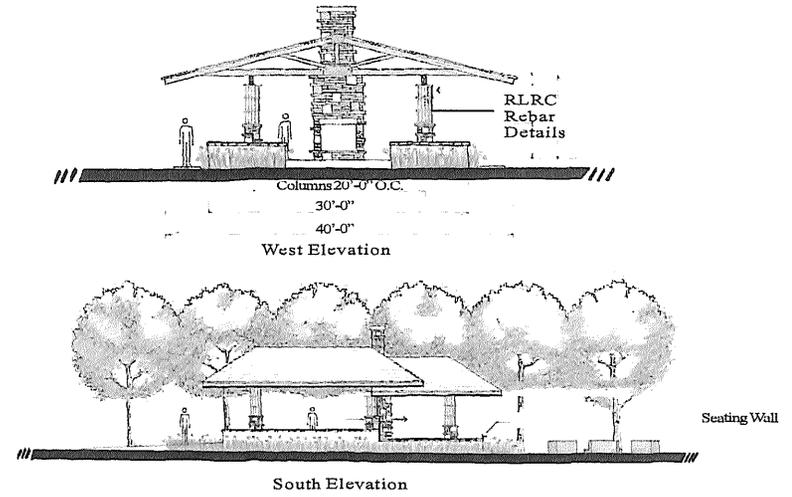


STRUCTURAL DETAILS

MULTI-USE STAGE



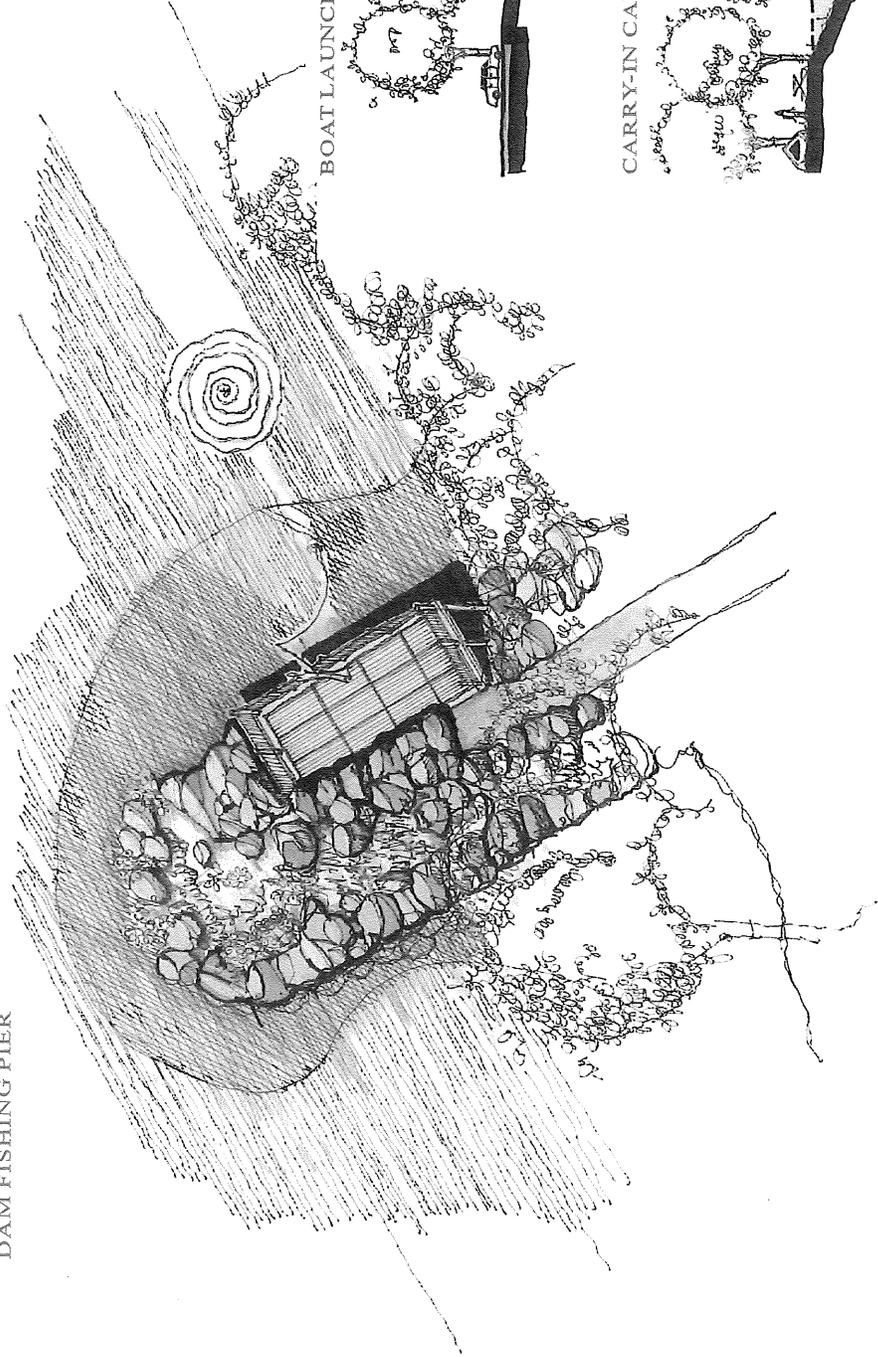
REFECTORY



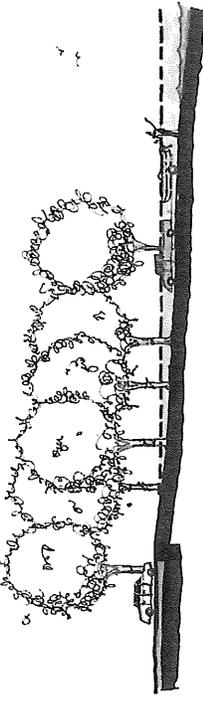


DESIGN DETAILS

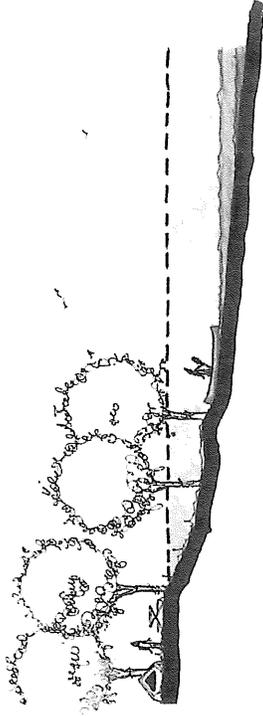
DAM FISHING PIER

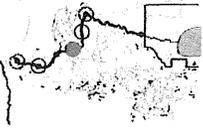


BOAT LAUNCH SECTIONAL VIEW



CARRY-IN CAMPSITE SECTIONAL VIEW





RLRC COMMUNITIES

RED LAKE FALLS CROW'S FOOT POINT

The existing uses are upgraded and reorganized in the new design of Sportsmen's Park to more fully take advantage of this scenic and cultural site and to provide more opportunities for use by residents and visitors.

CROW'S FOOT POINT GATHERING SPACE: A number of different activity areas are concentrated on Crow's Foot Point (the point formed by the confluence of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers). The fishing pier/scenic overlook is located at the tip of the point. The expanded boat launch, on the Clearwater River side, is separated from the other activity areas of the point by dense planting of trees and mounded earth berms. Crow's Foot Point Gathering Space with its picnic shelter, interpretive signs, RLRC Kiosk, and playground is located on the site of the old Red Lake Falls Sawmill. It is connected to the fishing pier/overlook by a short trail and to the parking lot by a crosswalk and trail.

CLEARWATER RIVERBANK / PICNIC AREA: Day-use picnic areas are sited along the riverbank. Trees between each picnic site provide privacy for the individual picnic areas. Trails connect the picnic areas to the parking lot and other parts of the park.

RED LAKE FALLS CAMPGROUND: Eleven car campsites and seven recreational vehicle campsites are located in the campground on the Red Lake River side of the park. Trees on the sides of each campsite provide privacy for campers by separating each campsite from each other, the road, and the park trails.

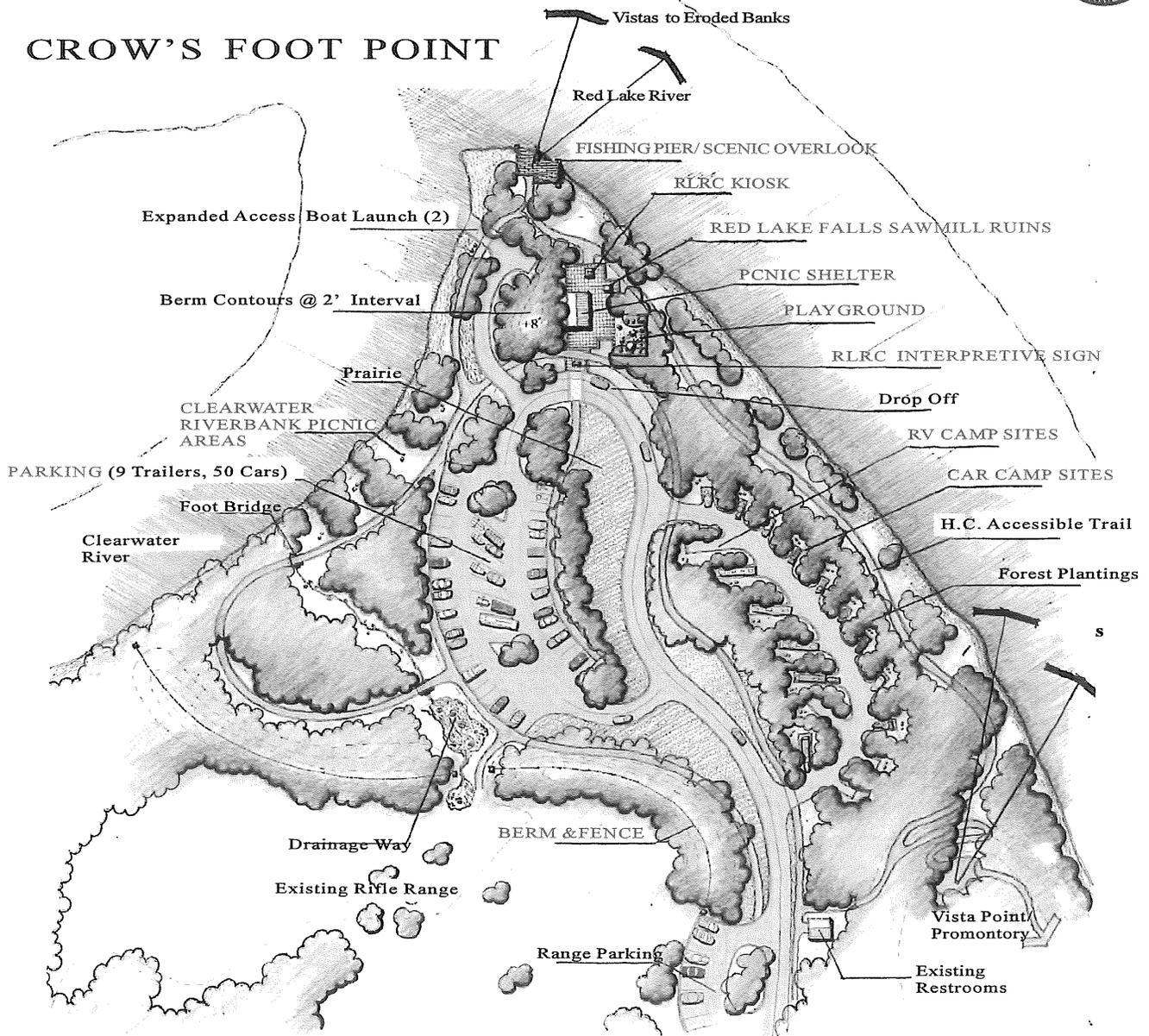
THE TRAIL SYSTEM: A system of trails follows along the banks of the rivers, connects the activity areas within the park, winds up a hill to a viewing point promontory, and provides access to the existing restrooms for all park users. Trails that skirt the parking lot provide connection between the parking and the activity areas.

THE PENINSULA'S CENTER / PARK ROADS & PARKING LOTS: A park road in the center of the peninsula provides access to the camping areas, rifle range, Crow's Foot Point Gathering Space, boat launch, and the main parking lot. Picnic goods and people can be dropped off in the pull-out just south of the gathering space. Parking for cars and boat trailers is provided in a large parking lot. Trees separate the parking lot from the rest of the park. A storm water swale slows and cleans storm water as it runs off the parking lot and the rifle range before it runs into the Clearwater River.

BERM & FENCE: For safety reasons the Rifle Range is separated from the rest of the park by trees, a berm, and a fence. A separate parking lot for range users is provided.

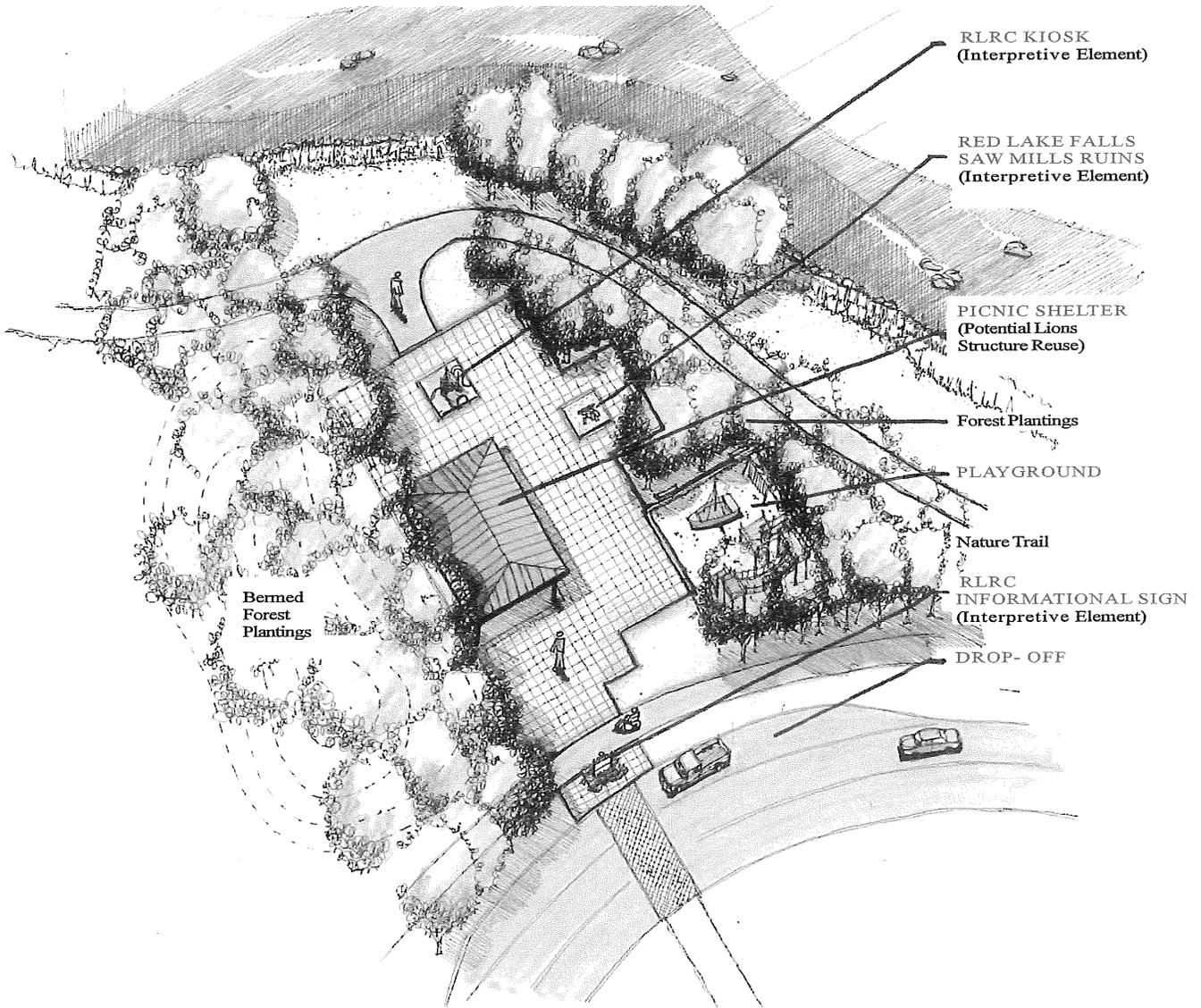


CROW'S FOOT POINT





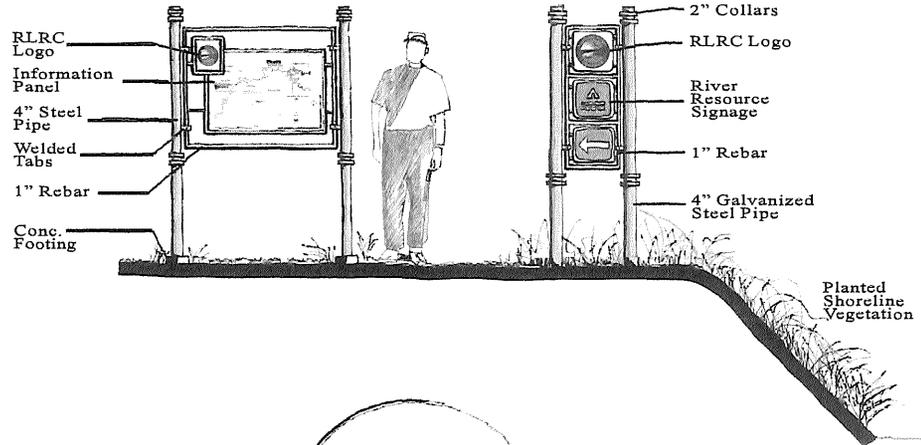
CROW'S FOOT POINT GATHERING SPACE



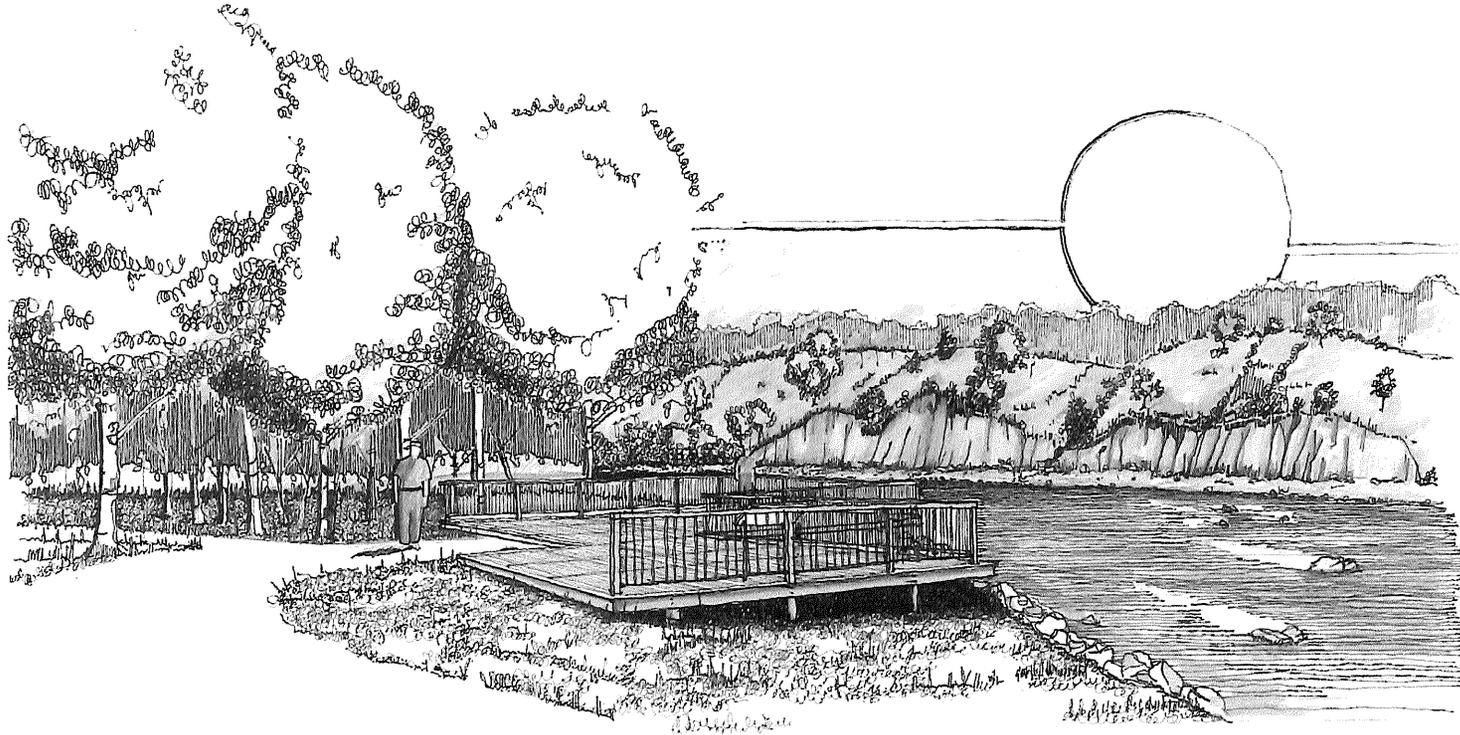


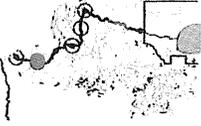
ILLUSTRATIVE VIEWS

RED LAKE RIVER INFORMATION SIGN



FISHING PIER / SCENIC OVERLOOK





RLRC COMMUNITIES

CROOKSTON COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

The four city parks along the river in Crookston and the boat launch on Highway 75 offer opportunities to add to the existing recreational facilities in Crookston and improve access to the river.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A new city trail system could connect the residential neighborhoods to the parks, the four riverside parks to each other, and improve access by foot to the downtown from the parks for residents and visitors.

HIGHWAY 75 BOAT LAUNCH: This boat launch site could be improved to include amenities such as picnic tables and other recreational facilities.

STREET NETWORK FOR POTENTIAL TRAIL ROUTING: The neighborhood streets between the city park could be used as an extension of the existing Perimeter Trail System to increase the connectivity between the recreational assets in Crookston.

WHITEWATER RAPIDS ROUTE: The 325-foot river riffle at the site of the old dam is a major river fixture that can be used to promote whitewater canoeing and kayaking. Users could enter the river at a new carry-in just above the riffle and exit at a new carry-in below to return for another run.

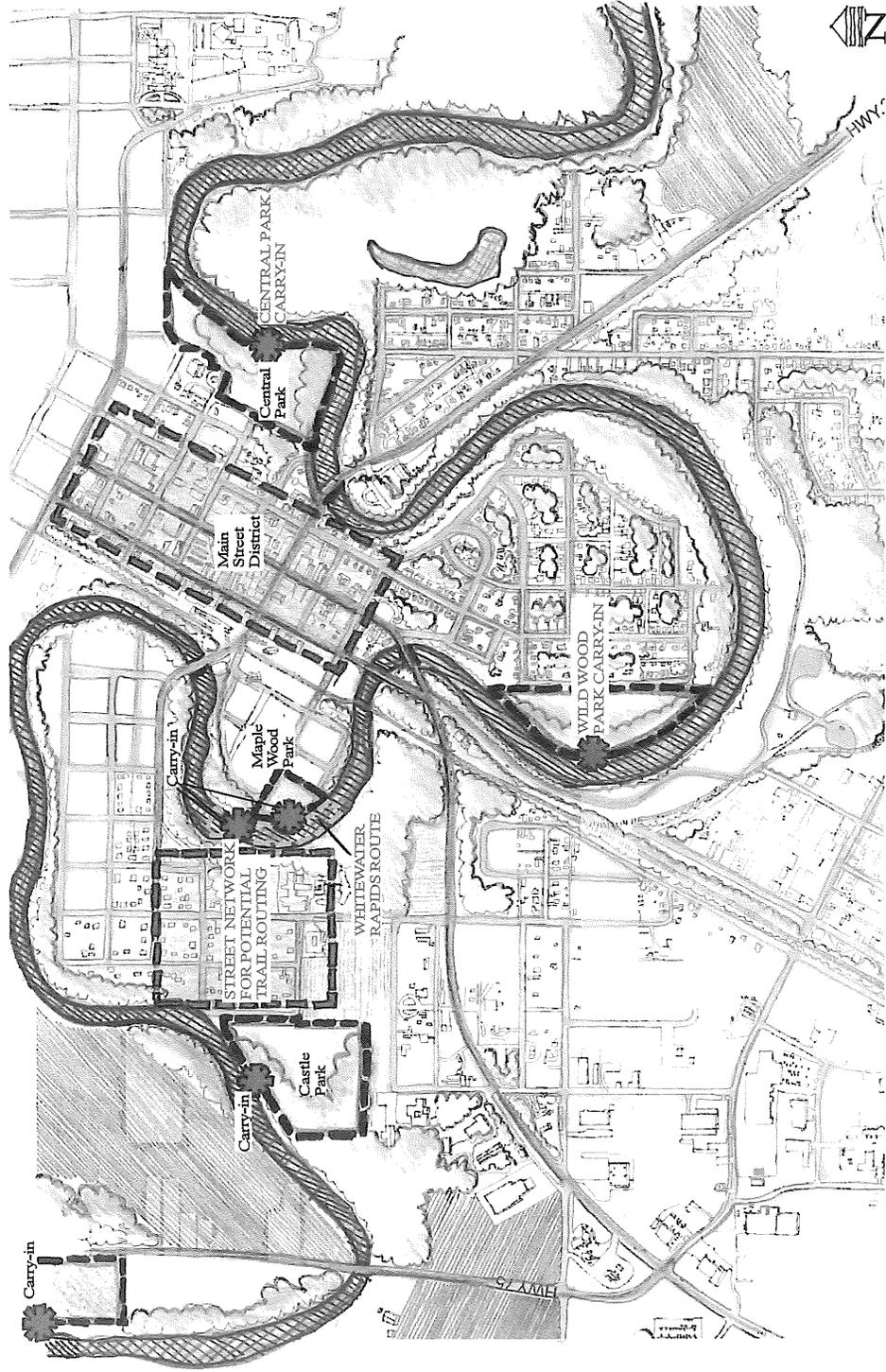
CENTRAL PARK CARRY-IN: Improving the boat launch at Central Park and creating a new carry-in at Castle Park would create an hour-long route through the heart of the city. Boaters who wish to avoid the rapids could portage around them at Maplewood Park and return to the river to end their trip at the Castle Park launch site. Those wishing for a longer trip could continue to the Highway 75 boat launch.

WILD WOOD PARK CARRY-IN: The new carry-in / RLRC Trailhead at Wild Wood Park provides a river exit point upstream from the whitewater rapids route.



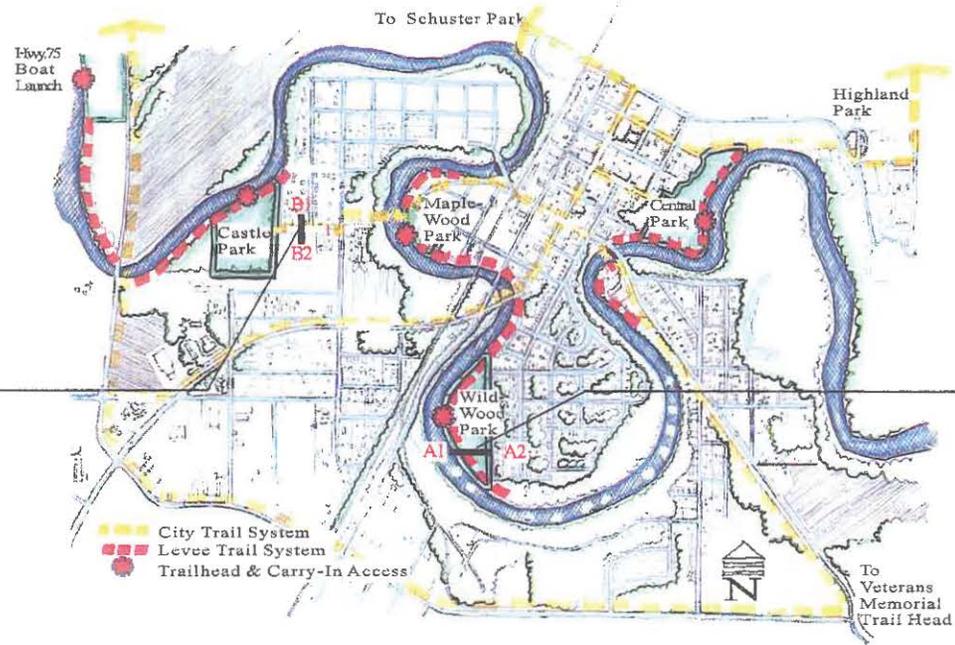
COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

HWY. 75
BOAT LAUNCH

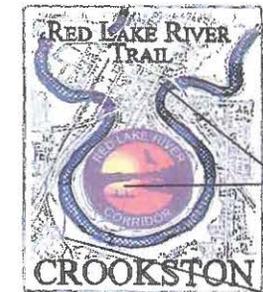




TRAIL ROUTING POTENTIALS & SIGNAGE

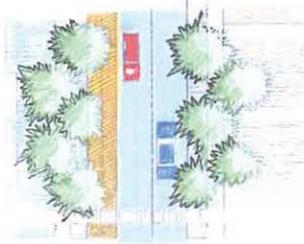


RLRC TRAIL SIGN



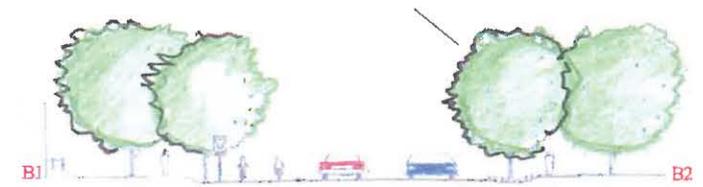
Crookston Section of the Red Lake River Depicted on Sign with the RLRC Logo
Signage to be MNDOT style Painted Steel

CTIY TRAIL POTENTIALS



PLAN VIEW OF CITY TRAIL

LEVEE TRAIL POTENTIALS



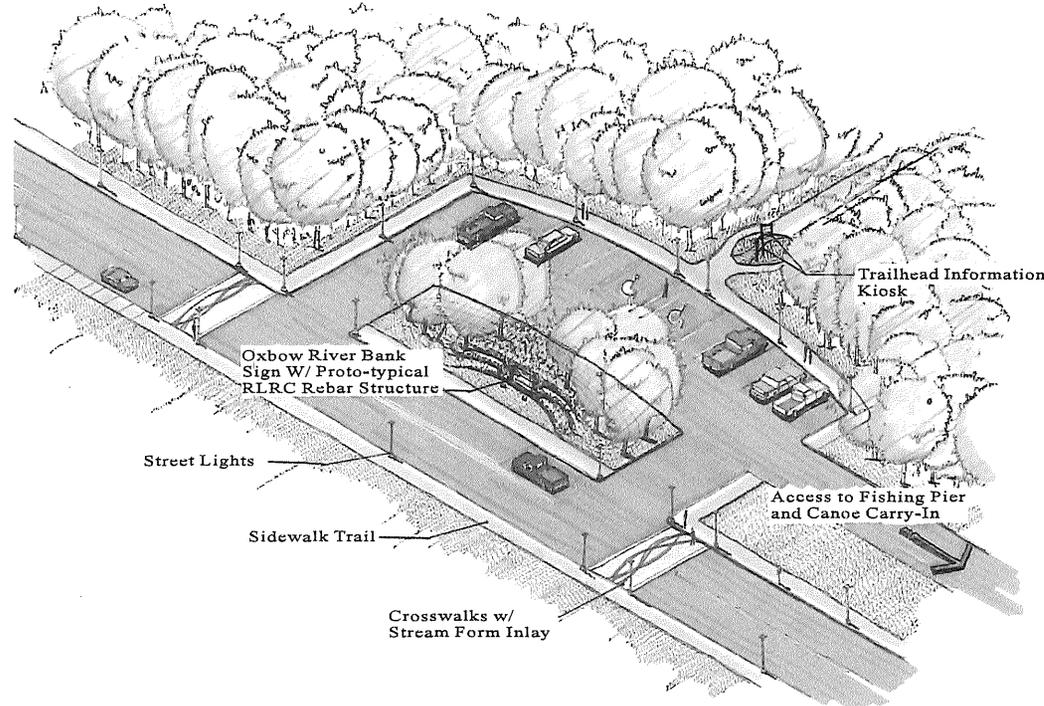
SECTION THROUGH CITY TRAIL B1-B2



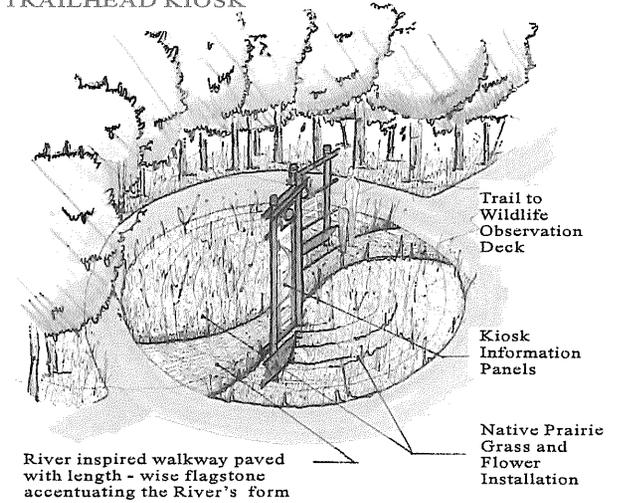
SECTION THROUGH LEVEE AT WILDWOOD PARK A1-A2

FISHER TRAILHEAD DESIGN DETAILS

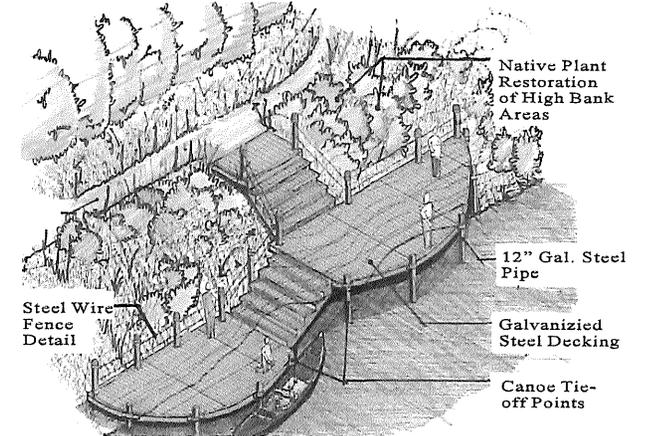
FISHER TRAILHEAD



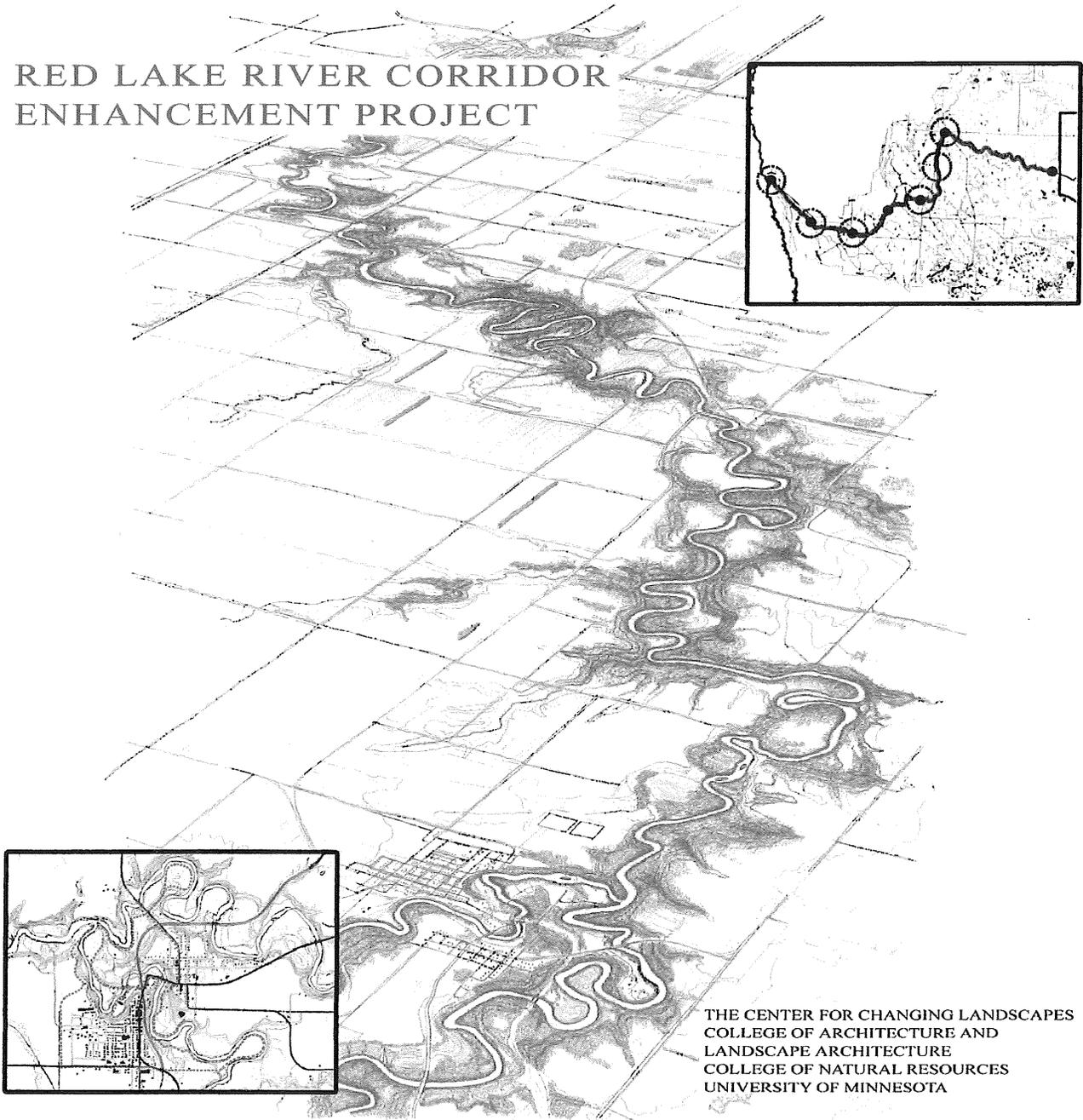
TRAILHEAD KIOSK



FISHING PIER & CANOE CARRY-IN



RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



THE CENTER FOR CHANGING LANDSCAPES
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD

124 North Broadway
Crookston, MN 56716

www.redlakerivercorridor.org

October 2005

To Our Partners and Supporters:

It is time to celebrate, time to look back on a planning process that has engaged community leaders, recreational enthusiasts, natural resource managers, and designers. Together, these partners have created a vision for the Red Lake River Corridor that protects and improves the river as a recreational trail and an ecosystem. This common vision incorporates natural and built assets in the communities of Thief River Falls, St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher and East Grand Forks as a regional system.

The designs included in this book describe a regional sensibility for the Red Lake River Corridor. They represent the natural and cultural history of the region, as well as the legacy these communities can hand off to future generations. They illustrate how people from the region and visitors to the region can enjoy a variety of nature-based activities.

The Red Lake River is unique in the state in that it traverses the three major biomes in North America. It represents a diverse and productive fishery. It provides water and energy for some communities on its banks. As the Red Lake River meanders through the peat-rich soils at its source to its confluence with the Red River of the North, it cuts through beach ridges formed by Glacial Lake Agassiz. The river ties our communities to one another; it also ties our present day communities to their historic and future counterparts.

This plan demonstrates the possibilities that emerge when people work together. Several access points have been in place for 30 years, but more are needed. The cities and county parks along the Red Lake River provide important nodes for the regional trail system. This plan leverages the assets of the region: the river, city and county parks, the cooperation of community and agency leaders, to present to the state an opportunity for investing in a recreational trail.

So we celebrate the progress we have accomplished together, and we look forward to working together with you all, partners and supporters, in turning our plans into reality.

