



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Luther W. Youngdahl, *Governor*

Department of Conservation  
Chester S. Wilson, *Commissioner*

— 0 —

**Ninth Biennial Report**  
1947-1948

Section V

**DIVISION OF STATE PARKS**

Lew E. Fiero, *Director*

This Report is published in six sections.

- I. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT, covering general departmental activities in and summarizing the data and recommendations pertaining to the several divisions.
- II. DIVISION OF FORESTRY
- III. DIVISION OF GAME AND FISH
- IV. DIVISION OF LANDS AND MINERALS
- V. DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
- VI. DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

— 0 —

*"Our state parks provide opportunities for all our people to enjoy the out-of-doors. Medical men tell us that outdoor recreation is not a luxury but a necessity for health and welfare. It is a potent antidote for juvenile delinquency and an important factor in our youth conservation program. I therefore recommend increased appropriations to meet this urgent need."*

From inaugural address of  
Governor Luther W. Youngdahl  
To the Legislature of 1949

January 1949



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## LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

To the Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl, Governor  
and

To the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith the biennial report of the Division of State Parks, of the Department of Conservation, for the biennium ending June 30, 1948, being Section V of the Ninth Biennial Report for the entire department.

For the convenience of people interested only in certain parts of this material, the commissioner's report and the reports of the five divisions are published separately for this biennium, instead of in a single volume as formerly.

The last previous report (Eighth Biennial), was the first report after the close of the Second World War. In that report we included a complete review of the condition of the natural resources of the state — soil and minerals, forests, waters, and wild life — as affected by the war and other conditions. We also outlined a comprehensive program for the effective care and wise use of all these resources, to the end that the means of existence and the opportunity for a more abundant life may be preserved for present and future generations. The present report does not attempt to go over the same ground in detail, but is designed to include such additional material as is necessary to bring the conservation record and recommendations for future action up to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Chester S. Wilson  
Commissioner of Conservation

CSW/R

To Chester S. Wilson  
Commissioner of Conservation

I herewith transmit the report of the Division of State Parks for the fiscal years 1947 and 1948.

Respectfully submitted,

Lew E. Fiero, Director  
Division of State Parks

LEF:W

## **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

### **Division of State Parks**

#### **Administrative Staff**

Lew E. Fiero, Director

Hilda C. Weinmann, Secretary to Director

John H. Martin, Park Maintenance Supervisor (Deputy Director)

Norvald G. Nygaard, Southern District Park Supervisor

Norman J. Reitan, Northern District Park Supervisor

Ralph E. Welte, District Park Supervisor (Douglas Lodge Manager)

Harold R. Petersen, Engineer

Dorothy M. Farrell, Accountant

#### **IN MEMORIUM**

**Hugo V. Zaiser**

1885 - 1948

Hugo V. Zaiser, who passed away on May 1, 1948, was Northern District State Park Supervisor. He had been employed in this capacity since 1943. Prior to his employment with the Division of State Parks, he was associated with the Surveyor General's office and the National Park Service. He entered the state service in 1917 in the timber management section of the State Auditor's office because of his intense interest in forest conservation and state park development.

One of the system's most outstanding parks, namely, Scenic State Park, owes its existence to his efforts in both establishment and development under the National Park Service cooperation.

His passing has left a large break in the administrative staff, who had a high regard for his judgment and character.

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*Typical Northshore State Park View  
(Gooseberry Falls State Park)*

**State of Minnesota**  
**Department of Conservation**  
**Chester S. Wilson**  
***Commissioner of Conservation***

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**NINTH BIENNIAL REPORT**  
**Division of State Parks**  
**For the Fiscal Years 1947 and 1948**  
**Lew E. Fiero, *Director***

**INTRODUCTION**

**A State Park — What is it?**

What constitutes a state park? Where should it be located? These and many other fundamental considerations and characteristics should be carefully weighed in the choice and location of state park areas.

State parks should embrace areas which typify, emphasize, and preserve what remains of the state's original domain wherever this is possible. This is the kind of history which cannot be recorded in books. It should be sufficiently large to permit economical development and operation. This involves a portion for concentrated public use, with the larger portion preserved as nearly as possible in a state of nature, accessible only by foot trails and waterways through the use of which, park visitors if they so choose, may study fauna and geological formations. In the development of state park areas, other than those intended for concentrated public use, the aim should be to preserve the things of nature rather than to attempt to improve on it by the introduction of man-made devices and exotic plants.

