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## "LAND USE, AND RECREATION"

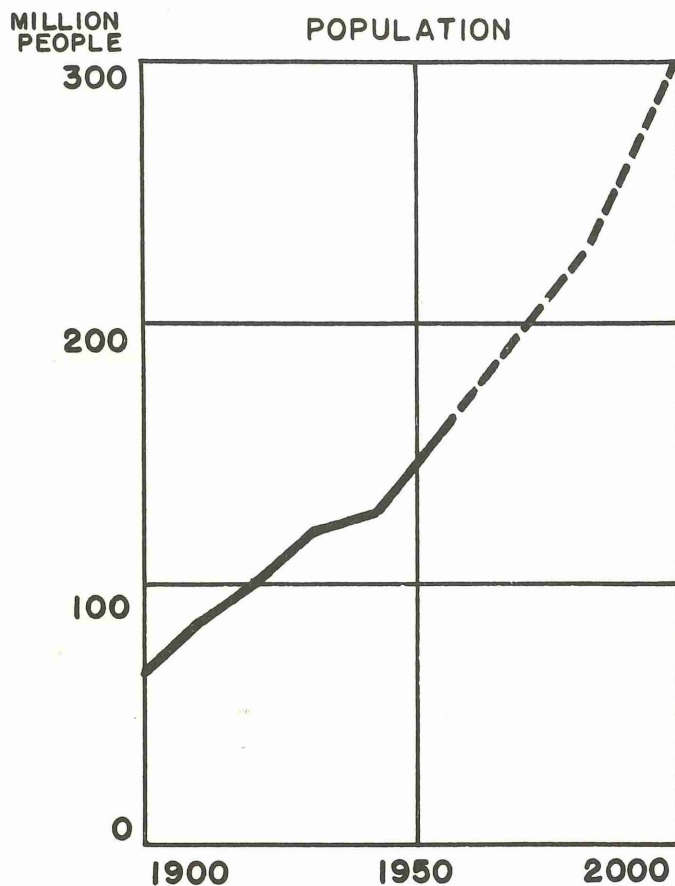
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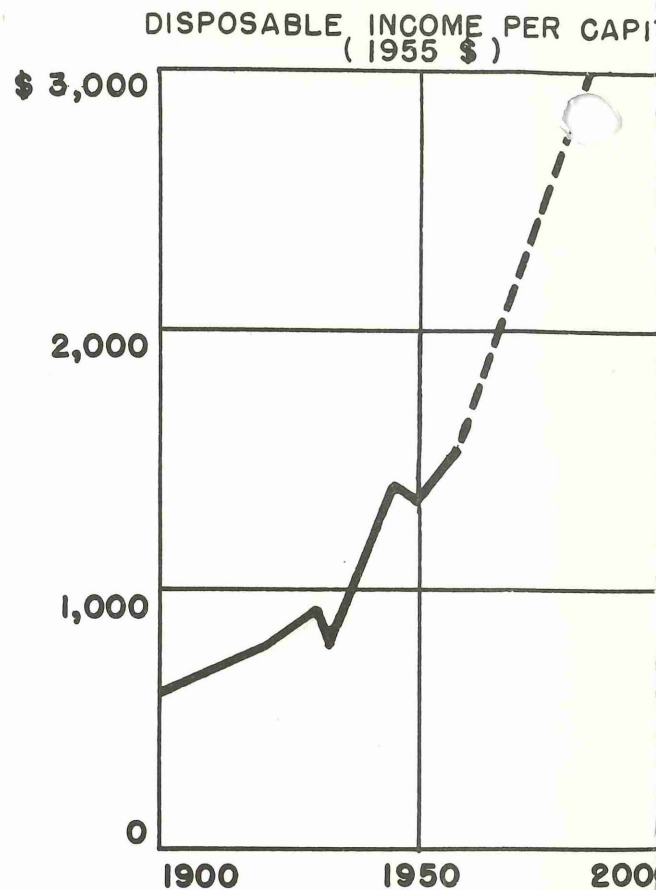
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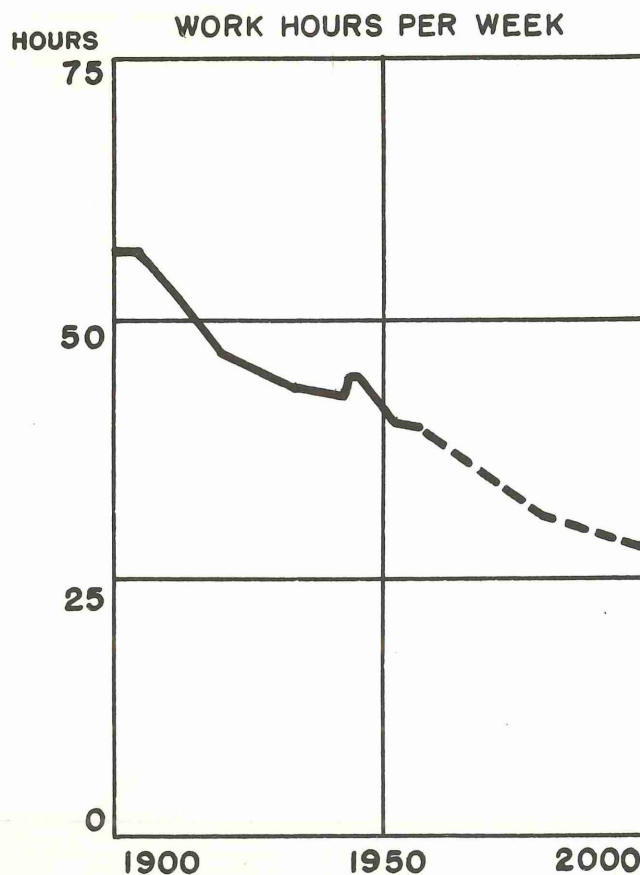
## POPULATION



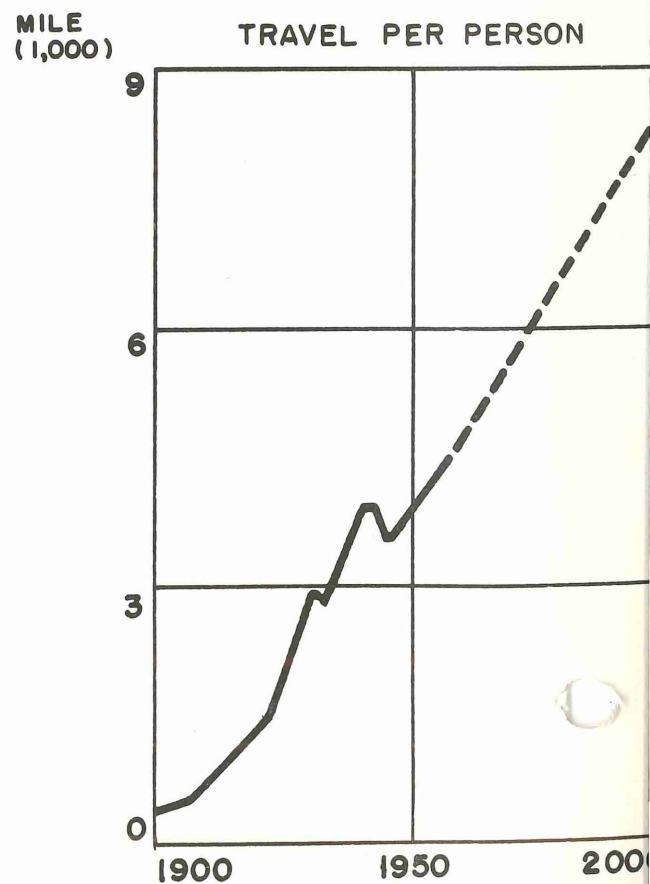
## BUYING POWER



## LEISURE



## MOBILITY



# LAND, LAND USE, AND RECREATION

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This 21-point prospectus on Land, Land Use, and Recreation highlights some of the major land management problems in Minnesota.

In the Department of Conservation we are particularly interested in the preservation of selected natural areas, public access to lakes and streams, and other strategic areas needed for state parks, forestry and wildlife.

Land use and acquisition for these purposes, however, are not restricted to the Department of Conservation. The Federal Government, Counties and Municipalities, and private and commercial ownership share in this responsibility. The Minnesota Highway Department, also, has a very definite obligation particularly to provide waysides and parking areas.

Allied studies presently underway will provide additional basic information to further the recommendations of this report:

1. Minnesota land inventory and use study by the American Forestry Association.
2. The current survey of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission.
3. A cooperative National Park Service and Minnesota Conservation Department park, parkway and recreational area survey.

#### Urgency of Recreational Planning

On the inside cover of this report the story of recreational pressure is graphically told. Target dates only will give us a picture of the recreational needs of tomorrow. Looking ahead the year 2000 is not too distant, and as recreation indices let us consider population, income, leisure and mobility.