Sincerely,

Keith Mykleseth, Chairman

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Northwest Partnership

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

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October 2005

Congratulations Red Lake River Communities!

The work you have completed together represents an ideal for the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Our mission is to connect and enhance resources of the region with the University of Minnesota to develop a sustainable regional community by education and empowering citizens to explore and act on their ideas. You have enacted every verb in that statement in your project.

Connect – you have connected with one another in this region, and you’ve connected to a great resource at the University, the Center for changing landscapes.

Enhance – your efforts enhance the natural resources of the region as well as the communities.

Develop – you have developed a plan for a future that embraces regionalism and nature-based recreation, a future that can be sustained.

Educate – you have learned from one another, taught each other about your communities, and learned about the power of design.

Empower – you have risen to the challenge of empowering the whole, the joint powers board, as a means of accomplishing great things together.

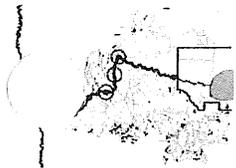
Explore – you have explored the river environment, agency partnerships, recreational potential and leadership possibilities.

Act – you have taken many steps toward your goal already, and are poised to bring new partners to the table as you move to the implementation phase.

Thank you for working together to make this project a worthy investment. We will continue to support you in your efforts to secure state funds to bring the plan to life.

Sincerely

Jon Evert
Chairman



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was produced and completed by
The Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Architecture & Landscape Architecture,
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This project was completed with the
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Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board
Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust
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Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
The Communities of the Red Lake River Corridor
Linda Kingery
Kieth Mykleseth
John Loegering



REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

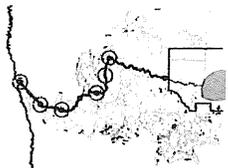
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College of
Natural Resources
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA





INTRODUCTION

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT WORKGROUP

THE RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT WORKGROUP is a Joint Powers Board of representatives from each of the cities and counties along the Red Lake River. East Grand Forks, Fisher, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire Thief River Falls, the Red Lake Watershed District, and Polk, Red Lake, and Pennington counties are represented. All the Red Lake River corridor governmental units, except Pennington County, have signed the agreement. Pennington County participates in the planning.

ORGANIZATION HISTORY: The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Workgroup (RLRCEW) began meeting in March of 2000.

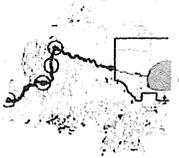
WORK GROUP PARTNERS: The Workgroup has partnered with the Pembina Trail Resource, Conservation & Development Association as a fiscal agent (a 501c3 non-profit) and is closely advised by several federal, state, and local agencies, and several non-profit organizations. The Workgroup routinely consults with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and The Nature Conservancy.

THE RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT WORKGROUP'S MISSION STATEMENT: The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement (RLRCE) project aims to protect and restore the Red Lake River's natural corridor to enhance water quality and fish and wildlife habitat that will provide for educational, recreational, and economic opportunities.

WORK GROUP STRATEGY: Group activities have focused on a well-defined strategy for successfully integrating all communities into a recreational amenity approach to natural resources management along the river corridor. This strategy began with a project specifically designed to enhance the interactions of communities and visitors with the Red Lake River. It has produced this document, The Red Lake River Corridor Canoe Trail Design.

FUNDING: All cities and counties along the river corridor have provided some base funding support for these activities. Red Lake Watershed District Board of Directors, the University of Minnesota's Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation have provided additional grant funds.

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR CANOE TRAIL DESIGN: The Red Lake River Corridor Canoe Trail Design is the RLRCEW's effort to produce culturally and environmentally sensitive planning and design documents for boat access points, city and county parkland and trails, and a geographic information system analysis focusing on a corridor from the border with the Red Lake Nation to East Grand Forks. It seeks to connect the Red Lake River communities more powerfully and more meaningfully to the river. A community design process led by the Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota in partnership with the people who live in the Red Lake River Corridor developed it.



INTRODUCTION

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR DESIGN SCOPE OF WORK & REPORT ORGANIZATION

The Red Lake River Corridor work includes an analysis of the corridor within a regional context, a projection of future development sites, design and planning of the corridor, corridor segments, communities and site locations. Design work also included the creation of a logo and signature elements to be used along the corridor to give it a recognizable identity, and Red Lake River Corridor Brochures were created in conjunction with the RLRC Workgroup that provide the necessary access and river information for canoe, boating, fishing and other recreational uses. A community design process that engaged citizens and officials was used to gather information, select the sites to be studied, and receive feedback on the design work. This report is organized in the following way:

THE REGION: After the introduction section the regional context and the geographic information system analysis are presented. The region was defined as the Red Lake River Watershed Basin. GIS analysis of this extent was conducted to build the necessary information for a planning and design process. Particular attention was placed on relationships to other statewide considerations

THE CORRIDOR & CORRIDOR SEGMENTS: The corridor scale was developed as that area adjacent to the river course itself for the entire 191 mile length. The effective river buffer was 4 miles and included all communities as well as critical relationships needed for the planning and design of the river corridor. This includes a description of the segment strategy and a character analysis that identifies river segments based on the river character, community locations, and the length of canoe trips. Sites of existing access points, camping sites, and other amenities are identified for each segment, and potential sites for additional ones are suggested.

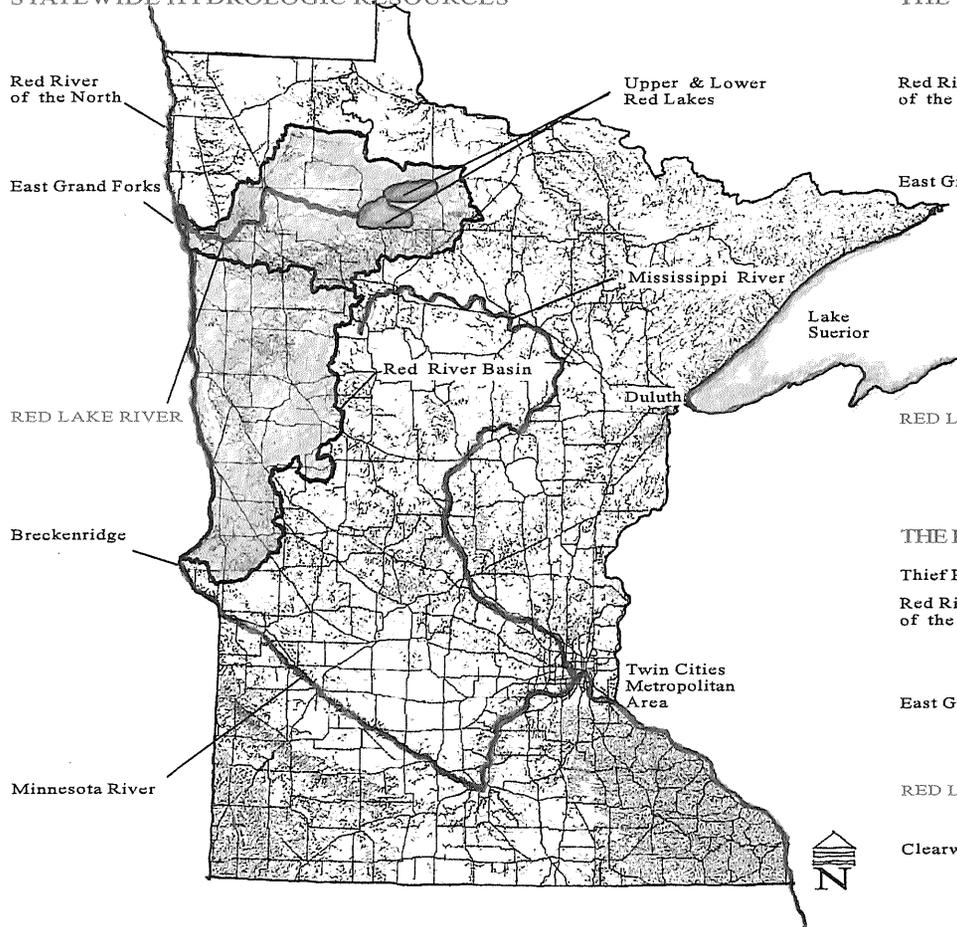
RLRC COMMUNITIES: The design work for local pedestrian trails, boat launches, picnic areas, campsites, etc. is presented community by community starting with Thief River Falls moving down stream to St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher and finally to East Grand Forks.

IDENTITY: These elements were conceived as using the typical style and materials along the entire corridor in order to create a common aesthetic, use recognition, and a regional sensibility among all RLRC communities. The logo, the design vocabulary, and the designs for the signs are presented.

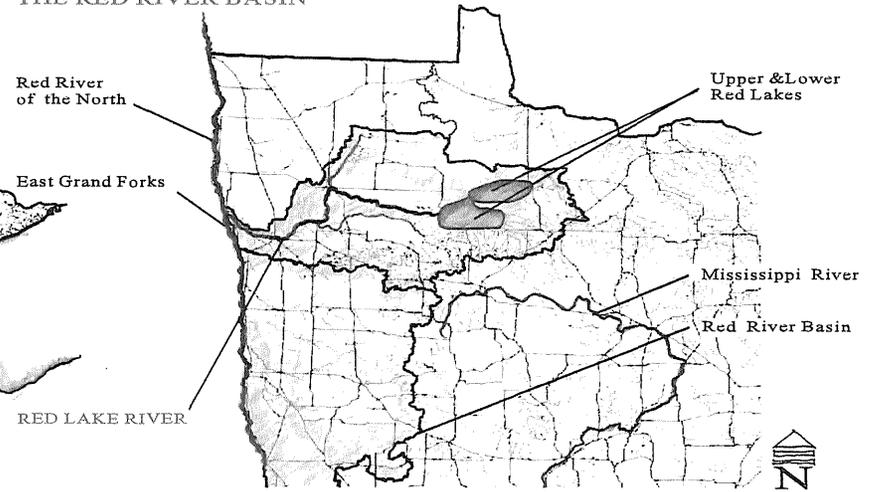
APPENDIX: The brochures, the geographic information system maps, the articles about the trail and other data are in the appendix.



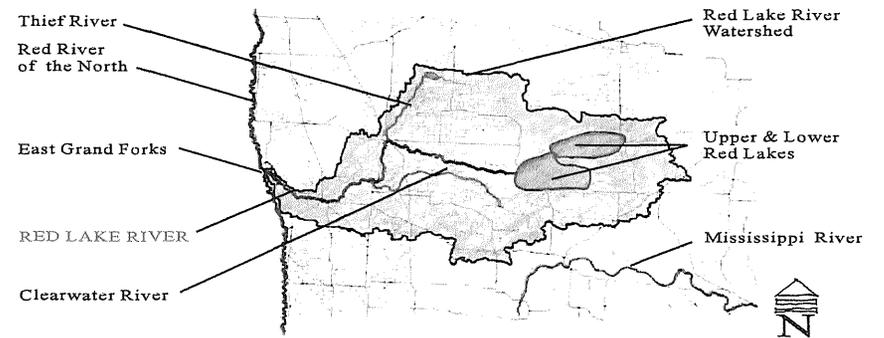
STATEWIDE HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES



THE RED RIVER BASIN

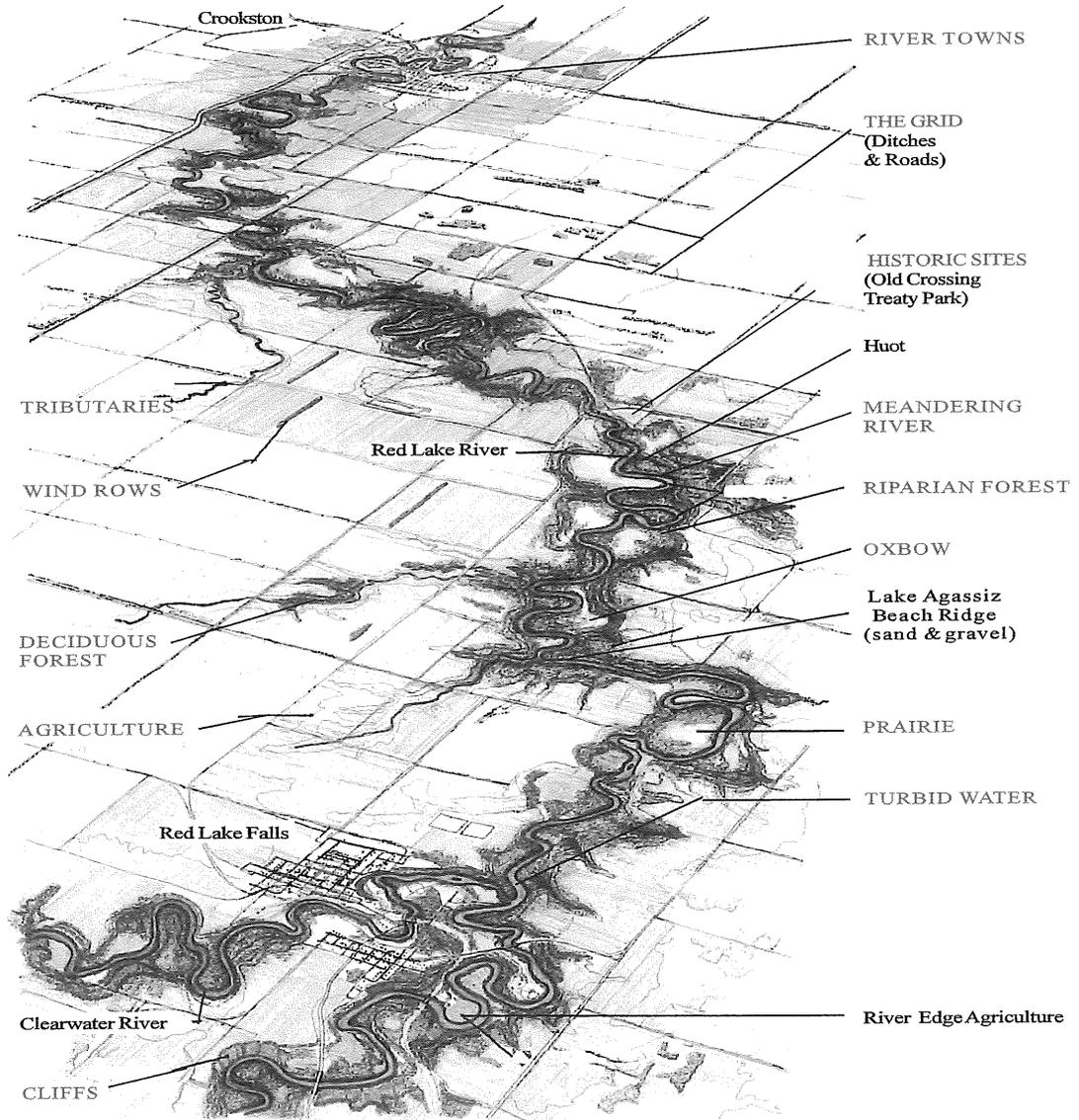


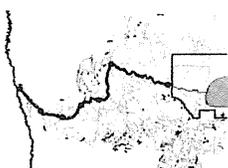
THE RED LAKE RIVER WATERSHED





CORRIDOR COMPOSITION - RED LAKE FALLS TO CROOKSTON





THE CORRIDOR

RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR

RIVER SEGMENT STRATEGY & CHARACTER DEFINITION

SEGMENT STRATEGY: Because the 175 mile long Red Lake River Corridor Trail provides a variety of river experiences and has a number of communities on the river, a segment strategy was developed for the trail. Canoeists can travel the entire length of the river or select a route along the trail from the segments.

SEGMENT CHARACTER DEFINITION: The Red Lake River Corridor is divided into six segments based upon: Landscape Characteristics, Length of Trip Based on Paddling 3 Miles per Hour, Community Locations, River Class, and Vegetative Cover. Segment designations are as follows:

HIGH PLAINS VISTA: The site is an historic landing for timber during the logging times in the early 1800's. Today agricultural lands dominate the corridor, but further down the river this segment transitions to more forested riparian areas. Water levels and river current are typically appropriate for novice canoeists.

SCENIC DROP: Between Thief River Falls and Red Lake Falls the river flows through a floodplain forest, but agricultural lands and rural residential lands are also visible from the river. This section is the fastest flowing portion of the Red Lake River. Class II rapids are more common here and boulder riffles make passage difficult at water levels of below 7 feet at the Crookston gauging station low flow difficult below a stage of 7 feet at the Crookston gauging station.

HISTORIC CROSSING: Paddling from Sportsman's Park in Red Lake Falls to Old Crossing Treaty Park near Huot takes about 4.5 hours. The river meanders through floodplain forest and impressive eroding clay banks for 13.5 miles. Canoeing this segment could be tricky at low flow. The current is more rapid here than most of the river with the exception of the segment from St. Hilaire to Red Lake Falls. The river bottom is composed of sandy-clay in slack water areas and the gravel, cobblestone, and boulders in the faster riffles make Class II rapids. Beginners will be challenged and more advanced canoeists will enjoy this fast moving segment.

BEACH RIDGES: From Old Crossing Treaty Park to Crookston the corridor is wonderfully forested. Just upstream approaching Crookston there are agricultural lands and residential areas.

BELOW THE BEACH RIDGES: The River slows dramatically as it moves from the Lake Agassiz Beach Ridge formations into the flat, wide Red River Valley. This section of the river is popular for fishing and is still floatable even at very low flows, 4 feet at the Crookston gauging station.

LAKE BOTTOM: The Highway 75 Boat Access ramp provides river access only. The concrete boat ramp is located on the Highway 75, a bypass around Crookston. This stretch of the river is a popular fishing destination. The recommended method of travel to Fisher and East Grand Forks is by motorboat because there are no canoe pullouts/boat landings until East Grand Forks. Canoeing this stretch is possible but there is no public camping until East Grand Forks. The distances are long in this stretch; it is 22.3 miles to Fisher. The river is very sluggish, and there is good channel cat fishing.

LOW PLAINS: Like the Crookston to Fisher segment, this section of the Red Lake River is a long haul. The river is slow and meanders in almost complete circles. Paddling from the unofficial carry-in access at Fisher's Landing to East Grand Forks is approximately a long 11-12 hour day of constant paddling. There are no dams and the river is almost always navigable, even during low flows. There are no adequate carry-in/carry-out access points or campsites. Fishing is good, as catfish become more abundant and the presence of pike, walleye, small mouth, drum, and goldeye provide a diverse catch. Boating with a motorboat is recommended here.



LOW PLAINS

Fisher to East Grand Forks

- CHARACTER**
- Settlement
 - Motorboating
 - Channel Catfish
 - Very Slow Water
 - Extreme Meanders
 - Turbid Water
 - Widening Channel
 - Floodplain
 - Flooding

EXISTING RESOURCES
2 Boat Ramps

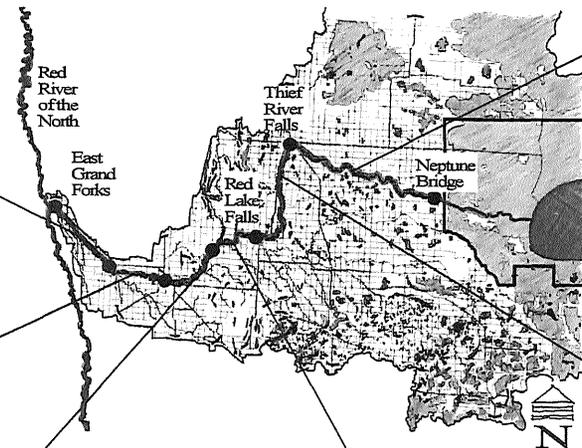
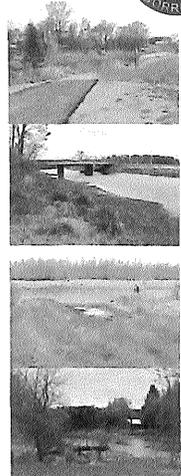


HIGH PLAINS VISTA

Neptune Bridge to Thief River Falls

- CHARACTER**
- Prairie
 - Logging
 - Agriculture
 - Meanders
 - Slow Water
 - Open
 - High Plains

EXISTING RESOURCES
2 Carry-ins
1 Boat Ramp



LAKE BOTTOM

Crookston to Fisher

- CHARACTER**
- Settlement
 - Motorboating
 - Channel Catfish
 - Very Slow Water
 - Extreme Meanders
 - Turbid Water
 - Widening Channel

EXISTING RESOURCES
1 Carry-in



BEACH RIDGES

Hout to Crookston

- CHARACTER**
- Deciduous Forest
 - End of Beach Ridges
 - Slow Water
 - Low Plains
 - Red River Valley
 - Fishing
 - Settlement

EXISTING RESOURCES
2 Boat Ramps
1 Campground



HISTORIC CROSSING

Red Lake Falls to Hout

- CHARACTER**
- Rapids
 - Rocks
 - Clay Banks
 - Fast Water
 - Deciduous Forest
 - Settlement
 - Campbell Beach Ridges
 - Ox Cart Crossing
 - 1863 Treaty Park
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Sturgeon Fishing

EXISTING RESOURCES
1 Boat Ramp
1 Campground



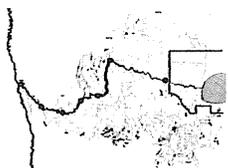
SCENIC DROP

Thief River Falls to Red Lake Falls

- CHARACTER**
- Hydro-electric Power
 - Rapids
 - Rocks
 - Clay Banks
 - Fast Water
 - Deciduous Forest
 - Settlement
 - Campbell Beach Ridges

EXISTING RESOURCES
5 Carry-ins
2 Boat Ramps
3 Campgrounds





THE CORRIDOR

RIVER SEGMENT OPPORTUNITIES

THIEF RIVER FALLS TO ST. HILAIRE

126.75 CENTENNIAL PARK BOAT RAMP

There are several access sites as the Red Lake River flows through Thief River Falls' city limits. Centennial Park has a boat ramp, picnic shelter, restrooms, drinking water and parking facilities. Boy Scout Park has a boat ramp and parking. L.B.Hartz Park has a carry-in access, camping, restrooms and parking. Oakland Park has a carry-in access, picnic shelter, restrooms, drinking water and parking facilities. It is just a one hour paddle through Thief River Falls to Oakland Park.

124.5 OAKLAND PARK CARRY-IN

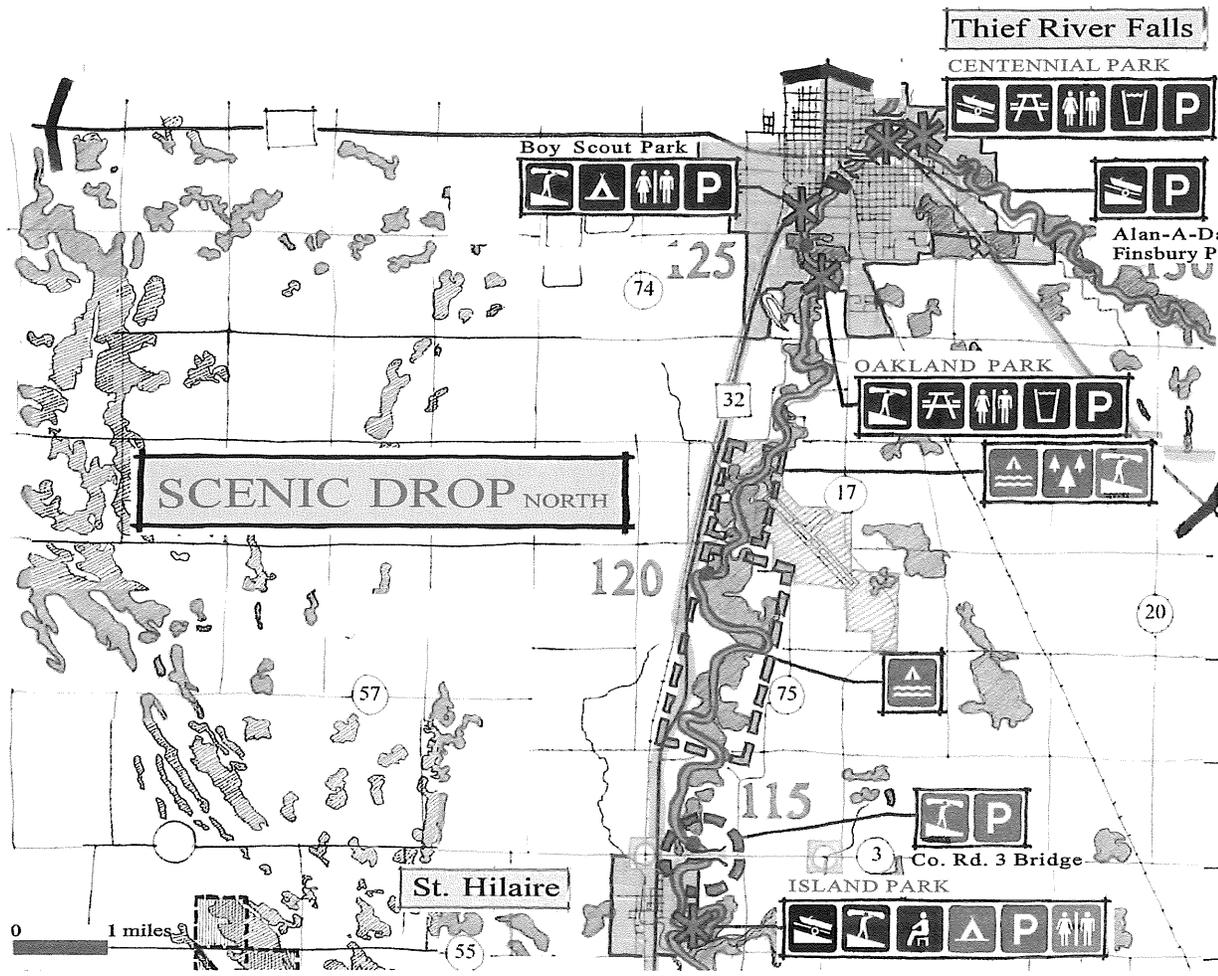
It is a full day's paddle 10.5 miles through rural residential lands, open farm fields and floodplain forest to the next river access at Island Park in St. Hilaire.

- * Environmental restoration of City property.
- * Add backcountry campsites to this river section.
- * Add carry-in and parking facilities at Co. Rd. 3 bridge to facilitate half-day float trips through St. Hilaire.

114.0 ISLAND PARK CARRY-IN

The section of river below St. Hilaire is probably the fastest flowing portion of the Red Lake River. Class II rapids are common and boulder riffles make passage at low water difficult. It is a very long day's paddle 22 miles through open farm fields and floodplain forest to the next river access at Voyageur's View in Red Lake Falls.

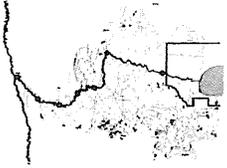
- * Add backcountry campsites to this river section.
- * Add carry-in and parking facilities to increase access in this section.
- * Add carry-in facilities at Highway 32 bridge to facilitate half-day float trips through Red Lake Falls.



- Urban Facilities
- Communities
- Potential Improvements
- Bridge
- Road Sign
- Potential Camping
- Dam
- Road Route
- Park, WMA, TNC, SNA
- Inaccessible
- River Miles
- Public Land

Hot Lunch	Carry-in	Camping	Backcountry Camp	Environmental Retention	Rest Area	Picnic Area	Restroom	Drinking Water	Parking	Prepared Food	Eating Facility





THE CORRIDOR

RIVER SEGMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RED LAKE FALLS TO HUOT

92.0 VOYAGEUR'S VIEW CARRY-IN (Private Concessions and Access)

As you near Red Lake Falls the river affords spectacular views of towering sandy cliffs and impressive eroding clay banks. Here the river cuts through beach ridges left by the now extinct Glacial Lake Agassiz. It is just half a mile through Red Lake Falls to the next access at Sportsmen's Park.

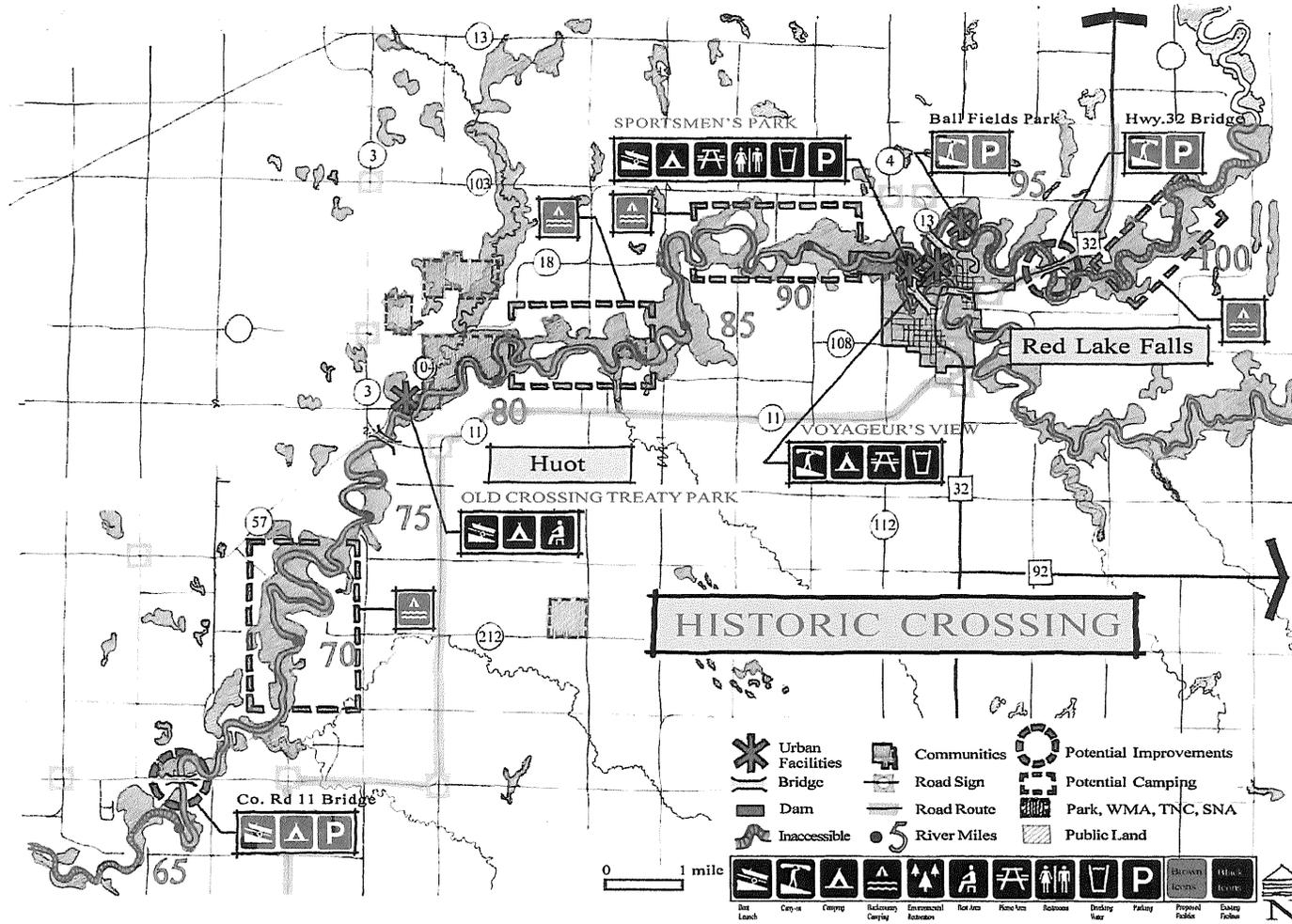
91.5 SPORTSMEN'S PARK BOAT RAMP

Sportsmen's Park boat ramp lies at the confluence of the Clearwater River in Red Lake Falls. It is the historic site of sturgeon spawning runs as well as the original Red Lake Falls Sawmill. It is a full day's paddle 13.25 miles through forest and farm fields to the next river access at Old Crossing Treaty Park near Huot. The current remains rapid in this section of river and boulders occur in the faster riffles (Class II rapids). Canoeing at low water levels can be difficult. Steep banks and eroding shorelines make this section especially scenic.

* Add backcountry campsites to this river section.

78.25 HUOT BOAT RAMP

Old Crossing Treaty Park boat ramp lies at the confluence of the Black River. Adjacent to the park is a DNR Management Area where hiking and wildlife watching opportunities exist. Old Crossing Treaty Park was the site of an 1863 treaty in which the Ojibwe ceded about 10 million acres of land to the United States government. This same site was the preferred location chosen by the Red River oxcart drivers, freighting goods between Winnipeg and St. Paul, to cross the Red Lake River. The river slows dramatically below Huot as it moving down off the Lake Agassiz beach ridge formations and out onto the flat lakebed of former Lake Agassiz on its journey towards the Red River.

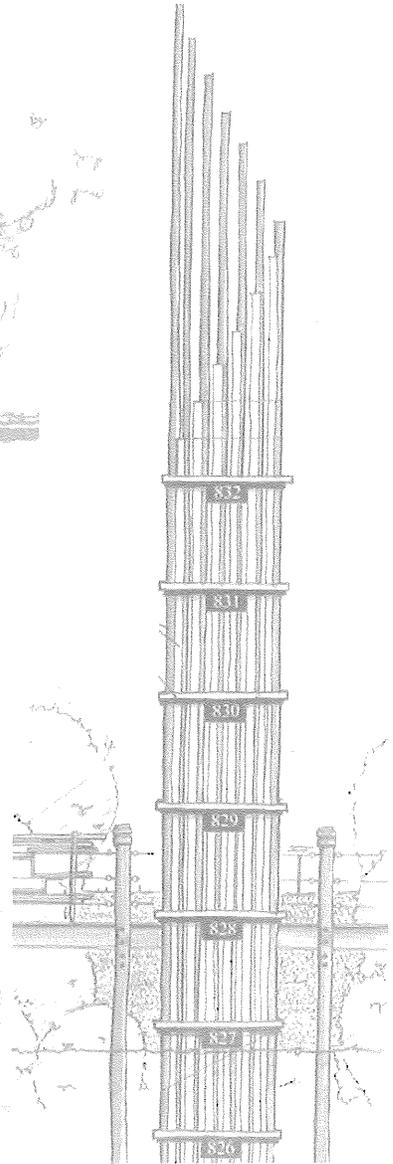
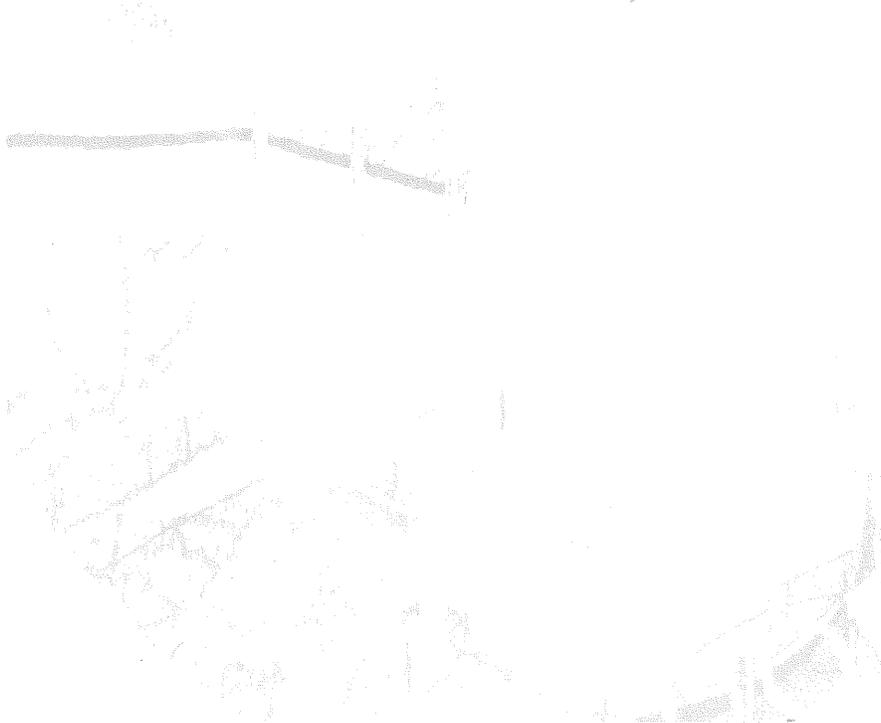
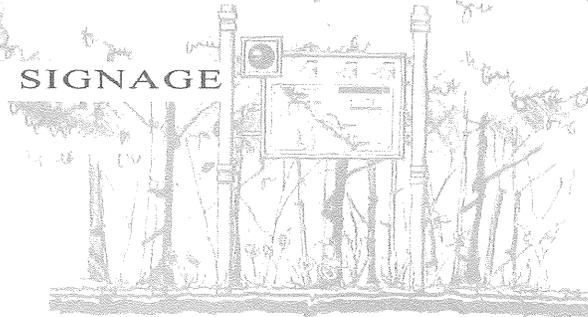


CORRIDOR IDENTITY



LOGO DEVELOPMENT

MATERIALS & SIGNAGE





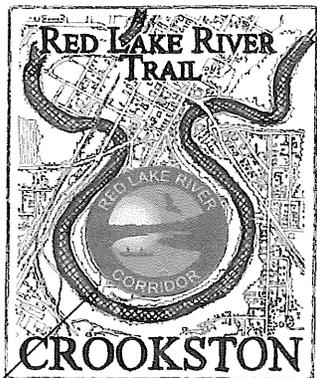
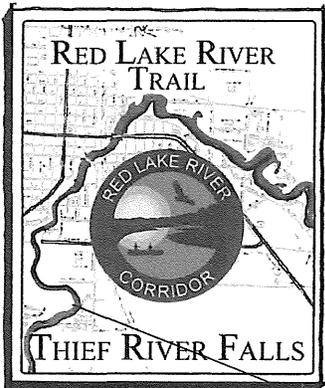
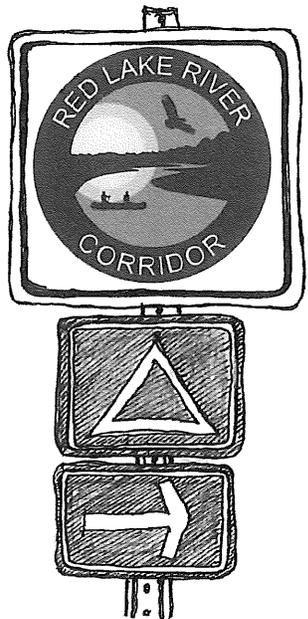
CORRIDOR IDENTITY

CORRIDOR IDENTITY MATERIALS & SIGNAGE

SIGNS: Signs with the logo mark the significant sites along the corridor. Road Signs direct travelers to nearby facilities. They include the Red Lake River Corridor logo on a vertical post. Beneath it additional signs can be attached indicating facilities (i.e. boat ramp, canoe carry-in, campground, etc.) and directional arrows. Gateway signs welcome corridor users to the Red Lake River Corridor communities. Interpretive signs mark special sites and provide information about their historical and recreational significance. Boat Launch signs and canoe carry-in signs at access points provide information about the corridor segments. Backcountry campsites signs designate official campsites. River-mile markers identify river distances. River signs identify water levels, hazards, and travel times.

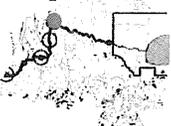
RIVER LEVEL MARKER: Vertical structures of bundled steel rods are water level markers that indicate the changes in river level. They can be freestanding sculptures in the landscape or applied to other objects such as bridge piers. The markers can be made to correlate water level with water velocity, travel time, hazard level, and historic flood levels.

SIGNS



Signage to be
MNDOT style
Painted Steel

Red Lake River
Depicted
on Sign with the
RLRC Logo



RLRC COMMUNITIES

THIEF RIVER FALLS COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS

COMMUNITY TRAILS DESIGN CONCEPT: A community-wide system of trails use the river as a focus from which other "loop trails" extend. The Riverwalk and water trail as the main trails; loop trails connect community resources and make a network of green spaces that tie the community together.