Recreational areas of sufficient size to constitute state parks therefore logically divide themselves into two parts:

- (a) The largest portion which is to be left undisturbed by man-made artificialities and accessible only over foot trails or water courses.
- (b) A smaller portion for concentrated public use such as picnics, camping, parking, and conveniences to provide for the comfort and enjoyment of visitors.

These fundamentals should be given due consideration in the acquisition and planning of all state park areas as on their intelligent application rests the success of a long-time park program. While those who promote state parks may differ as to what should be the particular attributes of areas to qualify as such, the above basic plans may well be adopted as a pattern in the selection and planning of state parks.

Having to travel several miles often over narrow gravel and dusty roads to reach a park after leaving a paved highway is annoying and tiresome to tourists and although they may find most enchanting natural

environments at the end of the journey, the enjoyment of the trip has been dampened by unpleasant road experiences. Alert state and national highway planners therefore strive to emphasize beauty spots when planning through highway routes. They see elements of hazard caused by long unbroken driving on heavily used highways and try to encourage frequent rests by motorists by providing attractive turnout waysides where they may stop and relax.

Too often state parks are established through the efforts of well-meaning individuals and groups by offering for purchase or gift for state park development purposes, tracts of land that have little value as a source of income from other uses. While it is true that many state parks evolve from areas of no value for normal land use operations into parks of outstanding attributes, it is usually because of a well-balanced combination of location, accessibility, scenic and topographic characteristics, opportunities for swimming, fishing and boating, and for memorializing historic events and persons. Areas which cannot be made to combine at least several of these attributes, even if acquired without cost, may well become the most costly and least appreciated by the public. Selection or acceptance of state park areas should therefore be carefully weighed and their potential values appraised in terms of the above qualities and of the ultimate expense of fully developing them for public use. Essential complements to all other values must be potable drinking water, means for sanitary disposal of wastes, development of parking, camping and picnic grounds and other conveniences which go to provide the family with simple needs of life when in the open.

Once an area has been established as a state park and the lands have been acquired by the state, the public expects to use it. Already several such areas have been created but funds have not been appropriated with which to provide even the most primary facilities to meet the requirements of public use. Without potable water supply and sanitary conveniences, control of ingress and egress, parking areas and shelters, public use of park areas cause rapid deterioration and may cause damages which cannot be repaired. Vandalism, rampant generally as perhaps never before, takes a heavy toll of trees, flowers and plants generally as well as wild-life. A custodian's residence and caretaker to control the use and policing of areas, suitable regulatory signs to guide traffic, sanitary drinking water and latrines are immediate essentials pending more complete developments, and the cost thereof is an investment, not an expense. Recently established state parks in dire need of these primary facilities are, William O'Brien, Father Hennepin, McCarthy Beach, Kilen Woods, Big Island and Baptism River.

#### Cabins and Lodges in State Parks

There is a difference of opinion as to the propriety of including overnight cabins and lodges in state park developments, especially if they are to be maintained and operated by the state. Objections might properly be raised if cabin and lodge leasing were to assume the proportions of an industry and would compete with privately operated resorts, but when

confined to an accommodation service only, it fills a need greatly appreciated by a few who without such conveniences would find their visit to the state a disappointment. In the case of Itasca state park where Douglas Lodge and the largest number of cabins are found visitors come every summer to enjoy and study the plant and animal species found in the area. They would be greatly disappointed if they would find it necessary to travel 25 to 30 miles



*State Park Sign ReflectORIZED for Increased Visibility*

to secure suitable lodging and meals. The lack of housing and meals invariably would mean that such visitors would spend a few hours only instead of days, and would miss entirely what they would consider the most worthwhile advantages this state park has to offer.

### Types of Recreation

Types of recreation offered in state parks range through hiking, boating, fishing, camping, group camping, picnicking, horseback riding, skiing, museums for natural history studies, launch rides, campfire story telling, singing, movies, and information tours by car or launches. In some of the parks in Minnesota trails are being developed specially located through areas abounding in forest, flowers and other botanical species. On some of these trails trained naturalists guide visitors in identifying the various types of plants. In others, the specimens are flagged by markers numbered consecutively, and these, together with the help of a code available at park headquarters, enables hikers to identify the species.