It is reliably estimated we will have twice as many people, twice as much income per person, 1.5 times as much leisure and nearly twice as much travel in the year 2000 as in 1950. Translate this into terms of recreational demand and the challenge of today for recreation tomorrow is unmistakably clear.

We must project the recreational picture of the future beyond the scope of limited year to year planning. Use of our state parks by tourists and campers has increased at a phenomenal rate since 1955. Visitations (just under 3 million in 1959) are up 50%; while camper days are almost 600% higher than five years ago.

#### Inventory of Minnesota Lands

In 1953 Governmental agencies had ownership of 13,639,000 acres of land in Minnesota or 26.6 per cent of the gross area of the State as shown below:

Federal Government	3,812,000
State	5,028,000
Tax Forfeited Land	<u>4,799,000</u>
Total	13,639,000

In 1953 the commercial forest land in the State totaled some 18,098,000 acres and Governmental agencies controlled 56.1 per cent of this total as shown below:

Federal Government	3,055,000
State	3,484,000
Tax Forfeited Land	<u>3,619,000</u>
Total	10,158,000

It is now important to look at the distribution of this 18,098,000 acres of forest land.





COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND BY OWNERSHIP AND GEOGRAPHIC  
DIVISION, MINNESOTA, 1953

Ownership Class	Division			
	Total	North- eastern	South- eastern	Western
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres
Federally owned or managed:				
National forest	2,195	2,195		
Indian	717	673	1	43
Bureau of Land Management	49	46		3
Other	94	44	39	11
Total	3,055	2,958	40	57
<hr/>				
State	3,484	3,251	48	185
County and Municipal	3,619	3,293	244	82
<hr/>				
Private:				
Farm	4,881	2,123	1,676	1,082
Industrial and Other	3,059	2,801	158	100
Total	7,940	4,924	1,834	1,182
<hr/>				
All Ownerships	18,098	14,426	2,166	1,506

We now find that the percentage of ownership for the various parts of the State is as follows:

State is as follows:

Ownership Class	Total acres	Division		
		North- eastern	South- eastern	Western
		Percentage		
Federal	3,055,000	96.8	1.3	1.9
State	3,484,000	93.3	1.4	5.3
Tax Forfeited	3,619,000	90.9	6.8	2.3
Private				
Farm	4,881,000	43.5	34.3	22.2
Industrial	<u>3,059,000</u>	<u>91.6</u>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>3.2</u>
Total	18,098,000	79.7	12.0	8.3





In Minnesota we should be ever mindful that 26.6% of all lands are publicly owned. It imposes a major responsibility of land management. It also is a limiting factor in any program of land acquisition.

The best justification for land acquisition is recreation. Purchase, however, recommends the return of equivalent areas to the tax rolls through a program of land re-classification. The tax base of political sub-divisions must be protected.

#### Our Land Management Program

In conservation, as in all other areas, it is highly desirable to define program in terms of objectives and target dates. On this basis the Department of Conservation has formulated a ten-point land management program for completion in ten-year period, sometimes referred to as our Ten-Ten program. The objectives are as follows:

1. Reactivation of Land Use Committee.
2. Accelerated program of public access acquisition.
3. Continue wetlands acquisition for wildlife.
4. Acquisition of strategic park areas and additions.
5. Re-assessment of all state lands to reserve areas of high recreational potential for future use.
6. Provide a financial program for land acquisition.
7. Cooperate with Youth Camps and Camping Groups.
8. Encourage County and Municipal Park Program.
9. Exploit Federal Land recreational facilities.
10. Maintain a continuing program of information and education for the furtherance of our recreational program.





## State Land Use Committee

Chapter 436, Laws of 1933, provided for the organization of the State Land Use Committee and county land classification committees. It was provided that the members of the committee shall consist of the Governor of the State of Minnesota, the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Highways and the Commissioner of Taxation.

The committee shall meet at the office of the Commissioner of Conservation at the call of the Governor. It is the duty of the land use committee to classify all public and private lands in the state with reference to the use to which the lands are adapted, but principally as to adaptability to present known uses such as agriculture and forestry. Known physical and economic factors are the principal considerations in classifying land. This committee has been inactive for 25 years.

Problems of land utilization are receiving greater attention than ever before. It is becoming more and more generally recognized that the recreational demands of a burgeoning society calls for improvements in land policies and in programs for land use. The adoption of sound policies and the initiation of constructive programs of action are dependent upon a re-evaluation of our land resources and a projection of our needs into the foreseeable future.

Possibly the greatest value of a reactivated land use committee would be to offer leadership in the management of our basic resources, namely soil and water. A program for immediate action might conceivably include:

1. A comprehensive factual survey of our land resources and the recreational potentialities of our present extensive state ownership.
2. A working liaison with all land agencies presently constituted; a militant program of promotion, research, education, and development; and cooperation, understanding and support for all projects, programs and legislation in the public interest.





3. To assist and advise the Department of Conservation in the development of a land use program or operational blueprint for the generations to come.

It must be remembered that never before have our people been so "outdoor recreation conscious". The complexities of land management complicated by problems of acquisition, multiple use, public access and a host of related problems magnifies the situation. We must cultivate a widespread public awareness of the urgency of the need to acquire strategic areas for recreation now, -- or they will not be acquired at all.

#### Our State Park Needs

Land acquisition in Minnesota is a high-priority objective, particularly in the instance of strategic areas. However, proper land utilization and the development of recreational facilities is paramount. Needed land additions at the present have the advantage of lower price.

Expansion is urgently needed for 22 of our state parks, and the division has recommended the addition of 40 new park areas in the next 10 years. There is critical need of a 10 year, \$8 million capital improvement program to serve our projected population demands for outdoor recreational facilities.

The total land area devoted to state park purposes has been increased during the past five year period by a grand total of 12,616.43 acres at a cost to the state of \$100,213.79. There was a total of 816.11 acres donated by public citizens, 2,047.4 acres transferred from state and local governmental agencies and 8,546.00 acres of tax forfeited land received and established under the jurisdiction of the Division of State Parks. This land acquisition program enlarged 16 state parks





established prior to 1955 and provided for 7 state parks established during the period 1955-1960.

State Parks must keep pace with increased population and leisure time. This coupled with increased mobility, more spendable income and the shift from spectator amusements to individual participation is reflected in the phenomenal increase in family camping in Minnesota State Parks of over 600% in the last five years. Since the establishment of our first state park unit in 1889 the recreational demands of today's world has over-taxed our park facilities with no allowance for the years ahead.

#### Historical Sites

In a report dated May 18, 1960, and prepared for the Department of Conservation, Russell W. Fridley, Director of the Minnesota Historical Society, recommended 15 areas of outstanding historical significance for inclusion in the State Park System. All of these areas include historical values of either major or dominant interest combined in every case with scenic features and recreational advantages of relatively high potential.

This report has been drawn together from a state-wide survey of historic sites recently conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society. The approximate acreage for park purposes is indicated where it is known. Except for the additions recommended for Fort Ridgely State Park, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park and Frontenac State Park, none of these areas are included in the state park system at present.



Two areas situated along the north shore of Lake Superior and not included in this report -- Pigeon Point and MacFarland Lake -- should be mentioned.

Pigeon Point is included in the National Park Service Great Lakes Shoreline Recreational Area Survey (1959) as possessing possible potential for the national park system in conjunction with the development of the Grand Portage National Monument. The MacFarland Lake area possesses similar values of national calibre for the monument. The acquisition of these two areas by the National Park Service would not only preserve rare stretches of the historic Voyageurs Highway, but would enlarge the setting of Grand Portage National Monument.

The areas selected follow:

1. FORT SNELLING - Approximately 2,400 acres.
2. ADDITION TO FORT RIDGELY (near Fairfax in Nicollet county) - 148 acres.
3. UPPER SIOUX AGENCY (near Granite Falls in Yellow Medicine county) - 300 acres.
4. LOWER (OR REDWOOD) SIOUX AGENCY (near Morton in Redwood County) - 300 acres.
5. SUGAR POINT, LEECH LAKE (Cass county) - 250 acres.
6. FORT ST. CHARLES (On the Northwest Angle in Lake of the Woods county) - 20,000 - 30,000 acres)
7. THE GRAND MOUND (near International Falls in Koochiching county) - 2,500 acres.
8. PREHISTORIC INDIAN FORT (near Yucatan in Houston county) - 100 acres.
9. THE SWEENEY FORT SITE (near Welch in Goodhue county) - 100 acres.
10. ST. CROIX VALLEY (Mouth of Sunrise River and Nevers Dam Site in Chisago county) 1,000 acres.
11. RAINY LAKE CITY - BLACK BAY (Koochiching county) - 2,000 acres.
12. ADDITIONS TO MILLE LACS KATHIO (Mille Lacs county)
13. ADDITION TO FRONTENAC STATE PARK (Goodhue county)
14. SPLIT ROCK LIGHT HOUSE (Lake county) - 750 acres.
15. SAVANNA PORTAGE (Aitkin county) - 5,000 acres.