EXISTING RIVERWALK: The historic Riverwalk provides 7.3 miles of walking, biking, and cross country ski trails through town along the Red Lake River & Thief River. The trail passes through 6 city parks, 2 forest trails, recreational areas, historical points and the dam. The additional loops suggested for the Riverwalk seek to unify the remaining disparate elements of the community by connecting to the Riverwalk to the Northland Community College Campus, the downtown area, and the east bank communities multiple amenities such as it's parks and schools.

CAMPUS LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The trail surrounding the Northland Community College campus connects Finsbury and Alan-a-dale Parks to the river-walk and provides bicycle access to and from the campus.

DOWNTOWN LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The Riverwalk's downtown section runs through the historic depot district along Davis Avenue and Main Avenue. Parkway street trees along the rail corridor create a new destination and link to the existing recreation system in the city.

COMMUNITY LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The focus of the community loop of the Riverwalk is to make deliberate connections between the parks, and schools in this part of the community. The roadside and sidewalk trail connections are suggested to provide increased safety for the children of the neighborhood.

NEW OAKLAND PARKWAY: Oakland Parkway acts as an extension of Oakland Terraces Park. The new alignment creates a visual connection from Highway 32 to the park and the river. The street trees separate the neighborhoods from the industrial and commercial land uses.

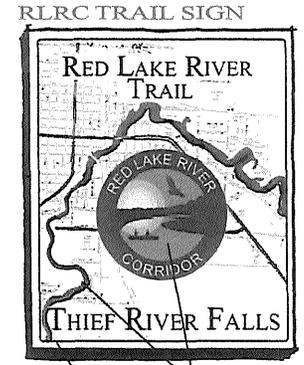
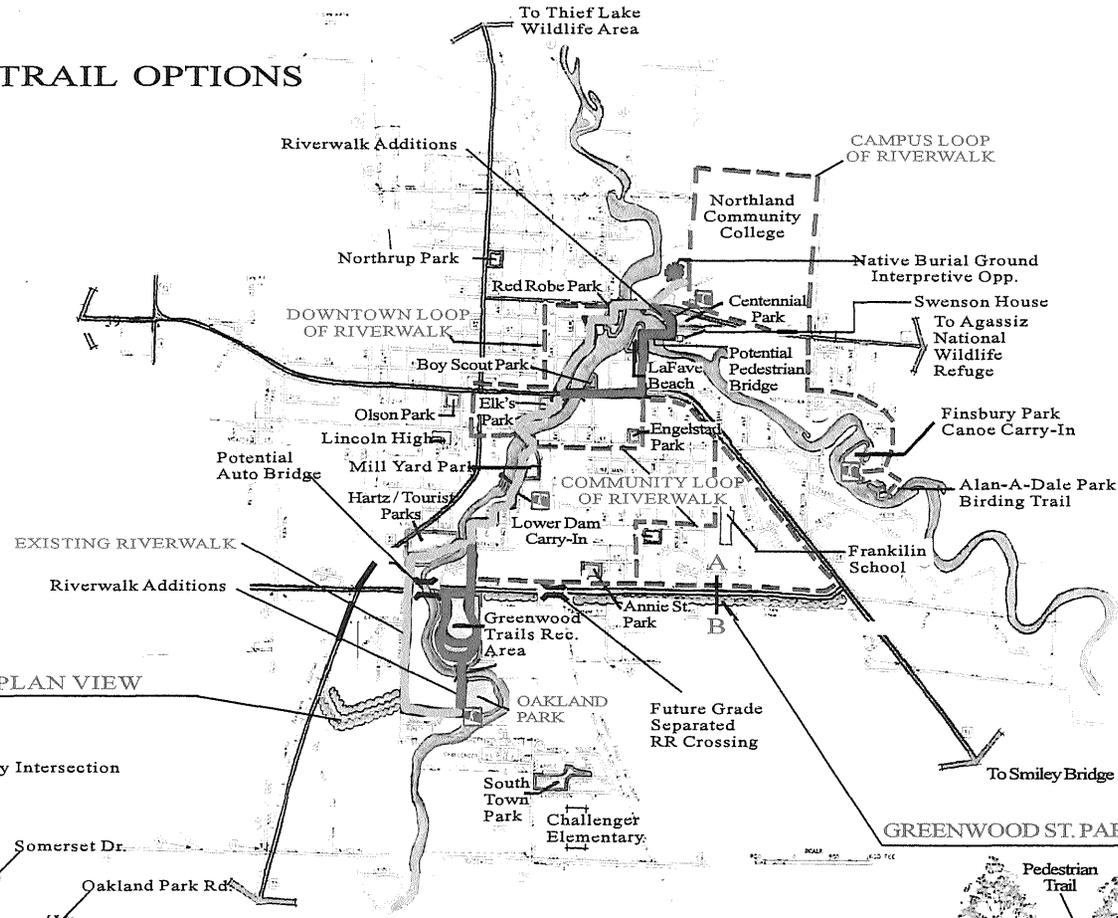
OAKLAND PARK: A southern river-walk terminus and a loop trail connect both the land and water trails. Park improvements create new amenities for the community in the unique riverine landscape.

GREENWOOD ST. PARKWAY: This new parkway creates a new amenity across the community. The parkway increases connections for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. This parkway is possible because of the potential for a bridge seen on the north side of the Greenwood Trails Recreation Area providing more connections across the community for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

RLRC TRAIL SIGN: The road sign marks the river-walk, the community trails, the river trails and trail access locations. Signs placed at strategic locations throughout the community strengthen the connections between community, its special amenities, and the river. These locations also provide opportunities to interpret natural and cultural assets.

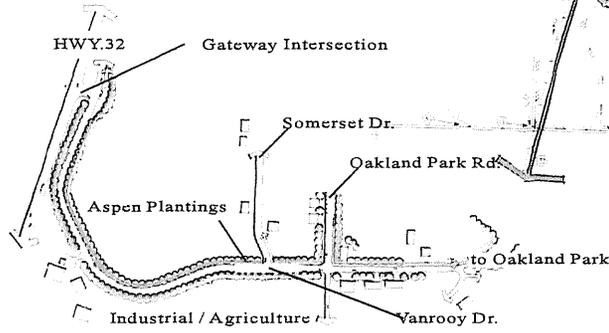


COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS

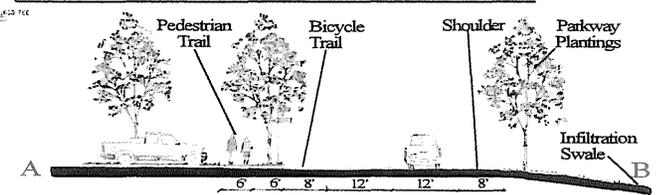


Thief River Falls Section of the Red Lake River Depicted on Sign with the RLRC Logo
Signage to be MNDOT style Painted Steel

OAKLAND PARKWAY PLAN VIEW



GREENWOOD ST. PARKWAY SECTIONAL VIEW

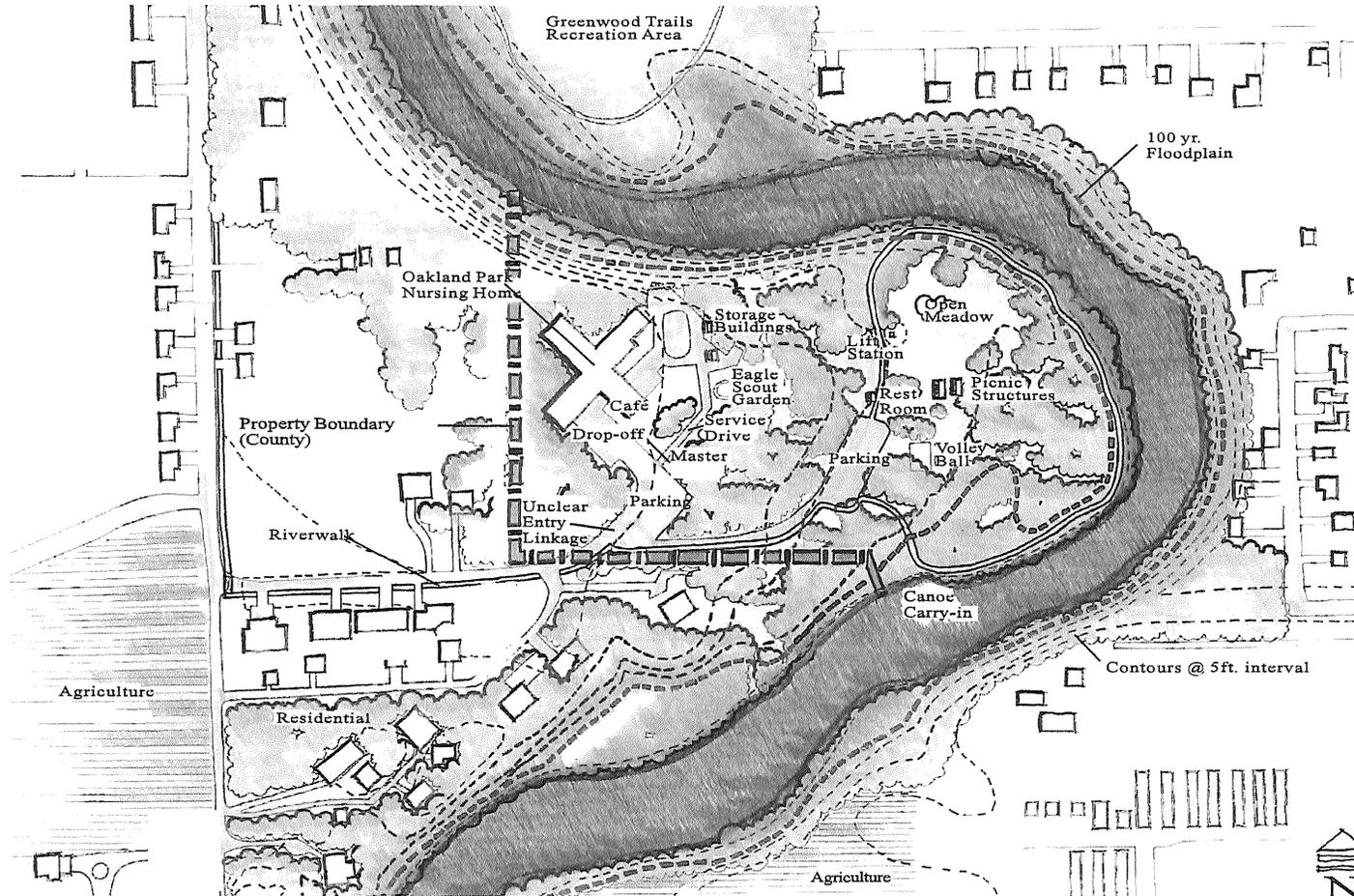


- Existing Riverwalk
- Proposed Riverwalk
- Riverwalk Loop Trails
- City Parks



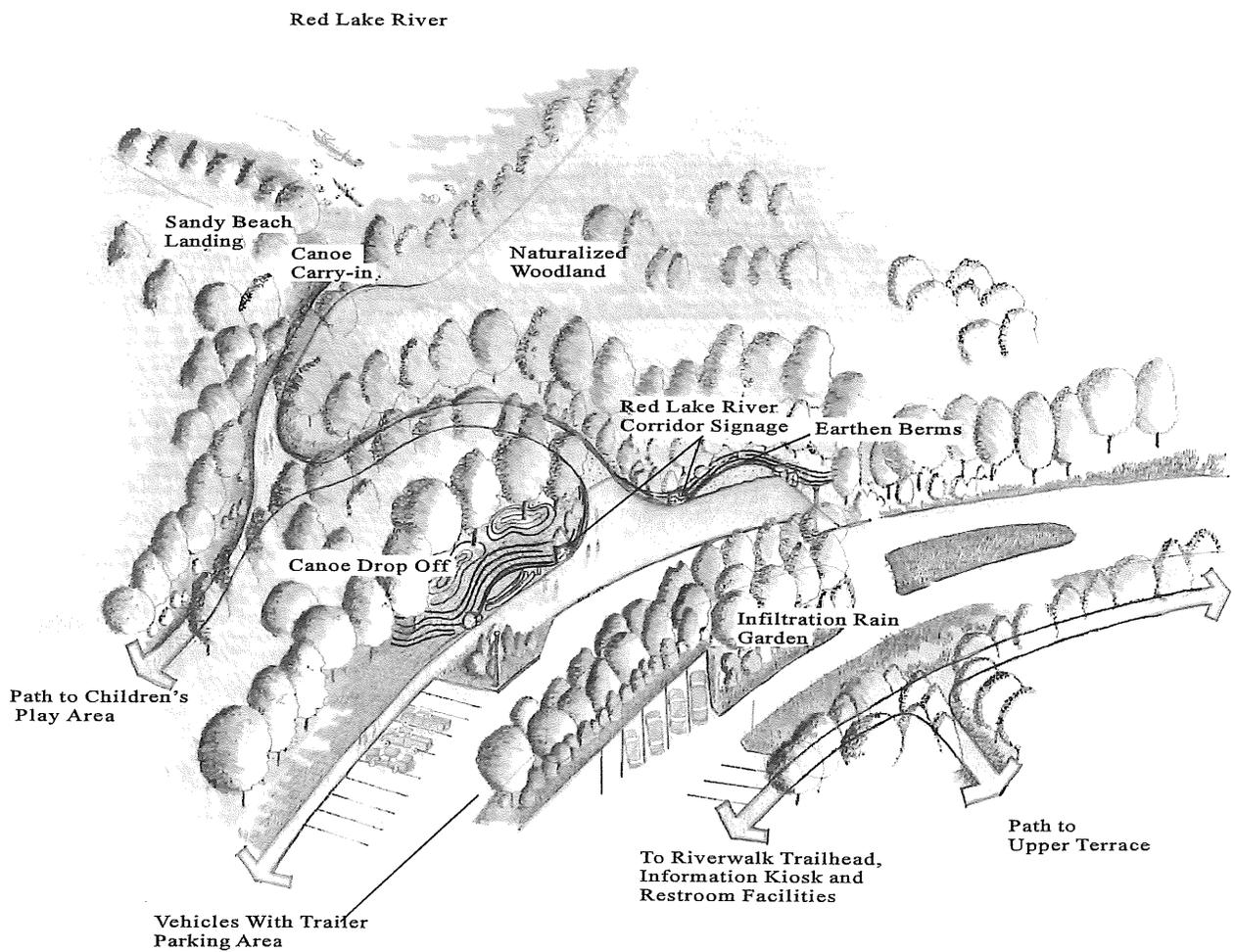


EXISTING CONDITIONS





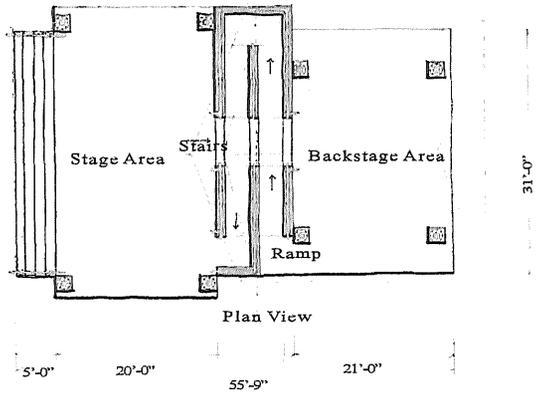
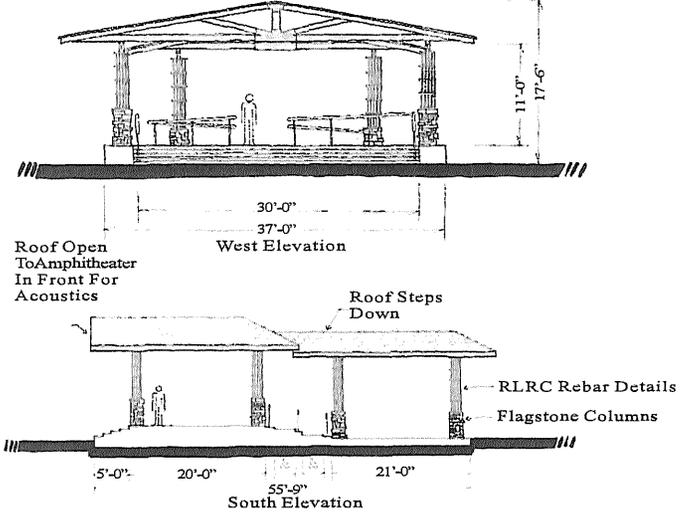
TRAILHEAD & CANOE CARRY-IN



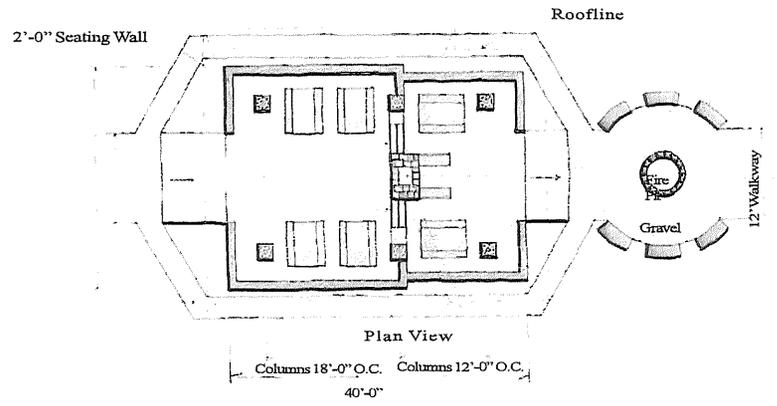
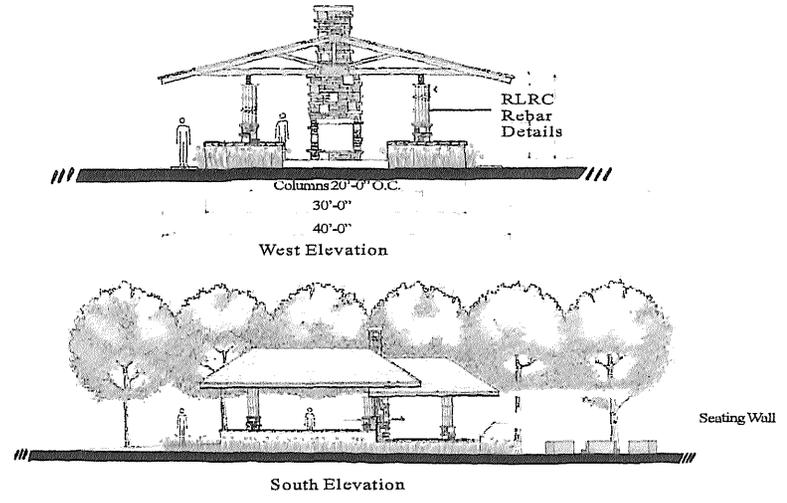


STRUCTURAL DETAILS

MULTI-USE STAGE



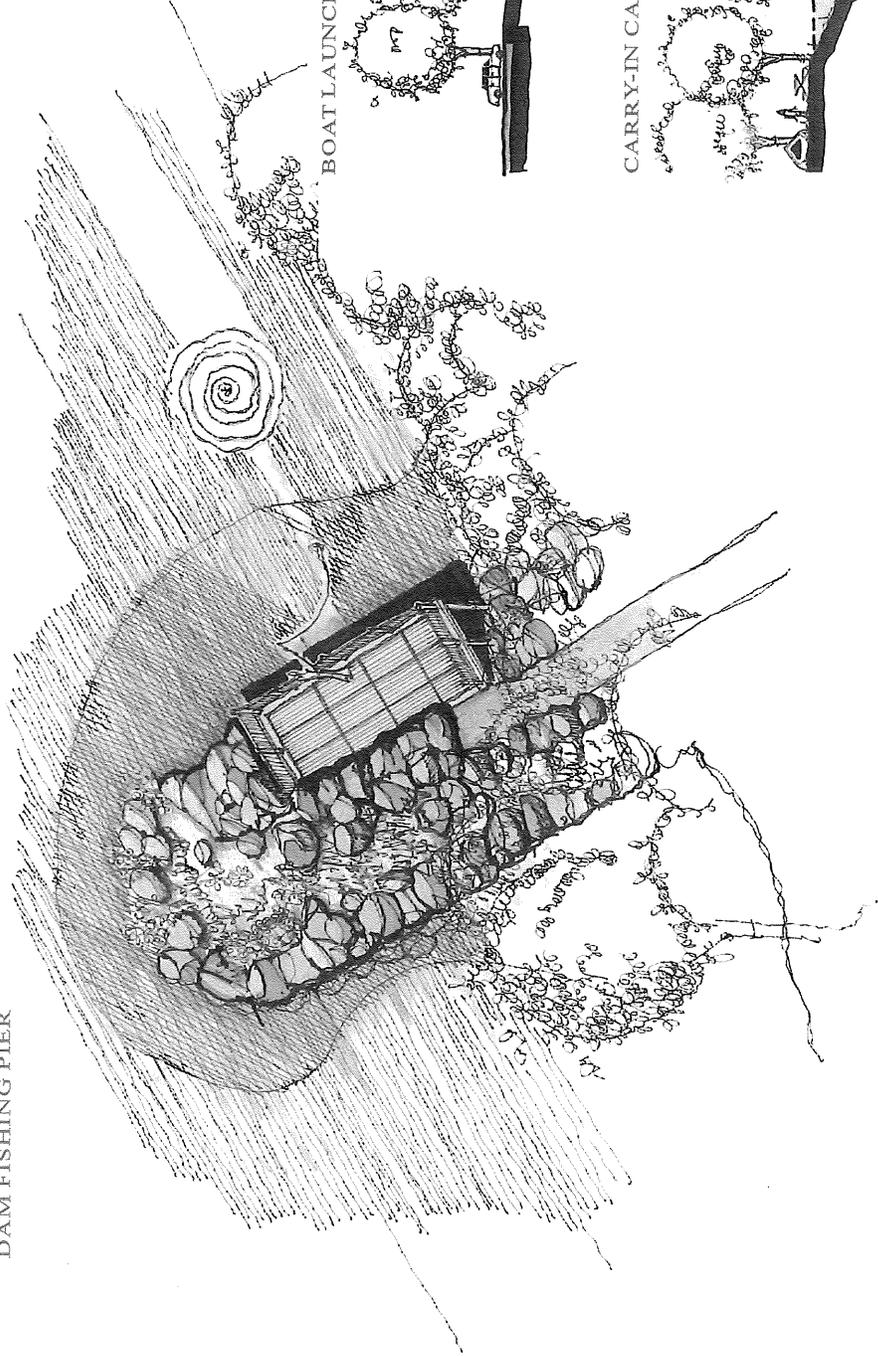
REFECTORY



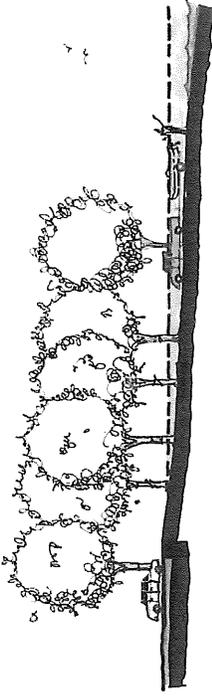


DESIGN DETAILS

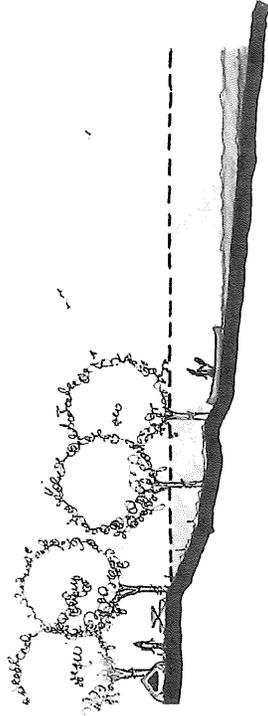
DAM FISHING PIER

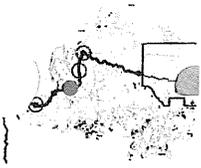


BOAT LAUNCH SECTIONAL VIEW



CARRY-IN CAMPSITE SECTIONAL VIEW





RLRC COMMUNITIES

RED LAKE FALLS CROW'S FOOT POINT

The existing uses are upgraded and reorganized in the new design of Sportsmen's Park to more fully take advantage of this scenic and cultural site and to provide more opportunities for use by residents and visitors.

CROW'S FOOT POINT GATHERING SPACE: A number of different activity areas are concentrated on Crow's Foot Point (the point formed by the confluence of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers). The fishing pier/scenic overlook is located at the tip of the point. The expanded boat launch, on the Clearwater River side, is separated from the other activity areas of the point by dense planting of trees and mounded earth berms. Crow's Foot Point Gathering Space with its picnic shelter, interpretive signs, RLRC Kiosk, and playground is located on the site of the old Red Lake Falls Sawmill. It is connected to the fishing pier/overlook by a short trail and to the parking lot by a crosswalk and trail.

CLEARWATER RIVERBANK / PICNIC AREA: Day-use picnic areas are sited along the riverbank. Trees between each picnic site provide privacy for the individual picnic areas. Trails connect the picnic areas to the parking lot and other parts of the park.

RED LAKE FALLS CAMPGROUND: Eleven car campsites and seven recreational vehicle campsites are located in the campground on the Red Lake River side of the park. Trees on the sides of each campsite provide privacy for campers by separating each campsite from each other, the road, and the park trails.

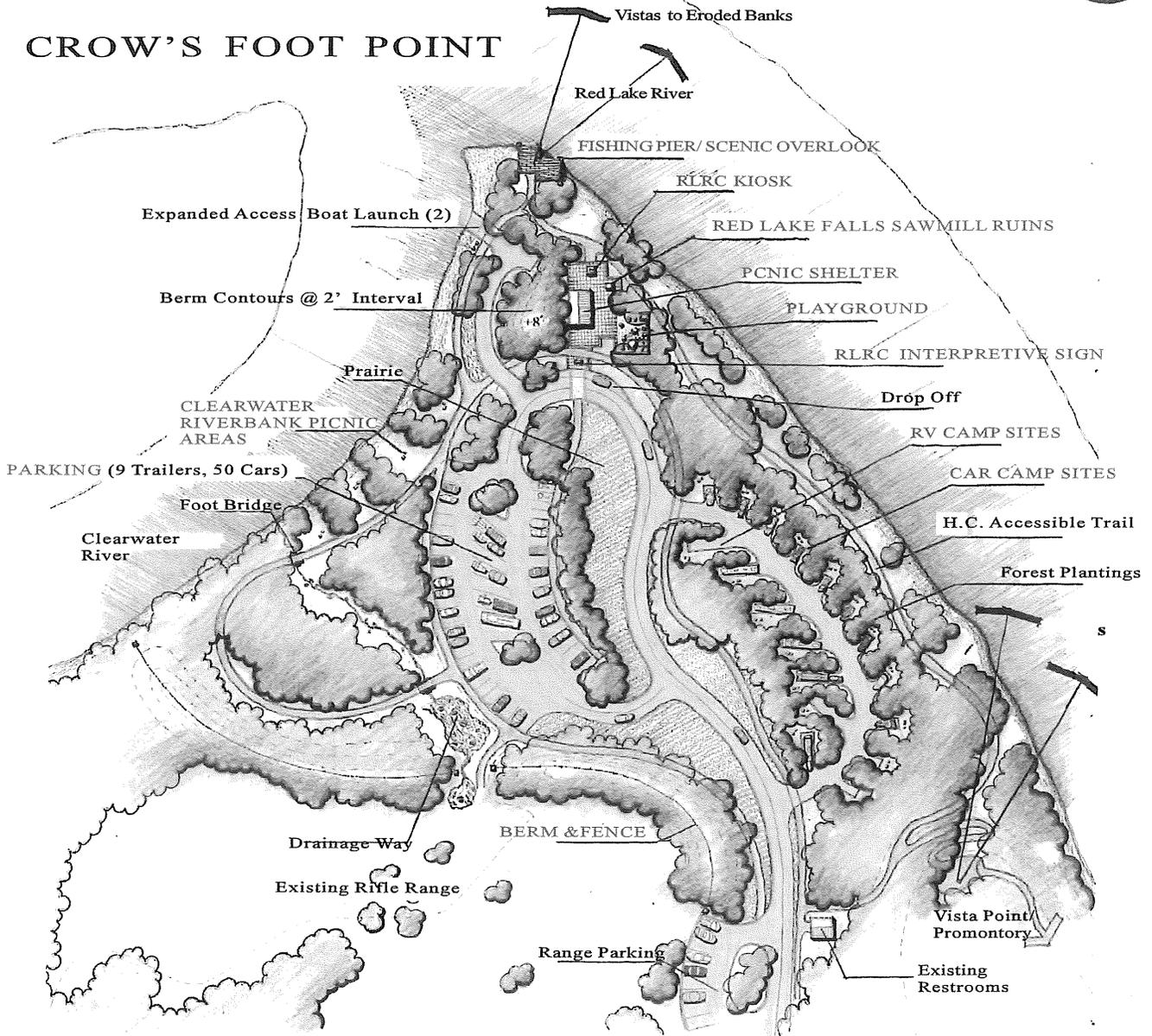
THE TRAIL SYSTEM: A system of trails follows along the banks of the rivers, connects the activity areas within the park, winds up a hill to a viewing point promontory, and provides access to the existing restrooms for all park users. Trails that skirt the parking lot provide connection between the parking and the activity areas.

THE PENINSULA'S CENTER / PARK ROADS & PARKING LOTS: A park road in the center of the peninsula provides access to the camping areas, rifle range, Crow's Foot Point Gathering Space, boat launch, and the main parking lot. Picnic goods and people can be dropped off in the pull-out just south of the gathering space. Parking for cars and boat trailers is provided in a large parking lot. Trees separate the parking lot from the rest of the park. A storm water swale slows and cleans storm water as it runs off the parking lot and the rifle range before it runs into the Clearwater River.

BERM & FENCE: For safety reasons the Rifle Range is separated from the rest of the park by trees, a berm, and a fence. A separate parking lot for range users is provided.

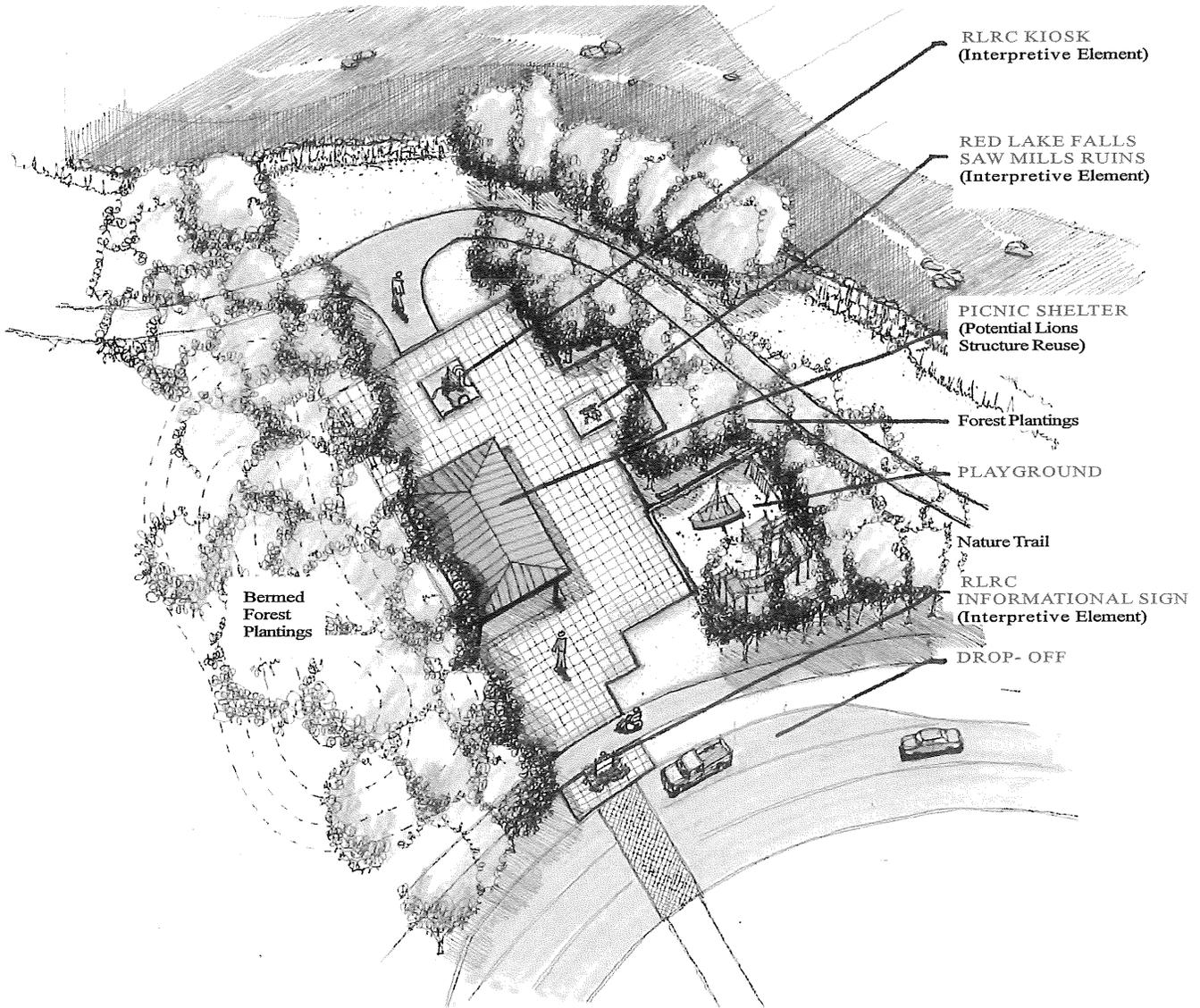


CROW'S FOOT POINT





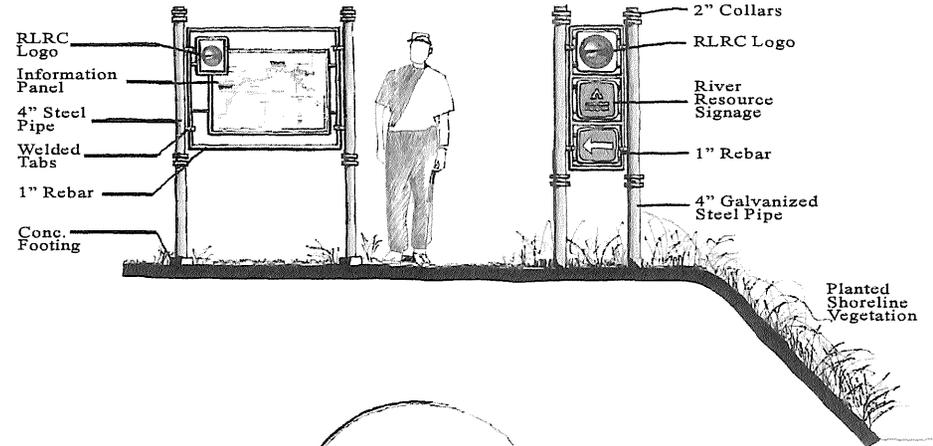
CROW'S FOOT POINT GATHERING SPACE



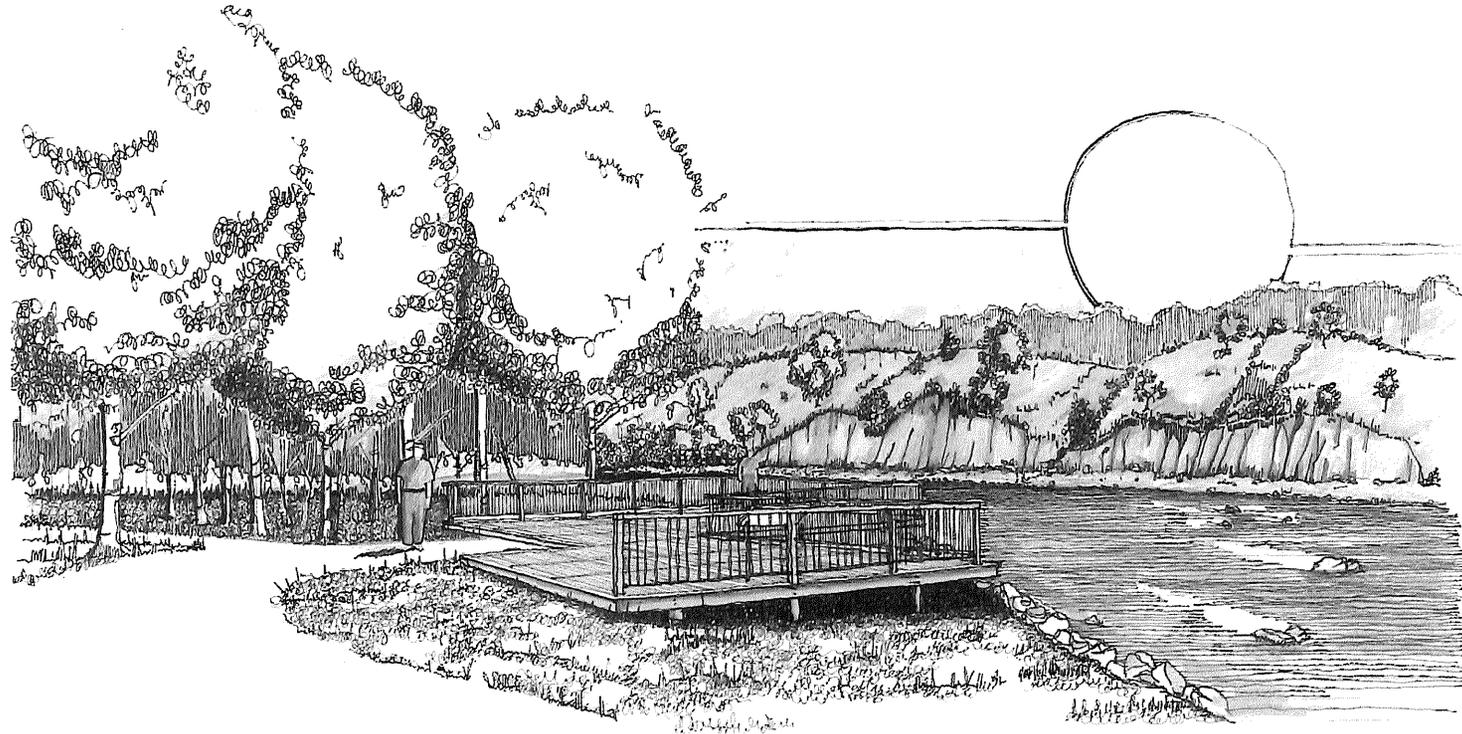


RED LAKE RIVER INFORMATION SIGN

ILLUSTRATIVE VIEWS



FISHING PIER / SCENIC OVERLOOK





RLRC COMMUNITIES

CROOKSTON COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

The four city parks along the river in Crookston and the boat launch on Highway 75 offer opportunities to add to the existing recreational facilities in Crookston and improve access to the river.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A new city trail system could connect the residential neighborhoods to the parks, the four riverside parks to each other, and improve access by foot to the downtown from the parks for residents and visitors.

HIGHWAY 75 BOAT LAUNCH: This boat launch site could be improved to include amenities such as picnic tables and other recreational facilities.

STREET NETWORK FOR POTENTIAL TRAIL ROUTING: The neighborhood streets between the city park could be used as an extension of the existing Perimeter Trail System to increase the connectivity between the recreational assets in Crookston.

WHITEWATER RAPIDS ROUTE: The 325-foot river riffle at the site of the old dam is a major river fixture that can be used to promote whitewater canoeing and kayaking. Users could enter the river at a new carry-in just above the riffle and exit at a new carry-in below to return for another run.