This type of recreation is a departure from the generally accepted and prevailing practices of emphasizing the purely amusement types offered through zoos, dancing pavilions, and carnivals common in the eastern states especially in densely populated communities, by introducing what is developing into an enjoyable educational diversion to complement other pastimes. Interesting nature studies are possible at several of the parks in Minnesota because they still retain much of their primeval nature, a circumstance which appeals to those who have not been privileged to observe and enjoy nature in its own right and who seek the more quiet revitalizing pursuits that tend to refresh and recuperate bodies and minds fatigued and dulled by humdrum routine.

State parks fill the gap between municipal parks and athletic fields on the one hand and the large national parks on the other. The former are planned and financed by the local governments sponsoring them and are primarily intended for the use and enjoyment of the people residing within the municipality of which it is a part. National parks feature recreational areas and monuments of outstanding nation-wide interest which are generally separated by long distances and attract cross country long distance tourists as places of rest and recreation. There are no national parks within Minnesota. State parks are designed to provide recreation and rest for people residing in rural communities, unorganized municipalities, the state at large and tourists from other states, and are located so that they are within reach of all sections.

State parks and monuments created by the legislature in the early years were selected without much thought given to their relation to needs or their relation to one another. The policy of the division has been to complete the patterns of state park needs in such a way as to provide recreational facilities for all of the people of the state within easy driving distances of where they live where they may go to enjoy picnicking and other forms of recreation in natural environments, or to enjoy, economically, longer vacations away from the strife and routine of their daily tasks.

For the non-residents, state parks should be terminal points to which they may direct their journey and, from the parks, radiate to other resorts or centers of interest. It is to be understood therefore how the state parks may well become the windows through which tourists first get a glimpse of Minnesota and why it is important to make what they see reflect the wonders of our state. What they see in the parks of outstanding natural beauty should be an incentive for them to explore still further what the state has to offer for their enjoyment and thus perhaps prolong their stay and encourage them to return from year to year.

To tourists native of a desert state of the West, for instance, who seldom see a forest or a lake, Minnesota with its wealth of lakes and forests becomes unusual, inspiring and refreshing. Probably their children may for the first time play among trees, catch fish and swim, or see wild animals foreign to their own location. If in addition to the enjoyment of these natural environments, they are given a welcome to clean, orderly and well-kept state park buildings and facilities they will return home with a friendly feeling and spread praises for Minnesota among their home people.

The staging of the 1949 Centennial celebration and pageants in connection therewith will focus largely on state parks. It will be a year of perhaps the most intensive and concentrated use to which our parks have ever been subjected and much will be expected of them. The opportunities for a successful commemoration of events which have been the mileposts in the growth of the state will be exceptional and will not be offered again for perhaps another century. Unless funds are provided with which to undertake steps to prepare state parks for this occasion they will not be in a condition to do credit to the task that lies ahead in 1949.

### HISTORY

The Minnesota state park system had its beginning fifty-seven years ago with the acquisition of the Camp Release battlefield to memorialize an event of the 1862 Sioux uprising. This was followed by the authorizations by subsequent legislatures for the preservation of several similar other historic sites as well as numerous areas of outstanding scenic and geologic interest, until at the present time the Minnesota state park system embraces a fine group of units comparable to the finest to be found anywhere.

Prior to 1925 the then existing twenty-four parks and monuments, with the exception of Itasca and Sibley state parks, were under the supervision of the state auditor. Itasca state park was managed by the state forester, and Sibley by the game and fish commissioner.

Between 1925 and 1931 all state parks were under the jurisdiction of the then conservation commission made up of the state auditor as land commissioner, and the commissioners of game and fish, and forestry and fire prevention.

On the re-organization of the department of Conservation in 1931, for want of a legally constituted state park management organization, the conservation commission placed responsibility for the operation of all state parks in the division of forestry the system at that time having been increased to a total of thirty-one areas, aggregating approximately 39,200 acres.

The legislature of 1935 added a division of state parks to the department of conservation in order that the state might qualify for aid from CCC and other relief agencies and thus get the benefit of much needed developments of state park lands and by virtue of which nearly all of the present highly developed state park plans became a reality and at a relatively low cost to the state. In the meantime additional state parks have been created by the legislature until the system now comprises 59 units with an aggregate land area of 82,650 acres.

Prior to the creation of the division of state parks by the legislature of 1935 it was not unusual to permit local committees using legislative appropriations to manage state parks located in their immediate vicinities with only nominal control by the division of forestry. Under this practice many of the state park units were each managed independently of others and under plans and policies of its own without relation to the state park system as a whole. This did not apply to the larger units where management was retained by the division of forestry.