#### County and Municipal Parks

In recent years state park management has made it manifestly clear that the burden of providing recreational facilities is not that of the state alone, but that of county and municipal government as well. The principle involved is





that of a close partnership of federal, state and local agencies in discharging these obligations. Each has a job to do. The relationship can best be described as supplementary and complementary to one another. We should also be cognizant of the role played by private agencies and commercial industry in contributing a substantial part to a solution of the recreational problem. Permissive county and multi-county park legislation is deserving of high priority.

#### Minnesota State Forests

The State of Minnesota and its people are fortunate in having many natural resources. One of the basic renewable resources is our forest resource. Even today, after many years of burning, clearing and logging, the forest area of some 19 million acres still represents 38 per cent of the total land area of the state. Statistics show that the present forest area equals about 61 per cent of the original forest which was estimated at 31½ million acres. The annual income from Minnesota forests is placed at well over 200 million dollars in forest products which far exceeds the value of products produced in the so-called hey-day of logging in this state.

The forests of Minnesota in their broad sense are essential to maintenance of lake and ground water levels; control of stream flow, soil stabilization, forest wildlife, and the recreation industry.

The Division of Forestry must and does have a vital role in the protection and management of this forest resource.

The State Forests of Minnesota are an asset of inestimable value. Of obvious value is the annual harvest of sawlogs, pulpwood, bolts, posts, Christmas





trees and other forest products. Less obvious, but of at least equal importance, is their public use for recreation - camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing and so forth. These are the resources, classified as recreational, that will constitute our recreational reserve for the future. Few states are so generously endowed with such vast natural areas for public use.

#### Minnesota Memorial Hardwood State Forest

Forest areas are needed in southeastern Minnesota to complete the dream of a great recreational playground in the newly established Minnesota Memorial Hardwood State Forest. This new forest playground includes the river bluffs along the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River and the tributary valleys that lie between the Twin Cities and the Iowa boundary. It is expected that intelligent timber management alone should liquidate the expenditures required for acquisition and management.

Multiple use plans will provide for public recreation areas along a 120-mile stretch of the Mississippi from the Iowa border to Hastings, Minnesota. They will include state parks, hunting grounds, campsites, boat landings, hiking and bridle trails and eventually an arboretum. In its initial phases the forest will embrace about 200,000 acres and then will be expanded along the wooded valleys of such tributaries as the Root, Zumbro, Cannon, and Vermillion rivers. It will cover portions of Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore and Olmsted counties.

To dissipate any objection that may arise from any loss of tax revenue resulting from acquisition it is planned to offset this by dedicating 50 per cent of the gross receipts each year from timber sales, leases or any other income to



compensate the local taxing units. This state forest will bring valuable recreational areas right to the back door of the large metropolitan areas of the state.

#### State-owned Lakeshore Sites and Campgrounds

The Division of Forestry has twenty-six primitive campgrounds capable of accommodating from five camping units on the smallest to thirty on the largest. In addition to the campgrounds there are fourteen picnic or lunch areas.

In order to accommodate the influx of campers wishing to use this kind of outdoor recreation, it is estimated that by 1975 the state must provide an additional seventy-five such campgrounds of 30 units each.

In the north central and northeastern part of the state there now is sufficient good state lakeshore, 159 miles of shoreline, for this expansion. The problem is the financing of the development and maintenance of the additional areas.

The Division of Lands and Minerals has at the present time about 400 cottage site leases in existence and, in addition, we have a lease to the Future Farmers of America for a campsite on Arrowhead Lake and a lease to the Boy Scouts of America for a campsite on Island Lake.

It is estimated that there are 4,700 descriptions of state trust fund land bordering on lakes or rivers, comprising some 146,000 acres. All of these lands have been reserved from sale by law and some of the lands are now being used for state parks, state cottage site areas, or state campgrounds. A good share of this land has swampy shoreline and is chiefly valuable for general conservation purposes only and not for specific recreational uses.





These lands in certain locations should prove attractive to counties and municipalities for the development of local park facilities. At any rate the future will accurately appraise and acclaim much of these lands not so desirable in terms of present day demand.

#### Minnesota Highway Waysides and Campgrounds

The contributions of the Minnesota Highway System to our recreational facilities are many and include projects such as waysides and parking areas, the Great River Road, the Great Circle Route and the North Shore Parkway.

Minnesota has 42,571 miles of highways: trunk highways 11,795; state aid (county) 29,888; and interstate (when completed) 888. Highway waysides and parking areas in the state total 309.

The best argument voiced for the establishment of waysides and parking areas was recently expressed by a motorist who declared: "On a long trip I was making I found the wayside a haven, a place to rest and catch a few minutes sleep before going on. It provided the rest I so badly needed. It proved a real safety factor." Waysides and Parking Areas as a safety factor may effectively justify the expenditure of highway funds for this purpose.

The Great River Road is truly immense in scope. Passing through ten states and two Canadian provinces, the Great River Road will exceed a length of two thousand miles -- from the Gulf of Mexico in the south to the north side of Falcon lake in Manitoba. Here it will link up with Canada's great trans-continental highway which will span this country from east to west.





Land acquisition in anticipation of the building of the Great River Road may result in considerable savings because of rising land values. It should constitute a continuing policy and program. Some segments along the route of this highway are presently included in the projected lands needs of our State Parks.

### Federal Lands

The original policy of Congress was to transfer federal lands to private ownership either directly or through the states as intermediaries, on the theory that this course would best promote the development of the country. In Minnesota grants to the state amounted to about 16,400,000 acres nearly half of which was to assist in railroad construction, while grants and sales to individuals and corporations amounted to about 32,700,000 acres -- a total of 49,100,000 acres, or 96 per cent of the land area of the state.

A basic change in policy occurred in 1902 when Congress authorized the permanent reservation of certain Indian lands as the Minnesota Forest Reserve -- now known as the Chippewa National Forest.

In 1909 the Superior National Forest was created by Presidential proclamation. The policy of adding to these reservations by purchase was adopted by the Weeks Law 1911 and expanded by the Clarke-McNary Law of 1924. More than half of the present area of 2,564,000 acres of the two national forest has been acquired under these laws.

Indian reservation presently comprise 762,000 acres -- 99 per cent of which is in the northern part of the state.



Wildlife refuges date from 1924 when the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge was established. The U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior, has five national wildlife refuges totaling 138,319 acres in Minnesota. These are inviolate sanctuaries where hunting waterfowl is prohibited except for the public hunting grounds on their Lower Mississippi River Unit. This Bureau is now engaged in acquisition and leasing of wetlands using the federal duck stamp monies. They plan to purchase and lease \$50,000.00 worth of wetlands in Minnesota in fiscal year 1961. Their total program calls for the leasing of 275,000 acres of wetlands and the acquisition of 62,000 acres in 23 western counties in Minnesota, for a total of 337,500 acres and a total cost of \$11,000,000.00.

In brief the policy of the federal government has changed from one of practically complete disposal to one of practically complete reservation with expansion of the national forests and wildlife refuges by purchase and consolidation of the national forests by exchange.

#### Acquisition of Lands From Federal Government

Since the original land grants to Minnesota from the Federal government additional areas have been acquired from time to time. Today we are primarily concerned with the so-called "lieu lands", "Volstead Lands", and "L.U.P. Lands".

At the time the government gave to the state two sections (16 and 36) of each township certain deficiencies occurred. Lieu lands to make up for these deficiencies have now added 26,144 acres of valuable forest and recreational lands to the state's holdings.





Minnesota will also acquire an additional 32,907 acres of public lands authorized by the passage of a congressional act to transfer Volstead Act Lands to the state. An appropriation by the legislature, however, will be required in payment of the standing timber crop on these lands before the state will acquire the title.

In the instance of L.U.P. Lands (Land Utilization Project) the areas are represented by 21,136.83 acres described as Pine Island forest lands and approximately 82,000 acres of Game and Fish lands in the Beltrami Island area.

The Department of Conservation has acquired the Pine Island forest lands and negotiations are in progress to obtain the Beltrami Islands.

#### Acquisition of Public Access and Wildlife Areas

"Save Minnesota's Wetlands" is a multi-purpose program which benefits waterfowl, upland game and furbearers; provides public hunting areas; and conserves precious water. About 77,000 acres of valuable wildlife lands, particularly irreplaceable wetlands, have already been brought into State ownership. The goal is 250,000 acres and the cost will be great, but the preservation of our water, wildlife and public hunting justify the program.

"Public Access" to waters of our state is in jeopardy. Public access, however, is no longer merely a wildlife program, but is better identified as a part of our public recreational program. Boating has taken its place along with fishing and hunting, and if not now, will exceed the demands of both combined. A total of 607 public accesses have been acquired or designated since the inception of the public access program in 1945. The Minnesota Highway Department has cooperated in the marking of these areas by erecting directional public access to lake signs. Attention should be directed to the relationship of the responsibility





of ownership to the responsibility of maintenance.