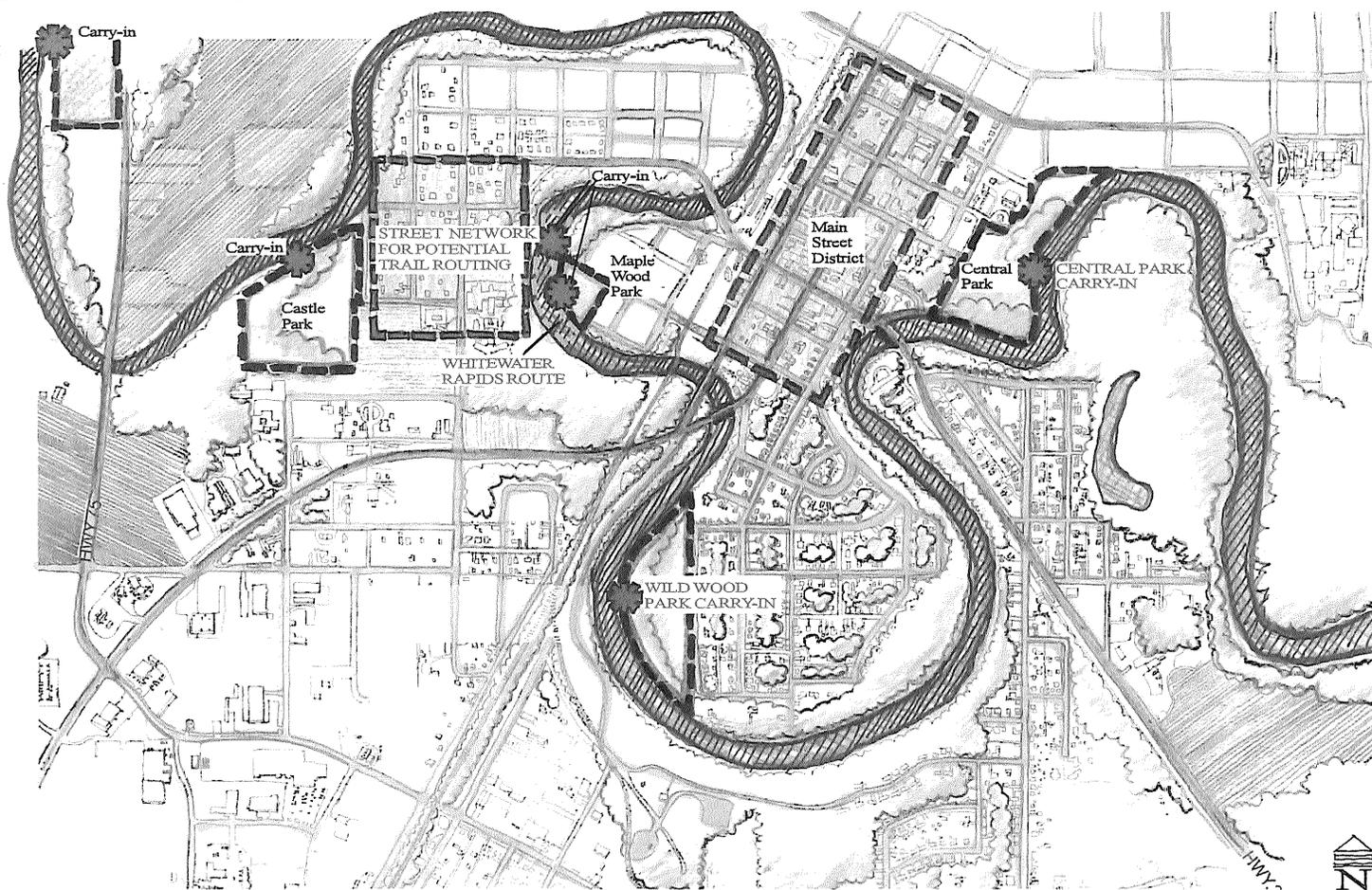
CENTRAL PARK CARRY-IN: Improving the boat launch at Central Park and creating a new carry-in at Castle Park would create an hour-long route through the heart of the city. Boaters who wish to avoid the rapids could portage around them at Maplewood Park and return to the river to end their trip at the Castle Park launch site. Those wishing for a longer trip could continue to the Highway 75 boat launch.

WILD WOOD PARK CARRY-IN: The new carry-in / RLRC Trailhead at Wild Wood Park provides a river exit point upstream from the whitewater rapids route.



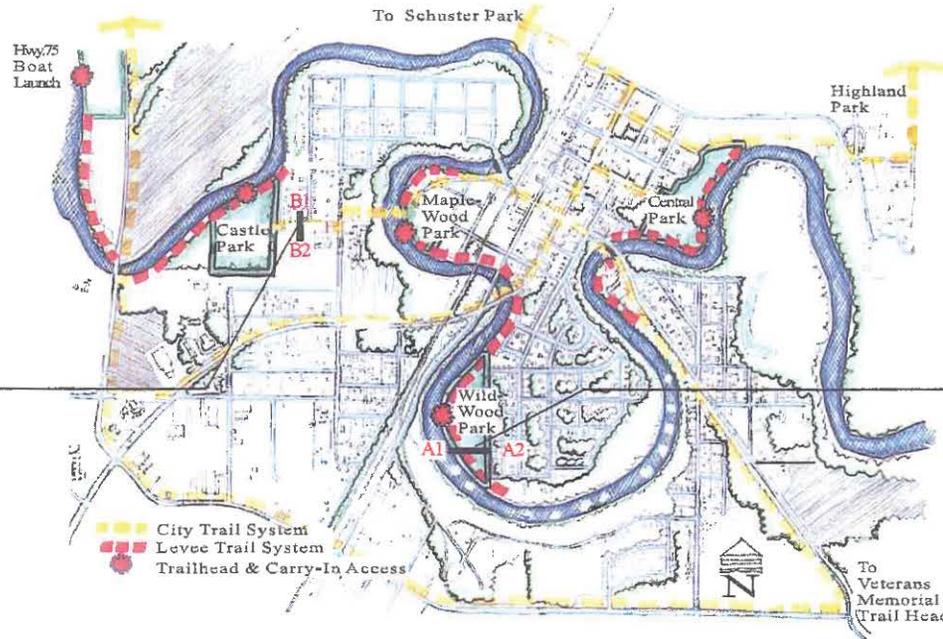
COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

HWY. 75
BOAT LAUNCH

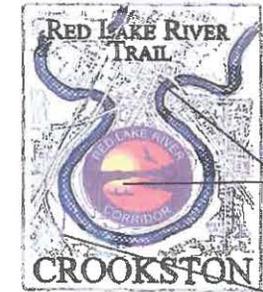




TRAIL ROUTING POTENTIALS & SIGNAGE

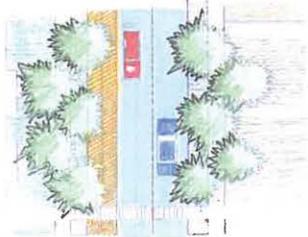


RLRC TRAIL SIGN



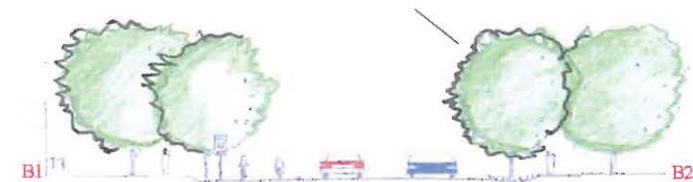
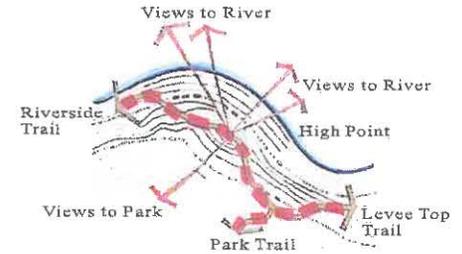
Crookston Section of the Red Lake River Depicted on Sign with the RLRC Logo
Signage to be MNDOT style Painted Steel

CTIY TRAIL POTENTIALS



PLAN VIEW OF CITY TRAIL

LEVEE TRAIL POTENTIALS



SECTION THROUGH CITY TRAIL B1-B2

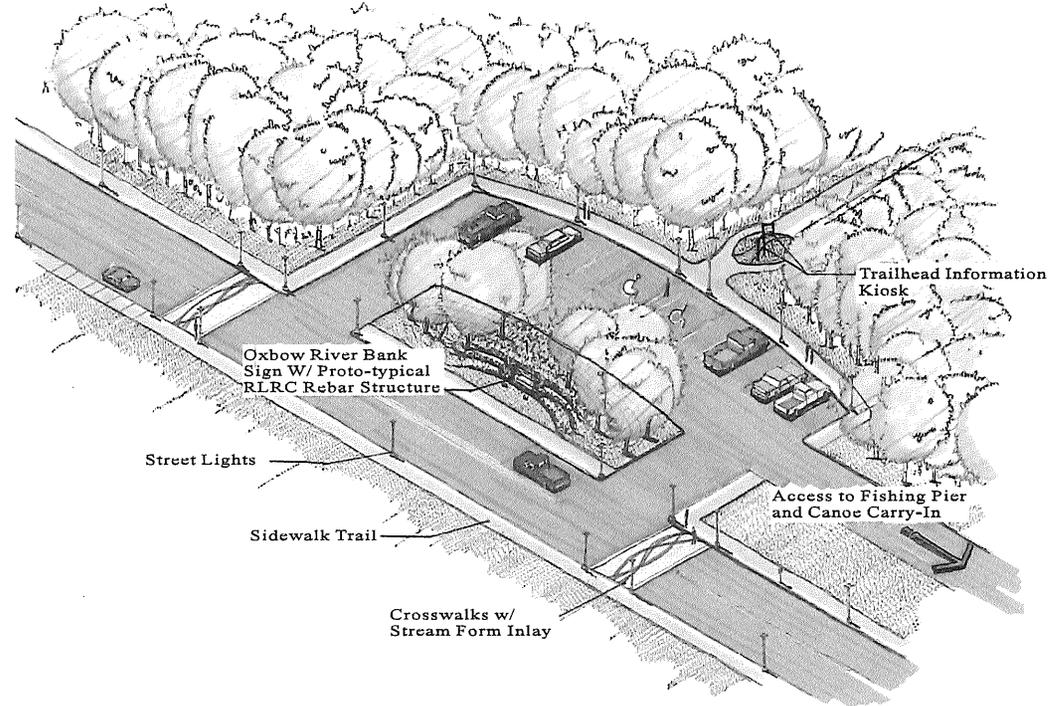


SECTION THROUGH LEVEE AT WILDWOOD PARK A1-A2

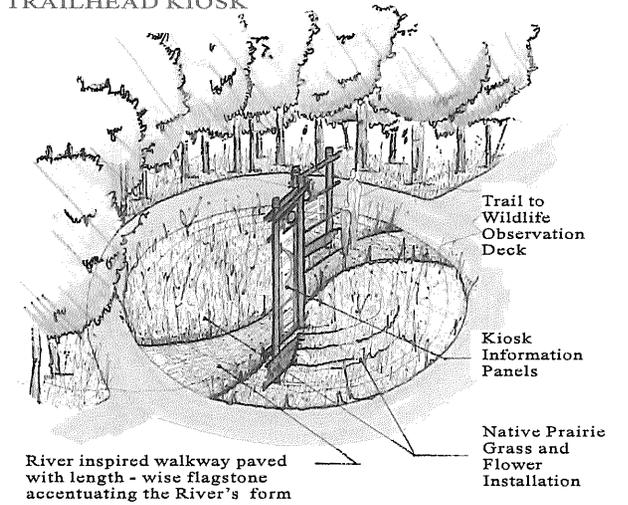


FISHER TRAILHEAD DESIGN DETAILS

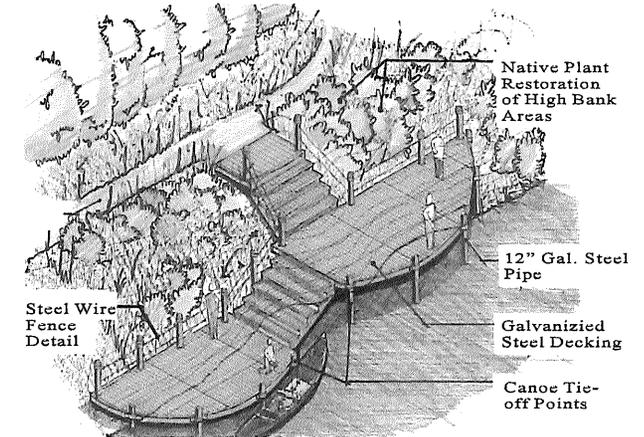
FISHER TRAILHEAD



TRAILHEAD KIOSK



FISHING PIER & CANOE CARRY-IN





RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD

124 North Broadway
Crookston, MN 56716
www.redlakerivercorridor.org

To: Capital Investment Committee
Finance Committee: Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development Budget Division

From: Keith Mykleseth, RLRC Joint Power Board Chairman

Date: February 1, 2006

RE: Bonding Request (identification number?)

The Red Lake River was designated as a State Canoe and Boating Route in 1967 referenced in Statute 85.32. In its 39 year history, this route has had little investment with only a minimum of river access points and water trail infrastructure developed. In recent years, the cities and counties along the Red Lake River formed the Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board (RLRCJPB) as a means to work together and in partnership with the MN DNR to enhance both the recreational use and the ecological health of the river.

Over the past 4 years, the RLRCJP has partnered with the Center for Changing Landscapes at the University of Minnesota to create a comprehensive river corridor plan. The plan provides an analysis of recreational infrastructure needed to make the best use of this rich resource. It also shows examples of access and infrastructure that can be developed in cooperation with local units of government. Many of the pieces needed for a well developed canoe and boating route exist; now it is important to make the investment in access and improvements.

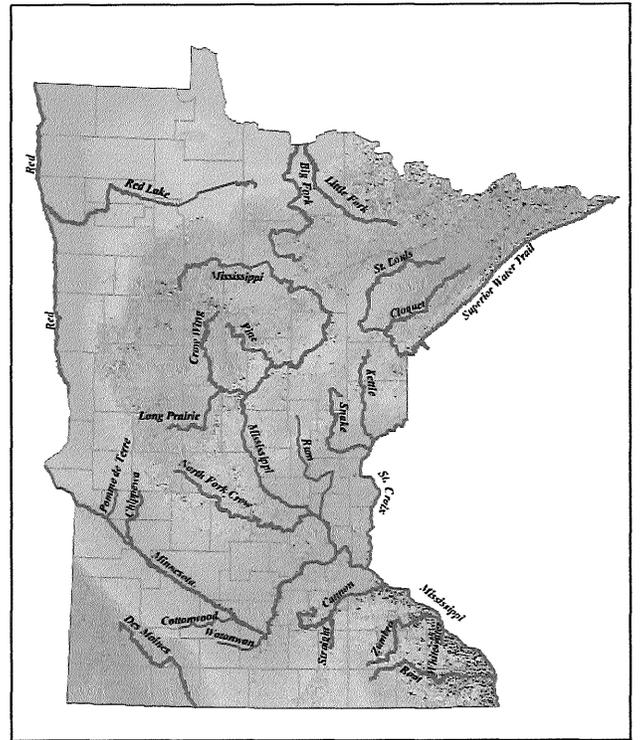
This investment leverages the state's resources in several important ways:

- The majority of the access points are public lands offering an opportunity to significantly increase access to the river without having to spend a lot of money acquiring land.
- The communities along the river have city and county parks that provide opportunities for rest areas, camp sites and portages. These elements, described in Statute 85.32 Subd 2, can be implemented by cooperative agreement with the cities and counties so the investment goes directly into the facilities rather than in acquisition of land.
- A state investment in this infrastructure acknowledges the good will and cooperation of the citizens, community leaders, state agencies and advisors involved in this endeavor.

In addition to completing the comprehensive plan for the Red Lake River Corridor, the communities that comprise the Joint Powers Board have been making improvements in access over the past 2 years. The St. Hilaire and Highlanding boat accesses have been improved this past summer in partnership with DNR Trails and Waterways

This route provides geographic balance to the state's canoe and boating routes. Over 40% of the land in the state drains to the Red River. Only 2 of the 26 designated routes are in this region of the state, and both have only limited access or infrastructure.

Your support for this project is needed to realize the potential benefits the Red Lake River Canoe and Boating Route has to offer.



Enclosed, please find a list of priority access and improvements for the Red Lake River Canoe and Boating Route, as well as a sampling of the design work. The entire Red Lake River Corridor planning design document is on the CD also enclosed.

Thank you for supporting this important project.



RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD

124 North Broadway
 Crookston, MN 56716
www.redlakerivercorridor.org

**2006 Bonding Request:
 Summary of Enhancements**

River Mile	Description of improvements
2	Folson Park, East Grand Forks – carry-in site, signage
5	Hwy 220 Bridge – canoe carry-in, parking
12	Old Co 58 crossing – canoe carry-in, parking
20	Potential for canoe carry-in location
28	Fisher’s Landing – boat ramp, parking, restoration, kiosk
29	Fisher – canoe carry-in, camping, trails
37-43	Potential for canoe carry-in: acquisition, access
51	Hwy 75 Bridge – improve existing ramp, parking, kiosk
53	Dam/Rapids – construct portage around dam, signage
55	Central Park – improve existing ramp, parking, signage
66	Co Rd 11 Bridge – acquisition, boat ramp, parking
78	Huot Park – reconstruct boat ramp, canoe landing, kiosk
84	WMA – potential site for water access camping site
93	Sportsman’s Park – landscaping, signage, parking
96	Highway 32 Bridge – canoe carry-in, acquisition, parking
98-112	Undesignated canoe carry-in site, acquisition, parking
114	Island Park – shore fishing, rest area, kiosk
124	Oakland Park – canoe landing, parking, landscape, kiosk,
126	Thief River Falls Dam – improve portage
128	Alan-a-Dale Park – canoe carry-in, signage
	Signage and interpretation needs for the corridor
	Erosion Assessment conducted by RL watershed district
	Buffer implementation – Red Lake County SWCD
	Shoreline management demonstrations, erosion control
	Estimated Cost is \$910,000

Statute 85.32 Canoe and boating routes.

Subdivision 1. Areas marked. The commissioner of natural resources is authorized in cooperation with local units of government and private individuals and groups when feasible to mark canoe and boating routes on the Little Fork, Big Fork, Minnesota, St. Croix, Snake, Mississippi, Red Lake, Cannon, Straight, Des Moines, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Pine, Rum, Kettle, Cloquet, Root, Zumbro, Pomme de Terre within Swift County, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Whitewater, Chippewa from Benson in Swift County to Montevideo in Chippewa County, Long Prairie, Red River of the North, and Crow Rivers which have historic and scenic values and to mark appropriately points of interest, portages, camp sites, and all dams, rapids, waterfalls, whirlpools, and other serious hazards which are dangerous to canoe and watercraft travelers.

Subd. 2. Camp sites, rest areas, river accesses and portages, land acquisition. The commissioner may, in cooperation with local units of government as provided in subdivision 1, acquire land by purchase, grant, gift, devise, exchange, lease or easement for camp sites, rest areas, river accesses and portages. The acquisition of any parcel of land pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed 20 acres, unless it will or should require a land survey or a larger parcel will be in the best interest of the state, in which case the commissioner may acquire land not to exceed 40 acres or unless specifically authorized by the executive council. The commissioner may also develop and be responsible for the maintenance of campsites, rest areas, river accesses, and portages on the areas acquired, or in cooperation with local units of government, organizations, or individuals, along those rivers designated in subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. Dedication, application of statute. Areas acquired by easement or lease or areas designated and marked under this section shall not be subject to the provisions of section 160.06.

HIST: 1963 c 386 s 1; 1967 c 862 s 1-3; 1967 c 905 s 5; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1975 c 37 s 1,2; 1976 c 24 s 1; 1976 c 346 s 3; 1977 c 224 s 1; 1983 c 116 s 1; 1995 c 220 s 69; 1996 c 280 s 1; 2000 c 381 s 1; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 88

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Red Lake Watershed District

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Dale M. Nelson

Treasurer
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218-681-5800
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e-mail: rlwaters@wiktel.com
www.redlakewatershed.org

Secretary
Vernon Johnson

Managers
Gene Tiedemann
Lee Coc
Arnold Stanley

October 18, 2005

Keith Mykleseth, Chairman
Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board
Glacial Ridge Office
Mentor, MN 56736

Dear Keith:

In addition to providing access to the river, the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project will take great strides toward improving aesthetic qualities of the river corridor, water quality, and riparian habitat. Here is a brief description of the erosion assessment, erosion control, and riparian buffer strip project that will be a part of the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project.

The \$30,000 erosion assessment on the Red Lake River will map, photograph, and evaluate all major erosion sites along the Red Lake River. First, erosion sites will be mapped and evaluated using GPS/GIS technology and a field survey of the river. The sites will then be prioritized using the compiled information. Priority will be given to sites that are actively eroding, located within reaches of the river that are listed on the 2004 MPCA 303(d) List of Impaired Waters (the lower reaches of the Red Lake River are impaired by turbidity), threatening structures or roads, accessible, feasible, and located near river accesses or potential future access sites.

The erosion control implementation phase of this project will involve engineering and construction of as many as six erosion control projects for \$240,000. Examples of erosion control measures that may be utilized include stream barbs, cross vane weirs, stream bank sloping, riprap toe protection, bioengineering, and grass seeding. These erosion control measures not only reduce erosion, but also improve water quality and habitat for aquatic and terrestrial life.

The buffer strip implementation part of this project will utilize local SWCD and NRCS staff for the implementation of riparian buffers along the Red Lake River. The \$30,000 will fund the staff time necessary for targeted inventories, public outreach, reconnaissance, and implementation using CRP contracts. These buffer strips will reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve wildlife habitat, improve aesthetics, and stabilize banks of the river. This project will focus on the river corridor to maximize benefits to the river. GIS data, already compiled for the river corridor, will be utilized for targeting areas that need buffer strips and/or erosion control.

Sincerely,



Corey Hanson

Kubly/Koenen

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for the Minnesota River
1.3 Trail; authorizing issuance of state bonds.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

1.6 \$125,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of
1.7 natural resources for planning the Minnesota River Trail from the terminus of the planned
1.8 extension north of Granite Falls to and through Upper Sioux Agency State Park.

1.9 Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

1.10 To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the
1.11 commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to
1.12 \$125,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
1.13 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,
1.14 sections 4 to 7.

1.15 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

1.16 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

January 27, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey Hathaway, President
Minnesota Trails Initiative
PO Box 186
Montevideo, MN 56265

Dear Mr. Hathaway:

Commissioner Gene Merriam has asked me to respond to your letter dated January 13, 2006, regarding the Minnesota River Trail. The 13 mile trail segment between Montevideo and Granite Falls will be included as part of the Minnesota River State Trail in the draft master plan. Inclusion of this segment as part of the Minnesota River Trail is consistent with the outcomes thus far of the current planning process.

The planning process has documented strong public support for the Minnesota River Trail and the numerous and diverse benefits the trail will bring to the local communities, counties and entire state. State trails have proven to have positive economic benefits to communities. The Minnesota River Trail will provide recreational trail experiences of statewide significance. The landscape provides opportunities for experiencing and learning about the unique natural resources and history of Minnesota River Valley, bringing about a greater appreciation of our natural resources, programs to conserve them, and also instill an understanding and pride in our history and cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Laurie Martinson', is written over a horizontal line.

Laurie Martinson, Director
Trails and Waterways Division

LM/ly/dsl

c: Commissioner Gene Merriam

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929

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MINNESOTA RIVER TRAIL FUNDING **(2006 BONDING BILL)**

Abstract – As part of the legislative initiative of the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota, the State of Minnesota is being asked to issue bonds for the \$3.8-million needed to complete the “Anchor Segment” of the Minnesota River Trail between Granite Falls and Montevideo.

Chippewa County developed and paved 4.8 miles of the Anchor Segment in 2004. The City of Granite Falls will acquire title and possession of the land corridor needed to complete this segment, in the Spring of 2006.

Opportunities – Local support for this project is extremely strong, and this project presents a unique opportunity to promote the state’s namesake river, link a very long string of Minnesota’s state parks, and create unprecedented economic partnerships among previously disconnected communities in the Minnesota River basin. (This includes Native American communities that traditionally have perceived their self-interests to be at odds with state, county and local projects on the river.) **Ten (10) state facilities on the river will begin developing “linkages,” as part of the Minnesota River Trail:** (1) Big Stone Lake S.P., (2) Bonanza Education Center, (3) Lac qui Parle S.P., (4) Upper Sioux Agency S.P., (5) Joseph R. Brown State Wayside, (6) Fort Ridgely S.P., (7) Flandreau S.P., (8) Minneopa S.P., (9) the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area, and (10) Fort Snelling S.P.

In addition to completing the Anchor Segment, the requested funding will: (a) Leverage eight (8) years and approximately \$500,000 of local, state, and federal funds already invested in this project, (b) Begin execution of a project the State has been discussing for 70 years, (c) Provide infrastructure for a tourism-based economy in this part of the State, and (d) Provide a model for other river communities and state agencies to work cooperatively to further extend the state trail project to connect with their communities.

Background – The Minnesota Department of Conservation first began discussing a recreational corridor along the Minnesota River in the 1930s. The legislature first authorized a small segment of the river as the “Minnesota Valley State Trail” in 1969 (from Jordan, Minnesota, through to Fort Snelling S.P.), as a part of the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Closer to the headwaters of the Minnesota River, Chippewa County and locally-driven, citizen-led initiatives were being extraordinarily successful with initial planning and fundraising in the 1990s. Chippewa County built 4.8 miles of paved trail in 1994-1995 with federal ISTEAF funds and local match. Local groups (public and private) have raised over \$2.0mm to help build extensions and connections to this trail. Concept plans, preliminary environmental work, and preliminary engineering now have been completed for what has come to be known as the “Anchor Segment” – a 13.0 mile, level-grade trail that will link two major communities on the Upper Minnesota River and will eventually link to the Upper Sioux Agency Community and the Upper Sioux Agency S.P. near Granite Falls.

In 2001, the state authorized the Minnesota River Trail as a “state trail” to serve as a recreational corridor running from Big Stone Lake State Park (the river’s headwaters) to Fort Snelling State Park (the river’s terminus).

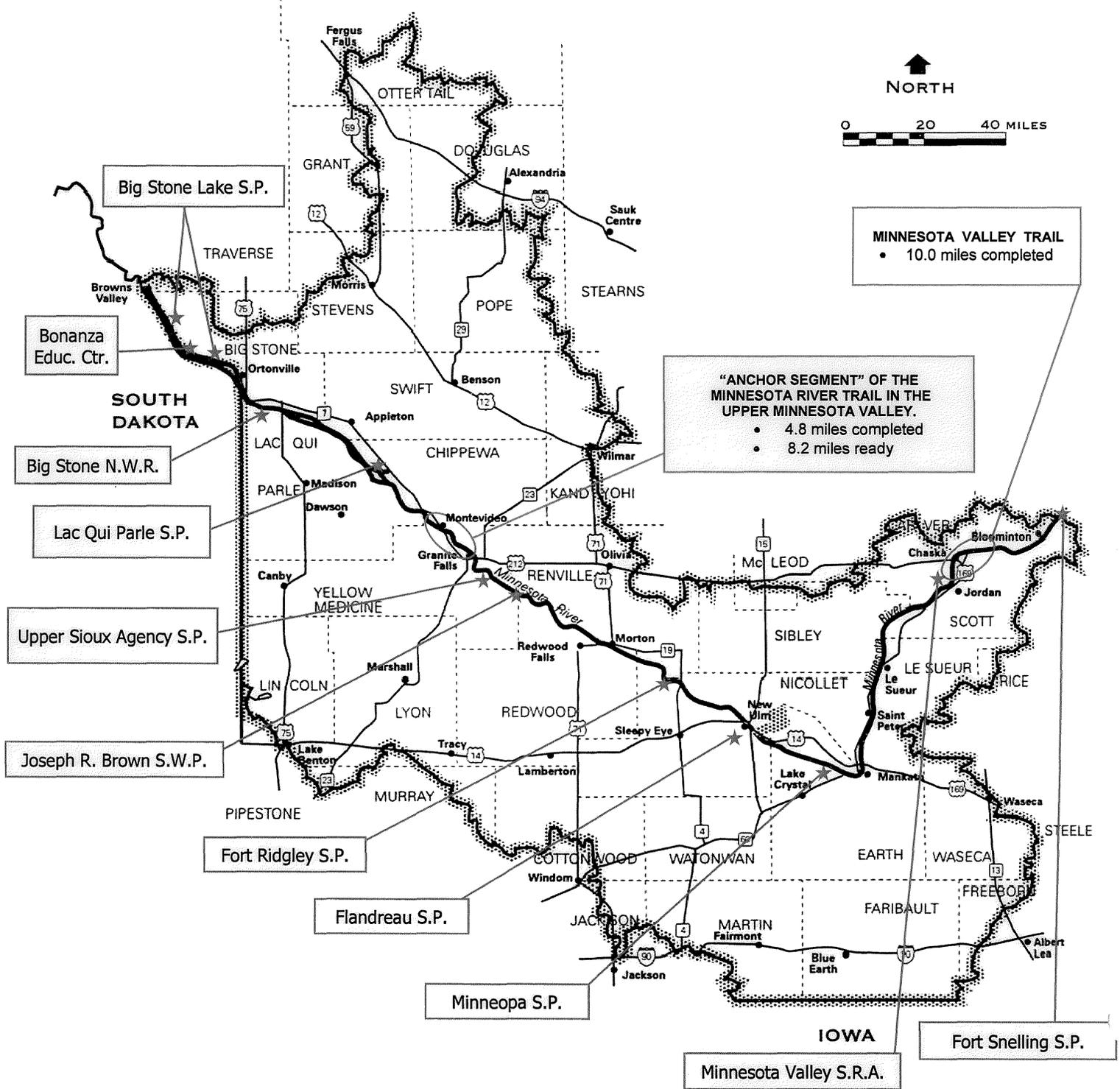
In 2004, the City of Granite Falls committed to advancing the state trail project by acquiring the land corridor needed for this anchor segment. (The City’s acquisition effort will be completed by May 2006.)

Partners/Supporters – In addition to the Parks & Trails Council and the Minnesota Trails Initiative, a broad range of local, state and national entities – both public and private – are supporting this state project and recognize Minnesota River Trail as critical to maintaining and expanding the environmental, social and business capital of the counties and communities in the Minnesota River basin. (This is a mainly agricultural area that lags significantly behind other parts of Minnesota in terms of state investment, economic growth, and population stability.)

Entities providing express and/or financial support for these efforts currently include: The 37-county Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, the National Park Service (Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Office), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s National Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge (headquartered at the Big Stone County N.W.R.), the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) (Region 6W), the Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway Alliance, the McKnight Foundation, the Southwest Minnesota Foundation, and a wide variety of private individuals, businesses and other public organizations throughout the Minnesota River Basin.

THE STATE'S MINNESOTA RIVER TRAIL PROJECT

Authorized by Minnesota Statutes, § 85.015, subd. 22: "Minnesota River Trail". The trail shall originate at the entrance to Big Stone Lake State Park and extend along the Minnesota River Valley to connect to the Minnesota Valley Trail at the city of Le Sueur.



FROM THE MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED COMPREHENSIVE RECREATIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, FUNDED BY THE 1996 MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATURE AND COMPLETED IN 1998:

"Need #5: Develop a multi-use trail or greenway corridor to connect the recreational, historic, cultural and scenic resources within the region... Derived from Goal #5, which refers to enhancing quality of life within the Minnesota River Watershed in part by developing a comprehensive system of multi-use trails and greenway corridors."

This Document can be made available
Alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**EIGHTY-FOURTH
SESSION**

HOUSE FILE No. 2591

January 19, 2006

Authored by Hilty

Unofficially referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds;
1.3 appropriating money for the St. Louis River Trail.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

1.6 \$500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of
1.7 natural resources to predesign, design, and construct a nonmotorized state pedestrian trail
1.8 connection to the Willard Munger State Trail from the city of Carlton through the city of
1.9 Scanlon continuing to the city of Cloquet, along the St. Louis River in Carlton County.

1.10 Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

1.11 To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the
1.12 commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to
1.13 \$500,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
1.14 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,
1.15 sections 4 to 7.

1.16 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

1.17 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

St. Louis River Trail-Quick Facts

Background

Northeast Carlton County is home to one the nation's premier bicycle facilities, the Willard Munger State Trail. The Munger Trail is a paved, non-motorized (summer) trail that is located on a former railroad bed between Hinckley and Duluth, Minnesota. The cities of Cloquet and Scanlon, the community of Esko, and the Fond du Lac Reservation, which are home to over 15,000 people, are located within three miles of the Trail, but all lack designated connections to it.

The St. Louis River Trail Plan outlines the general alignment for a proposed trail connection between the City of Cloquet and the Willard Munger State Trail. The plan also describes opportunities for trailhead facilities, interpretive sites, and recreational amenities.

This trail will be constructed in several construction phases with ongoing attention to corridor acquisition and stewardship of properties already in public ownership.

Phase I: Munger Trail in Carlton to the Park in Ride in Scanlon / 3 miles

Phase I of the St. Louis River Trail will establish a connection between the City of Carlton and the park and ride in Scanlon. This phase will not eliminate all the hazards that currently exist but it will establish a safe route between Carlton and the Interstate. The park and ride lot will provide for parking for those interested in traveling by vehicle to the trail and taking their bikes to the Munger Trail.



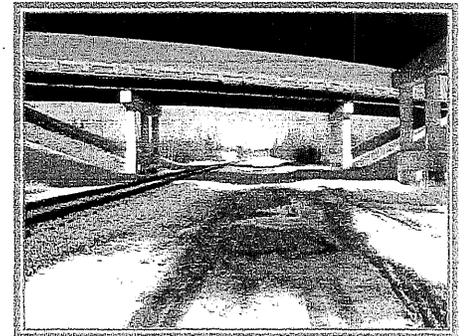
The first phase of the trail connection will begin at the Scanlon Park and Ride and travel south 1.87 miles (to County Road 1) along abandoned railroad grade. The Trail will then follow County Road 3 right-of-way 0.12 miles west until crossing County Road 3 at this location. The trail will then turn south and follow an abandoned road 0.15 miles until reaching first street. The trail will follow first street .25 miles south until reaching an abandoned railway corridor. The trail will follow this corridor on its southerly track 0.20 miles until reaching Trunk Highway 210 in the Four Seasons parking lot. At this junction the trail will cross 210 and follow First Street 0.05 miles south until reaching North Avenue. The trail will travel east 0.20 miles until reaching its connection with the Munger Trail at the Carlton Bike Park

Total Cost of Phase I: Construction \$480,000
Engineering \$80,000

St. Louis River Trail-Quick Facts

Phase II: Cloquet Park and Ride North to 29th Street

This trail alignment will start at the Scanlon Park and Ride and cross under the Interstate via a railroad underpass 0.1 miles west of the Park and Ride. Minnesota Power owns the property and an easement would need to be obtained. An easement allowing the trail under the underpass would also need to be obtained through Burlington Northern (BN) Railroad, which owns the tracks. As long as the trail remains at least 50 feet from the tracks BN has preliminary stated it will allow the trail as long as it is fenced. The trail would then head north to the intersection of County Road 45 and County Road 61. The trail would follow abandoned railroad grades until it reaches property owned by a private land owner at the intersection of County Road 61 and County Road 45. An easement would need to be obtained by this business to allow the trail to pass to the north of the business and access a signalized crossing at County Road 45 and County Road 61. From this point the trail would connect into the boat landing on the St. Louis River and follow the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) sewer line north to 29th street.



Bridge over the BN Railroad Tracks

This portion of the trail will be a necessary bridge over the Burlington Northern railroad racks. The area is too low for construction of an underpass under the tracks.

Total Cost Phase II: Construction \$480,000
Engineering \$100,000

Phase III: 29th Street North to 18th Street

The final phase of the St. Louis River Trail will include connecting 29th Street to the downtown sidewalk system. The Trail will parallel the northeast side of Cloquet Avenue until it reaches 18th Street and will tie into the existing city sidewalk system. The project will follow city right-of-way along Cloquet Avenue.

Total Cost Phase III: Construction \$480,000
Engineering \$80,000



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Transportation District One
1123 Mesaba Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811-2798

Office Tel: 218/ 723-4870
Fax: 218/ 723-4774

January 20, 2006

Wayne Olson
Carlton County Engineer
1630 County Road 61
Carlton, MN 55718-0120

Re: St. Louis River Trail

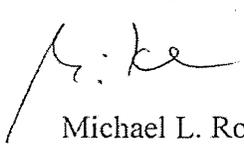
Dear Mr. Olson:

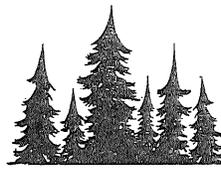
Thank you for applying for Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding for fiscal year 2008. The Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) reviewed 6 applications for projects representing approximately \$2.39 million of construction and improvements. The ATP recommended that five projects be funded for fiscal year 2008 (totaling \$1,660,952 in federal funds). The St. Louis River Trail is programmed to receive \$400,000 in federal funds for FY 2008.

You are encouraged to begin the project development process as soon as possible in order to meet project implementation schedules. If you have questions about project implementation, please contact Walter Leu, District State Aid Engineer, at (218) 723-4860 Ext. 3004.

Again, thank you for applying for Transportation Enhancement funds.

Sincerely,


Michael L. Robinson, P.E.
District Engineer



Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce

225 Sunnyside Drive
Cloquet, MN 55720-0426

1-218-879-1551

1-800-554-4350

1-218-878-0223 FAX

e-mail:

r@cloquet.com

September 30, 2005



Representative Bill Hilty
207 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Hilty,

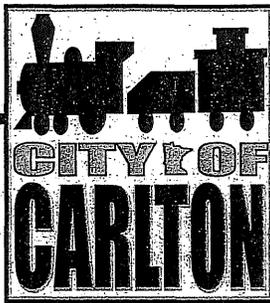
The Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce is writing you in support of the St. Louis Trail Committee's efforts to connect the Willard Munger State Trail to the City of Cloquet. We believe this will be a great asset to our area, both from an economic development and tourism perspective, as well as a health and wellness offering to the community.

Currently, the Cloquet Area has no connection to the Munger Trail. People must either use the narrow shoulders on Trunk Highway 45 to access the trail, or take their automobile. This trail connection will provide a much needed trail connection between the cities of Carlton and Cloquet, and will eliminate safety hazards along Trunk Highway 45.

The Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports a trail connection between the Munger trail and the City of Cloquet.

Sincerely,

Kelly Zink
President



December 26, 2004

Mr. Wayne Olson
Carlton County Engineer
1630 County Road 61
PO Box 120
Carlton, MN 55718

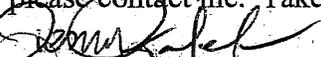
Dear Mr. Olson,

It is a privilege to write to you in support of a Cloquet Connection to the Munger Trail in Carlton. As you know, we have a beautiful bike park in Carlton that is used by many people in the area. We are in partnership with the DNR; they built the park and we maintain it. The park is the only parking lot in the area that provides access to this beautiful trail for biking, rollerblading, walking and jogging in the summer, or cross country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter.

There are two Munger trails in Carlton. The one trail originates in the bike park and goes east to Duluth. The other comes from the south (Hinckley Area) and goes south of the bike park, on to the City of Wrenshall and the down onto Highway 23. The problem with this set up is that people coming from the south must go out on the highway, crossing over railroad tracks to get to the bike park to go east on the trail to Duluth. We hope to solve that problem. The City of Carlton has obtained a grant and with matching funds totaling \$250,000, will be building a trail and bridge go over the rail road tracks and connect the south trail to the bike park.

What we now are missing is a connection from Carlton, going north to Cloquet. There are no trails from Cloquet to the City of Carlton. Yet, the two cities are adjacent to each other. Carlton has a population of 890 people and Cloquet's population is 12,000. People from Cloquet must either use the highways, highway shoulders, or ditches to get to the Munger Trail system in Carlton. Cloquet has no access whatsoever to the Munger Trail System. This is not only an inconvenience for that population, but is a serious traffic hazard.

The City of Carlton strongly supports a trail connection going north from Carlton to Cloquet. On behalf of the Carlton City Council, we wish you the best success in obtaining any grant funds to make this possible. If we can be of any help or assistance, please contact me. Take Care.