With the creation of the division of state parks as an agency to administer the state park system steps were at once taken to integrate all units into a coordinated system. Experience gained through the years in park operations, needs and expectation of the general public for recreational facilities and planning for the ultimate supplying of such needs has been the basis of present coordinated state park practices and policies.

One problem which has been more or less an active public issue is that of state operation versus private operation of state park facilities. For several

years the division experimented with the two methods of facility management and operations and reached the conclusion that the public may be served better under state-operation than through leased concessions, and adopted the former plan.

The legislature of 1941 created a state park working capital fund into which revenues collected from fees and charges for all special services and facilities furnished park visitors is to be credited. The legislature of 1943 added the operation of Douglas Lodge to other state operated facilities. Since that time and at present all major facilities in the system are operated by the state and all receipts credited to the working capital fund above referred to. Park visitors have evidenced approval of such management and there appears to be little doubt as to the propriety of continuing this type of service.

### MAGNITUDE OF STATE PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

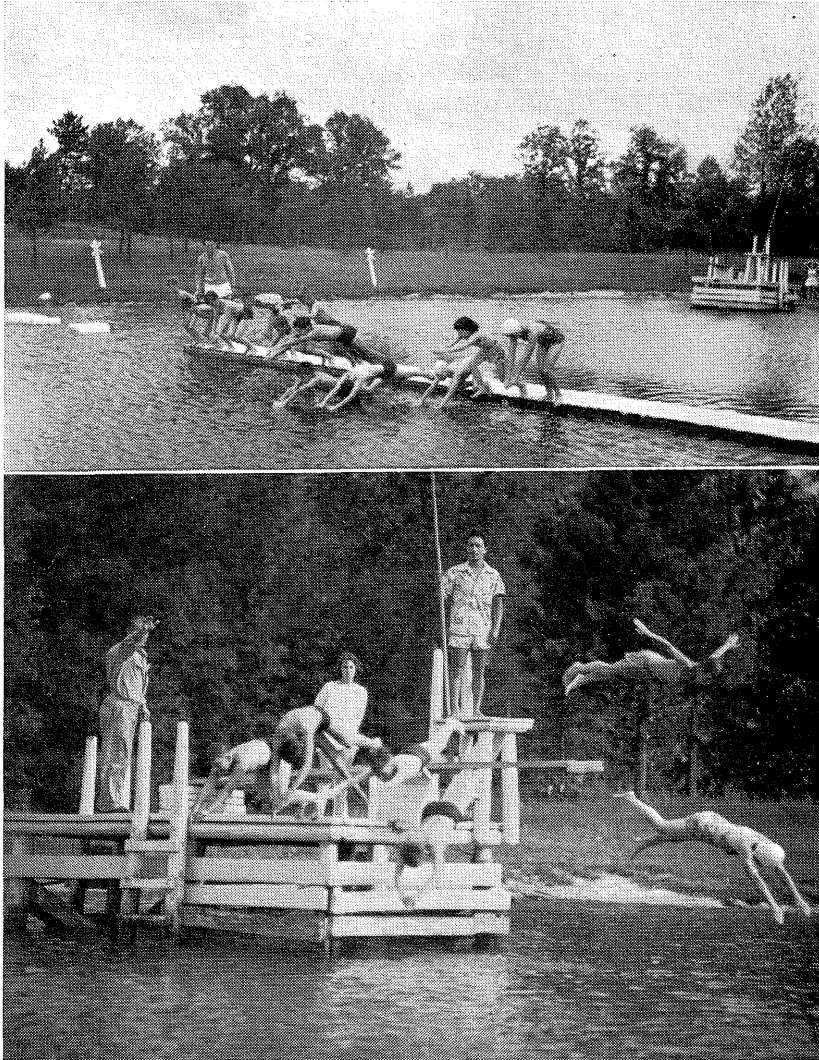
I was appointed as director of the Division of State Parks in September, 1946, to succeed Harold W. Lathrop. Since that time I have spent a great deal of time in an analysis and study of our state park system. I have tried to compare it with state parks in other states and have endeavored to determine where in our state park operations and management we are deficient, and how they might be improved for better public use and more economical operation.