Because of the emphasis placed upon public access and wetlands programs our Game Refuges and Public Hunting Grounds are sometimes overlooked. During the past four years the Department of Conservation has established the 10,000 Mud-Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area in Cass county; the 22,000 acre Lac qui Parle area near Appleton; the 1,200 acre Moose-Willow River area in Aitkin county; and the 600 acre Hubbel Pond waterfowl area in Becker county. It should be remembered that our game refuges and forest lands are the best assurance of the future of free (public) hunting in Minnesota.

#### Agency Sponsored Camps and Camping

Minnesota camping and camping facilities provided by other than state agencies has become a substantial contributing factor to providing outdoor recreational opportunities for our youth. The following summary of private camping installations was obtained from the Minnesota Camping Association:

#### Camps Serving Children in Minnesota

Name of Camp	Total No.	Capacity
1. Agricultural, Conservation, 4-H & School	11	961
2. Boy Scout Camps	11	2,570
3. Camp Fire Girls Camps	8	584
4. Church Camps	44	5,306
5. Girl Scout Camps	13	1,067
6. Private Boys Camps	17	1,420
7. Private Girls Camps	11	891
8. Settlement House Camps	10	776
9. Social Welfare Camps	12	772
10. Y.M.C.A.	10	1,064
11. Y.W.C.A.	4	481
12. Day Camps	17	1,668
Totals	168	17,560



## Land Surveys and Research

Minnesota has one of the most complex patterns of land ownership in the United States. It is unique in the large amount of forest and related lands in county ownership and the small amount in industrial ownership.

State, county, federal, industrial, and other private lands are so intermingled as to greatly hamper effective administration and management. Boundary adjustments and consolidations of ownership are an urgent need.

Taxation continues to be a major concern for both local communities and private landowners. The tree growth tax law deserves a thorough trial to determine its effectiveness as a means of obtaining from forest lands their fair share of tax revenue without discouraging their intensive management.

Increased public control over potholes through purchases, leases, or subsidies is essential to provide adequate breeding grounds for waterfowl. Farmers cannot be expected to bear the cost of providing the land and water needed for this purpose.

How to obtain better management of small woodlands remains a pressing problem. Its solution requires intensified effort in the fields of research, education, and service.

Joint, continuous consideration of the state's land ownership problems by all interested agencies is a prerequisite to their solution. It is suggested that surveys and research be directed to such problems as land classification, zoning, reclamation, tax delinquent lands, reassessment of land values, projected land needs and many other associated problems.





### National Park Survey

The National Park Service in cooperation with the Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation, is conducting a survey of park and recreation area potentials in Minnesota. This project may be considered a part of the major national park program (Mission 66), designed to provide more and better facilities for outdoor recreation.

### National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review

The National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review (ORRRC) has just concluded a series of regional meetings at Portland, Oregon; Atlanta, Georgia; Kansas City, Kansas; Hartford, Connecticut; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Salt Lake City, Utah. Recently ORRRC published a report listing the "Ten Roadblocks to Better State Outdoor Recreation Facing the States Today". This report and others to follow should prove invaluable to the separate states in state park and recreation planning.

### American Forestry Association Study

The outstanding conservation event of the year and possibly the greatest impetus to land conservation in the past 25 years is anticipated with the forthcoming publication of a land and forest study recently completed by the American Forestry Association. Although the title is as yet unknown, it might appropriately be called, "Minnesota Lands, Ownership, Use, and Management".

This is the second of three pilot studies of land and forest to include California, Minnesota, and North Carolina. Since entry of Alaska to statehood the Association decided that this relatively virgin state in many areas at least should be included in this survey.





U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Survey

A nation-wide soil and water survey of conservation needs by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service projected to the year 1975 has recently been completed. The report will be published in the near future.

An Action Program

Minnesota has the land and water potential to become the vacation capitol of the nation. Our 10,000 lakes may well become 20,000 lakes when the present recount is completed. Minnesota needs a program to mobilize our outdoor resources to meet the recreational challenge of tomorrow. To implement this program we:

1. Recommend the activation of the land use committee.
2. Recommend legislation to implement our County Park Program.
3. Recommend an appropriation of \$50,000 annually for the Minnesota Memorial Hardwood State Forest.
4. Recommend an appropriation of \$150,000 to complete the acquisition of the so-called Volstead Lands.
5. Recommend a top-priority program of land acquisition of strategic park areas and public access to lakes and streams. It is further recommended that development and maintenance be considered simultaneously, particularly in the instance of public access and wetlands.
6. Recommend a coordinated program of finance for land acquisition to our Minnesota State Park System either by appropriation or bond issue to acquire strategic park areas.



## Report of the Division of Forestry

A thorough job of classification of the lands and waters of Minnesota is long overdue. This need was recognized as early as 1934 by the Land Utilization Committee, appointed by Governor Floyd B. Olson and headed by Louis D. Coffman, then President of the University.

### **BACKGROUND REPORTS SUBMITTED**

The major recommendations of this committee as related to classification of lands were for the establishment of permanent state and county land use committees, tax-forfeited land titles, acquisition of land for state forests, land zoning, and the reclassification of state land laws.

#### Report of the Division of Forestry

Most of these recommendations were acted upon but as soon as the initial fervor cooled the program lagged. State and county land use committees were established by law. These committees have been inactive for 20 years. Eight counties had adopted zoning by 1941. No county has adopted zoning since.

#### Report of the Division of Game and Fish

Tax-forfeiture laws were passed in the late 1930's and have been amended and amended since. Such titles are still defective. Acquisition of land for state forests has proceeded at a slow but steady pace. Such acquisition has been accomplished mainly through dedication of tax-forfeited lands by various county boards under state contracts. In the early 1930's some money was made available for purchase of private land-forfeiture lands. No money has been available for this purpose, however, for the past 25 years.

#### Report of the Division of Lands and Minerals

#### Report of the Minnesota Historical Society

The State of Minnesota has many natural resources. One of the basic renewable resources is our forest resources. Even today, after many years of burning, clearing and logging, the forest area of some 19 million acres still represents 38 per cent of the total land area of the state. Statistics show that the present forest area equals about 61 per cent of the original forest which was estimated to be 30 million acres when Minnesota was first settled. Forests are placed at well over 200 million dollars in forest products with the value of products produced in the so-called heyday of logging in this state.

#### Report of the Division of State Parks

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The Division of Forestry must and does have a vital role in the protection and management of this forest resource.

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The major recommendations of this committee as related to classification of lands were for the establishment of permanent state and county land use committees zoning, tax-forfeited land titles, acquisition of land for state forests, land exchange and the recodification of state land laws.

Most of these recommendations were acted upon but as soon as the initial fervor cooled the program lagged. State and county land use committees were established by law. These committees have been inactive for 20 years. Eight counties had adopted zoning by 1941. No county has adopted zoning since.

Tax-forfeiture laws were passed in the late 1930's and have been amended and reamended since. Such titles are still defective. Acquisition of land for state forests has proceeded at a slow but steady pace. Such acquisition has been accomplished mainly through dedication of tax-forfeited lands by various county boards under statutes passed in the late 1930's for this purpose and through land exchange. In the early 1930's some monies were made available for purchase of private tax-delinquent lands. No monies have been available for this purpose, however, for the past 25 years.

The State of Minnesota and its people are fortunate in having many natural resources. One of the basic renewable resources is our forest resource. Even today, after many years of burning, clearing and logging, the forest area of some 19 million acres still represents 38 per cent of the total land area of the state. Statistics show that the present forest area equals about 61 per cent of the original forest which was estimated at 31½ million acres. The annual income from Minnesota forests is placed at well over 200 million dollars in forest products which far exceeds the value of products produced in the so called hey-day of logging in this state.

The forests of Minnesota in their broad sense are essential to maintenance of lake and ground water levels; control of stream flow, soil stabilization, forest wildlife, and the recreation industry.

The Division of Forestry must and does have a vital role in the protection and management of this forest resource.

The State Forests of Minnesota are an asset of inestimable value. Of obvious value is the annual harvest of sawlogs, pulpwood, bolts, posts, Christmas trees and other forest products. Less obvious, but of at least equal importance



is their public use for recreation - camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing and so forth. Few states are so generously endowed with such vast natural areas for public use.

The state forests presently embrace 7,000,000 acres of which 2,220,000 acres or 31 per cent are state owned. Authority for the establishment of state forests is contained in Article VIII, Section 7 of the State Constitution.

On October 27, 1959 by Commissioner's order, 867,000 acres of state land were added to those lands already in state forest making a total of 3,190,000 acres now in state forest status.

The Division of Forestry has just completed a complete revision of state forest boundaries with a two-fold intent. First, to incorporate into state forest many large blocks of state owned lands best suited to forest management and, second, to eliminate areas now within state forest boundaries which contain little or no state land. Field and staff men of all interested divisions of the Department of Conservation were consulted in the initial work and each county affected by changes has been consulted and county board resolutions obtained for the final proposed changes. The new proposed forests will contain 7,640,000 acres of which 3,040,000 acres or 40 per cent would be state owned land. There would be an additional 35,000 acres in state forest status but not incorporated in boundaries.