Denny Randelin, Mayor
City of Carlton

225 Lakeside Drive
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone 218-879-1551 or
Toll Free 1-800-554-4350
FAX 218-878-0223
char@cloquet.com
cloquet.com



Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce

December 20, 2004

Mr. Wayne Olson
Carlton County Engineer
1630 County Road 61
P.O. Box 120
Carlton, MN 55718

Dear Mr. Olson:

As you know, the Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Enhancement Committee has been focusing on efforts to connect Cloquet to the Munger Trail. We believe this will be a great boon to our area, both from an economic development and tourism perspective as well as a health and wellness offering to the community.

We know the process is a long one, but we are determined to stay the course because of the ultimate long-term benefits for business and residents. Our current application is for a spur off the Munger through Carlton on its northward trek to Cloquet. Our plan suggests four miles of trail could be build with \$400,000. Four miles in the right direction!

Please call the Chamber office if you have any questions at 218-879-1551 or if you'd like more information.

Sincerely,

Robin Hayes
President

Cc: Board of Directors, Cloquet Chamber
Shelly Peterson, chair, Business Enhancement Committee

ACCREDITED



MINN. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES



Carlton/Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 526, Carlton, MN 55718

December 28, 2004

Mr. Wayne Olson
Carlton County Engineer
1630 County Road 61
PO Box 120
Carlton, MN 55718

Dear Mr. Olson,

I write to you in regards to the grant you are applying for in attempt to obtain funds for a trail connection from the Munger Trail in Carlton to the City of Cloquet. The Carlton Area Chamber of Commerce represents several businesses in the Carlton and Cloquet Area. We have been hoping for a long time, that there would be a trail that would connect the Cities of Carlton and Cloquet.

Presently, the Munger trail comes from the south to Carlton and then south again to Wrenshall and on to Duluth. The other trail originates at the bike park in downtown Carlton and goes east to the western part of Duluth. There are no trails going north from the Munger Trail in Carlton to Cloquet.

The Carlton Area Chamber of Commerce supports your efforts to obtain grant funds to develop a northern trail from Carlton to Cloquet. This would tie in the two cities which would greatly benefit the businesses in both communities. This also would alleviate a safety hazard which now exists. Now, the only way to get to the Munger Trail in Carlton is for people from Cloquet to use the highways.

The Carlton Area Chamber is pleased to be involved with this very worthwhile project; we have already contributed money towards a trail feasibility study and also have representatives sitting on the area Trail Task Force Committee.

If there is anything else we can do to assist you in obtaining grant funds, please let me know. On behalf of the Carlton Area Chamber of Commerce and our many business and community members, we wish you the best in this very worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Ruzic, President
Carlton Area Chamber of Commerce

This Document can be made available
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **462**

January 27, 2005

Authored by Lenczewski

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
Finance

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to appropriations; authorizing state bonds;
3 appropriating money to maintain the old Cedar Avenue
4 bridge for hikers and bikers.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

6 Section 1. [CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS.]

7 \$300,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the
8 commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of
9 Bloomington to maintain the old Cedar Avenue bridge as a hiking
10 and bicycling trail connection.

11 Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

12 To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the
13 bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance must sell and
14 issue bonds of the state in an amount up to \$300,000 in the
15 manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by
16 Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and the
17 Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

18 Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

19 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final
20 enactment.

Lenczewski

B28 T65

BLOOMINGTON

Plans to replace bridge languish

Project's high cost keeps hikers and bikers waiting

PIONEER PRESS APR 4 05
BY MEGGEN LINDSAY
Pioneer Press

Bike commuters, hikers and birders alike have flocked to the Old Cedar Avenue bridge for decades.

The diminutive bridge, built in 1920, is perched above the marshes of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and is closed to vehicle traffic.

"It was an amazing place — one of the few areas where you could look down and spot very secretive marsh dwellers," recalled Steve Elkins, an avid

birder and a member of the Bloomington City Council. "It was a magnet for folks from all over the Twin Cities."

But the city of Bloomington, which owns the bridge, closed it in late 2002 to bike and pedestrian traffic because of structural concerns.

Increasingly dilapidated, it now sits barricaded and unused — a jarring reminder to the many south suburban residents, public officials and organizations who want the crossing replaced and reopened.

"It's a key link between the

north and south banks of the Minnesota River, and Dakota and Hennepin counties," said Lori Nelson, executive director of Friends of the Minnesota Valley. "It really was the main crossing for foot and bike traffic."

But replacing the bridge is a costly venture, say lawmakers, who so far have failed in their years-long effort to get federal or state dollars to pay for it. Bloomington officials peg that cost at more than \$4 million.

BRIDGE LANGUISHES, 4B



BRANDI JADE THOMAS, PIONEER PRESS

The Old Cedar Avenue bridge in Bloomington, which had been closed to vehicles for years, closed in 2002 to bike and pedestrian traffic.

Bridge languishes

(continued)

David Pramann, a Burnsville resident who biked across the bridge on his way to his job at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for nearly 20 years, said he is fed up with all the "bureaucracy." He pointed to a network of bicycling groups, bird watchers and others who lament the loss of the bridge but feel removed from plans to rebuild it.

"This is a classic case of the government not meeting the people's needs," Pramann said. "It's amazing and really unfortunate that it's been closed this long. Put a floating bridge across there. Do something, at least."

Pramann still bikes to work, but his round trip is 10 miles longer now because he crosses at the Mendota Bridge.

EFFORT GETS NEW PUSH

While many organizations have worked behind the scenes to get the bridge replaced, public outcry has been largely muted since the first few months after it closed.

In part, that's because it's been a disheartening endeavor, Nelson said. Stakeholders in the project have not met nearly for a year, but she expects they will renew the effort soon.

She went to Washington, D.C., earlier this year, where she



BRANDI JADE THOMAS, PIONEER PRESS

The Old Cedar Avenue bridge crosses the marshes of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. "It was an amazing place — one of the few areas where you could look down and spot very secretive marsh dwellers," recalled Steve Elkins, an avid birder and a member of the Bloomington City Council, which is exploring ways to replace the bridge.

lobbed the state's congressional delegation.

The city of Eagan recently joined the push, and Mayor Pat Geagan in February sent a letter of support that said the city might be able to help financially.

Eagan city engineer Russ Matthys said replacing the old bridge fits in with the city's interest in having a walkable city that preserves open space.

"I can't see any other trails projects that affect more people statewide. From both a recreational and transit perspective, this is a valuable asset,"

Matthys said.

Although no one can say how many people once used the bridge, nearly 300,000 people annually visit just the refuge, officials said.

Eagan officials would not put a price on how much the city could provide. Bloomington officials have, however.

To simply tear it down will cost the city \$1 million anyway, Elkins said, "so the city is willing to ante up that, but we can't bite off the whole thing."

This spring, Bloomington hopes to get federal transporta-

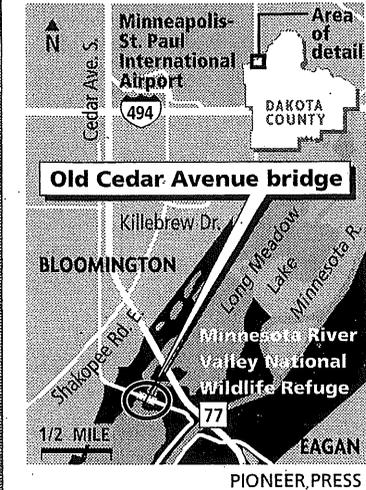
tion dollars instead to pay for the bulk of the project.

For at least the third time — and aided by U.S. Rep Jim Ramstad, R-Minn. — the city of Bloomington will apply to the Metropolitan Council for the money.

A Met Council advisory committee, called the Transportation Advisory Board, ranks Twin Cities projects that should receive federal funding. TAB will pick the projects this fall.

"This is a fairly expensive project, and the (transportation ranking) is a very competitive process," said Don Koski, a

The old Cedar Avenue bridge was closed to pedestrian and bike traffic in 2002. It spans the Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge and is owned by the city of Bloomington.



transportation planner at the Met Council. "It certainly seems like a valuable project, but it's just hard to know how it will do," he said.

Koski's sentiment is reflected throughout the region. While state and federal agencies continually deem it a worthy project — as do municipal officials — the momentum to pony up money has never caught on.

For instance, state Rep. Ann Lenczewski, DFL-Bloomington, tried to garner \$200,000 for the old bridge through the state's bonding bill. Last week it became clear that would not happen this legislative session.

"I'll still keep trying, because it's something worth saving. I actually think it can be done," she said.

'GIFT' FROM THE STATE

Despite Bloomington's objections, the state's Department of Transportation gave the bridge to the city in 1980 after the new Cedar Avenue bridge opened. The structure already was deteriorating, and the "gift" came with no state funds to fix it up.

"The politics of this all has made it difficult," Nelson said. "That transfer came without the requisite maintenance funds. Perhaps we had a concept here of planned obsolescence.

"I'm not saying this happened on the part of (the state) or the city, but it does look suspicious."

Because the city owns the bridge, other governmental agencies with connections to it have stayed relatively uninvolved in the preservation efforts.

The bridge stretches across the wildlife refuge, which is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, most of the agency's hiking and birding tours start at its base.

"It would be great if it all come together," said Tom Kerr, the refuge's interim manager.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources agrees, but again, has no money or involvement with the project. The DNR does include the bridge as a link for its long-term Minnesota Valley state trails system, however.

Meggen Lindsay can be reached at mlindsay@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-5260.



Paper: Star Tribune: Newspaper of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN)

Title: For trail users, old bridge is a missed link

Birders, bikers want a rebuilt river crossing

Date: April 16, 2005

Lenczewski

The **old** rusty brown **bridge** in Bloomington has become a white elephant to city leaders. But to avid bicyclists and outdoor enthusiasts, the **Cedar Avenue** span in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is the missing link in an increasingly popular network of metro-area trails.

Before the wood-plank **bridge** was closed in 2002, it gave birders a platform to view river valley wildlife and was a vital north-south link across the Minnesota River for not only recreational bikers but also for committed cyclists who commuted to work.

"The area is one of the most popular recreational destinations for bikers, hikers and birders," said Steve Elkins, a Bloomington City Council member and an avid birder.

Visitors who wend their way down **Old Cedar Avenue** to the refuge fan out along the trails through the woodlands and marshlands. And until Bloomington officials closed it, the **old bridge** spanning Long Meadow Lake provided a connection to trails south of the Minnesota River.

Now concrete barricades, a chain link fence and nearly a dozen warning signs abruptly halt passage. (Refuge visitors can approach the south bank of the river on a pedestrian walkway adjacent to the new **Cedar Avenue bridge**. To get there, visitors need to exit onto Black Dog Road from Interstate Hwy. 35W.)

"I was terribly disappointed when they closed it," said Jacquie Briggs of Apple Valley during a visit last week with Daune Crankshaw. She added that she and Crankshaw visit the refuge as often as five times a week.

With an early evening sun sinking into the horizon, the muted colors of early spring were upstaged by a cacophony of bird songs in the marsh. A red-winged blackbird darted along the parking lot. "Watch as he thrusts his red shoulders up and forward and struts around," Crankshaw said. "We're talking testosterone city."

The natural sites in the refuge "refresh the spirit," Briggs added. "If they needed money for the **bridge**, I would donate to the cause."

Local, regional and state officials agree that the river crossing should be rebuilt as they scurry to meet the growing demand for metro-area parks and trails. But so far, no one is anteing up the money to do it. And the rejection letters for federal and state money have been piling up since efforts to revive the crossing began in 1997.

Lori Nelson, executive director of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, says it's time for state and local officials, cyclists and birders, to renew their efforts.

"We're not going to give up," Nelson said. "It often takes going back to the well several times to come up with something."

Bloomington officials estimate it would cost about \$1 million to raze the **bridge**; about \$4 million to refurbish it or build a new one.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation gave the 1920 **bridge** to Bloomington soon after the new **Cedar Avenue bridge** was opened in 1979. City officials were less than thrilled.

"It was falling apart," Elkins said.

In 1993, the **bridge** was closed to vehicle traffic and then closed to cyclists and pedestrians in December 2002, said Jim Gates, Bloomington's deputy public works director. "The steel girders were coming away from the planks. You could see daylight through the girders."

"Right now it's a white elephant," Elkins said.

City officials might be willing to pony up some money for a new crossing, he said. "But it wouldn't be fair if the Bloomington taxpayer has to foot the whole bill. This is a regional asset that just happens to be in the city of Bloomington."

Arne Stefferud, Met Council analyst, said the loss of the river crossing puts a dent into a trail network that people use for

recreation and transportation. "We would like to see this resolved," he said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge, and state officials hoping to complete a 75-mile trail along the Minnesota River Valley also would like a **bridge** back. Eagan city officials also would like the river link reestablished.

Paying for it is another matter.

"My gut tells me we have to explore some partnerships between the cities, state and federal agencies," Nelson said. "I don't want it to be forgotten. If it's not replaced, it will be a lost opportunity."

Mary Lynn Smith is at mlsmith@startribune.com

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Author: Mary Lynn Smith Staff Writer

Section: NEWS

Page: 1B

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Koch

Sen. Koch
Wright Co.
Regional Park

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds;
appropriating money for expansion of Stanley Eddy Regional Park.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$6,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to Wright County to acquire land for regional park purposes including the expansion of Stanley Eddy Regional Park in Wright County.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to \$6,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

WRIGHT COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

1901 Highway 25 North
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-7693

Date: February 2, 2006

To: The Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development Committee

From: Marc Mattice, Parks Administrator 

Re: 2006 Capital Budget Requests

Wright County is requesting funds that will be used for regional parkland acquisition and protection. This request includes three parcels of property within Wright County. The first parcel is located in Monticello Township and is currently owned by the YMCA of Minneapolis. The second parcel is located in French Lake Township and has a private willing seller. The third property has yet to be identified and will be located in the southeast part of Wright County. Total project costs are believed to be around \$12 million, with \$6 million to come from the State of Minnesota and the other \$6 million to come from a local government match. At this time, no additional state funds for these projects are anticipated.

Wright County is requesting \$6 million in state funding to purchase land and to protect very important open space and natural resource areas for future public recreation. Wright County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Minnesota, and with an increase in population and development comes an increase in pressure to establish areas in which the public can enjoy recreational activities. Rising land prices have made it almost impossible for the county to provide 100% of the funds necessary to purchase land for regional park facilities that will serve this growing population. Without assistance from the State of Minnesota, similar to that which was given to the metro area Regional Park Systems, Wright County will find it difficult, if not impossible, to preserve land today for tomorrow's needs. With adequate funds, it is anticipated that we will be able to purchase 1,200 to 1,400 acres of land in Wright County. The first parcel is 800+ acres located in Monticello Township and is currently being used as a YMCA Day Camp. This property has recreational lakes that are not developed, but which will provide recreational opportunities for a regional population. The second property is approximately 200 acres, located in French Lake Township, and is in close proximity to another county facility. The addition of this parcel to the current facility will turn this into a significant resource for residents of both Wright and Meeker Counties. The third property is approximately 150 to 200 acres and is located in Franklin and/or Rockford Township. This parcel has not yet been identified; but once a regional recreational facility is established, it will serve the west metro area as well as portions of Carver County and southeastern Wright County.

Wright County will own and operate each of these facilities. All project costs identified in this request are for land acquisition only. Land acquisition is expected to be completed

by the end of 2007. Attached is a resolution adopted by the Wright County Board of Commissioners indicating their support for this project.

For further information, question or comments please contact:

Marc Mattice, Parks Administrator
1901 Highway 25 North
Buffalo, MN 55313
Phone: 763-682-7693
Fax : 763-682-7313
marc.mattice@co.wright.mn.us

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WRIGHT COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date: October 4, 2005 Resolution No. 05-54
Motion by Commissioner Heeter Seconded by Commissioner Eichelberg

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING REQUEST FOR STATE APPROPRIATIONS
FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wright County Board of Commissioners support the application for State Appropriations for Capital Improvements to be submitted on October 7, 2005 and that Marc Mattice, Parks Administrator, is hereby authorized to submit the request for the 2006 Capital Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wright County has the financial capability to meet the match requirement and proper acquisition of the proposed project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the State, Wright County may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for Regional Park land acquisition and that Wright County certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the bonding request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Marc Mattice, Parks Administrator, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the applicant.

	YES		NO
HEETER	<u> X </u>	HEETER	<u> </u>
SAWATZKE	<u> X </u>	SAWATZKE	<u> </u>
RUSSEK	<u> X </u>	RUSSEK	<u> </u>
EICHELBERG	<u> X </u>	EICHELBERG	<u> </u>
MATTSON	<u> X </u>	MATTSON	<u> </u>

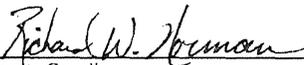
STATE OF MINNESOTA)

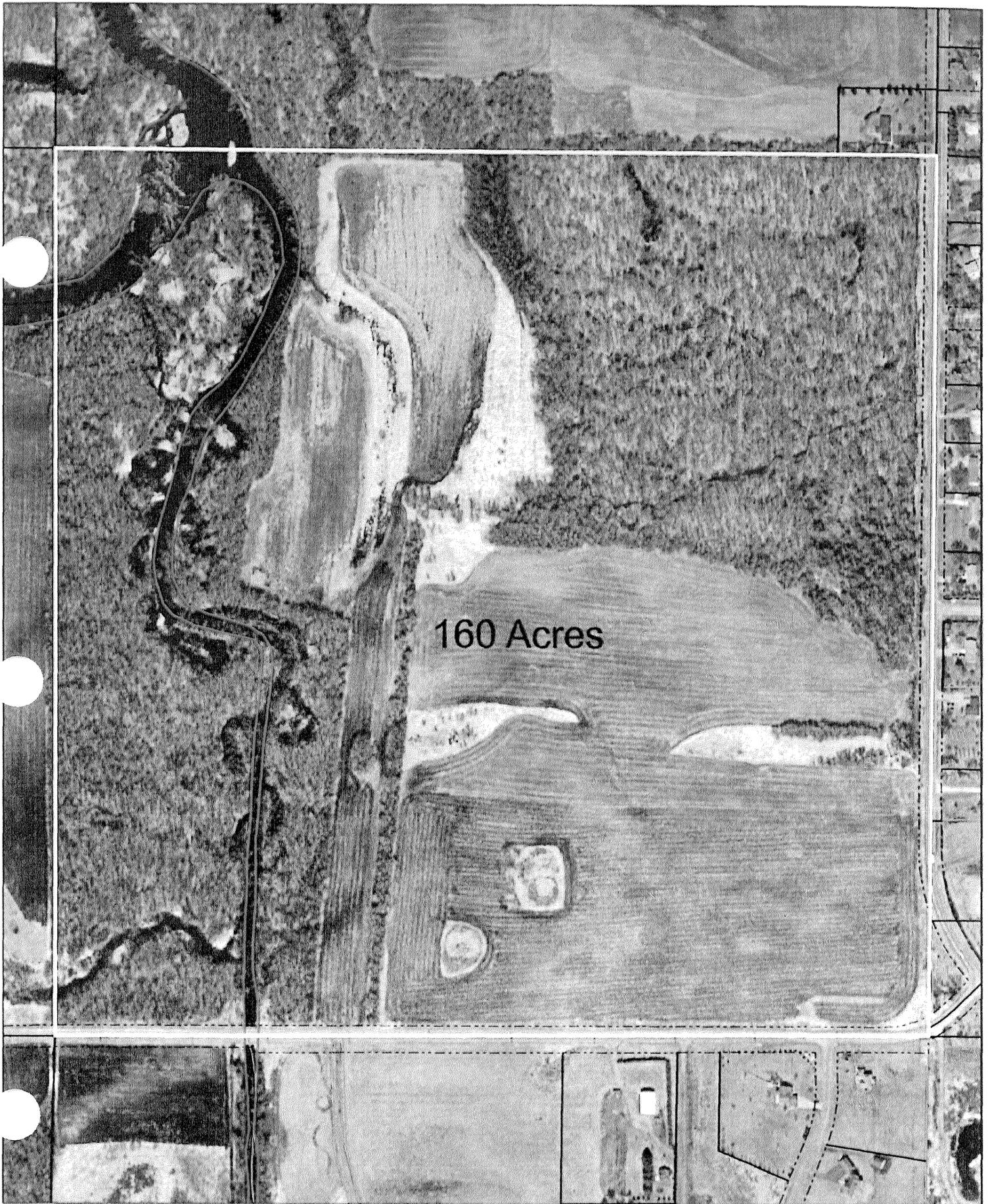
ss.

County of Wright)

I, Richard W. Norman, duly appointed, qualified, and acting Clerk to the County Board for the County of Wright, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the forgoing copy of a resolution or motion with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners, Wright County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 4th day of October, 2005, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Buffalo, Minnesota, this 4th day of October, 2005.


County Coordinator



160 Acres



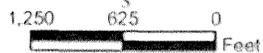
Section 26 - 118 - 25



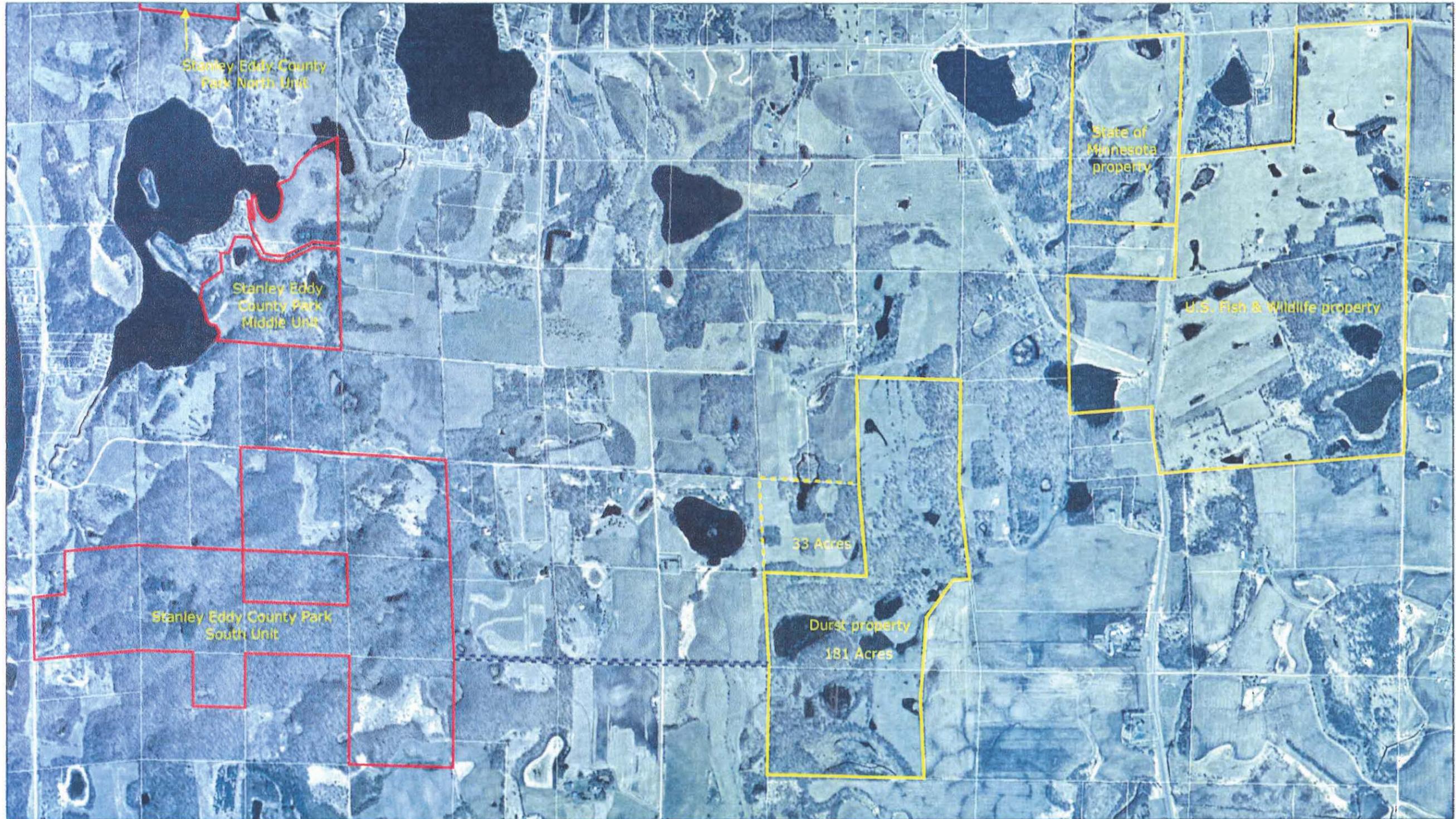


YMCA Property Located in Monticello Township

Approximately 1,017 Acres



Stanley Eddy County Park and Jerald and Arlene Durst Properties



Legend	
	U.S. Fish & Wildlife/State Lands
	Proposed Purchase
	County Park Land
	50' Proposed Easement



Date of Aerial Photography: April 2005

Map Date November 16, 2005

This Document can be made available
alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **2610**

January 19, 2006

Authored by Sailer

Unofficially referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds;
1.3 appropriating money for development of the Big Bog State Recreation Area.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

1.6 \$1,600,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of
1.7 natural resources for development of the Big Bog State Recreation Area.

1.8 Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

1.9 To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the
1.10 commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to
1.11 \$1,600,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
1.12 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,
1.13 sections 4 to 7.

1.14 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

1.15 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

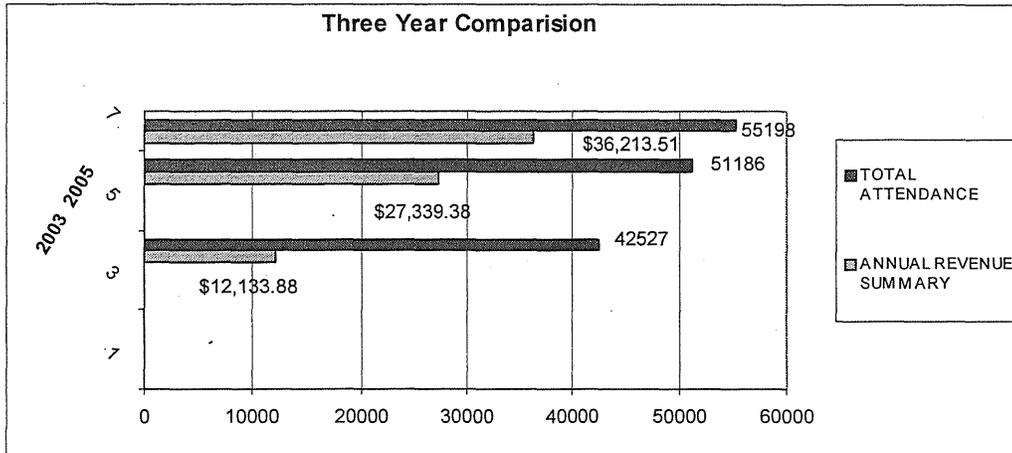
Jerry Stensing, Vice Chair
 Big Bog Citizen's Advisory Committee
 Waskish, MN 56685

February 01, 2006

Jerry, as requested, I have listed the recent attendance figures here at Big Bog State Recreation Area. We are seeing quite an increase in attendance here at the park. Overnight camping increases significantly each year. We expect to see this increase become even greater this coming year. The long awaited opening of the walleye season on Upper Red Lake will bring in many more visitors to the park. We have also just completed construction of five of the nicest camper cabins the state park system has to offer. This will enable us to increase our overnight visitor count significantly.

The Big Bog Boardwalk construction was completed this last summer. It has been an exciting experience meeting people from across the country as well as international visitors that have come to experience the wilderness of the Big Bog.

As this new park continues to become better known to the visiting public, we should see increases in attendance for quite some time. Thank you for your interest.



Attendance Summary

	2003	2004	2005
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	42527	51186	55198
Day Use	40064	47200	50320
Overnight camping	2463	3986	4878

Sincerely,

Doug Easthouse

Doug Easthouse, Park Manager
 Big Bog State Recreation Area
 Box 428

Waskish, MN 56685
Testimony potential 2/2/06

The 1998 attendance before it became Big Bog was 366. We've come a long ways since then. Our feasibility study of February 2000 it turns out was a little conservative. We had planned for 40,000 visitation the first year and 100,000 within four years. 50,300 visitors and nearly 5000 overnight guests last year is impressive considering we're not done building yet, and the Parks grand opening is not until June this spring.

It looks like we may well exceed the anticipated four year visitation level.

Did you know that at 40,000 visitation spending two nights in the region it means at least 24.2 jobs and \$1,634,000 in regional tourism dollars? When we hit 100,000 visitation, it will mean at least 60.5 jobs and \$3,364,000 dollars in regional trade.

I'd venture to say that the economic impact facet of the Big Bog "diamond" is a good thing for a lot of northern Minnesota families.

Big Bog SRA Development Appropriation Bonding 2006

History:

- 2000 Big Bog SRA Created (currently 9700 acres).
\$ 2.01mil Park development appropriation Bonded (1/2 of total requested)

 - 2002 \$ 1.6mil Park development appropriation Bonded / Vetoed by Governor Ventura

 - 2004 \$ 1.6mil Park development appropriation request passes both House and Senate,
No Bonding Bill completed this session

 - 2005 \$ 1.6mil. Park development appropriation request passes both House and Senate, Measure dies in Conference Committee due to DNR concerns over operations.

 - 2006 \$1.6mil. Park development bonding bills authored in House and Senate by
Rep. Brita Sailer and Sen. Rod Skoe.
- 1999-2005 Community cash contributions total \$267,430.00
- 10 thousand - Feasibility Study
 - 15 thousand - Endowment and Project Funds with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation
 - 10 thousand - Vault toilets north of the river
 - 5 thousand - South Unit Interpretation
 - 10 thousand - Birding Trail at Ludlow Island
 - 8 thousand - Fish Hatchery Boardwalk
 - 20 thousand - Tamarac River Channel cleanout
 - 40 thousand - Purchase of the Miller "40" by the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council
 - 60 thousand - Beltrami Electric Co-Op contribution in powerline relocation
 - 1 thousand - The Ruth Edevold Award for project excellence.
 - 10 thousand - Historic Waskish Firetower Restoration.
 - 25 thousand - local money raised to match a 50,000.00 grant for additional first responder equipment.

5.5 thousand - local money to set up a Beltrami County Deputy in the old school in Kelliher so law enforcement can be closer to the park and the lake. Money will also be used to provide new equipment and communication devices.

1.5 thousand -annual contribution from the Upper Red Lake Association who has joined forces with the Beltrami and Blackduck Chambers of Commerce's to develop and produce a Tourism Guide that is sent to travel shows and advertised in trade magazines.

50 thousand - Waskish Township for a new tractor and attachments to maintain Homestead park, the Ball fields, and the new Airport.

600 dollars - local money for H.S. students to build wood duck houses for installation on Mile-long pond at Ludlow island.

\$21.83 thousand - Big Bog SRA Endowment and Project Funds balance 12/31/05

In addition to the 267 thousand dollars local contributions, 167 thousand - by Division of Trails and Waters for expanded lake access points and parking for 150 visitors and anglers

OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PARK AND LAKE OPENING
10 additional first responders trained and equipped.

Applied for a USDA Grant for a 6 wheel Polaris ATV to assist the first responders with medical emergencies.

A new Waskish business, North Country Food & Fuel, has been built and opened with a USDA Rural Development grant that used 5000.00 in local match money.

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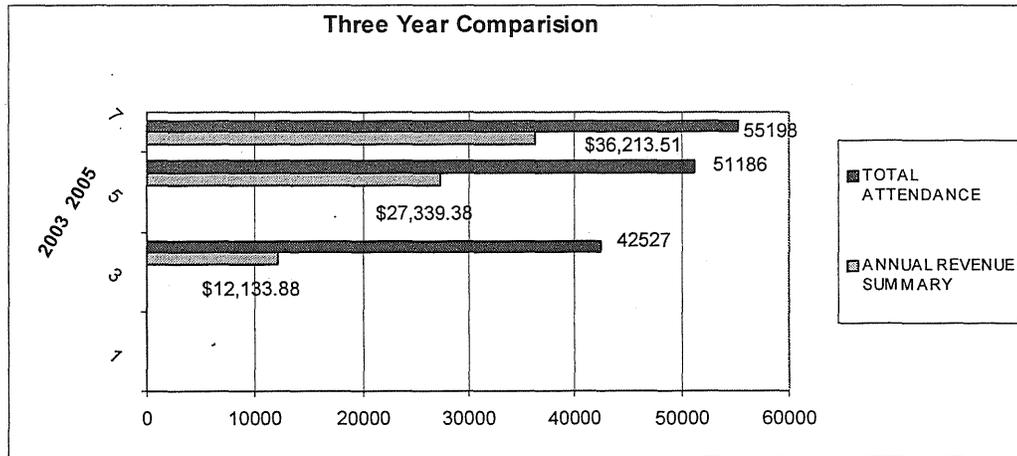
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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 278

January 20, 2005

Authored by Nornes, Simpson, Lanning and Marquart

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
Finance

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to capital improvements; authorizing the
3 issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for the
4 Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Center.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

6 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

7 \$2,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to
8 the commissioner of natural resources for a grant under
9 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0875, to the city of Fergus Falls
10 to predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip the
11 expansion of the Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Center.

12 Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

13 To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond
14 proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue
15 bonds of the state in an amount up to \$2,500,000 in the manner,
16 upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota
17 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota
18 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

19 Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

20 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final
21 enactment.

Briefing Paper: Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Expansion
Kenneth A. Garrahan, Supervisory Park Ranger
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is the result of a grass roots effort of local conservationists in the Fergus Falls area. Since the early 1970's, local groups and individuals had been advocating the establishment of an educational center in Fergus Falls to focus on the prairie pothole region, and in 1989, a private non-profit group "The Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center" formed as an advocacy group for the construction of a new learning center in Fergus Falls.

In 1990, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill included language that requested a feasibility study for the construction of such a center and local contributions for financing. Completed in 1990, the study identified land just south of Fergus Falls as the preferred site for a Learning Center, and in 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed the purchase of 325 acres of prairies and wetlands at the proposed site using federal duck stamp funding.

Beginning in 1993, local donations and matching U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service challenge grants totaling \$135,000 allowed the Service to operate a limited environmental education program at the site which served nearly 5,000 students annually.

During the 1994 Minnesota Legislative session, the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and in cooperation with local legislators succeeded in obtaining \$3 million in the Capital Bonding Bill for the construction of a residential environmental education center. This funding passed through the state of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, to the City of Fergus Falls for the construction of the Center.

Construction began in 1997 with the Center opening it's doors in August of 1998. While the City of Fergus Falls owns the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, the US Fish and Wildlife Service manages and operates the facility under a long term cooperative agreement. The Service has and will continue to assume all operational and maintenance costs associated with operation of the existing Center; there is no continuing financial obligation from the state of Minnesota.

In fiscal year 1999, approximately 5,900 visitors took part in formal programs at the Center, from preschool children to research projects by college interns. In just six short years, visitation at the PWLC has grown to 43,000 during fiscal year 2005. Environmental education programs have continued to increase, with over 35,000 students and adults participating in formal programs. 29,000 of those contacts were made at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, with the remainder being done at locations such as schools, US Fish and Wildlife Service lands and non-FWS facilities.

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is the first and only residential learning center

operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the nation. The reach of the Center is truly regional in nature, with schools from around Minnesota and the Dakotas having taken advantage of the programs. In fact, an analysis of the visitations from schools to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center reveals that fully half of all school groups from the past 4 years are from districts other than Fergus Falls. Just a few of cities and school districts that have visited the Center include: Alexandria, Barnesville, Breckenridge, Brandon, Detroit Lakes, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Fairmount, Glenwood, Hawley, Henning, Miliona, Moorhead, Morris, Pelican Rapids, Rothsay, St. Paul, Underwood and Wadena.

Beginning in 2002, a partnership between the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and the Fergus Falls School District placed 50 5th grade students at the Center each day, where they focus on the curricular areas of science, writing, and math as well as opportunities for building technology and inquiry skills. These curricular areas are studied through integrated, field-based learning experiences focused on the local prairie wetlands environment.

This partnership between the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and the Fergus Falls School District has continued each year and in 2005, the Prairie Science Class included 100 fifth graders at the Center every day of the school year. The environmental education staff of the PWLC works with the class on a weekly basis, assisting with teaching natural history, co-developing curriculum and presenting programs. This program was recognized by the Minnesota Rural Educators Association as a program of distinction in 2005.

This program provides an outstanding example of a collaborative effort between a local school district, city, state of Minnesota and a federal agency, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This innovative school program is an example of effective school change working within an existing public school in cooperation with multiple agencies. This program can be expanded with the addition of teaching at the leaning with our existing staff.

Significant changes in how all children and especially special needs students think about learning have been observed in this program. The District 544 Reading Consultant has seen that divergent thinking is greatly enhanced when children participate in this program and that there are significant opportunities for children to develop life long problem solving skills. There is clear evidence these skills are being developed through ongoing observations of student's approaches to problems that are presented in the program. The strongest part of this program is that current research in brain development clearly supports this type of hands on, authentic, place-based learning.

The Prairie Science Class directly supports one of the important missions of the US Fish and Wildlife Service: providing environmental education opportunities. These opportunities occur on a regular basis, where Service staff interacts with students both in the field and in the classroom. Through this interaction students are able to gain both hands on and minds on learning experiences on a repetitive basis, allowing more in-depth understanding.

The success of our unique program is driving a change in how environmental education is viewed not only with our own staff locally, but within the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a regional and national level. The Service is convening a meeting of National Wildlife Refuge managers and educators from Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan and Illinois in Fergus Falls in late February to explore the application of this concept to schools and refuges in those states. And in March, we will be traveling to Washington DC to brief national leaders of the Refuge System on this innovative and successful program.

This concept of using the environment as the context for learning other curricular areas, as well as the benefits of repeat visits by students has not gone unnoticed by other school districts in Minnesota. While many districts would welcome the chance to participate on a repeat basis, the existing teaching space at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center cannot accommodate additional visitations. Proximity and bussing costs further limit small groups from attending on a repeat basis, with school districts preferring to bring an entire grade of students for the day – often exceeding 100 students at a time – that are well beyond the existing classroom capacity.

Given the increasing demand and successful evaluation results of this program, a new classroom building located at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center would allow us to meet the demand for environmental education programs conducted for these school districts. By using the lessons learned from the partnership with Fergus Falls, we can modify our programs to accommodate larger groups on a repeat basis and extend this innovative and unique educational concept to these school districts.

Just this winter, we have had discussions regarding this concept with school districts in Rothsay, Ashby, Wheaton, Mahnomen, Fertile-Beltrami and others, about how we can apply the model for their students, and create long-term partnerships that would enhance student learning. By expanding our on site teaching facilities, coupled with our residential facilities and emerging technology such as real time video conferencing, we can accommodate larger groups for longer periods of time at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, as well as continue repeat contact with students that is so important for long term learning.

Finally we would anticipate that the management of the facility would be similar to the agreement now in place, with the City of Fergus Falls taking ownership of the building, and a cooperative agreement between the Service and the city or school sharing the additional ongoing operations and maintenance costs. Again, there would be no ongoing financial obligation from the state of Minnesota.