Briefly, there are 28 major state parks in Minnesota, and 33 minor ones. These areas embrace an aggregate of 82,650 acres on which are located 521 buildings and other facility appointments such as parking lots, picnic and camping sites by the score, upwards of a thousand miles of park roads and trails, about nine thousand feet of bathing beaches, and other related and essential improvements. Lands in state parks have an estimated inventory value of \$2,749,324 and improvements of \$3,724,982 or a value of our state park system totaling \$6,474,306.

During the war years of 1941-1947 materials and manpower were limited and the legislature, recognizing these conditions and in keeping with the national war emergency policy to conserve for the prosecution of the war effort, scaled down appropriations for maintenance as well as new construction. Upkeep of physical structures accordingly suffered neglect, but deterioration from wear and tear kept on apace with the result that at the close of the war park buildings and other facilities were lamentably in need of repair, and equipment of all types in need of replacement. The legislature of 1947 appropriated money by which some relief could be afforded to the most pressing needs during the fiscal years 1948 and 1949, but not sufficient to finance the accumulated items of repairs and replacements.

As a result of these conditions park superintendents and other park employees are striving continuously to take care of emergency repairs and bare essentials. Except in three or four of the larger parks, because of lack of funds, only one or two extra persons can be employed even during the

park season at the peak of attendance when large crowds expect to be served. Even after the close of the park season no one can be put to work on the rejuvenation and preservation of facilities. The best months of the spring and fall before and after the park season available manpower is used for painting, staining and repairing of all sorts on the most deteriorated structures. It is during these months too that supplies of firewood for the following season must be harvested. All of this work is far



*Swimming instructions are offered in many state parks under Red Cross or group camp supervision.*

greater than can be done by one or at the most two men, during three months of seasonable weather before and after a busy park season.



*Well patronized bathing beaches require adequate supervision.*

In order to carry on without a complete breakdown of some of the structures and facilities during the park seasons of 1947 and 1948, buildings and improvements showing the most serious effects of deterioration were selected, and plans made for their rehabilitation to the extent of available resources. To this end a fall, winter, and spring work schedule for each park was initiated and made to bear on repairs and maintenance items most urgently needed. In many instances the condition into which some facilities had fallen were a positive hazard to life and limb and became our first responsibility. We have proceeded to stretch our limited maintenance funds as far as they would go to prevent further depreciation of the physical structures until more adequate maintenance funds are provided.

The conditions with which the state park system was confronted at the outbreak of the war need be emphasized at this point in order that the public may fully appreciate the really dire need for maintenance existing at the present time. Nearly all of the buildings and improvements now found in state parks were built between the years 1933 and 1940 during the days of the civilian conservation corps and works progress administration and were paid for from federal and state relief appropriations. At the time when the legislature of 1935 created the division of state parks, our state park

system was being equipped with new buildings, the construction program continuing until the suspension of relief work about 1942. At the outbreak of the war all of these structures numbering into the hundreds were from four to six years old and had reached the time when normally they were in need of repainting and restaining on the outside, renovation of the interiors, repair and replacements of screens, guard rails, and guide signs and other facilities. Furthermore much equipment, such as trucks, mowers, pumps, and other items were wearing out and needed replacement. No special means had been provided by the legislature to take care of these accumulated needs for maintenance so that at the time of the outbreak of the war in 1941, the maintenance needs of the state park system had already assumed the proportion of a major project. With the curtailment of manpower and



*Informal and basic sports are encouraged in state parks.*

material by the war effort, this state of disrepair, already in evidence everywhere, accumulated and multiplied during the war years. It is no exaggeration to say that the maintenance needs of the state park system are desperate.

On top of the run-down condition of present park facilities is the fact that their capacity is not adequate to serve the public. Public use of state parks has increased from an estimated maximum before the war of 1,250,000 to an estimated attendance during the 1948 season of about 2,000,000. In many cases people must wait for service, and are sometimes turned away for lack of accommodations.

All this results in severe criticism by disappointed park patrons, and puts the division and state on the defensive before visitors especially those from other states. These circumstances which retard and obstruct upkeep of parks and facilities are not appreciated by park visitors when they criticize the conditions many of our parks are in at the present time. Increased maintenance appropriations by the legislature are needed for the next few years in order that the division may be able to catch up with the most pressing repair, upkeep, and replacement needs.