State forest lands are used for many purposes; timber harvest, recreation, wildlife, mining, gravel and peat removal, farming and haying, lakeshore cabins and resorts, hunting cabins, rights-of-way for roads, railroad, pole lines, pipelines, etc. and many other diverse commercial and non-commercial purposes.

There are no long range plans for the issuance of commercial leases since such leases are only considered and acted upon as requested. It is, however, very important to review rental charges periodically to keep rates abreast of the current value of the land or the products derived therefrom.

With complete awareness of public demand for facilities for recreation, increased hunting pressure for forest game species and the rapidly growing public interest in wilderness areas, the Division has prepared long-range plans for improvement of recreational facilities and wildlife habitat in the state forests. The prime areas of recreation are the 620 miles of state owned lakeshore.

In developing lakeshore, first priority is given to facilities for the general public; such facilities as campgrounds, picnic areas and public access areas.

There are at present 25 primitive campgrounds in the state forests. In the coming 15 years it is planned to expand and improve the existing campgrounds and develop 15 new areas. It is planned to develop the major campgrounds



to accommodate from 20 to 30 tents or trailers and furnish water, tables, fireplaces, garbage cans and toilets. The primitive character of most of the campgrounds will be retained to serve those who prefer the wilderness aspects of camping.

There are 1,200 platted summer homesites on state owned lakeshore in state forests. Just over 900 are presently under lease. The balance was either just recently platted or are located on islands or other inaccessible areas. It is planned to develop an additional 1,000 to 1,500 homesites by 1975 or about five new platted areas per year. New homesite areas will not be developed unless the local taxing unit agrees in advance to maintain any roads constructed to serve the homesites.

There must be a review of rentals paid within the next few years. At present a flat \$25 per site is charged. Charges should be based on capitalization of the true value of the site which would result in a sliding scale of lease rentals. Before a sliding scale of rates is adopted, accounting and billing procedures must be modernized.

Hunting cabin sites are coming into greater demand each year in state forests. These sites are laid out along forest roads and about 30 are presently leased. Additional areas will be platted in accordance with public demand, but no more than five sites per mile of forest road.

Wildlife habitat management plans will be incorporated into all district plans and should be completed by the close of fiscal year 1962. Tree planting, timber harvest and timber stand improvement practices are being geared to the increased production of forest wildlife species. A planting guide is now in use in the field which specifies recommended patterns of planting to preserve openings and game food plots. Timber harvest will be geared to the needs of deer yard improvement as necessary.

It is conservatively estimated that the population of Minnesota will be over four million by 1975 and five and a half million by the year 2000 as compared to three and a half million in 1960.

This population increase will demand proportionate increases in forest products, recreational space and water.

A projection of timber sales on state lands based on past records and projected economic needs indicates that timber harvest will double by 1975 and double again by 2000. Since recent harvest averages 300,000 cords annually this means a projected harvest of 600,000 and 1,200,000 cords respectively. In order to achieve this latter figure, more and better managed acres of state forest land will be needed.



It is reasonable to assume that recreational and water needs will increase at an even greater pace. Minnesota, standing astride three great watersheds of the North American continent receives almost every drop of its water resource from precipitation. The limited research already done in watershed management shows possibilities of increased water yields through special management of vegetation. Such management is only possible on publicly owned lands. More of Minnesota's watershed areas - mainly swamps, marshes and pot-holes must be brought under public ownership.

The present area of 3,075,000 acres of state land in state forests should be expanded to four million acres by the year 2000. This can be accomplished through further acquisition of tax-forfeited land through county board action, exchange of state land not in forest status for private or federal lands within state forest boundaries, acquisition through purchase and acquisition through gift.

There are 350,000 acres of federal lands in state forests. About two-thirds are lands purchased under the Federal Weeks Law in purchase units which have not been incorporated into the National Forests. The other one-third are Indian lands in varying degrees of complex ownership, title often being in many heirs in varying fractions. The bulk of these lands could only be acquired through land exchange.

About 1,000,000 acres in state forests are tax-forfeited lands administered by various counties. Some of these lands are under varying degrees of management. Where counties employ land commissioners there is little chance of obtaining such land through title transfer and most of this acreage is in such counties. It may be possible to acquire some of this land through exchange if suitable legislation to clear up tax titles can be worked out. Tax-forfeited lands could also be acquired through purchases at a reasonable cost.

Undoubtedly, a large acreage of privately owned lands will have to be acquired through purchase, particularly in southeastern Minnesota. The Department of Conservation has set a goal of acquiring 200,000 acres in this area by the year 2000 to provide for watershed management, erosion control, recreation and timber production.

Legislative needs for improved land use include:

1. Clearance of tax-forfeiture titles to provide absolute title in such lands to the state in trust for the taxing districts.
2. Amendment of MSA 92.33 to 92137 to provide that final control of land classification rests with the State Land Use Committee and to spell out the continuing job in greater detail.

3. Amendment of the land exchange law to permit state-county exchange, but only after the title problem is solved.

4. Mineral rights should be registered annually for a fee subject to forfeiture if not so registered. This would help to clear up many problems in this connection.

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## Report of the Division of Game and Fish

Hunting and fishing is a \$150,000,000.00 annual business in Minnesota. The use of state lands and public waters for hunting and fishing is becoming increasingly important with our people having more leisure time. Approximately 20% of the area of Minnesota is public land. State lands should and can be managed for multiple purposes.

Land and water are our two most important basic natural resources and how we treat them determines not only our welfare but also that of wildlife. Therefore, it is of vital importance that we consider the protection and management of basic resources in outdoor recreational planning. Streams and lakes will continue to fill up with silt if the top soil goes unprotected. Our waters will depreciate in value or be eliminated if not kept clean, unpolluted and saved from drainage. The need for protection of soil and water and multiple intelligent use of all our resources should be inculcated in all citizens through stepped up educational processes.

Acquisition of lands for wildlife management purposes is a major activity of the Division of Game and Fish. Four to five hundred thousand dollars a year are spent for this purpose in the division. This amounts to approximately 10% of the total Game and Fish budget. Approximately 30% of the annual game management section's budget is used for wildlife land and public hunting grounds acquisition.

Lands are acquired in the division for the following major purposes:

1. Wildlife management and public hunting.

a. Wetlands

b. Major wildlife units

Example: Roseau (53,000 acres) Wildlife Management Unit

2. To provide access to public waters. (Locations of known usable sites are shown on attached list.)

3. Northern pike spawning grounds.

4. Headquarter buildings, dam sites and rearing ponds.

The Division of Game and Fish has cooperated with other state divisions and federal agencies in making as much land as possible available to the sportsmen for recreational purposes. Listed below are some of the agencies involved and the number of acres of land which have been made available as a result of these cooperative plans:



1. The Division of Game and Fish works with the Division of Forestry and the U. S. Forest Service through cooperative agreements to integrate wildlife management with forest management plans.
2. The Division of Game and Fish has 82,000 acres of Federal Department of Interior lands in the Red Lake Wildlife Management Unit under a 50 year lease. Our department has requested that these lands be turned over to the state in fee title.
3. We lease land when available from the Corps of Engineers and have about 4,200 acres under license in the Pool 3 area on the Mississippi River, 1,690 acres in the Orwell Project in Ottertail County, plus additional lands in our Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Unit and a few access sites in the Upper Mississippi River headwaters. The division also works closely with other related agencies such as the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (S.C.S. & A.C.P.), Soil Conservation Districts, Corps of Engineers and the University of Minnesota.
4. The U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior, has five national wildlife refuges totaling 138,319 acres in Minnesota. These are inviolate sanctuaries where hunting waterfowl is prohibited except for the public hunting grounds on their Lower Mississippi River Unit. This Bureau is now engaged in acquisition and leasing of wetlands using the federal duck stamp monies. They plan to purchase and lease \$50,000.00 worth of wetlands in Minnesota in fiscal year 1961. Their total program calls for the leasing of 275,000 acres of wetlands and the acquisition of 62,000 acres in 23 western counties in Minnesota, for a total of 337,500 acres and a total cost of \$11,000,000.00.
5. We have worked with the Federal Soil Bank people to recommend integration of wildlife practices in the conservation reserve. There are about two million acres of land in the conservation reserve. It is more than a twenty million dollar program. The net effects of this program are beneficial for wildlife and we have and should continue to encourage it from this standpoint and because it aids in the conservation of soil and water.

The Division of Game and Fish land acquisition record for wetlands, major wildlife management units, lake access and northern pike spawning grounds is shown in Table I. There are now 360 wildlife management units in 75 counties of the State open to hunting and trapping for the sportsmen of Minnesota.