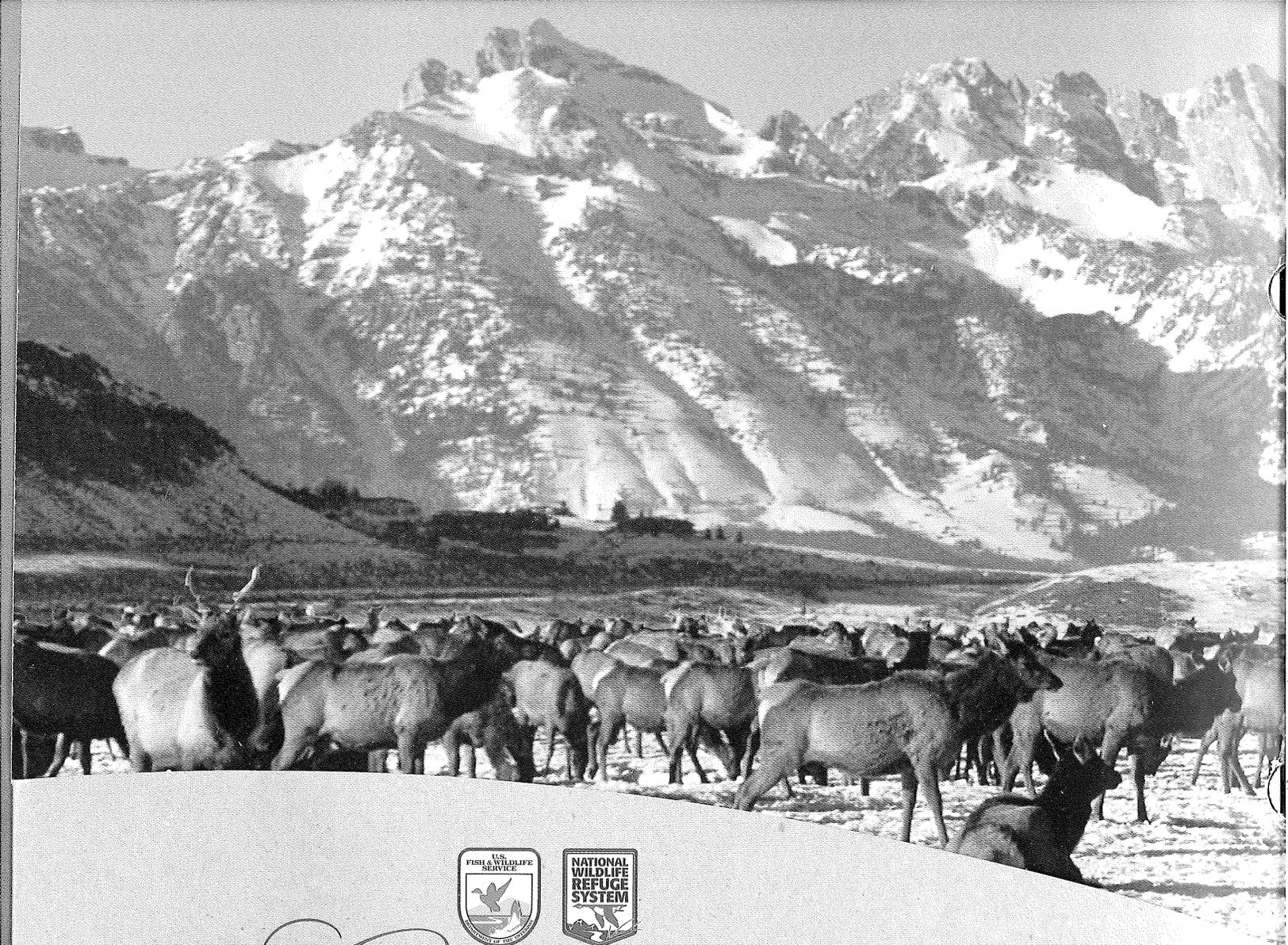
Thank you for the opportunity to provide information about this proposal and our innovative educational programs. We look forward to the continued development of this type of programming with schools from around the state and are excited about how the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center can serve as a model for environmental education in other Refuges and school districts throughout the nation.

America's National Wildlife Refuge System



CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION

America's Best Kept Secret



CELEBRATING A CENTURY of CONSERVATION



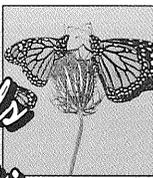
Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge | Hollingsworth | USFWS

America's Best Kept Secret

Wild species thrive here in abundance, following instincts as old as the continent itself: migration, competition, reproduction, and survival.

Visitors thrive here too, exulting in the abundance of opportunities: hunting and fishing, watching and photographing wildlife, learning about the natural world and their place in it, or simply relaxing amidst the majesty and spectacle of wild America.

About the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center:



Located at the gateway to the prairie pothole region, the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is the first residential environmental education facility operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

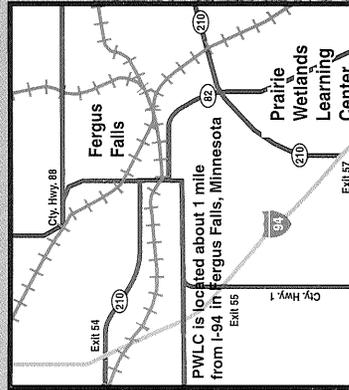
Over 325 acres of native and restored prairie and 28 wetlands can be found at the Center, and, with nearly four miles of foot trails, there are ample opportunities for environmental education, wildlife observation and relaxation.

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center offers a variety of environmental education programs to learners of all ages, as well as interpretive programs and walks throughout the year. In addition, the Center hosts teacher workshops and training sessions for wildlife professionals throughout the year. The facilities include an 80 bed dorm, kitchen and dining hall.

Special events provide opportunities to celebrate the cultural and natural history of the prairie, discover the secrets of successful waterfowling or investigate the wonders of wetlands.



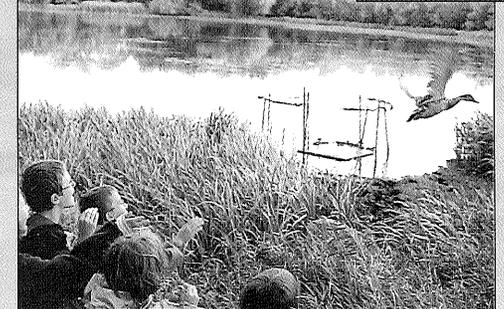
Friends of the PWLC
PO Box 23
Fergus Falls, MN 56538



PWLC is located about 1 mile from I-94 in Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Exit 55

<http://midwest.fws.gov/pwlc>

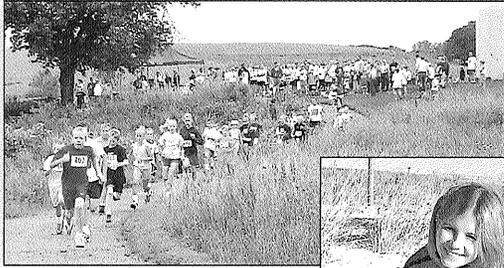
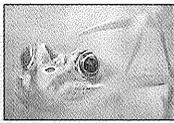
Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center



We didn't inherit the Earth from our parents. We are borrowing it from our children.

Our Mission

"To enhance and promote understanding and conservation of the prairie pothole region, primarily through support of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center."



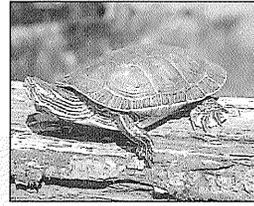
What We Do:

- Promote conservation and understanding of the prairie pothole region
- Support activities of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
- Creatively generate funds and foster volunteer involvement at the PWLC
- Solicit community, regional, statewide and Federal support

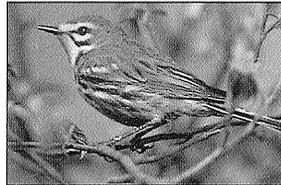


History of the Friends

In the 1970s local conservationists first envisioned a learning center for the unique prairie pothole region. "The Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center" was established in 1989 to lead the tireless work of transforming that vision into a reality.



The Friends along with Minnesota Legislative Representation secured \$3 million for building construction. Land was purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1997 using Duck Stamp funding. In August of 1998, the Friends celebrated the opening of the new PWLC buildings.



In the Fall of 2003, the PWLC became home to the Prairie Science School in partnership with Independent School District 544. The local prairie wetlands ecosystem is an ideal motivating tool for fifth-grade students to learn science, math and writing skills through real world, field-based learning experiences.

In 2004 the PWLC celebrated the opening of a new prairie wetlands exhibit area with over 20 typical prairie species, a touch table, and interactive exhibits on fire, invasive species and wetlands. A sod house provides a glimpse of life on the prairie for the settlers of the 1860's. A prairie restoration work area provides resources for students, landowners and prairie gardeners.



Be a part of this successful organization as we continue to promote and enhance the PWLC.



"Friends of the PWLC" Membership Form



- Bluestem Buddy - \$25
 Prairie Pal - \$50
 Tallgrass Supporter - \$100
 Other - \$ _____
Corporate -
 \$100-\$499 \$500+
All donations are tax deductible.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail _____
Thank you for helping us to keep you informed and save postage!

Mail to:
Friends of the PWLC
PO Box 23, Fergus Falls, MN 56538

Phone: (218) 736-0938 • e-mail: fpwlc@prtcl.com

- I am interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities

Benefits of Membership:

- As a member, you will receive**
- The Friends newsletter, *The Prairie Wanderer*
 - 10% discount in the Bluestem Store
 - Invitations to "members only" events

School Usage of Prairie Wetlands Learning Center by Fiscal Year*

FY 2006 to date (October 1, 2005 – December 1, 2005)

	Adults	Students
Total environmental education visits	194	2217
Fergus Falls Based Groups	123	1623
Non-Fergus Based Groups	71	594
Percentage by Fergus Groups	63%	73%
Percentage by Non-Fergus Groups	37%	27%

Towns/areas served: Breckenridge, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, and Moorhead. Reserved for 2006: Fergus Falls, Morris, Perham, and Greater Minnesota mixed groups.

FY- 2005 (October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005)

	Adults	Students
Total environmental education visits	2035	8063
Fergus Falls Based Groups	946	4396
Non-Fergus Falls Based Groups	1089	3667
Percentage by Fergus Groups	46%	55%
Percentage by Non-Fergus Groups	54%	45%

Towns/areas served: Alexandria, Barnesville, Brandon, Breckenridge, Detroit Lakes, Evansville, Fairmount, Fargo, Fergus Falls, Hawley, Miltona, Moorhead, Morris, Perham, Rothsay, Underwood, Wahpeton, Wheaton, and Greater Minnesota mixed groups.

FY- 2004 (October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004)

	Adults	Students
Total environmental education visits	1922	10407
Fergus Falls Based Groups	759	4754
Non-Fergus Falls Based Groups	1163	5650
Percentage by Fergus Groups	39%	46%
Percentage by Non-Fergus Groups	61%	54%

Towns/areas served: Alexandria, Barnesville, Breckenridge, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Detroit Lakes, Fargo, Fergus Falls, Glenwood, Henning, Moorhead, Morris, Pelican Rapids, Perham, St. Paul, Underwood, Wadena, Wahpeton, Wheaton, and Greater Minnesota.

FY- 2004 (October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003)

	Adults	Students
Total environmental education visits	1320	8342
Fergus Falls Based Groups	633	4840
Non-Fergus Falls Based Groups	687	3502
Percentage by Fergus Groups	47%	58%
Percentage by Non-Fergus Groups	53%	42%

Towns/areas served: Barnesville, Battle Lake, Brandon, Breckenridge, Crookston, Cyrus, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth/Glyndon/Felton, Evansville, Fargo, Fergus Falls, Frazee, Glenwood/Starbuck/Villard, Henning, Moorhead, Morris, Nashua, Perham, Rothsay, Underwood, Wadena, Wahpeton, Wheaton, and Greater Minnesota.

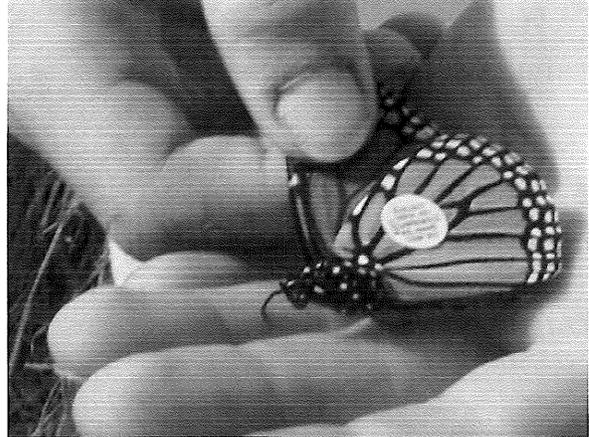
**Numbers exclude Prairie Science Class daily visitation totally approximately 17,000 per year (four classes of 25 students for 172 school days), for fiscal year 2005 & 2006, and 8,500 (two classes of 25 students for 172 school days) for fiscal year 2004 & 2003.*



The Prairie Science Class

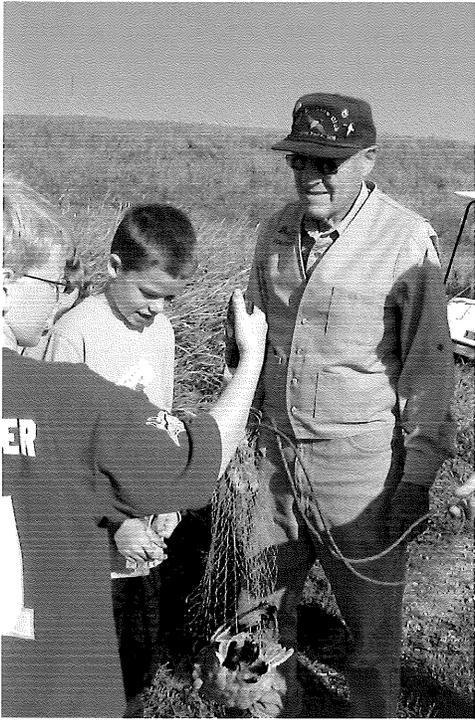
Examples of Learning Activities

Monarch Butterfly Tagging



Duck Banding

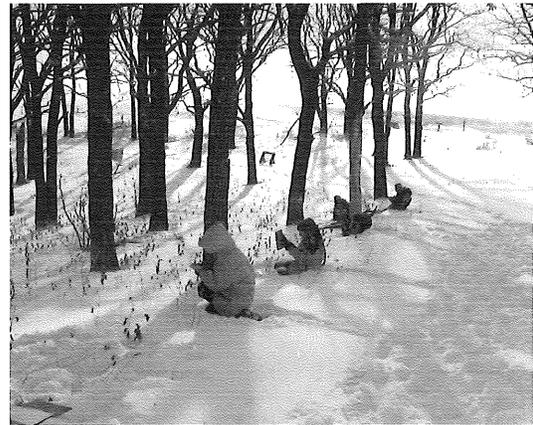




Prairie Restoration



Winter Ecology Research



Amphibian Biodiversity Study



Prairie Science Class Evaluation Report

2003-2004

Prepared August 2004

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Program Summary

The Prairie Science Class (PSC) is a formal partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) and the Fergus Falls Independent School District 544. Its mission is to use the local prairie wetlands ecosystem as an integrating and motivating context to engage 5th students in science, math, and writing through real world, field-based learning experiences. Program goals include developing knowledge and skills in math, writing, and science; increasing motivation toward learning; developing technology, problem solving, and communication skills; and fostering character skills and a stewardship ethic. The educational philosophy guiding the PSC is interdisciplinary, experiential learning through authentic, field-based experiences and constructivist approaches.

During the 2003-2004 school year, 50 5th graders (a morning class and an afternoon class) were involved in the PSC, spending two hours each day at the PWLC. While at the PWLC, the PSC teacher (an ISD 544 employee) and PWLC environmental education specialists provided field-based instruction in the curricular areas of science, math, and writing through a series of seasonal, integrated units based on the prairie wetlands ecosystem. Students spent the remainder of the school day at the Fergus Falls Middle School, where they received their reading, social studies, physical education, and health instruction.

(Visit http://midwest.fws.gov/pwlc/prairie_school.html for more information)



Students banded mallards during the fall migration unit, building math skills through weighing and measuring the ducks; students also learned wildlife management techniques and the importance of prairie wetlands to sustaining waterfowl populations.



Students worked in small groups to assist the USFWS with prairie restoration efforts. Students studied ecological concepts, such as biodiversity and native and nonnative species, and practiced observation and classification skills.



Students conducted winter ecology research projects, presenting their results at a family night held at the PWLC.



Evaluation Methodology

The purpose of this formative evaluation was to document program outcomes for stakeholder justification and to support decisions regarding program continuation and expansion. This evaluation was also used to identify areas where program improvement is needed and to assess the progress made toward program goals. There were four questions guiding this program evaluation:

1. Have the students attained grade-level proficiency in science, math, and writing?
2. Have the students' science process, problem solving, and technology skills and their skills in working cooperatively and communicating with others increased?
3. Do the students have a more positive attitude toward learning, a more positive attitude toward the prairie wetlands environment, a stronger stewardship ethic, and a stronger sense of civic responsibility than their peers in traditional classrooms?
4. Did the Prairie Science Class meet the needs of the students and parents, the Fergus Falls School District, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

To answer these questions, a variety of data collection instruments was used (see table below). The fifty students in the Prairie Science Class were the primary source of information for this evaluation. Parents of the Prairie Science Class students, the Fergus Falls Middle School Principal, the ISD 544 Superintendent, the PWLC Supervisory Park Ranger, the USFWS Project Leader of the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, and the Region 3 Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System also provided information for this evaluation. In addition, fifty students in the Fergus Falls School District receiving traditional instruction participated in the evaluation as the control group. All data collection took place over the 2003-2004 school year. The evaluation was implemented by ISD 544, with assistance from the USFWS in data analysis and report preparation.

Summary of Data Collection and Analysis

Instrument	Instrument Description	Constructs Assessed	Information Source	Time of Implementation	Data Analysis
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments	Part of the educational accountability system in MN	Math, writing, reading achievement	PSC students (n=50); ISD 544 5 th grade students in traditional classrooms (n=186); 5 th grade students in MN	March 2004	Independent-samples t test
Affective Self-Report	20-item survey; likert items on 5-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree)	Attitudes toward learning, attitudes toward the prairie wetlands environment, stewardship ethic, sense of civic responsibility	PSC students (n=45); ISD 544 5 th grade students in traditional classrooms (n=40)	September 2003 (pretest) and May 2004 (posttest)	Multiple linear regression
Skill Self-Report	14-item survey; likert items of 4-point scale (not at all to very well); item format "How well could you do each of the following at the beginning of the school year? Now?"	Science process skills, problem solving skills, technology skills, and skills in working and communicating with others	PSC students (n=42)	May 2004	Dependent-samples t test
Student Interviews	15 minute interviews using a question guide	Cognitive and affective program outcomes; program satisfaction; areas for program improvement	PSC students representing range of achievement levels (n=10)	April 2004	Analytic induction
Parent Survey	13-item survey; likert items on 4-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree)	Cognitive and affective program outcomes; program satisfaction; areas for program improvement	Parents of PSC students (n=39)	March 2004	Descriptive statistics
Parent Focus Group	1-hour focus group using a question guide	Cognitive and affective program outcomes; program satisfaction; areas for program improvement	Parents of PSC students (n=4)	April 2004	Analytic induction
Stakeholder Interviews	Formal and informal interviews	Program outcomes and impact; degree program supported agency/organization goals; areas for program improvement	Middle School Principal; ISD 544 Superintendent; Regional Chief of National Wildlife Refuges; USFWS Project Leader of the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District; PWLC Supervisory Park Ranger (n=5)	April - June 2004	Analytic induction



Evaluation Results

1. Have the students attained grade-level proficiency in science, math, and writing?

- PSC students' scores on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in reading and writing were significantly higher than their peers in traditional ISD 544 classrooms ($p = .03$); PSC students' math scores were equal to their peers in traditional ISD 544 classrooms.*
- PSC students scored above the state average on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in reading and math (state averages in writing were not provided).*
- According to the results of the student interviews, PSC students felt they have learned science, math, and writing concepts and skills and described this learning as stronger than in previous school years; they attributed this to the real-world applications of science, math and writing using the prairie wetlands environment.
- Of the PSC parents who completed the survey, 98% felt their children learned science, math, and writing concepts and skills better than they would have in a traditional classroom. Results of the focus group support this finding, as parents attributed stronger learning in the content areas to the PSC's hands-on instructional strategy, the interdisciplinary nature, and the real-world applications using the prairie wetlands environment. Parents also felt the PSC worked well for students with a variety of learning preferences and needs.

*An initial concern raised by the ISD 544 community was the possibility that this nontraditional learning environment would negatively affect student learning; while students' environmental interest and skills might grow, students would not master the content in the traditional subject areas. The evaluation results suggest otherwise. Lack of an assessment at the beginning of the year prevents us from knowing if PSC students began with higher achievement levels than their peers in traditional classrooms. However, by scoring at levels at or above their peers, we do know that despite participation in the PSC and its nontraditional learning environment, students' academic performance in traditional subject areas was at levels that are acceptable to the state. Further, parents and students felt participation in the PSC led to growth and mastery in the traditional subject areas. This sense of academic self-efficacy is also an indicator of positive impact on learning and achievement, as academic self-efficacy has research-based links to academic achievement.

Student Voices

"Things you read in a science book you just go, 'What? I don't get it.' And from the little pictures, it's hard to understand. But on the prairie, you can see it up close and feel it. It's easier to understand when I get to see it."

"When we compare math problems to the outside, like making estimates outside, it's easier - like what percentage of Mallard Marsh is covered in ice. It's actually easier to learn outside."

"We write a lot, and my spelling really improved. You can write about observations, and that helps because you write down what you saw. At first, you'd just write about one thing, but now you have a lot more to write about because we've been observing better."

Parent Voices

"It has made science and math practical. These kids are able to see and experience how and why they would apply the concepts they are learning to real life."

"My son wasn't a big math guy last year, and all of a sudden this year, he seemed to enjoy it and doesn't seem to be as challenged by it. He explained some of the things he does out here - like measuring the duck's bill or 100 meters on the prairie; it's a neat way of learning!"

"My daughter has ADHD, but you wouldn't know it this year. You mix the indoor and outdoor learning, and it's extremely helpful for her concentration. So it's good for kids with special needs. We had her on Ritalin and that didn't work for her, but this program has."

2. Have the students' science process, problem solving, and technology skills and their skills in working cooperatively and communicating with others increased?

- On all 14 items on the student skill self-report, data showed a positive, statistically significant increase ($p < .001$) in students' assessments of their science process, problem solving, and technology skills and their skills in working cooperatively and communicating with others (see table below).*
- According to the results of the student interviews, PSC students felt their observation skills improved, attributing this improvement to the opportunity to practice these skills in an outdoor setting.
- According to the results of the student interviews, PSC students felt they had become better thinkers and problem solvers, attributing this improvement to the opportunity to think about what they saw on the prairie, their practice in "reading the land," their field-based projects, and the time spent in "circle" (reflection).

Summary of Average Responses on the Skill Self-Report

How well could you do each of the following?	Beginning of School Year	End of the School Year
1. Make observations about the environment around me.	A Little	Very Well
2. Read the landscape.	Not At All	Pretty Well
3. Make a reasonable guess about why something in nature happens.	A Little	Pretty Well
4. Collect data to answer a research question.	A Little	Pretty Well
5. Find information from more than one place when working on a project or a report.	A Little	Pretty Well
6. Ask questions to find out more information.	A Little	Pretty Well
7. Think about what I've done to help me learn.	A Little	Pretty Well
8. Use the internet (at school or home) to find information.	A Little	Pretty Well
9. Use a handheld to collect or record data.	A Little	Pretty Well
10. Work with others as a team or in small groups.	Pretty Well	Very Well
11. Use field equipment to gather information or data.	A Little	Pretty Well
12. Identify the plants and animals that live in the prairie wetlands.	A Little	Pretty Well
13. Share my ideas with others through speaking.	A Little	Pretty Well
14. Share my ideas with others through writing.	A Little	Pretty Well

*Because this skill self-report was not given to the control class, it is difficult to know if this growth in skills was due to the PSC or to cognitive maturation over the school year. The results of students' interviews suggest that skill growth was due to the PSC, as students' attributed skill growth to instructional strategies - the field-based setting, for example - that are not a part of the traditional classroom experience. Further, perceived growth in these skill areas is important, as it indicates academic self-efficacy, which does have research-based links to academic performance.

Student Voices

"I've learned how to observe better. At the beginning of the year, we'd just look around and say, 'Oh, there's nothing over here so I'll look someplace else.' And now you'll look at one place for awhile, and you'll see everything changing."

"I've learned to observe. When you go outside, usually if you see a butterfly or frog you'll be like, 'Oh, that's just a butterfly.' Maybe you'll try and catch it, but you won't actually look at it that closely. But when you learn to observe, you can see what it's like or how it's different from something else, and you can compare it to other things."

"I like hearing everybody else's opinions about things during circle. It makes me consider other things."

"I think about things longer to make sure that what I say is really what I think. I make sure I've seen everything about it before I say something. We have to think more here than at school."

"It's made me a better thinker because it helps you take the time to think. Like if you are outside and looking at tracks, you think about what the animal was doing and why it was there. In the weather, you think about how the temperatures have changed. Yesterday the humidity was 88% and today it was 100%. And you think about the difference and what effect that will have."

3. Do the students have a more positive attitude toward learning, a more positive attitude toward the prairie wetlands environment, a stronger stewardship ethic, and a stronger sense of civic responsibility than their peers in traditional classrooms?

- While there was not a statistically significant difference between PSC students' attitudes toward learning and their peers', interviews indicate students felt the PSC helped them become more interested in school and learning. Students also felt the PSC improved their classroom behavior and promoted a sense of belonging or community.
- Of the PSC parents who completed the survey, 98% felt their children were more excited about school because of the PSC. All of the PSC parents who completed the survey felt their children expressed a positive attitude toward the PSC and were interested in discussing what they were learning in the PSC at home. The results of the focus group support these findings, as parents described the PSC as motivating their children toward learning.
- When controlling for initial attitudes toward the prairie wetlands environment (as measured by the pretest), PSC students had a more positive attitude toward the prairie wetlands environment than their 5th grade peers in traditional classrooms. This difference was statistically significant ($p = .019$). This finding is supported by the results of the student interviews and parent focus group, as students and parents felt the PSC helped develop an awareness of and appreciation for the prairie wetlands environment.
- While there was not a statistically significant difference between PSC students' stewardship ethic and their peers (as measured by the attitude self-report), interviews indicate students felt the PSC had a positive influence on their actions in the environment.

Parent Voices

"It used to be, 'What did you do in school today?' and they'd say, 'Nothing.' Now we don't get that. Now they tell us what they did on the prairie."

"With the kind of resources we have in Minnesota, we need some kind of stewardship experience in school to make them better stewards later on. So in that sense, the PSC isn't just great for the kids, but we are building really good citizens who are going to think about the things that they do when they become adults."

"An appreciation and respect for nature is a huge lesson they have learned, and that doesn't come from a textbook."

Student Voices

"Last year I would wake up and think, 'Oh no, another school day.' Now I like to get up in the morning, and I love to come to the PSC; I just can't wait to get here. That's seriously how I feel."

"It changes your attitude. Fourth grade didn't go too well; I got detention all the time. This year I haven't had any detention. I stay out of trouble because I have more to do and because I don't want to get kicked out of it because it's really good here. I like coming to school this year. Last year I played sick 6 times. This year, none. But I was sick once for real with strep throat."

"It's changed the way I feel about nature. I think about what I've seen, and I read the land a lot."

"I used to not really like nature too much, but now I have an interest in it because we learned about all the different things that are in the environment."

"I definitely care more about wildlife and the environment now that I'm in the PSC. When I'm walking, last year if I'd see an ant, I'd step on it because my friends would. But this year, I never would. We should take care of the environment - even ants."

"Last year I liked wildlife just because you can hunt it. But this year, I also like it because it's interesting."

4. Did the Prairie Science Class meet the needs of the students and parents, the Fergus Falls ISD 544, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- According to the results of the interviews, students described their PSC experience as positive and as something they'd recommend to others. Students also expressed the desire to participate in the PSC as 6th graders and recommended that it should be expanded so that more students could participate.
- According to results of the parent survey, parents were overwhelmingly positive about their children's experiences with the PSC. All of the respondents had a positive impression of the effects of the PSC on their children, felt their children benefited in ways that could not be achieved through a traditional program, and would recommend the program to others. All of the respondents also felt the PSC should be continued.
- According to the results of stakeholder interviews, the PSC met the needs of ISD 544. The PSC was described as a positive cooperative effort to implement an innovative program with strong educational results. ISD 544 felt the program built a learning community atmosphere, that students with previously low attendance had higher attendance due to the PSC, and that the program retained at least 3 students who otherwise would have attended school in other districts. Throughout the school year, calls were received from parents of 1st and 2nd graders, asking for their children to be placed on a PSC waiting list. Parents of 148 of the 200 4th grade students have requested that their children participate in the PSC for the 2004-2005 school year.
- According to the results of the USFWS stakeholder interviews, the PSC met the needs of the USFWS. The daily exposure to the prairie wetlands environment and the time spent in field-based learning experiences was vital to meeting the needs of the USFWS. The Service felt the PSC was a cost-effective way to gain maximum environmental education outcomes. The mission of the USFWS was supported by the PSC as it fostered an awareness of the USFWS mission and an environmental ethic. The PSC also supported outreach into the local and regional community through PSC families visiting the PWLC, communication with and support from community members, and positive media coverage. The PSC highlights what can be gained through meaningful partnerships and has the potential to serve as a model for environmental education reform within the USFWS.

Student Voices

"It's better than I thought it would be. I like that we wonder about things and discuss things more. I like getting to go outside every day and not spend so much time in the classroom."

"Some people might wonder that it's a 5 minute bus ride to PWLC, and that's 10 minutes of no learning. But it's like you make up hours for it in the field; like for every minute, you get an hour of learning. It's not like the bus ride will kill you because you learn even more here."

"I think you should expand the program so that a lot more kids can do it, because all my friends from my old school are asking what it's like on the prairie, and then maybe they could have the chance next year to try it for themselves."

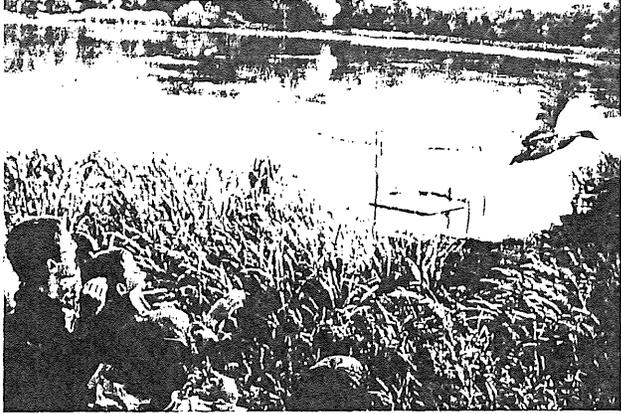
"We are learning things in school, but we are learning a lot more here. Learning is easier when you actually see what you are learning about. It's a fun way to learn."

Parent Voices

"We have been extremely pleased with the PSC. In addition to providing a very unique, hands-on learning environment, the class has given my child knowledge about the natural world that will last a lifetime."

"The involvement of the PWLC staff has been an important component. These people made a huge positive impression on the students! Please keep it going and dream up more innovative programs for other grade levels!"

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for kids to experience all they have with the hands-on opportunities, rather than trying to imagine these experiences through a textbook."



Students watch in wonder as they release a mallard after measuring and banding it.



Students practice observation and data collection skills as they track the spring migration of waterfowl.



Students greet Governor Pawlenty during his visit to the area to learn about successful community partnerships.

School District Voices

*"The PSC demonstrates what is right in education. This is what makes public education stronger."
- ISD 544 Superintendent*

"It's been a great cooperative effort. It's shown that the District is willing to take a chance and look at something a bit innovative and give our kids a chance to learn in a different setting. It opens up all kinds of possibilities for helping students become productive learners. ... We are trying to create life long learners and good citizens; we are trying to create people that respect their environment; that's why we are excited about the possibilities to expand this program. We were able to directly impact 50 students this year, but if we could provide that kind of a concentrated experience for every student, imagine the impact we could have."

- Middle School Principal

USFWS Voices

*"The PSC is a model for changing the way we educate children in the environmental sciences. I've been in the Service for 28 years and in all those years, and I've never seen a program like this. I'd like to use this program as an example of a partnership and a model for environmental education and expand it throughout the nation's refuge system. That would be my honest hope."
-Region 3 Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System*

"The program's emphasis on bringing students daily into the field instills an environmental ethic that can't be built through one-time experiences. This will result ultimately in adults that are more aware of the impact of their daily decisions and actions in the environment."

-Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Project Leader

"We are reaching students on a repeated and long term basis. This is critical in building a land ethic within students and giving them the tools to become informed decision makers in the future. By educating students within the prairie wetlands environment, we are able to fulfill both national missions (providing environmental education) and local missions (education about the prairie pothole region). The PSC demonstrates quality, meaningful environmental education. We've had inquiries about replicating this program from refuges throughout the system and from other school districts in Minnesota."

- Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Supervisory Park Ranger

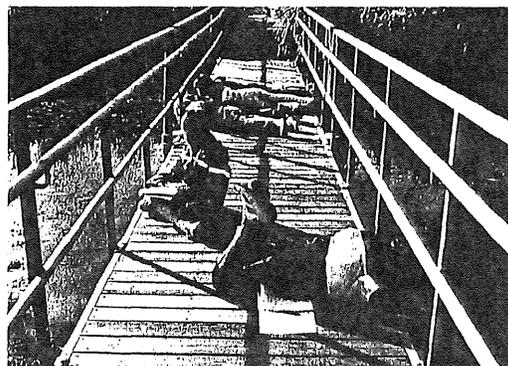
Conclusion

The results of this evaluation suggest positive cognitive and affective outcomes, including concept attainment and skill development in science, math, and writing; growth in problem solving and technology skills and skills in working and communicating with others; and positive influences on students' motivation toward learning, attitudes toward the prairie wetlands environment, and stewardship ethic. Further, both ISD 544 and USFWS believe the PSC is accomplishing their respective missions and goals in a meaningful, quality way. Given these findings, continuation of this program is appropriate.

These findings are also consistent with research on other educational programs that use the environment as an integrating and motivating context. Research by Lieberman and Hoody (1998), the State Education and Environment Roundtable (2000), the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (2000), and Athman (2003) support using environment-based education programs to improve academic performance, attendance, classroom behavior, motivation, and critical thinking skills. This previous research and the findings from the PSC evaluation demonstrate that integrated learning using authentic, field-based experiences makes sense, with positive outcomes for students and the partnering organizations.



Students identify prairie plants, recording their data on handheld computers.



Students conduct inventories of the aquatic invertebrates in the different wetland areas.



Recommendations

The data collection tools collectively generated several areas for potential program improvement. Students suggested spending more time in the field and traveling to less-visited places on the prairie. Students also suggested spending more of their school day at the Prairie Science Class. Parent suggestions included increased parent communication on learning activities through weekly rather than monthly updates and increased storage area at the PWLC for winter clothes and school supplies.

Findings from this program evaluation also provided recommendations for future implementation:

- *Program expansion* - Students, parents, ISD 544, and the USFWS collectively agreed that the PSC should be expanded to provide more 5th grade students with the opportunity to participate and to accommodate growing parent and student interest in the program. While many students and parents expressed interest in extending the program into the next grade level, so that a student's PSC experience would be longer than one year, ISD 544 felt it was more important to provide this unique learning opportunity to other students.
- *Retain program length and grade level* - Stakeholders felt the length of program (daily participation over the course of a school year) was important, as program outcomes would likely decrease if the amount of time spent in the program decreased. Stakeholders agreed that 5th grade was a good fit for the PSC, given the 5th grade science standards' emphasis on life science and environmental science. In addition, the cognitive level of 5th graders allows for relatively in-depth field study, yet 5th grade students appear to be young enough to interact with the environment in a playful, wonder-filled manner.
- *Continued evaluation and monitoring of student progress* - Given the emphasis on educational accountability and limited financial and staff resources, evaluation plays a key role in justifying the effort and resources that are being expended. Documentation of program outcomes also is integral in achieving program support locally, regionally, and nationally.
- *Professional development of teachers* - Along with the administrative support of ISD 544 and the USFWS, the PSC teacher played a key role in the success of the program. There is a need to train formal educators and environmental educators in integrated, field-based teaching methods if the PSC is to be replicated or adapted in other school districts and at other natural areas.

In addition, this evaluation suggests areas for further exploration:

- *Characteristics of successful partnerships* - Stakeholders collectively agree the PSC is an example of a successful partnership. However, what specifically made this partnership between the USFWS and ISD 544 work? While this was not a question posed as part of

the evaluation, stakeholders suggested the following items as being integral to making the partnership work:

- Strong cooperation and solid commitment to the program by the Superintendent, Principal, and School Board of the partnering school and by the Refuge Manager and Regional Office of the USFWS;
- Teachers who are dedicated to the program and have the skills and motivation to implement non-traditional teaching methods and a strong science background;
- Agency personnel with strong backgrounds in education, environmental education, and the biological sciences who can commit four to eight hours of instructional time per week per class;
- Adequate on-site facilities to accommodate daily attendance by a class or classes of students (classroom or lab space, rest rooms, storage, etc.); classroom space is needed that can be devoted to the program;
- Field sites that can accommodate a class or classes of students on a daily basis with minimal or acceptable levels of impact to the environment; and
- Minimal distance between the school and refuge so that traveling time is minimized.

Future evaluation of the PSC could incorporate a more systematic look into what makes this partnership work. This would be a key piece for program replication.

- *Teacher Qualifications* - As indicated earlier, stakeholders agreed some of the program success can be attributed to the PSC teacher. It would be useful to know what teacher characteristics contributed to this success. For example, the PSC teacher had 30 years of teaching experience (including science teaching), had visited the PWLC with his students for traditional environmental education programs during previous years, and was passionate about and committed to the PSC idea. Does successful teaching in PSC-like programs require training in the environmental sciences and an environmental education or science education background? Does it require training in integrated, field-based and project-based methods? Does it require a certain comfort-level in the outdoors? What motivates a teacher to put in the extra time and effort required for implementation of a non-traditional instructional program: Ownership in the idea or program? A strong environmental ethic? A passion for teaching? Insight into these questions would help prepare teachers to instruct in these non-traditional settings, which is another key piece for program replication.



The Prairie Science Class

Program Summary

Mission

The mission of the Fergus Falls Middle School Prairie Science Class is to use the local prairie wetlands ecosystem as an integrating and motivating context to engage fifth-grade students in science, math, and writing through real world, field-based learning experiences.

Goals

- Develop students' knowledge and skills in math, writing, and science through an integrated, field-based study of the local prairie wetlands ecosystem.
- Increase student motivation and engagement through the use of authentic projects, field-based learning experiences, and a relevant local context.
- Develop students' technology, problem-solving, and communication skills through research projects involving gathering, organizing, processing, and communicating information about the prairie wetlands environment.
- Develop students' character skills and foster a stewardship ethic, as the local environment becomes the avenue for emphasizing attitudes of respect, responsibility, and cooperation.

Current Program Partners

The Prairie Science Class is a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) and the Fergus Falls Independent School District 544. Additional program supporters include the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club, Mildred R. Thompson Family, Everett Jacobson Family, Bank of the West, Dr. Craig Rude, and John DeMuth Family.

Program Operation

- During the 2005-2006 school year, four sections of fifth-grade students (25 students per section; 100 students total) are involved in the Prairie Science Class. Each section spends two hours at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center daily, two sections together in the morning session and two sections together in the afternoon session.
- The Prairie Science Class focuses on the curricular areas of science, writing, and math and provides opportunities for building technology and inquiry skills. These curricular areas are studied through integrated, field-based learning experiences focused on the local prairie wetlands environment. Students spend the rest of the school day at the Fergus Falls Middle School, where the remainder of math concepts and the curricular areas of reading, social studies, physical education, and health are covered.
- A total of four teachers instruct Prairie Science Class students. Two ISD 544 teachers are stationed at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. Two ISD 544 teachers are at the Fergus Falls Middle School, teaching the Prairie Science Class students when they are not at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.
- A further program emphasis centers on utilization of teachers in training. Student teachers from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and University of Minnesota-Morris participate during both fall and spring quarters.

- In addition, Environmental Education Specialists and an environmental education intern from the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center assist with the Prairie Science Class as their schedules permit.
- While the Prairie Science Class is housed in two of the Center's classrooms, much of the learning time is spent in the field.
- The environmental education programs traditionally offered by the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center continue. The Prairie Science Class complements existing environmental education programs offered to schools and other educational groups.