*Pageants are presented on occasion in Minnesota State Parks.*

TABLE No. 1

Number of Employees by Classification on State Park Payroll  
as of June 30, 1948

1	Director
1	Park Maintenance Supervisor
3	District Park Supervisors
1	Civil Engineer I
1	Accountant I
1	Clerk Stenographer III
1	Clerk Stenographer I — part-time
1	Clerk Typist II
3	Clerk Typist I — full and part-time
1	Clerk I — part-time
2	Park Superintendent II
16	Park Superintendent I
9	Park Custodians
4	General Repairman
5	Laborer II — full and part-time
52	Laborer I
1	Cook IV
4	Cook II
2	Clerk II
1	Laundry Worker I
1	Stores Clerk II
2	Custodial Worker II
67	Custodial Worker I — full and part-time

## DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

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Table No. 2

## INVENTORY VALUE OF STATE PARK LANDS AND IMPROVEMENTS

As of June 30, 1948

PARK NAME	LAND		IMPROVEMENTS		Totals
	Purchase	Donations	State	Federal	
Acton Monument.....	\$25.00		\$2,500.00		\$2,525.00
Alexander Ramsey.....	14,409.53	\$3,317.00	25,947.44	\$19,902.56	63,576.53
Baptism River.....	15,200.00				15,200.00
Beaver Creek Valley.....	9,532.15		410.00		9,942.15
Birch Coulee.....	7,252.00	1,376.00	10,852.29	21,896.21	41,376.50
Brook Park Monument.....		100.00	2,500.00		2,600.00
Buffalo River.....	15,890.87		10,561.50	64,657.50	91,109.87
Camden.....	21,627.00	600.00	11,304.59	139,706.41	173,238.00
Camp Release.....	330.00		5,400.00	150.00	5,880.00
Chas. A. Lindbergh.....		9,000.00	32,417.13	32,622.84	74,039.97
Count Beltrami.....		100.00	491.25		591.25
Father Hennepin.....		3,243.75			3,243.75
Flandrau.....	77,107.47		76,859.55	237,864.21	391,831.23
Fort Ridgely.....	17,391.21		17,276.87	109,417.13	144,085.21
Garvin Heights.....		1,020.00	1,037.82	162.18	2,220.00
Gooseberry Falls.....	25,000.00		2,847.08	283,147.92	310,995.00
Hinckley Monument.....		100.00	2,500.00		2,600.00
Horace Austin.....	5,000.00		12,725.00		17,725.00
Inspiration Peak.....	2,000.00		1,325.00		3,325.00
Interstate.....	3,651.00	23,300.00	30,356.45	59,336.83	116,644.28
Itasca.....	1,192,160.00	582,340.00	155,718.45	570,930.74	2,501,149.19
Jay Cooke.....	113,048.61	48,300.00	72,126.86	178,272.14	411,747.61
John A. Latsch.....		26,265.00	1,665.00	150.00	28,080.00
Joseph R. Brown.....		60.00			60.00
Kaplan Woods.....	15,505.25		650.00	150.00	16,305.25
Kilen Woods.....	10,359.15				10,359.15
Kodonce River.....	6,000.00				6,000.00
Lac qui Parle.....	15,221.00		4,646.14	26,738.86	46,606.00
Lake Bemidji.....	43,056.54		7,470.72	15,439.28	65,966.54
Lake Bronson.....	16,996.26		19,789.89	53,897.26	90,683.41
Lake Carlos.....	8,838.59		16,480.40	27,678.68	52,997.67
Lake Shetek.....	24,354.20		34,827.75	91,777.25	150,959.20
McCarthy Beach.....	24,516.72	24,516.73			49,033.45
Middle River.....	8,996.56		14,687.03	44,161.97	67,845.56
Milford Monument.....		100.00	2,688.00		2,788.00
Minneopa.....	9,350.00	160.11	24,344.04	18,316.00	52,170.15
Monson Lake.....	16,110.00		3,906.04	32,423.96	52,440.00
Moose Lake Monument.....		150.00	2,500.00		2,650.00
Mound Springs.....	15,623.13		6,506.33	25,043.82	45,173.28
Old Crossing Treaty.....			500.00	1,820.00	2,320.00
Oronoco.....	7,500.00		1,279.65	9,933.10	18,712.75
Pine Tree.....		2,450.00	1,150.00		3,600.00
Pomme de Terre.....	18,097.81		15,887.16	48,163.84	82,148.81
St. Croix.....		109,194.42	11,314.43	454,660.00	575,168.85
St. Croix Islands.....		500.00			500.00
Sam Brown Monument.....	2,500.00		2,500.00		5,000.00
Scenic.....	58,195.00		775.00	92,018.00	150,988.00
Schwandt Monument.....		10.00	275.00		285.00
Sibley.....	24,800.00		222.15	162,608.85	187,631.00
Sleepy Eye.....	1,296.50	6,704.00	4,050.00	480.00	12,530.50
Split Rock Creek.....	12,951.22		3,202.92	20,637.08	36,791.22
Split Rock Wayside.....		3,500.00			3,500.00
Toqua Lakes.....	2,733.00		1,440.00	6,600.00	10,773.00
Traverse des Sioux.....	250.00	250.00	1,225.00	150.00	1,875.00
Watson Wayside.....	336.00		903.51	8,236.49	9,476.00
Whitewater.....	9,491.58	4,713.20	18,499.27	186,787.73	219,491.78
William O'Brien.....		25,000.00			25,000.00
Wood Lake Monument.....	250.00		2,500.00		2,750.00
Totals.....	\$1,872,953.35	\$876,370.21	\$681,042.71	\$3,043,938.84	\$6,474,305.11