Wetlands are being lost at the rapid rate of 5% per year through agricultural drainage and should be acquired as quickly as possible. The wetlands

TABLE I  
DIVISION OF GAME & FISH LAND ACQUISITION  
FOR YEARS 1955, 1960, 1975 & 2000

	Total July 1, 1955		Total May 1, 1960		Total Estimated 1975		Total Estimated 2000	
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Wetlands	26,628	\$ 661,159.00	76,144	\$ 2,288,000.00	250,000	\$ 7,500,000.00	250,000	\$ 7,500,000.00
Major Wildlife Management Units	134,875	1,332,004.00	177,088	1,478,888.00	302,088	5,478,888.00	500,000	15,000,000.00
Lake Access	146 (73 sites)	22,438.00	680 (227 sites)	85,018.00	22,000 (5,480 sites)	3,885,000.00	25,000 (6,000 sites)	4,000,000.00
Northern Pike Spawning Areas	49 (4 sites)	2,209.00	1,065 (21 sites)	15,979.00	6,500 (130 sites)	130,000.00	17,500 (350 sites)	500,000.00
TOTALS	161,698	\$2,017,810.00	254,977	\$3,867,885.00	580,588	\$16,993,888.00	792,500	\$27,000,000.00



acquisition bill should be amended to make more funds available for this program and to provide for the unhindered acquisition and development of wildlife lands. Some counties in the state have already had all or close to all of their small surface water areas eliminated. Public access sites are also being acquired as rapidly as possible. However, too little money has been made available for this worthy project. Adequate financing for acquisition, development and maintenance of access sites is needed and the sportsmen should not pay the bill on this since our waters are used by the public for boating and other recreation. Acquisition of wetlands and public accesses with sportsmen's funds alone cannot in many cases be justified. Other department funds should be made available for their acquisition.

More intensive game and fish management and development must be anticipated in future years if we are to keep pace with public demands and needs. Forest-game management activities which are to be completed by 1975 are as follows:

<u>FOREST-GAME MANAGEMENT WORK</u>		<u>TOTALS BY 1975</u>
Forest-game hunter access roads	225 miles	\$165,000.00
Clearing for game management purposes	4,500 acres	45,000.00
Small water impoundments	300	300,000.00
Rehabilitation of deer range	45,000 acres	<u>225,000.00</u>
Review of forest management plans for the purpose of incorporating wildlife management plans.		TOTAL \$ 735,000.00

Proposed development needs for the same period are as follows:

<u>NEW DEVELOPMENT WORK</u>		<u>TOTALS BY 1975</u>
Develop wetlands	775 units	\$ 1,530,000.00
Develop major wildlife management units	28 units	197,000.00
Wildlife Cover Planting	up to 300,000 trees per year	135,000.00
*Develop public access sites	5,480 sites	3,700,000.00
*Maintenance of public access sites	5,480 sites	2,100,000.00
Water control structure for northern pike spawning areas	130 sites	500,000.00
Trout stream improvement	150 miles	375,000.00
Purchase and develop springs on trout streams	40 springs	6,000.00
Development work on fish lakes	225 lakes	2,250,000.00
Rearing pond programs for walleyes		<u>1,650,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 12,443,000.00

\*Costs should not be carried entirely by the hunter and fisherman.



Present and future needs indicate the necessity for additional funds, manpower and equipment if wildlife management, law enforcement and research are to keep pace with intensive utilization of our basic resources and increased leisure time. In this age of high speed living and industrialization, it is important to plan for wholesome outdoor recreation to help in maintaining the health, happiness and welfare of our people. Maintaining places to fish and to hunt have to be provided for in plans for land use and backed up by action programs with adequate funds and manpower. Game and fish research will assume even greater importance in the future in helping to provide management measures best suited to maintain wildlife and fisheries resources.

10,158,000	Total
3,619,000	Tax Forfeited Land
3,484,000	State
3,055,000	Federal Government

In consideration of the above, it is apparent that Governmental agencies control a good share of the so-called wild land of Minnesota and there might be a question as to whether or not Governmental agencies already control too much land.

It is now important to look at the distribution of this 18,098,000 acres of forest land.

COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND BY OWNERSHIP AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION, MINNESOTA, 1953

Ownership Class	Division			
	Total	North- Eastern	South- Eastern	Western
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres
Federally owned or managed:				
National forest	2,192	2,192		
Indian	717	673	1	43
Bureau of Land Management	49	46		3
Other	94	94	39	11
Total	3,052	2,955	40	57
State	3,484	3,251	48	185
County and Municipal	3,619	3,293	344	82
Private:				
Timber	4,881	2,123	1,676	1,082

## Report of the Division of Lands and Minerals

In 1953 Governmental agencies had ownership of 13,639,000 acres of land in Minnesota or 26.6 per cent of the gross area of the State as shown below:

Federal Government	3,812,000
State	5,028,000
Tax Forfeited Land	<u>4,799,000</u>
Total	13,639,000

In 1953 the commercial forest land in the State totaled some 18,098,000 acres and Governmental agencies controlled 56.1 per cent of this total as shown below:

Federal Government	3,055,000
State	3,484,000
Tax Forfeited Land	<u>3,619,000</u>
Total	10,158,000

In consideration of the above, it is apparent that Governmental agencies control a good share of the so-called wild land of Minnesota and there might be a question as to whether or not Governmental agencies already control too much land.

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Ownership Class	Total	Division		
		North- eastern	South- eastern	Western
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Indian	717	673	1	43
Bureau of Land Management	49	46	-----	3
Other	94	44	39	11
Total	3,055	2,958	40	57
<hr/>				
State	3,484	3,251	48	185
County and Municipal	3,619	3,293	244	82
<hr/>				
Private:				
Farm	4,881	2,123	1,676	1,082



Industrial and other	<u>3,059</u>	<u>2,801</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	7,940	4,924	1,834	1,182

All ownerships	18,098	14,426	2,166	1,506
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We now find that the percentage of ownership for the various parts of the State is as follows:

Ownership Class	Total	Division		
		North-eastern	South-eastern	Western
	Acres	Percentage		
Federal	3,055,000	96.8	1.3	1.9
State	3,484,000	93.3	1.4	5.3
Tax Forfeited	3,619,000	90.9	6.8	2.3
Private				
Farm	4,881,000	43.5	34.3	22.2
Industrial	<u>3,059,000</u>	<u>91.6</u>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>3.2</u>
Total	18,098,000	79.7	12.0	8.3

In analyzation of the above data we find that most of the Governmental ownership is concentrated in Northeastern Minnesota and, therefore, in this region we should have only a minor acquisition program in the development of recreational areas. We would in certain instances run into high acquisition costs for specific and necessary projects.

It, therefore, appears from a State land use problem, and especially for the Conservation Department, that from an acquisition point of view our specific problems in the near future are mostly outside of the Northeastern part of the State. From the standpoint of development we need money all over the State.

1. Wetland Areas
2. Public Access
3. Southeastern Forest Area
4. Recreational Needs

1. The wetland program has been thoroughly studied and a program of acquisition and development has been going smoothly for several years.
2. Public access is necessary and this work of acquisition and development is progressing smoothly but this work should be stepped up.



3. The southeastern forest area is new and is just in the formation state. It would be very desirable to have a thorough study of this area to analyze the estimated cost of acquisition and cost of development of this program for the next twenty years.
4. Recreational needs are many and it is questionable whether the State should try to carry the whole burden through its State Parks program and through the camping areas on State Forest Land.

We know that this program can be expanded as we have the land available for camping purposes in Northeastern Minnesota and probably in this area is where the State should concentrate its efforts.

However, we are short of sites within 100 miles of the Twin Cities and it is in this area that great strides in the future should be made. It is possible that a county system of parks would be a valuable adjunct to our State Park system and it would be well for the State to consider paying a good share of the acquisition cost for such a program.

	18,028,000	79.7	12.0	0.3
Total				
Industrial	3,022,000	91.8	2.2	
Farm	4,631,000			

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### MAJOR HISTORIC SITES IN MINNESOTA

#### RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE PARK SYSTEM

##### 1. FORT SNELLING - approximately 2400 acres.

The historical value of old Fort Snelling is well known. The old fort is the place where Minnesota began and its influence upon the development of the northwest was most significant. Its establishment in 1819 at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers radically changed the course of events in the upper Mississippi Valley. Before its erection, the Minnesota country had been a vast wilderness inhabited by Sioux and Chippewa Indians and claimed at various times by Spain, France and Great Britain. The establishment of the post effectively extended for the first time the authority of the young American nation over the region, paved the way for settlement, and set in motion the transformation of a vast Indian territory into an American state.

Beyond these values, the recreational potential of the area is remarkable. A sizeable natural area, including two lakes and extensive wooded areas, still remain. The Veterans' Administration has indicated that some of the area could be acquired as surplus property by the state any time and that many parts of it will be vacated by the federal government. Here is truly a rare opportunity for a park near the Twin Cities.

##### 2. ADDITION TO FORT RIDGELY (near Fairfax in Nicollet county) - 148 acres.

Fort Ridgely was the site of two decisive battles in the Sioux Uprising of 1862. The heroic stand made by the 180 civilian soldiers against 1,200 Sioux warriors decisively turned the tide against the Sioux onslaught. The defense of Fort Ridgely is considered to be the outstanding example of the effective use of artillery against an Indian attack.