Evaluation

Formal evaluation documents program outcomes for the purposes of program improvement and justification to stakeholders and funders. Evaluation tools include:

- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in math and writing and/or Measures of Academic Progress;
- Self-report of students' science process, problem solving, and technology skills;
- Self-report of affective measures (students' attitudes toward learning and the prairie wetlands environment and students' stewardship ethic and sense of civic responsibility);
- Student interviews;
- Parent surveys and focus groups; and
- Interviews with program stakeholders and decision-makers

The intent is to have reliable, valid assessments of student learning and program outcomes, without being intrusive and taking away from instruction and learning time.

Plans for 2005-2006

- Evaluation of the Prairie Science Class will expand to examine potential longitudinal, lasting effects at the seventh grade level.
- Pending grant funding, an optional one-week Wildlife Biology Camp and Teacher Training is planned as an in-depth, summer learning opportunity for local 5th and 6th graders at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center with Prairie Science Class teachers providing instruction.
- A regional meeting of select U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge staff will take place at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center February 28 – March 2, 2006 in an effort to replicate this program in other Midwestern school districts and refuges.
- Efforts to broaden relationships with area colleges, increasing student participation, is planned through development and sharing of a PSC portfolio.
- The PSC team is also exploring the concept of repeat visits with the same students from other school districts, real visits or virtual through Internet TV or a combination of both.

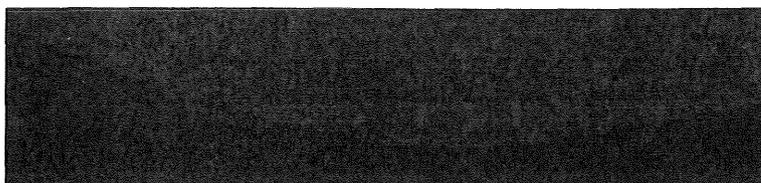
Vision for the Future

Potential future plans include expanding the program to include students in multiple grade levels. Stakeholders support efforts of other schools to develop their own version of the Prairie Science Class using this one as a model. There is the added potential for professional internship opportunities, a pre-service teacher training element, and graduate coursework in partnership with universities, providing training and research opportunities in integrated, project-based, and field-based instructional methods.

For More Information

http://www.fws.gov/midwest/pwlc/prairie_school.html

Last revised December 2005



- Auction
- Autos
- Employment
- Real Estate

The Daily Journal Online Edition

Front News Sports Forums Deaths/Obituaries Classifieds USA Weekend

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Tuesday, October 04, 2005

Prairie learning among the best in the state

By Sarah Horner

Students who participate in the Prairie Science Program at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center work outside the box of an ordinary classroom and are exposed to "outside the box" learning styles. The outdoor arena the program provides students to work with and the innovative way it engages them in the learning process won the program the 2005 second place Award of Distinction in the Minnesota Rural Education Association's Profiles of Excellence competition.

The competition recognizes school districts that have outstanding programs that engage both students and the community, MREA Office Manager Cindy Gerber said.

Out of 17 entries and for the first time in the award's history, Fergus Falls placed near the very top.

The program involves fifth-graders from Fergus Falls Middle School. Those participating attend classes at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center for two hours a day. Dave Ellis, a teacher for the program, said the curriculum is based on utilizing the outdoor learning lab.

"It's non traditional nature allows for teaching and learning in non traditional ways," Ellis said.

Take Monday's lesson plan: Ellis was teaching the students about distance, but instead of pulling out a piece of chalk, he asked the students to put on their coats and join him for a walk through the prairie.

The students not only learned what a meter was, they also learned what it felt like to walk that far.

"It gives the students real authentic experiences of the subject content that we are learning about it class," Ellis said.

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ONLINE POLL

What should Fergus Falls do with the Regional Treatment Center?

- Make it a school
- Make it a jail
- Demolish it

[Vote](#)

Like an organism's role in an ecosystem, for example. At the end of their walk Monday, the students were asked to get on their hands and knees and look around for millipedes. Ellis had previously discussed the millipede's role as a decomposer and wanted the kids to witness their munching first hand.

The environment motivates students in ways that a traditional classroom can't, Ellis said. Instead of trying to get students excited about millipedes using pictures in a textbook, students get to go outside and see them up close.

A sign in the class reads, "Keep your eye, ears, nose and MIND open." The word "mind" is capitalized to emphasize its importance, as it is integral to learning in any environment. In the Prairie Science Program, it is also integral that students observe, smell, listen and sometimes taste what they are learning about.

It is not that one style of learning is better than the other, Ellis said. The Prairie Science Program just provides an opportunity for the students to truly be a part of what they are learning.

The program will be honored at MREA's Annual Fall Conference Oct. 26 to 28 at Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria.

Heartland for hardwoods

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Keller died helping, farming

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Catholic Charities set to break ground on new home

Prairie learning among the best in the state

RECORD

A close-knit group

FF man killed in farming accident near Battle Lake

Drop-out prevention: Link kids with mentors

Eagle Bend man dies in accident in Otter Tail County

RECORD



Environmental Education Units

These programs are designed for 4th to 8th grade groups. However, most programs can be adapted to either younger or older audiences. Some programs have specific seasonal requirements or maximum participant numbers. Be sure to have several programs in mind when calling to reserve a program date and time. All programs include introductory information to get your group off to a great start. For more information, see our [downloadable trip planner](#). If you are not a group leader and are looking for less formal educational opportunities, check our [events](#) and [programs](#) pages.

Daytime Offerings (Listed Alphabetically)

Aliens on the Prairie (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

Following close-up investigations of various plants, students will be able to:

- identify some exotic plant species based on leaf, flower, and stem appearance
- consider short term and long term problems associated with exotic species
- evaluate human actions and their impacts related to this problem

Birds of the Prairie Pothole Region (1.5 hours) - Indoor & Outdoor Activity

After a series of indoor activities and an outdoor bird walk, students will be able to:

- describe several characteristics of birds
- list unique adaptations birds have to help them survive
- determine the role of birds in the prairie pothole region

Bugs, Slugs, and Other Thugs (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

By visiting 3 different habitats, students will be able to:

- collect and identify insects found in the prairie, oak savannah, and wetland
- evaluate the differences in species diversity within each habitat
- discuss why all insects are not found in the same habitat

Discovery Hike- 1 Mile (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

Upon completion, the students will be able to:

- define a food chain and a food web
- explain predator/prey relationships in the prairie habitat
- identify habitat requirements for several prairie plant and animal species

Discovery Hike- 3 mile (1.5 or 3 hours) - Outdoor Activity

After the 3-mile hike, the students will be able to:

- identify ways humans impact(ed) the prairie from past to present
- define the role of fire in a prairie and describe the differences between prescribed burns and wildfires

- list adaptations of prairie plants and animals

Endangered Species (1.5 hours) - Indoor Activity

Classroom and small group activities will enable the students to:

- distinguish between "threatened", "rare", and "endangered" species, with a special emphasis on Minnesota plants and animals
- identify several species in each classification and discuss related current issues
- describe measures involved with the protection of species and the role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Latest Dirt and Decomposers (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

After this "hands-on" outdoor experience students will be able to:

- analyze layers of a soil profile
- compare and contrast the different types of soil found around the Learning Center
- define decomposition and identify different types of decomposers

Mapping the Prairie (1.5 or 3.0 hours) - Indoor & Outdoor Activity

Through indoor and outdoor activities, students will be able to:

- demonstrate the use of field mapping techniques by creating a series of maps
- describe the benefits of GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS (Geographical Information System) technologies
- predict where people, plants, and animals live by interpreting maps

Migration Beyond Borders (1.5 hours) - Indoor & Outdoor Activity

Following indoor and outdoor activities, students will be able to:

- define migration and identify different migration patterns
- predict and identify regional species which are migratory
- observe techniques used to track migration
- list species that use the Learning Center area as a stopover

Old Bones on the Prairie (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

Through hands-on activities, students will be able to:

- describe the historical importance of the American Bison
- list reasons for the decrease in bison numbers
- demonstrate basic archaeological procedures

Pondering Potholes (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

Through a close-up look at the aquatic life in a wetland, students will be able to:

- investigate the variety of life in a prairie pothole
- define and observe aquatic adaptations
- use a field guide and key to identify species

The Power of Observation (1.5 hours) - Indoor & Outdoor Activity

Following indoor activities and a hike, students will be able to:

- list ways to improve observation skills
- predict, investigate and record field observations around the Learning Center
- describe the importance of having good observation skills

Tracking Predators (3 hours) - Outdoor Activity

By visiting pre-selected sites, students will be able to:

- gather information on the predators living at or around the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
- analyze biological data and develop a presentation
- discuss the distribution of predators in the local area

Water, Water, Everywhere (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

Through a series of activities, students will be able to:

- define "watershed" and determine the watershed they live in
- discuss groundwater issues especially as they relate to wetlands
- estimate how much water their family uses in a twenty-four hour period

Wetland Typing without a Keyboard (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

Following a hike to different wetlands around the Learning Center, students will be able to:

- understand the importance of all wetland types
- recognize features and characteristics that are used to classify wetlands
- match their classifications skills with those of professional biologists

NEW -- Wild Work! (Up to 1.5 hours) – Indoor Activity

Grade Level: 9th-12th Grades **Location:** School Classroom

Season: Winter **Duration:** 90 minutes maximum

Students meet a professional employee working at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They mix-and-match wildlife careers with their descriptions and complete and score a wildlife career survey to determine the types of wildlife careers they may enjoy. They watch a brief U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recruitment video and find out about conservation careers in the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District. Using hands-on materials, students practice resolving a real-life issue through a role play activity as staff members of a Minnesota field office in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This program supports the following **MN Academic Standards** for 9th – 12th Grades: Science (I.C, III.A.1, III.C.4), Language Arts (I.B, I.C, III), Social Studies (Geography V.D.1, V.D.3, Government and Citizenship VII.A.4)

Evening Offerings

Nature on the Night Shift (1.5 hours) - Outdoor Activity

After a night hike, the students will be able to:

- list several adaptations of nocturnal animals
- investigate and discuss nocturnal predator/prey relationships which occur around the Learning Center

Owl Prowl (1.5 Hours) - Indoor & Outdoor Activity

Following a hands-on investigation of owl pellets, students will be led on a night hike.

After this experience students will be able to:

the Prairie Wanderer

Fall 2005

Newsletter for the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

From Our President...

It's again time to look back at our past year and summarize what's happened. It's been a good year but the biggest achievement, I think, is the increased number of people involved at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.

This has been primarily kids, which is where our emphasis has always been and should continue to be.

The exhibits that were finished last year have been a huge success. The Prairie Restoration Library continues to add more resources and continues to have increased use by the public.

We now have our own Web site. Take the time to check our Web site at www.friendsofprairiewetlands.com.

The newsletters and advertising have continued under the able guidance of Kristi Lausch. She will be leaving the Board and will be missed. However, she has promised to continue to do the newsletters and advertising. Thanks, Kristi, for your talented and spirited input over the last three years.

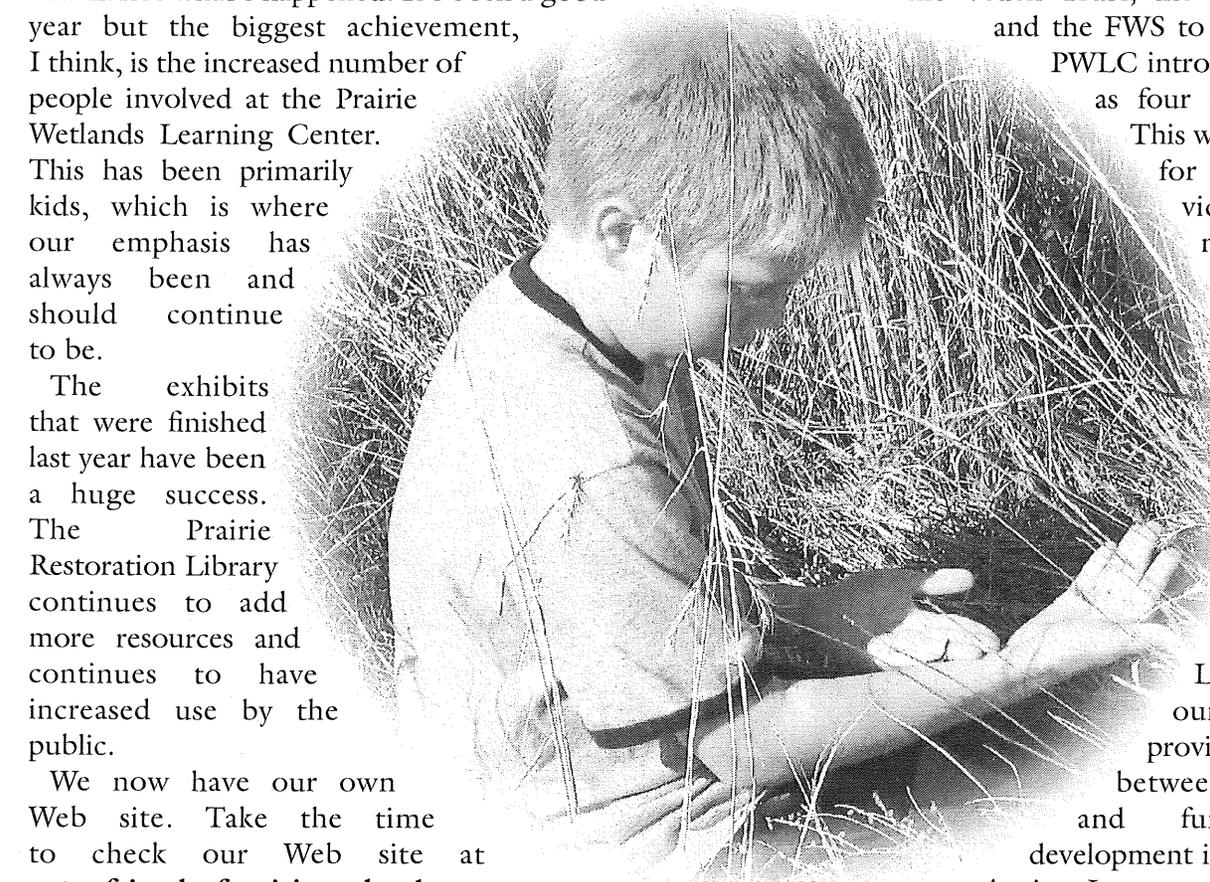
During the past year we received grants from the Veden Trust, the Weesner Foundation and the FWS to produce and show a PWLC introductory video as well as four special topic videos.

This will be a great addition for our visitors. The video committee has met several times but the process is slow and will probably take at least another year before we see the finished product.

The Veden Trust has also granted us the funds to purchase 4.9 acres from the American Legion property to our east. This will provide a needed buffer between the PWLC and further commercial development in that area.

Again, I want to thank all of the Friends and volunteers who have contributed so much to the ongoing success of the PWLC.

Rud C. Wasson
President, Friends of the PWLC



Fall Colors on the Prairie

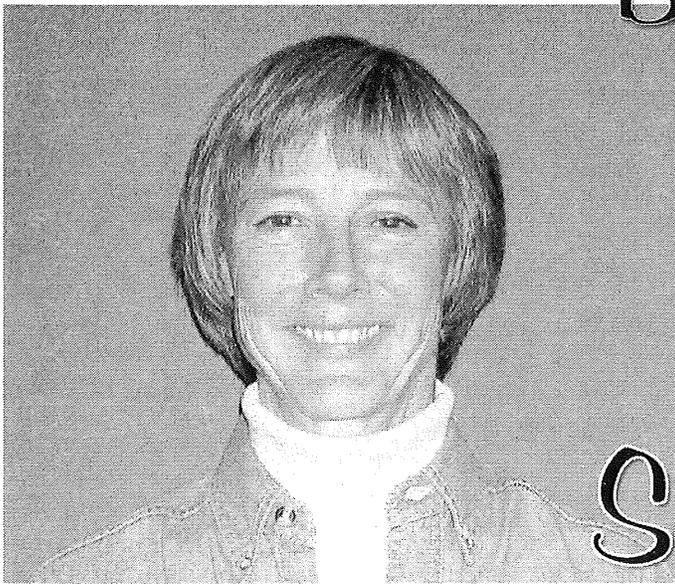
by Teresa Jaskiewicz

Most of us leaf peepers go north to see large splashes of bright colors from trees (those big tall things we do not have many of here at the PWLC). We oooh and ahhh over the beauty of maples, birches and sumac when they turn brilliant colors of red, yellow and orange. But did you know the prairie has its own color change? The dogbane turns a cheery yellow coordinated with a vibrant red stem and big bluestem goes from green leaves and a purple stem to leaves that are a deep burgundy. Other

grasses that are changing into their winter finery are the Indian and Switch grass with their golden hues that blanket the prairie. If you prefer fiery reds look no further than the Virginia Creeper winding its way along the Tatanka trail. The changes on the prairie are subtle but well worth a look. If your busy schedule has you booked up so you can't visit the big show up north remember we are located in your neighborhood. The trails are open from dawn 'til dusk every day so come on out for a little peep.



Meet our newest addition to the Board of Directors



Sandy Rufer is a Fergus Falls native with a long interest in the outdoors and wildlife. She and her husband have a small native prairie restoration plot at their home. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and is certified as a master gardener. Sandy is an American Sign Language interpreter by profession. Her hobbies include reading, gardening, walking and biking, travel and water sports. We look forward to her involvement as a member of the Friends' Board.

Sandy Rufer

PROJECT bluestem



The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center provides a great opportunity for exploring, observing and learning. A Project Bluestem workshop, presented by the University of Minnesota, was held at the PWLC on September 27th. Twenty-six teachers experienced our prairie habitat through this workshop that focused on our prairie ecosystem, its soil, plants, waters, wildlife and human/prairie interactions. Project Bluestem also provided over 200 K-12 activities that these teachers will take back to their classrooms.

Here's what our teachers had to say:

Hi, Teresa!!

Could you extend my thanks to the Friends of Prairie Wetlands Learning Center group for funding my scholarship to project Bluestem. The workshop was so worthwhile!!! I will be using the information that I have acquired and share it with the 2nd and 3rd grade class at Rossman Elementary in Detroit Lakes. I will be their project leader for the Water Festival program this spring. I believe we are going to try to grow two types of grasses and two different wildflowers this fall, watch them grow, record some observations and the importance of our wetlands and prairies. They in turn will share their information with other parents, classmates and other children in the school district. Thanks a bunch!!

Sincerely, Patti Lysford



Teresa,

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the Project Bluestem Class. The next day when the kids asked me what I did, I told them that I chased butterflies, hid insects, ID forbs, looked through magic glasses, drew forbs, laid on the grass and looked at the sky and laughed a lot. One child said, "Mrs. Neff, you are just a kid."

Please pass on my gratitude to the Friends of Prairie Wetlands Learning Center for the scholarship to attend the workshop. My students will enjoy the learning activities as much as I did, I'm sure. I love being treated like learning is the top priority for teachers, too. I really do appreciate the opportunity!

We're looking forward to our class field trip in October. Thanks greatly!

Louise Neff, Detroit Lakes Public Schools
Minnesota U.S.A.

Growing, Growing, Growing.

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center continued to expand the variety and number of environmental education programs in 2005. The Center had nearly 31,000 attendees in 942 programs and total visitor contacts of over 54,000. Nearly 900 program participants stayed overnight at the Center. School groups continue to bring larger numbers of students for a full day, rather than many groups over the course of several days.

The Prairie Science Class continued to be a popular and effective environmental education program, bringing one hundred 5th graders to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center each school day. The program has drawn interest from schools, organizations and refuges from around the country.

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2005, 121 volunteers contributed over 4000 hours in program assistance and projects. The volunteer program has doubled the number of volunteer hours we had last year for the second year in a row.

A number of successful workshops for teachers were hosted by the PWLC during 2005, including the Leopold Education Project, Project Bluestem and a Prairie Chicken Educators Workshop. We thank you for your continued support of these important programs.

Submitted by
Ken Garrahan, Director – PWLC

Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Financials

Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2005

Sept. 30, '05

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1001 · Checking-Wells Fargo	2,516.61
1005 · Money Market-Wells Fargo Invest	7,314.04
1020 · CD-Edward Jones	20,000.00

Total Checking/Savings 29,830.65

Total Current Assets 29,830.65

TOTAL ASSETS

29,830.65

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2100 · Dedicated Funds-Weesner	20,000.00
2130 · Dedicated Funds-Other	5,720.72

Total Other Current Liabilities 25,720.72

Total Current Liabilities 25,720.72

Total Liabilities 25,720.72

Equity

3900 · Retained Earnings	17,146.93
3910 · Restricted Retained Earnings	-25,720.72
Net Income	12,683.72

Total Equity 4,109.93

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

29,830.65

For questions related to these financials
Treasurer at 218-736-5618 c

Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
Profit & Loss
 October 2004 through September 2005

Oct. '04 - Sept. '05

Income	
4003 · Fundraiser	32.75
4004 · Donations	6,467.92
4005 · Interest	144.23
4007 · Memberships	4,680.00
4015 · Interns/Support	3,000.00
4020 · Bluestem Store Income	1,960.00
4023 · Donation-Trail Improvement	2,000.00
4024 · Donation-Prairie Science Class	3,250.00
4030 · Donation-Weesner/Video	20,000.00
Total Income	<u>41,534.90</u>

Expense	
5001 · Annual Meeting	45.23
5002 · Operations/Misc.	1,396.61
5003 · Advertising	1,446.05
5004 · Newsletter	574.00
5005 · Bank Charges	49.00
5006 · Return to Prairie Days	751.18
5007 · Donations Expense	50.00
5009 · Fundraising Expenses	40.30
5010 · Web site	933.20
5011 · Insurance	313.00
5015 · Interns Expense	6,000.00
5020 · Speaker Fees	50.00
5120 · Prairie Restoration Education M	5,966.52
5140 · Prairie Science Class	3,525.44
5150 · Prairie Wetlands Video	10.65
5160 · Trail Improvements	2,000.00
5200 · Exhibits	5,700.00
5509 · Fundraising Expense	0.00
Total Expense	<u>28,851.18</u>

Net Income **12,683.72**

Thank You...

...to our new Friends members and renewed members for supporting the Friends mission:

"to enhance and promote understanding and conservation of the prairie pothole region, primarily through support of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center"

- Student – \$5
 - Bluestem Buddy – \$25
 - Prairie Pal – \$50
 - Tall Grass Supporter – \$100
 - Other – \$_____
- Corporate
 \$100-\$499 \$500+

All donations are tax deductible.

- New Renewal

Name

Street Address

City

State Zip

Phone

Email

Benefits of membership include:

- invitations to members only events
- 10% discount in Bluestem Store
- newsletter
- free video/book check out from our Prairie Restoration library

For reports, please contact Buzz Anderson,
 e-mail at sscpa@prtel.com

October: Invasive Species Month

Four Simple Things Minnesotans Can Do to Help Stop the Spread of Invasives

Minneapolis, MN – Invasive species are invading Minnesota. Buckthorn is overtaking woodlands. Purple loosestrife is filling wetlands. Gypsy moths are damaging acres and acres of trees. To draw attention to threats from these and other alien invaders, Governor Tim Pawlenty declared October Invasive Species Month.

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that cause environmental damage, economic loss or harm to human health. These pests displace native species, harm habitat and degrade natural, managed and agricultural landscapes.

Invasive Species Awareness Month is an opportunity to find out more about invasive species and what organizations and individuals are doing about them. Any effort, big or small, is significant! Through knowledge comes change. What can you do? To find out about invasive species related events going on across the state you can go to the Minnesota Native Plant Society Web site at www.mnmps.org/invasive.

Following is a list of high-impact actions that are relatively simple for citizens to implement in their standard routines.

Action #1: If you bring it, burn it!

Firewood can harbor many different kinds of invasive pests and diseases harmful to Minnesota's trees.

If you bring firewood when camping, burn all of it. The longer it remains on the ground, the more chance that a pest or disease can move into the living trees nearby.

Action #2: Protect Our Waters!

Invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil can hitch a ride on boats and trailers and in live wells, traveling from one body of water to another.

To avoid transporting aquatic invasive species: **INSPECT** your boat, trailer and equipment and **REMOVE** visible aquatic plants, animals and mud. **DRAIN** water from livewells, bilge, motor, bait buckets and transom wells.

DISPOSE OF UNUSED BAIT into the trash.

Action #3: Stop the Spread by Sole and Tread!

You may be a hunter, birdwatcher, mountain biker, all-terrain vehicle user or hiker. Whether walking or riding through city parks or remote natural areas, you may unknowingly be collecting the seeds of invasive plants on your footwear and vehicle tires.

To avoid transporting terrestrial invasive species: Keep a small, stiff-bristled brush in your vehicle, home and/or backpack. Before traveling through natural areas, inspect and brush your footwear clean of caked-on soil and seeds.

Regularly inspect and remove caked-on soil and seeds from vehicle tires after off-road travel.

Action #4: Green Thumbs Down for Invasive Plants!

Plants that you install in your home water garden or landscape may escape cultivation and become invasive species that crowd out native plants, damage habitat for fish, birds and wildlife, diminish recreational opportunities and incur great expenses for their control.

Before buying plants, check to see if they have the potential to be invasive. Avoid planting invasive species, or seek to understand species-specific 'safe practices' required to prevent them from spreading to natural areas. If you discover that you have invasive species in your home landscape, remove them, kill them or prevent them from spreading beyond your yard.

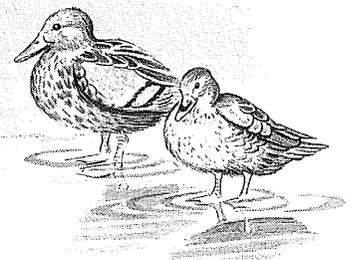
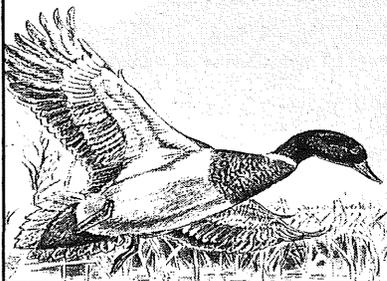
Article courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

November's Naturally Speaking

Horicon Marsh: Where Wildlife Comes First

Tuesday, November 15 • 7 pm

Take a virtual journey to Horicon National Wildlife Refuge during fall migration in Wisconsin. Molly Stoddard, former Park Ranger at the Horicon NWR and new PWLC employee, will share the sights and sounds of this Wetland of International Importance and Globally Important Bird Area. She will also present some of the marsh's colorful history and management challenges currently facing the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States.



Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend Our Holiday Open House!

Christmas

ON THE PRAIRIE



Thursday, December 15th • 3:00-7:00pm

**Refreshments | Door Prizes | Friendly Conversation
Preview New Items in the Bluestem Store!**

*"We didn't inherit the Earth from our parents...
...we are borrowing it from our children."*



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bracelets, necklaces, card games,
magnetic bookmarks and
BOOKS – BOOKS – BOOKS!

**Friends members receive a
10% discount!**

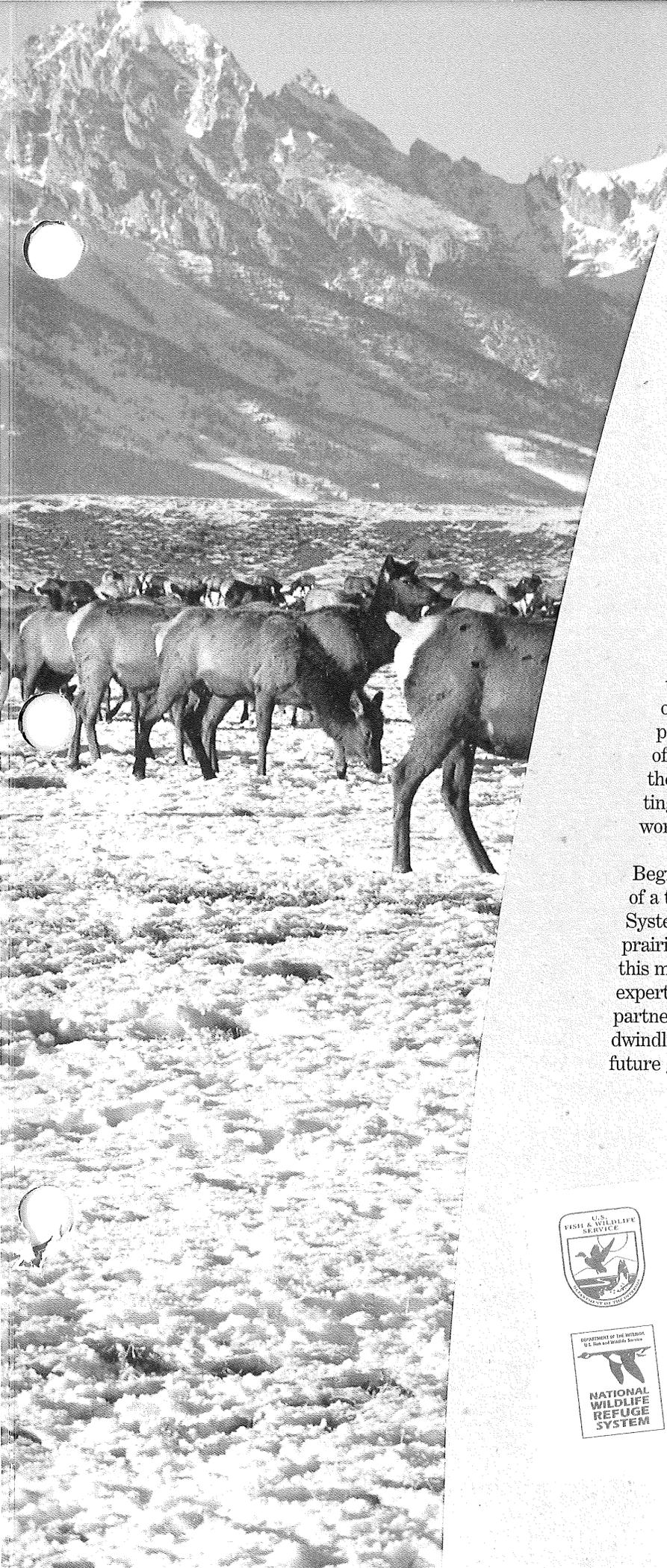
Volunteers NEEDED

We're looking for people interested in working with educational programs, either as an assistant or lead educator. We will provide training!

We're also looking for people to work with the Prairie Science Class. If you would like to adopt the morning or afternoon PSC once a week or a few times a month, your time would be greatly appreciated. For more information call Laura at 218-736-0938, ext. 13.



“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”



America's National Wildlife Refuge System

Celebrating a century of conservation successes, America's National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's most extensive network of protected wildlife habitats.

A chain of vital rest stops along major migration routes, wildlife refuges host millions of birds each spring and fall. Wildlife refuges are safe havens for recovering America's rarest wildlife, including prehistoric loggerhead sea turtles, regal whooping cranes, grand bison, gentle manatees, native trout, and the bald eagle, our national symbol. Wildlife refuges preserve open spaces and natural scenery and help prevent pollution in our communities.

Wildlife refuges are the most wild and scenic places left in America, yet there is at least one within an hour's drive of every major city, providing much-needed sanctuary for people as well as wildlife. Each year, some 40 million people visit wildlife refuges to connect with nature, enjoy unparalleled outdoor activities, or simply to escape from their everyday surroundings. Most come to see flocks of birds by the thousands and many other wildlife spectacles. Nature photographers find unique opportunities to capture plants and animals of every variety and the breathtaking natural landscapes that support them. Sportsmen enjoy some of the finest fishing and hunting in settings of solitude. School children learn first-hand about our natural world and what it really means to take care of it.

Beginning in 1903 with President Theodore Roosevelt's protection of a tiny island for birds in Florida, today's National Wildlife Refuge System spans more than 535 wildlife refuges and thousands of small prairie wetlands where waterfowl breed. Nearly 100-million-acres-strong, this magnificent collection of special lands is steadfastly cared for by experts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, numerous conservation partners, and thousands of dedicated volunteers, who ensure America's dwindling natural places can continue to support bountiful wildlife for future generations to value and enjoy.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kenneth A. Garrahan
Supervisory Park Ranger

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
602 State Highway 210 East
Fergus Falls, MN 56537-4217

218/736 0938

218/736 0941 Fax

ken_garrahan@fws.gov

www.fws.gov/midwest/pwlc

There is a wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of every major U.S. city.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
4401 N. Fairfax Drive
Room 670
Arlington, VA 22203

1 800/344 WILD
<http://refuges.fws.gov>

July 2002



CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION



McNamara/Saxhaug

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for state parks.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$14,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources as follows:

(1) for building rehabilitation within state parks, \$6,000,000;

(2) for natural resources restoration and infrastructure rehabilitation within state parks, \$6,000,000; and

(3) for camper cabins within state parks, \$2,000,000.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to \$14,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.



PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA '06 STATE PARK CAMPER CABIN INITIATIVE

275 E. 4TH STREET; SUITE #642; ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1651
January 2006

Camper Cabin Basics

There are 35 camper cabins available for rent in Minnesota State Parks. These are in Banning, Bear Head Lake, Beaver Creek Valley, Big Bog, Crow Wing, Glacial Lakes, Glendalough, Hayes Lake, Jay Cooke, Lake Maria, Lake Shetek, Maplewood, Mille Lacs Kathio, Minneopa, Myre Big Island, Sakatah Lake, Savanna Portage, Whitewater, Wild River and William O'Brien State Parks.

These rustic 12' x 16' log cabins provide shelter for visitors who want a "camping out" experience. Many cabins have an attached 12' x 6' screened porch, and all contain wood bunk bed style frames with mattresses. All cooking must be done outside the cabin. A picnic table and fire rings are provided outside. Each cabin also has an inside table with benches.

Cabins do not have running water or indoor bathrooms but are located in or near the park's campground where bathrooms, showers and drinking water are available. Some cabins have electricity.

Most cabins are available for rent beginning in April through late fall and a number are winterized and available for year-round use. However, modern restroom and shower facilities may not be available in the winter. Vault toilets are available year-round.

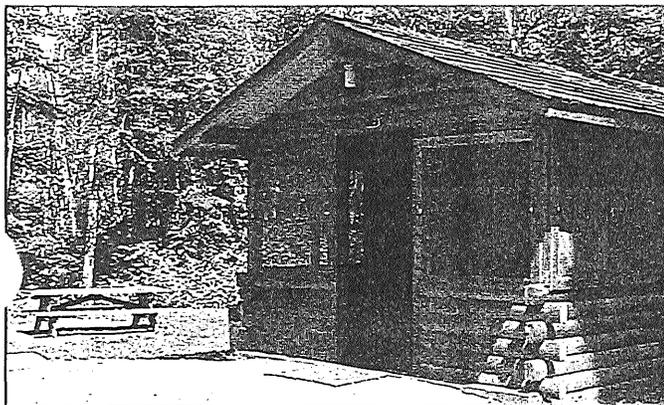
Camper Cabin Initiative

The DNR has put forth a proposal to the Legislature to build 75 camper cabins across the state of Minnesota. While the Governor has supported this initiative, the bonding proposal suggests they should be user financed.

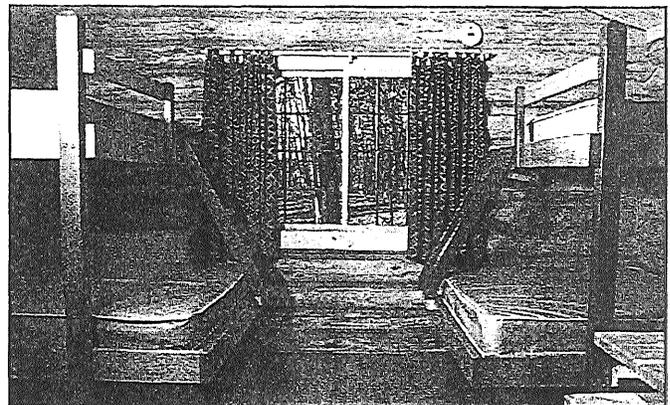
Under this scenario, DNR state parks would receive about \$90,000 a year in revenue for state park operations. If the camper cabins are built with General Obligation (GO) bonds, approximately \$250,000 would be available for state park operations.

The 2003 LCMR Parks Study's top recommendation to the DNR was to "develop suggestions for increasing fees, generating additional revenues, developing new revenue opportunities and improve efficiency in order to provide for greater self-sufficiency of the state park system."

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota position:
The Legislature should fund \$2 million for 75 camper cabins out of General Obligation (GO) bonds, not user financed, with the revenues going into the state park operating budget.



Bear Head Lake State Park camper cabin



Lake Maria State Park camper cabin interior

Johnson, Dew

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to capital improvements; authorizing spending to acquire and better
 1.3 public land and buildings and other public improvements of a capital nature;
 1.4 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds; appropriating money for
 1.5 Glacial Lakes State Park and Sibley State Park camper cabins.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; GLACIAL LAKES AND SIBLEY STATE PARKS.**

1.8 \$150,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of
 1.9 natural resources to construct camper cabins in Glacial Lakes State Park. \$150,000 is
 1.10 appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources to
 1.11 construct camper cabins in Sibley State Park.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

1.13 To provide the money appropriated by section 1, from the bond proceeds fund, the
 1.14 commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to \$300,000
 1.15 in the manner, on the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections
 1.16 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

1.17 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

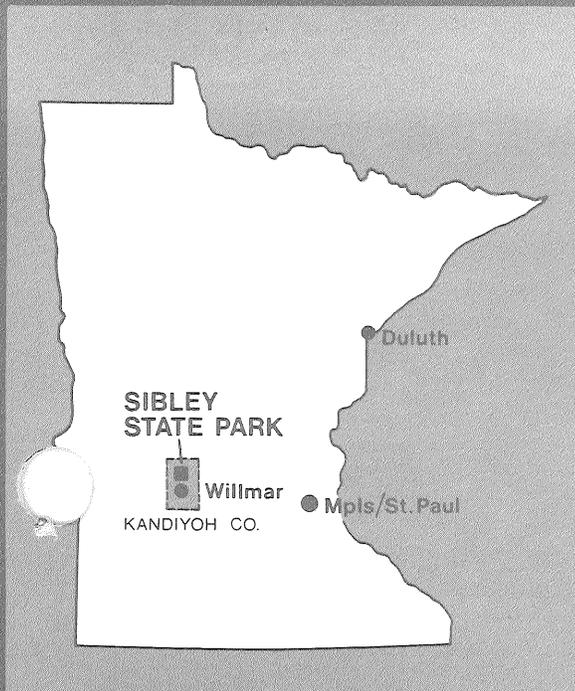
1.18 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

SIBLEY STATE PARK

WINTER TRAILS

EXPLORE
Minnesota
STATE PARKS

Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources



Sibley State Park is located in Kandiyohi County in west central Minnesota four miles west of New London and fifteen miles north of Willmar. The main entrance to the park is on U.S. Highway 71. Highway map index: F-15.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Henry Hastings Sibley, Minnesota's first governor, used the woods of Kandiyohi as his hunting grounds.

This wooded hilly 2,300 acre park that bears his name is located in an area where the grasslands of the west meet the Big Woods of the east.

Mt. Tom which rises to an elevation of 1375 feet above sea level is the highest point for 50 miles. It affords an excellent view of surrounding forest, prairie knolls, lakes and farmland.

GEOLOGY

Four times in the history of Minnesota, glaciers advanced from the north, covering the state with a sheet of ice up to two miles thick.

During the last of these advances, as recent as 10,000 years ago, most of the features of the Minnesota landscape were formed.

Sibley Park is in the part of the Alexandria Moraine Complex formed by the Wadena Lobe which was later overrun by the Grantsburg-Des Moines Lobe.

The rocks, sand, and gravel left by the last glacier make up the drift which formed Mt. Tom and the rest of the landscape. These deposits, as deep as 450 feet, are some of the deepest found anywhere in the state.

Many of the 194 lakes in the Kandiyohi County are ice-block lakes. These are steep-sided depressions formed by the melting of a large block of ice which was completely or partially buried by glacial till. Lake Andrew and others in the county are the result of another glacial lake formed in a depression as the ice passed over the land and then melted.