One of the problems at Fort Ridgely State Park is that the historical area is in danger of being intruded upon by other developments, including the golf course. Many remains of historic sites are located on the adjoining farms. This additional 148 acre area should be acquired to provide protection and enhance the setting of a very significant state park and historic site.

##### 3. UPPER SIOUX AGENCY (near Granite Falls in Yellow Medicine county) - 300 acres.

The Upper Sioux Agency is located about nine miles from Granite Falls. It is situated on a commanding bluff and overlooks the picturesque valleys of the Minnesota and Yellow Medicine rivers. It was occupied from 1854 to 1862 and was the capital of the Indian country in the upper Minnesota River Valley. It was the scene of great activity during the Sioux Uprising in August and September of 1862. Two original buildings are still standing and are in relatively good repair. The area is unusually rich in both history and scenery.



4. LOWER (OR REDWOOD) SIOUX AGENCY (near Morton in Redwood County) - 300 acres

This is the place where the uprising really began with the attack of the Sioux during the early morning of August 18, 1862. The Agency was established in 1853 and was the center of the Lower Sioux reservation. It was the scene of the massacre and battle of Redwood Ferry and is definitely one of the major places related to the Sioux Uprising. One of the original buildings, built in 1857, is used as a residence and remains in excellent repair.

5. SUGAR POINT, LEECH LAKE (Cass County) - 250 acres

Sugar Point is the site of the Chippewa Uprising of 1898, one of the last Indian uprisings in the United States. An interesting feature of this conflict is that the Chippewa decisively won the battle against soldiers of the United States army and then promptly surrendered. It is a dramatic story set in the region that became a logging frontier. The site and surrounding area (including some 700 acres) has not changed since the uprising occurred and this original setting constitutes one of its rarest qualities. The area is rich in scenery and borders upon Leech Lake. Indians in the area have indicated a desire to donate the land to the state if it can be made a state park.

6. FORT ST. CHARLES (on the Northwest Angle in Lake of the Woods county)  
20,000 - 30,000 acres.

Fort St. Charles is situated on Magnusson Island and was built in 1732 by the great French explorer LaVerendrye. It served for more than a decade as his headquarters and the base of explorations for his ambitious exploring expeditions. Fort St. Charles was a place of tremendous importance at a time when the French were opening up the interior of North America. In the vanguard for the search of the Western Sea came LaVerendrye and his men to this area in 1731. He, his sons, and his men vainly searched for the mythical Northwest Passage to China during the next 18 years. Along the way to their elusive goal they opened a vast new country of previously unexplored wilderness -- a region that today includes northern Minnesota, Manitoba, North and South Dakota and large areas between the Dakotas and the Rocky Mountains. Explorations and fur trade are intertwined in the dramatic LaVerendrye story. LaVerendrye remains the greatest of the French pathfinders who explored the area west of the Great Lakes. Fort St. Charles and the unusually natural wilderness area that surrounds it combine a rare blend of captivating scenery, rich historical values and numerous recreational opportunities. It is unquestionably one of the priceless possessions of Minnesota.



7. THE GRAND MOUND (near International Falls in Koochiching County) - 2,500 acres

The Grand Mound is the outstanding example of prehistoric Indian culture in the upper Mississippi river and is the largest prehistoric burial mound in the Northwest. Its dimensions are 54 ft. in height, 110 ft. in length, and 85 ft. in width. Around it are located six other burial mounds of similar size. It is situated at the junction of the Big Fork and Rainy rivers in a virgin, deciduous forest. It has been extremely well cared for and protected by the Smith family that homesteaded the site some 80 years ago. The two rivers nearby offer excellent possibilities for canoeing and boating.

8. PREHISTORIC INDIAN FORT (near Yucatan in Houston county) - 100 acres.

Professor Eldon Johnson, the state archaeologist, considers this archaeological site to be the best example of an ancient fort in the state. It is situated in the rugged and picturesque countryside of Houston county. It was one of the places where the Iowa Indians made a futile stand against the Sioux as they retreated southward. It could be operated in conjunction with Beaver Creek State Park.

9. THE SWEENEY FORT SITE (near Welch in Goodhue county) - 100 acres.

Here is another fine example of prehistoric Indian forts. It is situated on a commanding bluff that overlooks the village of Welch. Its significance is very similar to that of the Yucatan Fort site in that it too was one of the places where the Iowans made a last stand against the advancing Sioux in Minnesota.

10. ST. CROIX VALLEY (Mouth of Sunrise River and Nevers Dam Site in Chisago County) 1,000 acres.

There is evidence to indicate that a spectacular group of large white pines at the mouth of the Sunrise River helped bring about the acquisition by the government of the first lands in Minnesota to be opened to white settlement. Even before the land was legally available, Henry H. Sibley and others contracted with the Chippewa for permission to cut this timber in March, 1837. In later years, of course, the Sunrise became an important logging stream.

Some 6½ sections south of the mouth of the location of Nevers Dam, unquestionably one of the most famous sites associated with the lumbering history of the St. Croix Valley.

A strip of varying width bordering the St. Croix and including Nevers Dam and the mouth of the Sunrise is owned at present by Northern States Power Company. It is largely wild, undisturbed land, eminently suited to recreational development, and including some of the most famous country in Minnesota's logging history. It is situated between St. Croix and Interstate State Parks.



11. RAINY LAKE CITY - BLACK BAY (Koochiching County) - 2,000 acres.

Gold deposits were discovered on Little American Island in Rainy Lake in 1893. When news of the strike spread, the rush was on. Mining operations were started in 1894 on west end of island, and later in center of the island. The stamping mill was on the south shore of the point protruding into Rainy Lake, about a mile east of the townsite.

The townsite was platted in spring, 1894, on lots 4 and 5, Sec. 34, T. 71, R. 22; plat was recorded March 17, 1894.

Rainy Lake City's boom days came in spring of 1894. Buildings mushroomed. There were 3 general stores, a hardware store, a building and materials store, a butcher shop, two restaurants, a newspaper, 5 saloons, a post office, customs office, a barber shop, 3 hotels, a school, a bank, a jail, and a sawmill. Village was organized in 1894 with a village council.

Most productive of the several mines was the Little American. Within 2 years most gold claims had given out, but the Little American held out until 1896, when a quarrel among its owners led to the litigation that halted operation. In a few years all the buildings had been removed or torn down at Rainy Lake City. Nothing remains there now except possible traces of the Little American Mine pit.

This site recalls Minnesota's most significant gold mining operation. Black Bay provides it with an unusually scenic setting.

12. ADDITIONS TO MILLE LACS-KATHIO (Mille Lacs county)

It is important that the inholdings be consolidated within Mille Lacs Kathio State Park and the Mille Lacs Indian Museum land held by the Minnesota Historical Society. One highly strategic piece of land is Indian Point (85 acres) situated on the most prominent peninsula on Mille Lacs. The land is important to the long range development of the park and museum. It is possible that the Mille Lacs Indian band may acquire this land after its title is clear. Should that happen the preservation of the area in its wild and natural state probably would be secured. However, it is an area the state should watch.

13. ADDITION TO FRONTENAC STATE PARK (Goodhue County)

If and when the opportunity presents itself, the state should consider the acquisition of a portion of the pre-Civil War village of Old Frontenac near Frontenac State Park. Aside from Old Mendota, which has been preserved by the D.A.R., it presents the only remaining opportunity to preserve an extant historic village in the state. Situated on Lake Pepin, it is appealing, well-preserved and unique.

14. SPLIT ROCK LIGHT HOUSE (Lake County) - 750 acres.

This is at present Minnesota's only operating lighthouse. It was built in 1909-10 because of the dangers of navigation along Lake Superior's North Shore, where the rocks deflected compasses and led to numerous tragic and well-known shipwrecks. The sentinel has played its part in the navigational history of the state, and it constitutes a unique and popular landmark on the North Shore. If and when it is abandoned by the U. S. Coast Guard, the state should be ready to act in order to preserve it for posterity.

15. SAVANNA PORTAGE AREA (Aitkin County) - 5,000 acres.

This important portage linked the Mississippi and Lake Superior and formed an indispensable part of one of the three chief water highways into Minnesota -- the St. Louis river - Savanna Portage route. It was widely used in the fur trade of 1763 and 1850 and was traveled by such famous explorers as David Thompson in 1797-98, Lewis Cass in 1820, and Henry R. Schoolcraft in 1832. The portage route begins at the mouth of the LaPrairie river on the east shore of Sandy Lake, then up the west Savanna river, then overland to the east Savanna river, which flows into the St. Louis river near Floodwood. A sizable area with unusual scenic quality surrounds the historic portage. This excellent opportunity, rich in both scenery and historical value, should not be passed by.



## The Division of State Parks

### The State Park System

#### System Growth

In 1889, the first unit, Camp Release, was established; following by Itasca in 1891.

In 1935 the administration of the system then consisting of 27 units and 50,000 acres was consolidated in a legislatively established Division of State Parks.

In 1942 at the close of the depression-borne conservation programs and the outset of World War II, the system had grown to 54 units and 63,000 acres.

By 1953 the system constituted 61 units and 84,000 acres. This year is significant because the impact of mounting public use of the parks crystalized into legislative awareness and action on correcting the inadequacies of the system and the run-down condition of physical developments in the then existing parks.

In the six years since, resulting from Administrative and Legislative concern, 9 major park units totaling over 17,000 acres have been established or authorized -- two parks were transferred to the more proper jurisdiction of municipalities and over 1,300 strategic acres added or authorized for addition to 13 major existing park units.

Today the system constitutes 67 units and 106,000 acres.

#### Recommended Future Expansion

Of prime importance is the expansion of choice major parks while lands for such expansion are still available. Of 35 outstanding existing major units 18 are under 500 acres in size -- considered minimum for an area classified as a State Park.

Acreage additions to existing parks are recommended and estimated to total 12,000 acres.

New state park recommended in the Mississippi Parkway Survey, the Missouri Basin Survey and the Great Lakes Shore Line Survey reports and the preliminary report of the joint State and National Park Service long range plan and others not covered by these surveys totaling 40 units of 51,000 acres of which 23,000 acres are presently publicly owned.



It is recommended that equipment be modernized in consultation with equipment specialist to determine proper equipment to a specific job or park.

Growth in physical plant necessarily means greater burden on other "Supply and Expense" items. Present appropriations for this purpose are inadequate to normal preventative maintenance--a fact which will become increasingly apparent as the results of the rehabilitation program of 1954-1955 recede with time.

To pull abreast of requirements in equipment and maintenance material and personnel, over the next ten years, it is recommended that the present appropriations for "Salaries" and "Material and Supplies" be increased by 10% and 50% (\$30,000 and \$41,000 respectively) for each year of the 1961-1963 biennium and that a progressive 5% and 20% increase be provided for in each of the succeeding four bienniums.

#### The Sticker Fund

Sticker receipts have increased uniformly with attendance or at the average rate of 7%+ each year. (In 1954--\$96,400 and 1958--\$135,000).

These receipts are reappropriated to maintenance and operation accounts with the exception that approximately \$60,000 each year--for seven of the next ten years (representing principal and interest) is dedicated to repayment of Certificates of Indebtedness as authorized by the 1955 legislature.

#### Revenue Operations

With minor exceptions, all revenue producing operations are conducted by the Division. They include operation of Douglas Lodge, refectory operations, boat rentals, cabin rentals, sale of ice, operation of sight-seeing launch, golf courses, camp grounds, childrens group camp, etc.

Gross annual volume of business in 1954 amounted to \$191,000 and in 1958 totaled \$340,000. These operations are self-perpetuating, however, any balance in this revolving fund in excess of \$30,000 as of July 1st each year, reverts to the General Revenue Fund of the State. A further restriction is that not more than 10% of the gross can be spent on capital improvements. As a result of increased gross business, it has been possible to replenish and increase the number of boats and furnishings for other operations.

No changes in Revenue Operations are recommended

#### DEVELOPMENT

#### PAST

Development of the Minnesota State Park system dates from the construction of Douglas Lodge in Itasca State Park in 1905.



## OPERATIONS

### From Appropriated Accounts

Visitations to the system have increased at an average annual rate of 7%--and are anticipated to exceed 3,000,000 this season. The four million figure--facilities permitting--will be exceeded by 1967.

More important, from the operational standpoint, is the change in type of use over the past decade. In the years previous, picnicking and sight-seeing constituted major incidents of use. Since 1954, family camping (tourist camping) has increased by over 600%. This trend is expected to continue. This type of activity involves accommodating the visitor overnight and is accordingly much more demanding in facility needs and services rendered by park personnel.

Through the period of heavy increase in park attendance--the individual park superintendent has not received comparable relief in carrying out his vastly increased responsibilities. His burden is proportionately greater than that of a similar position in other states. This fact is reflected in lower per visitor cost than the national average --(9½¢ to 12¢--Editorial, St. Paul Pioneer Press of September 15, 1959.)

It is recommended as essential for the physical well-being of employees as well as adequate service to the public that 12 major use areas be provided with an assistant capable of relieving the park superintendent and that clerical positions be established to relieve the park superintendent of the detail of necessary record keeping.

Presently, the program of interpreting the history, archeology, geology, and biology distinctive of each State park is grossly inadequate. Seasonal Naturalists are employed in three State parks and self-guiding nature trails provided in seven others through service of the University's Museum of Natural History. Occasional historical lectures are sponsored by the Historical Society. Programs and devices for interpreting archeology and geology are practically non-existent. There is an acute need for informational literature, interpretive devices, radio and television public service programming, and over-all coordination of interpretive services in the State Park system.

It is recommended that a staff position of "Chief of Interpretive Service" be authorized and that the present complement of seasonal resident interpretive specialist be expanded to ten parks.

Out of 65 truck and tractor units, presently being operated by this Division, 28 are 10 to 21 years old. This obviously reflects high maintenance and operational costs. The same is true of power mowing equipment which, in most instances, is too small or unsuited to the mowing problem of the specific park with resultant high operational costs.



During the economic depression era, (1933-1942), the system received its most intensive development -- estimated to have a \$10,000,000 value. In the period of years from 1942 to 1953 this development suffered from a lack of budget adequate to a reasonable job of preventative maintenance. The growth in visitor use had also obsoleted existing facilities and parks established in the interim were devoid of development. The 1953 legislature, deeply concerned, passed the Minnesota State Park Sticker Act and in conjunction with it authorized a loan of \$450,000 of Game and Fish funds with which to begin a program of rehabilitation. This loan has since been repaid from sticker receipts. The 1955 legislature authorized issuance of Certificate of Indebtedness in the amount of \$525,000 with which to continue this program and subsequent legislatures have appropriated -- in conjunction with the State Building Bill, \$252,000 and \$375,000 respectively; earmarked for specific capital improvements. In 1958, the system also profited from an expenditure of \$450,000 on emergency work projects.

Annual increase in visits to the Minnesota State Park system has averaged over 7% since 1942. Predictions are that the need for this type of recreation will increase from 1400% by the turn of the century. Land acquisition must, accordingly, be the prime concern, however, development must follow at a reasonable pace in order that growing park use can be accommodated.

Recommended is a ten-year program of development totaling \$7,850,000.

Compared with the National Park Services \$786,000,000 ten-year program of development and the State of California's single year appropriation of \$47,000,000 for State Parks, these recommendations are most modest when it is considered that Itasca State Park has a greater attendance than do 15 of the 28 National Parks and Gooseberry and Interstate State Park attendances exceed those of 4 of the 28 National Park areas.

#### TEN-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - 1961 - 1971

##### Division of State Parks

##### RECAPITULATION

Tourist Camps	\$ 2,368,000
Picnic Areas	1,481,000
Administrative Centers	1,455,000
Group Camps	425,000
Bathing - Boating	704,000
Miscellaneous	1,417,000
(Winter Sports, Foot Trails, Service areas, Riding Stables and Bridle Paths, Historical Museums, etc.)	
Total	<u>\$ 7,850,000</u>

## FINANCE PROGRAMING

The General Revenue Fund originally constituted the only source of funds for operation, maintenance, improvement, and land purchase for the State Park system. Presently, it still constitutes the major source.

In 1941 the Revolving Fund was established, through which all revenue operations in the system are carried on by the Division. This fund is self-perpetuating as is detailed in the operations section. The fund makes possible the employment of personnel necessary to provide services through which revenue is derived. It also makes possible the purchase of limited supplies, equipment, and improvements necessary to such operations.

In 1953 the legislature enacted the \$1.00 permit law. This essentially requires that any motor vehicle entering a State Park, in excess of 50 acres, must have a \$1.00 permit displayed on its windshield which authorizes admittance to all parks in the calendar year in which issued. In 1958 this Act produced \$135,000 of which less than 10% goes for cost of administering the Act. Currently, however, approximately \$60,000 is dedicated to the repayment of principal and interest on Certificates of Indebtedness authorized by the 1955 legislature. Barring further encumbrances, this obligation will be liquidated by November 1957 and all permit receipts will--as the balance is now--be available for maintenance, operation, and improvement of the system.

It is recommended that future source of dedicated revenue be established in order to reduce the dependency for necessary funds from general revenue sources. Because the volume of highway use is directly related to State Park use, there is a national trend to derive such funds from highway user sources.

2,368,000	Tourist Camps
1,481,000	Picnic Areas
1,422,000	Administrative Centers
422,000	Group Camps
704,000	Bathing - Boating
1,417,000	Miscellaneous
	(Winter Sports, Foot Trails, Services Areas, Riding Stables and Bridle Paths, Historical Museums, etc.)
7,830,000	Total