HISTORY

People of many races have used the hill we now call Mt. Tom as a viewpoint for both strategic and inspirational purposes. Fragments of stone pipes found there suggest that, like most high places, it held spiritual significance to the Dakota Indians.

Peter Broberg, the only member of his family to survive the Dakota War of 1862, along with many other local residents appreciated what nature had to offer in the Mt. Tom and Lake Andrew area. In 1919 they were successful in getting the state legislature to provide money to purchase the land which would become Sibley State Park.

From 1919 to 1934, the county was responsible for maintaining the park, though little development was done. Realizing that this area was a popular spot for more than just local people, the legislature authorized Sibley a state park in 1934.

In 1935 the federal government sent the Veterans Conservation Corps to Sibley. For the next three years, this group of up to two hundred men built roads, buildings, and trails within the park. When the V.C.C. camp was finished, they left behind \$700,000 worth of granite buildings and a beautiful state park.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

For centuries prairie fires burned across the grasslands of Minnesota, preventing forest from becoming established. Protected from fire by the lakes to the south, forest became the main vegetational cover of the area which is now Sibley State Park. The forest is dominated by oak, ironwood, basswood, hackberry, green ash, and aspen. Only on the knolls which were unsuitable for farming and too dry for the forest do we see remnants of what was once miles of uninterrupted prairie grasslands.

In an attempt to perpetuate these grasslands, some of the fields which had been cleared and farmed by the settlers have now been restored to native prairie grasses.

Most of the wildlife in the park are species that forests support; white tailed deer, red and gray fox, raccoons and ruffed grouse. Shrews, bats, mice, ground squirrels, red and gray squirrels, mink, striped skunks, badgers, and woodchucks are a few other species visitors can expect to see as they hike the trails of Sibley. In the marsh you may see muskrats, beaver, mallards, bluewinged teal, and wood ducks swimming or watch the blue heron or egret as they elegantly stalk their prey. Overhead you may watch the red-tailed and broadwing hawks as they search for food or you may come upon a wild turkey looking for acorns.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Have you ever visited a state park and wanted to know more about its plants, animals, legends and lore? Sibley State Park now offers a year-round interpretive program, where you and your family can experience nature as it changes through the seasons.

Information concerning hikes, films, slide presentations and other activities can be found on park bulletin boards, at the contact station, and in the new interpretive center.

Come experience the sights and sounds of Sibley!

FACILITIES:

- 138 semi-modern campsites (52 with electricity)
- Dump station, flush toilets, and showers
- Modern group camp (capacity 120) reservations required
- Primitive group camp (capacity 150)
- Horseback riders group camp (capacity 50)
- Picnic area with 140 tables and an open shelter (capacity 100)
- Swimming beach
- Lake fishing
- Boat and canoe rentals and water access
- Interpretive center
- 18 miles of hiking trail
- 10 miles of cross-country ski trail
- 6 miles of horseback riding trail
- 5 miles bicycle trail
- 6 miles snowmobile trail
- Park store
- 2 miles of skate ski trail

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK. . .

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules.
- The park is open year-round. On a daily basis, the park gate is closed from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following morning except to registered campers.
- Camp only in designated locations.
- The use of firearms, explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows, and all other weapons is prohibited in state parks.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are allowed only on park roads, not on trails.

- Enjoy park wildlife and plants but please respect them. Do not pick or dig up plants, disturb or feed animals, or scavenge dead wood.
- Build fires only in designated locations — fire rings or fireplaces. Wood is available for purchase from park staff. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Outdoor Recreation Information Center in St. Paul (see below).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sibley State Park Manager
800 Sibley Park Rd. N.E.
New London, MN 56273
(612) 354-2055

OR

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
(612) 296-6157

CALL FREE from within Minnesota
1-800-652-9747 (ask for the DNR)





Sibley State Park

LEGEND

TRAILS

- Snowmobile
- Cross Country Ski
 - easy
 - more difficult
 - most difficult
- Skate Ski
- Overlooks

PRIVATE PROPERTY
Public Use Prohibited
(except on designated trails)

SCALE

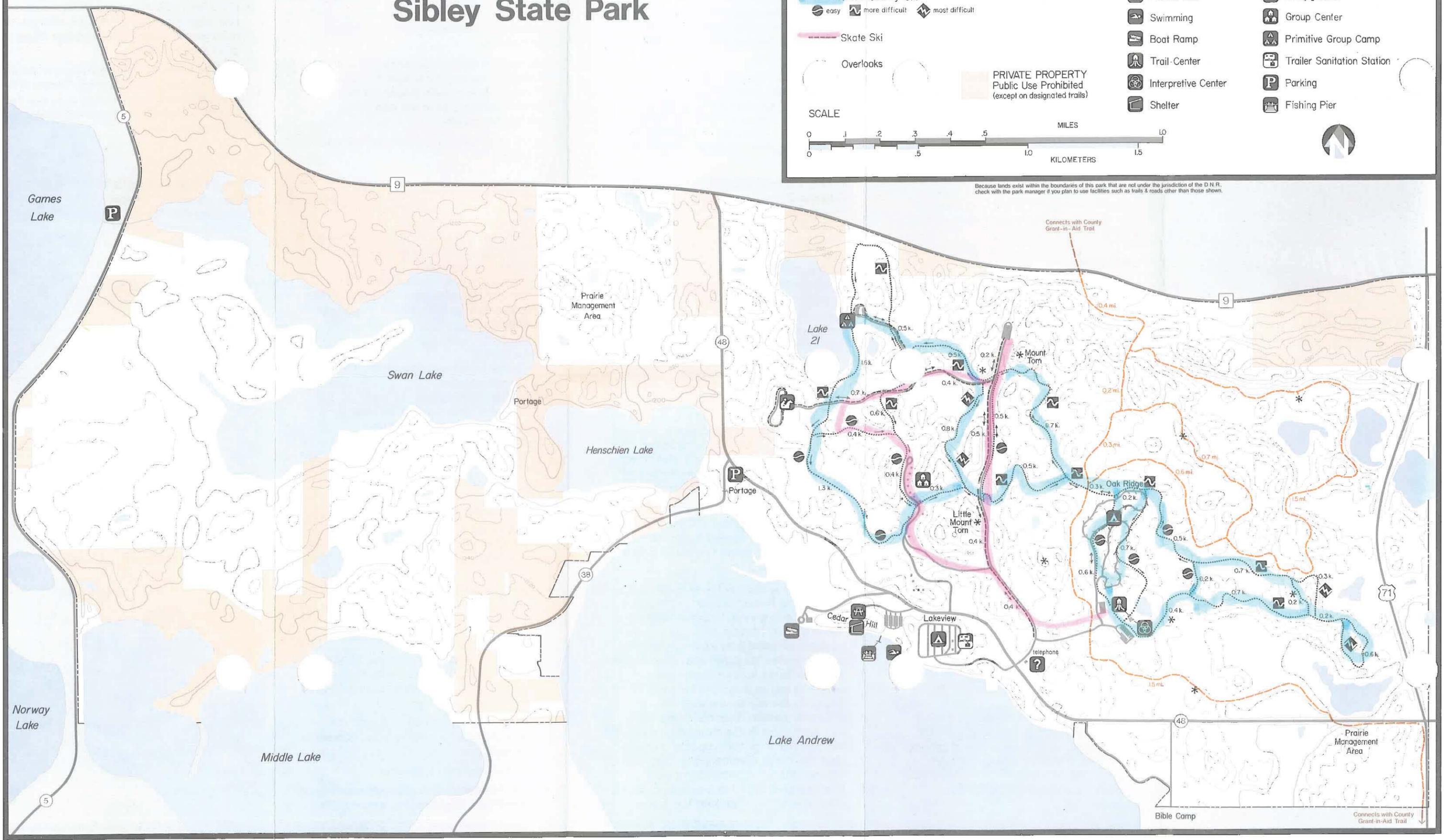


FACILITIES

- Information
- Picnic Area
- Swimming
- Boat Ramp
- Trail-Center
- Interpretive Center
- Shelter
- Equestrian Area
- Campground
- Group Center
- Primitive Group Camp
- Trailer Sanitation Station
- Parking
- Fishing Pier



Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails & roads other than those shown.



Bible Camp

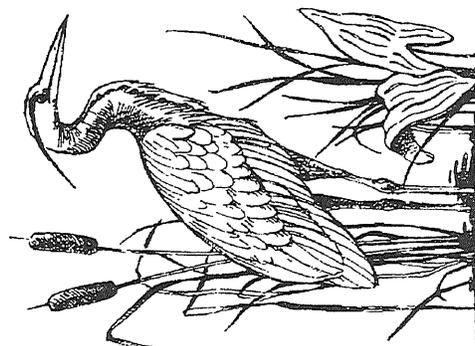
Connects with County Grant-in-Aid Trail

SIBLEY
STATE PARK

IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION

SSPIA

*Join us in building
the future of
Sibley State Park*



Sibley Park Office: (320) 354-2055

Sibley State Park
800 Sibley Park Road
New London, MN 56273

Sibley State Park Improvement Association Membership Application

- Enclosed is my membership: Individual \$10 Family \$15
 Corporate, Association, Club Donation \$ _____
 Additional tax-deductible contribution \$ _____
 I would like to hear about volunteer opportunities

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ (____) _____

Please make check payable to:
Sibley State Park Improvement
Association (SSPIA)
Sibley State Park
800 Sibley Park Rd NE
New London, MN 56273

*With your membership you are
making a better park for you
and your family to enjoy.*

Contributions are tax deductible.

Our Mission

Parks don't just "happen." The support of private citizens, such as yourself, has been essential in making Sibley State Park a reality.

Sibley State Park Improvement Association (SSPIA) works with local communities and state officials to enhance Sibley State Park for the benefit of present and future generations. We strive to increase public and political awareness of Sibley State Park through contact with legislators, the local news media, and the business community.

Approximately \$9 million comes into the area business communities each year by people that use Sibley State Park.

What a tourism impact!

Sibley State Park Improvement Association works to develop, enhance, and enlarge Sibley State Park, encouraging its protection and your enjoyment.



Our Story

A local group of park supporters along with an active local chapter of the "Game Protective League" were responsible for the establishment of Sibley State Park in 1919. In 1935, Sibley State Park Improvement Association was started.

SOME OF MANY SSPIA ACCOMPLISHMENTS:



- ▲ Helped secure Veteran Conservation Corps (VCC) camp which constructed all of the park's historic buildings
- ▲ Major expansion of park statutory boundaries in 1973 with additional expansion in 1999
- ▲ Purchased a 5-acre parcel in 1977 for the park
- ▲ Regular legislative lobbying efforts for acquisition, maintenance, and operation funding
- ▲ Sought funding and priority for major reconstruction of the park entrance road in 1987
- ▲ Secured funding for VCC commemorative sign on the Cedar Hill Shelter building
- ▲ Active participation with the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council
- ▲ Active participation in Arbor Day tree plantings and Open House events
- ▲ Prairie restoration work day at the park
- ▲ Tree planting; purchase and placement of Tubex tree shelters
- ▲ Cooperated with local Lions Clubs to help fund the remodeling of Mt. Tom observation structure
- ▲ Donated funds to Sibley State Park's Interpretive Center to further environmental education
- ▲ Input into the park management plan that guides overall development of the park
- ▲ Kiosk
- ▲ Solar panel water system at the primitive group camp
- ▲ Sibley Park's Prairie Day celebration
- ▲ Landscaping at boat landing

Join With Us

An annual meeting is held in September for all members of SSPIA. Several times during the year a board of directors meets to closely focus and direct progress toward keeping Sibley State Park a park that will make us all proud.

Your membership in SSPIA will help us to achieve our goal of protecting Minnesota's natural treasure for you and your children.

If we fail to be active stewards of the recreational and natural resources of our parks, we risk losing this valuable treasure. Minnesota Parks are your estate to be held in trust for all generations. With your help, your children will be able to enjoy this inheritance.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Join SSPIA for an annual fee of only \$10 for an individual membership; \$15 for a family membership; or on a donation basis for corporations, associations, or clubs.

As a member you will receive:

- A tax deduction
- A copy of annual meeting minutes
- A membership card
- An opportunity to voice your concerns and suggestions before the park officials, board, and other members
- An opportunity to participate in the mission of SSPIA to make a better park for this and future generations.

SIBLEY STATE PARK

800 Sibley Park Road NE
New London, Minnesota 56273

Park Office Phone: (320) 354-2055
Interpretive Center Phone: (320) 354-2002

E-Mail: paul.otto@dnr.state.mn.us
Web: www.sibleystateparkimprovementassociation.com



SIBLEY STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sibley State Park
800 Sibley Park Road N.E.
New London, MN 56273-9664
(320) 354-2055

Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)
1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)
TTY (Telecommunications
Device for Deaf)
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR web site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

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Henry Hastings Sibley, Minnesota's first governor, used the woods of Kandiyohi as his hunting grounds. This wooded, hilly 2,936-acre park that bears his name is located in an area where the grasslands of the west meet the Big Woods of the east.

The name Kandiyohi was taken from the Native American words meaning *Where-The-Buffalo-Fish-*

Come; Kandi meaning buffalo-fish and *ohi* meaning in. The name refers to the abundance of fish found in the area lakes.

Mount Tom, which rises to an elevation of 1375 feet above sea level, is one of the highest points for fifty miles. It affords an excellent view of surrounding forest, prairie knolls, lakes and farmlands.

GEOLOGY: Four times in the history of Minnesota, glaciers advanced from the north, covering the state with a sheet of ice up to two-miles thick. During the last of these advances, as recently as 10,000 years ago, most of the features of the Minnesota landscape were formed.

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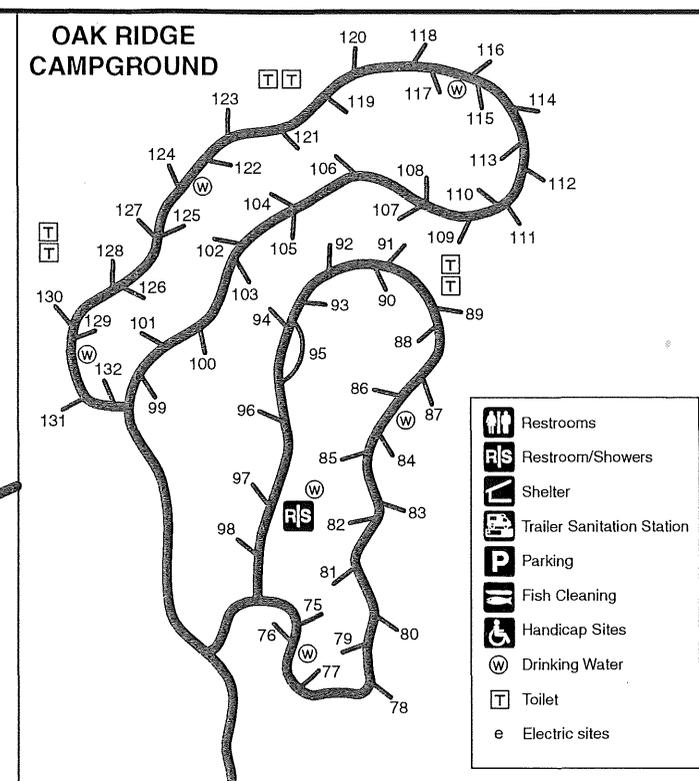
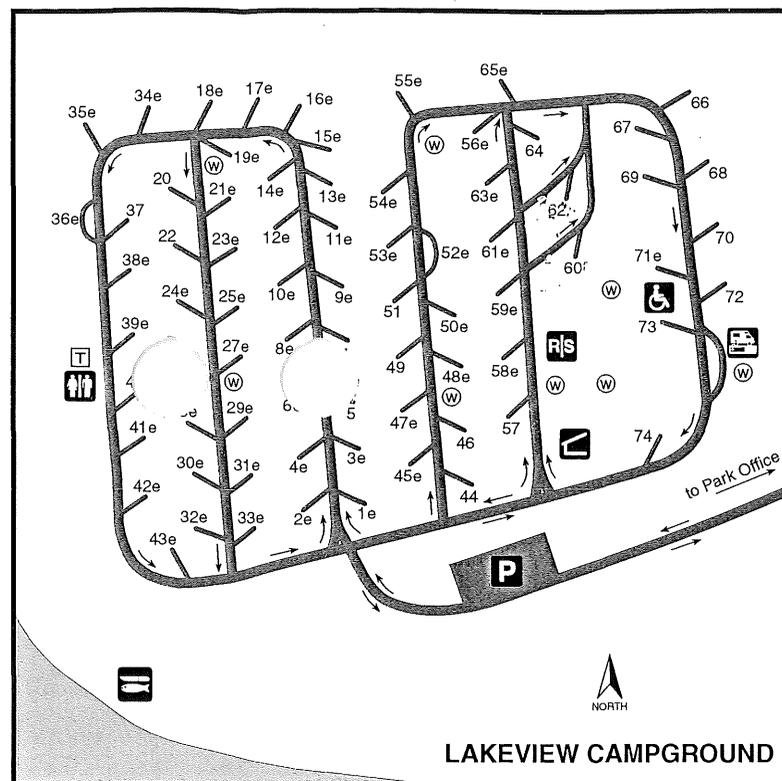
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VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE: For centuries prairie



fires burned across the grasslands of Minnesota, preventing forest from becoming established. Protected somewhat from fire by the lakes to the south, oak savanna—a mixture of oak and prairie became the main vegetative cover of the area. Through suppression of fire, the forest became the predominant vegetative cover. This is dominated by oak, ironwood, basswood, hickory, green ash, and poplar. Only on the knolls where the forest is less dense and the soil is less fertile and too dry for the forest do we see remnants of short grass prairie. In an attempt to perpetuate these grasslands, some fields which had been cleared and farmed by the settlers have now been restored to native prairie grasses.

Most of the wildlife in the park are species that forests support; white-tailed deer, red and gray fox, raccoons and ruffed grouse. Shrews, bats, mice, ground squirrels, red and gray squirrels, mink, bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, and cardinals are a few other species visitors can expect to see as they hike the trails of Sibley. In the marsh you may see muskrats, beaver, mallards, bluewinged teal, and wood ducks swimming or watch the blue herons or egrets as they elegantly stalk their prey. Overhead you may watch the red-tailed and broadwing hawks as they search for food. The lakes provide habitat for nesting loons.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM: Have you ever visited a state park and wanted to know more about its plants, animals, legends and lore? Sibley State Park offers a year-round interpretive program where you and your family can experience nature as it changes through the seasons. Information concerning hikes, films, slide presentations and other activities can be found on park bulletin boards, at the contact station, and in the interpretive center.

Come experience the sights and sounds of Sibley!

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules.
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- Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are al-

lowed only on park roads, not on trails.

- Enjoy park wildlife and plants, but please respect them. Do not pick or dig up plants, disturb or feed animals, or scavenge dead wood.
- Build fires only in designated locations, fire rings or fireplaces. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (see "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

*Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

© 8/2003 by State of Minnesota,
Department of Natural Resources



DNR Maps

SIBLEY STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 134 semi-modern campsites (53 with electricity)
- Dump station, flush toilets and showers
- Modern group center (capacity 120)—reservations required
- 3 primitive group camp sites (capacity 50 each)
- Horseback riders group camp (capacity 50)
- Picnic area with 140 tables and an open shelter (capacity 100)
- Swimming beach
- Camping reservations
- Lake fishing
- Boat and canoe rentals and water access
- Interpretive center
- 18 miles of hiking trail
- 10 miles of cross-country ski trail
- 9.0 miles of horseback riding trail
- 5 miles bicycle trail
- 6 miles snowmobile trail
- Park store
- 2 miles of skate-ski trail

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities.

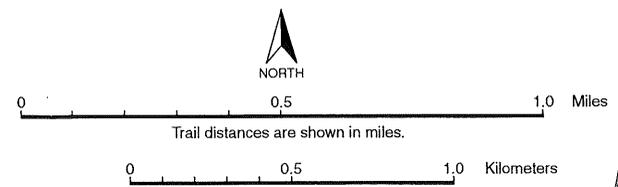
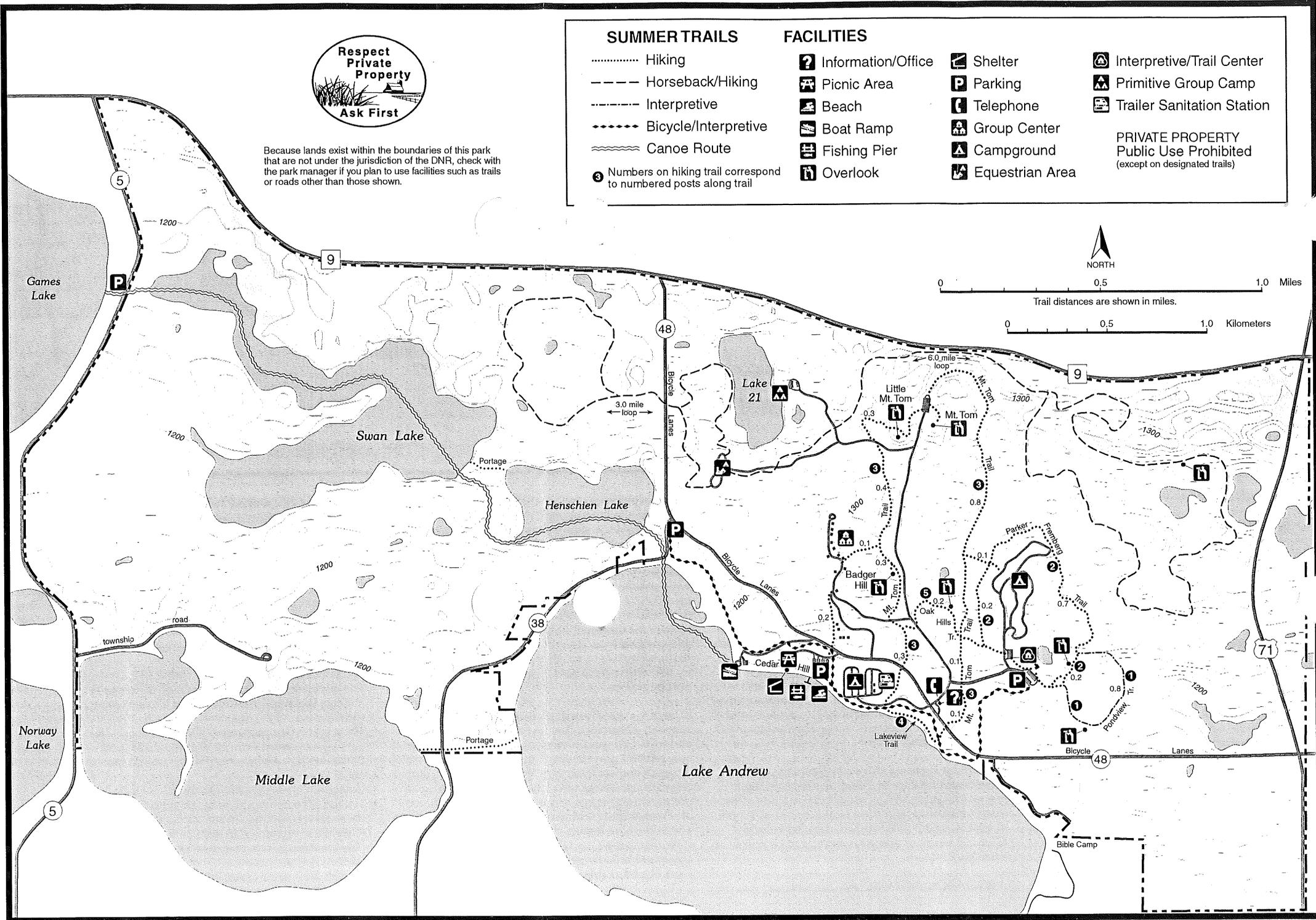
Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you'll be glad you did.



Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the DNR, check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails or roads other than those shown.

SUMMER TRAILS		FACILITIES					
.....	Hiking	?	Information/Office	🏠	Shelter	🏠	Interpretive/Trail Center
---	Horseback/Hiking	🍽️	Picnic Area	P	Parking	⛺	Primitive Group Camp
- - -	Interpretive	🏖️	Beach	☎️	Telephone	🚻	Trailer Sanitation Station
- · - · -	Bicycle/Interpretive	🚤	Boat Ramp	🏠	Group Center	🏠	Campground
~~~~~	Canoe Route	🎣	Fishing Pier	🏠	Campground	🏠	Equestrian Area
③	Numbers on hiking trail correspond to numbered posts along trail	🏠	Overlook				



Located in West Central  
Minnesota, 5 miles west of  
Starbuck, just off  
Highway 29.  
Watch for sign.



**BECOME A FRIEND  
TODAY WITH THE  
FUTURE IN MIND**

Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park  
25022 County Road 41  
Starbuck, MN 56381

# Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park

"Where people and nature meet"

25022 County Road 41  
Starbuck, MN 56381



# WELCOME TO GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK

-a unique segment of soaring hills contrasted by supine valleys which were formed by the last glaciers more than 10,000 years ago. Whether you have but one hour or an unlimited time to be our guest, the Department of Natural Resources staff hopes you will have a memorable experience enjoying the many recreational opportunities waiting for you in the park.

Visitors will find hiking along the ridgetops of the steep hills a popular and exhilarating activity - climaxing a truly spectacular vista of the park.

Following a hike during warm summer days, a swim in the sparkling, clear lake is a popular activity. A swimming beach and a drive-in boat access is available and handicapped accessible. There are several lakes, ponds and marshes within the park's 1,880 acres. The largest, Mountain Lake, is a 56 acre spring-fed lake. Its entire watershed lies within the park, accounting for the year-round clarity and purity of its water.

Another popular activity of visitors is exploring the colorful, ever-changing native prairie nestled among the oakwoods and marshes. To partake in the magic of prairie life, all you have to do is gaze at the blazing sunrise or sunset, listen to the wind and birds in the tall bluestem grass, watch the seemingly eternal approach of a prairie thunderstorm, and smell its freshness after the rejuvenating rain. Visitors won't want to miss this excellent opportunity to appreciate the Minnesota prairie.

To assist you in exploring the park, interpretive signs are posted throughout the area, and brochures on wildlife and plants are available at the park office. While in the office, you may also inquire about the Interpretive Programs which are occasionally given by park naturalists to give you a better understanding of this exceptional example of Minnesota landscape.

## AS A MEMBER ---

- You will help preserve a special place before it disappears

- Strengthen our voice on legislative matters

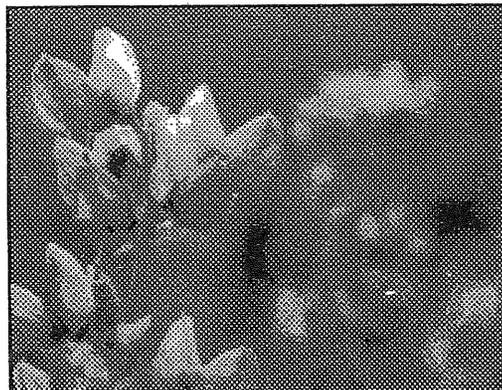
Make new friends with same interest

- Receive newsletter on what happens at Glacial Lakes State Park and parks from other areas

- Have an opportunity to volunteer on special projects and special events, such as:

- State Park Open House
- Help build special projects
- Park clean-up day
- Resource projects
- Build and improve trails

- Knowledge that you are part of a larger organization to help preserve Glacial Lakes State Park



By signing this application you will become a Friend of  
Glacial Lakes State Park

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Individual - \$15

Senior Citizen - \$10

Student - \$5

Business Donation _____

_____ I would like to give this as a gift to the person listed above.

**Make checks payable to:**

Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park

Starbuck Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 234

Starbuck, MN 56381

*Tax exempt status applications in progress*



## GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Glacial Lakes State Park  
Route 2, Box 126  
Starbuck, MN 56381  
(320) 239-2860

Department of Natural Resources  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

296-6157 (Metro Area)  
1-800-766-6000 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications  
Device for Deaf)  
296-5484 (Metro Area)  
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK is located five miles south of Starbuck, Minnesota. Entrance to the park is from Pope County State Aid Highway 41.. Highway map index: E-14.

Welcome to Glacial Lakes State Park - a unique segment of soaring hills contrasted by supine valleys which were formed by the last glaciers more than 10,000 years ago. Whether you have but one hour or an unlimited time to be our guest, the Department of Natural Resources staff hopes you will have a memorable experience enjoying the many recreational opportunities waiting for you in the park. Visitors will find hiking along the ridgetops of the steep hills a popular and exhilarating activity—climaxing a truly spectacular vista of the park.

Following a hike during warm summer days, a swim in the sparkling, clear lake is a popular activity. A swimming beach and a drive-in boat access is available and handicapped accessible. There are several lakes, ponds and marshes within the park's 1,880 acres. The largest, Mountain Lake, is a 56 acre spring-fed lake. Its entire watershed lies within the park, accounting for the year-round clarity and purity of its water.

Another popular activity of visitors is exploring the colorful, ever-changing native prairie nestled among the oakwoods and marshes. To partake in the magic of prairie life, all you have to do is gaze at a blazing sunrise or sunset, listen to the wind and birds in the tall bluestem grass, watch the seemingly eternal approach of a prairie thunderstorm, and smell its freshness after the rejuvenating rain. Visitors won't want to miss this excellent opportunity to appreciate the Minnesota prairie.

To assist you in exploring the park, interpretive signs are posted throughout the area, and brochures on wildlife and plants are available at the park office. While in the office, you may also inquire about the Interpretive Programs which are occasionally given by park naturalists to give you a better understanding of this exceptional example of Minnesota landscape.

**GEOLOGY OF THE PARK:** Glacial Lakes State Park is located in western Minnesota in a geological area commonly known as the Leaf Hills. This region, a 10 to 19 mile-wide and of glacial hills unlike any other in the state, extends from Detroit Lakes south-easterly to Willmar.

As glacial ice advanced southward, hills and bluffs were sheared off down to the bedrock. When the ice retreated, it deposited the rocks, gravel and dirt once suspended within it. Geologists call this material glacial till and some of the greatest depths of till in Minnesota are found in the park. This glacial action resulted in filling depressions, forming hills and creating the high, steep rolling lands stretching across west-central Minnesota.

Estimates have placed the last glacial ice sheet in Minnesota at approximately 10,000 years ago. Even today we are not sure if we are out of the "last ice age" or are just in a temporary reprieve. In either case, this area, which includes the park, is a fascinating study area for those interested in geology.

Here in Glacial Lakes you can see many typical glacial landscape features such as kames, kettles, eskers and moraines-geologists' terms for specific landscape formations.

Kames are conical-shaped hills formed by glacial debris deposited by meltwaters flowing into and down holes in the ice mass.

A kettle is a depression (which usually becomes a lake or marsh) that formed when a block of ice melts after being separated from the glacier and covered by glacial debris.

An esker is a worm-like ridge that forms beneath a glacier as debris laden meltwater runs under the ice. When the ice melts, the stream bed, formed by the running meltwater, shows up as a winding ridge.

End moraines are areas where the leading or "resting" edge of a glacier "dumped" a load of debris that it carried. The conveyor belt transports material, or when a retreating or advancing ice cross over each other.

An erratic is any boulder carried and deposited by a glacier. The origin of erratics help us learn about movements of the glaciers. For example, rocks have been found here that contain ferrous oxide (iron ore) indicating that there were transported from ore bearing formations in northeastern Minnesota and Canada. Other erratics found in the park contain granite that could have come from the St. Cloud area or basalt—a dark heavy rock—probably originating from northeast Minnesota.

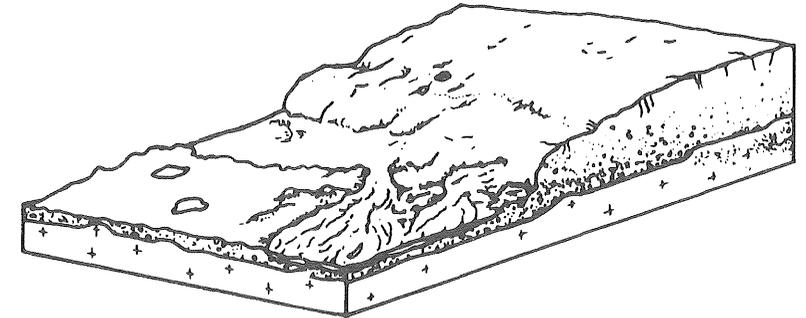
**PLANT COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE:** Glacial Lakes State Park is located at a "cross-roads" between the original prairie land to the west and the central hardwood forests to the east. Fires were once the primary factor controlling the mix of forest and prairie along this "transition zone".

Only about one-tenth of one percent of the original Minnesota prairie remains. The park preserves a portion of rare native prairie including a wide variety of grasses and forbs such as wild prairie, and little bluestem grass, wild prairie grass, clover, pasque flowers, coneflowers and goldenrods, to name a few. Common prairie shrubs include wolfberry and rose. Check at the park office to see what wildflowers might be in bloom during your visit.

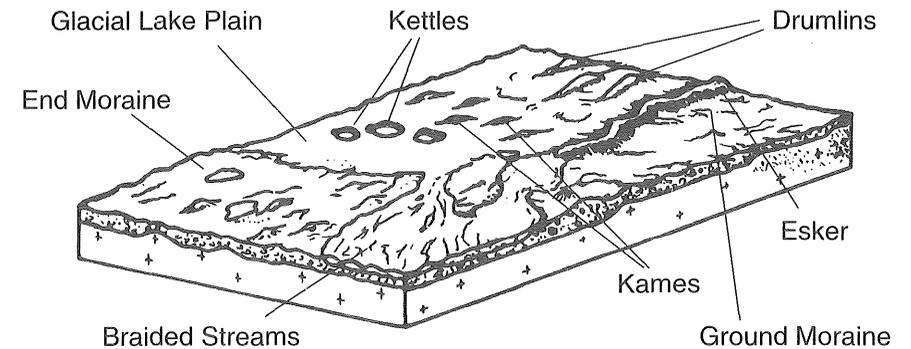
Many species of prairie and woodland birds make their home at Glacial Lakes. You can take the Prairie Woodland Interpretive Trail or visit marshland areas to see a variety of bird and mammal life. A careful observer can see squirrels, deer, beaver, wood ducks, raccoons, pileated woodpeckers and occasionally coyotes.

**FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** Glacial Lakes State Park offers a modern campground situated in the shade of an oak woods. Separate walk-in campsites and a picnic area with shelter are nestled at the base of oak-covered hills. Good fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, panfish and northern pike are close at hand. Horseback riding trails are available

## RETREATING GLACIER



## LANDFORMS REMAINING FOLLOWING GLACIAL RETREAT



and a horseback riding trip along the ridgetops is an exciting and unusual way to view the rare scenic panorama of the countryside. A trail area is available for unloading. Skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and camping opportunities are available during the winter.

### SERVICE INFORMATION:

- Firewood available at park headquarters
- Ice available in Starbuck
- Groceries and gas available in Starbuck
- Telephone outside park office
- Fishing licenses sold in Starbuck
- Automobile servicing in Starbuck
- Medical service in Starbuck

*This information is available in alternative format upon request.*

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Department of Natural Resources



DNR Maps

# GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK

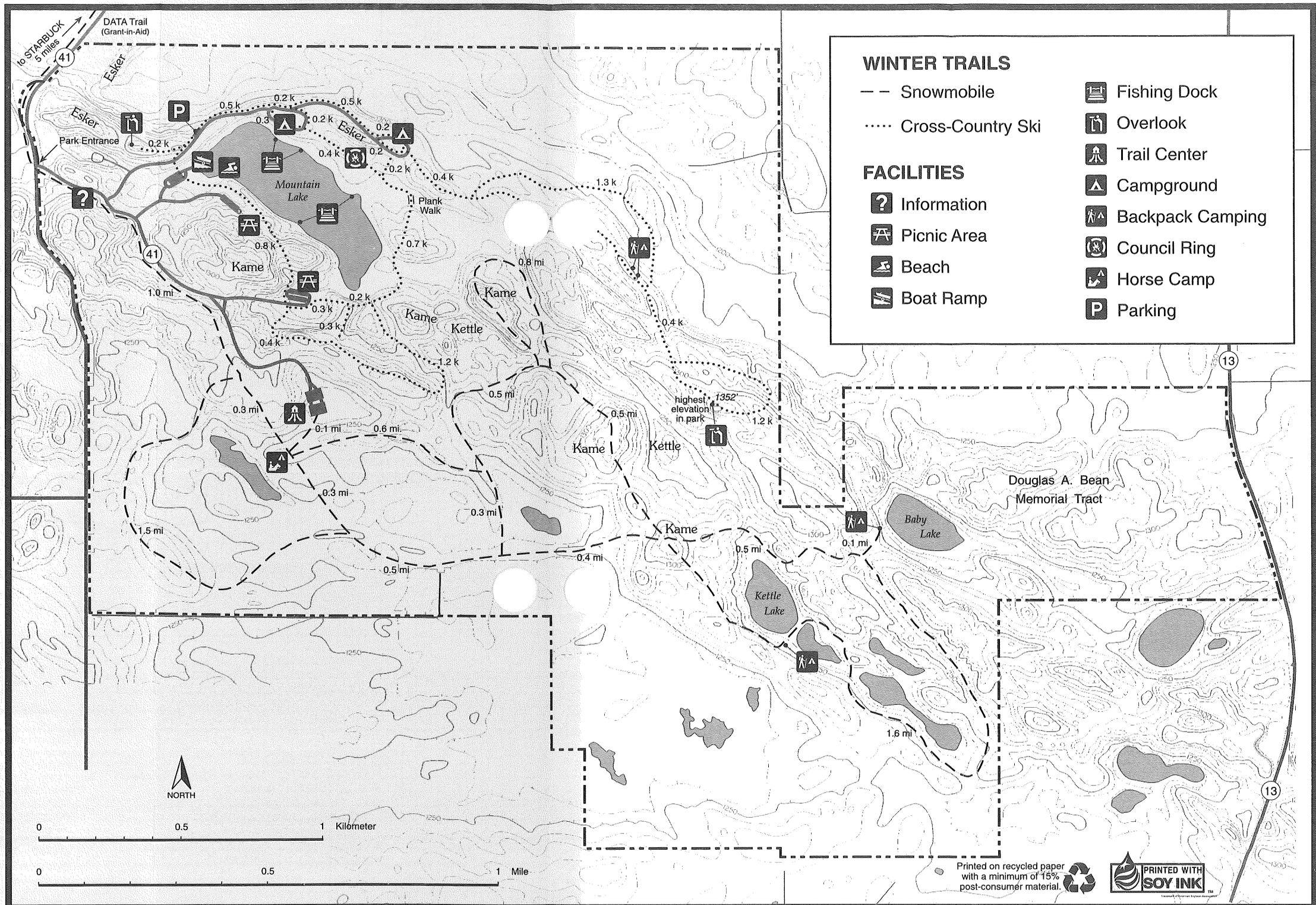
## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 41 campsites in the shade of oak woods
- Hot showers and modern toilet facilities
- Swimming in a crystal clear lake
- Handicapped accessible campground and beach
- Nature trails
- Backpack campsites
- Group camping area
- Camping reservations
- Horseback-riders trailer parking/staging area/camping
- Picnic area below oak covered hills
- Scenic overlook with picnic deck
- Fishing for largemouth bass, panfish and northern pike
- Canoe and rowboat rentals
- Boat launching ramp and parking
- Snowmobile trails
- Cross-country ski trails
- Horseback riding trails

### LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

The DNR has mapped 45 of 51 separate areas of the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you'll be glad you did.



## WINTER TRAILS

- Snowmobile
- ..... Cross-Country Ski

## FACILITIES

- ? Information
- ⌘ Picnic Area
- ⌘ Beach
- ⌘ Boat Ramp

- ⌘ Fishing Dock
- ⌘ Overlook
- ⌘ Trail Center
- ⌘ Campground
- ⌘ Backpack Camping
- ⌘ Council Ring
- ⌘ Horse Camp
- P Parking

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