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

TABLE No. 3

## Valuation of State Park Tools and Equipment as of June 30, 1948

Administration .....	\$ 6,838.43
Alexander Ramsey .....	2,111.74
Baptism River .....	254.25
Beaver Creek Valley.....	374.31
Birch Coulee .....	253.09
Buffalo River .....	1,139.84
Camden .....	3,448.42
Camp Release .....	153.78
Chas. A. Lindbergh.....	1,254.21
Father Hennepin .....	90.29
Flandrau .....	9,734.63
Fort Ridgely .....	3,209.49
Garvin Heights .....	27.20
Gooseberry Falls .....	6,125.51
Horace Austin .....	340.00
Inspiration Peak .....	113.60
Interstate .....	7,380.35
Itasca .....	41,617.42
Douglas Lodge .....	40,526.00
Jay Cooke .....	7,249.39
John A. Latsch.....	757.40
Kaplan Woods .....	262.60
Lac qui Parle.....	1,443.27
Lake Bemidji .....	1,324.86
Lake Bronson .....	4,162.93
Lake Carlos .....	2,160.95
Lake Shetek .....	4,803.41
McCarthy Beach .....	2,061.49
Middle River .....	1,815.03
Milford Monument .....	36.50
Minneopa .....	1,330.14
Monson Lake .....	298.95
Moose Lake .....	30.12
Mound Springs .....	438.36
Old Crossing Treaty.....	187.15
Oronoco .....	1,049.35
Pomme de Terre.....	692.11
St. Croix .....	37,330.79
Scenic .....	7,668.15
Sibley .....	4,859.69
Sleepy Eye .....	422.22
Split Rock Creek.....	544.82
Toqua Lakes .....	671.50
Traverse des Sioux.....	195.20
Whitewater .....	9,582.99
Wood Lake .....	50.00
Total .....	<u>\$216,421.93</u>

INFORMATION RELATIVE TO EACH STATE PARK UNIT										
NAME OF AREA	DATE ESTABLISHED	COUNTY	ACRES	CHARACTERISTICS						
				Botanical	Geological	Scenic	Wildlife	River	Lake	Stream
STATE PARKS										
Alexander Ramsey	1911	Redwood	185.38							
Baptism River	1945	Lake	706.00							
Beaver Creek Valley	1937	Houston	323.17							
* Big Island	1947	Freeborn								
Buffalo River	1937	Clay	241.86							
Camden	1935	Lyon	469.96							
* Caribou Falls	1947	Lake	40.00							
Flandrau	1937	Brown	836.48							
Gooseberry Falls	1937	Lake	637.83							
Interstate	1895	Chicago	154.00							
Itasca	1891	Clwrtr, Hubb. & Becker	31,976.00							
Jay Cooke	1915	Carlton	8,364.70							
John A. Latsch	1925	Winona	350.20							
Kaplan Woods	1935	Steele	180.00							
Killen Woods	1945	Jackson	172.41							
Kodonce River	1947	Cook	127.80							
Lac Qui Parle	1941	Chippewa & Lac Q'Par.	457.49							
Lake Bemidji	1925	Beltrami	205.48							
Lake Brainerd	1937	Kittson	743.62							
Lake Carlos	1938	Douglas	403.56							
Lake Shetek	1937	Murray	155.74							
Middle River	1937	Marshall	285.00							
Minneopa	1905	Blue Earth	110.24							
* Neretrand Woods	1945	Rice	467.55							
St. Croix	1943	Pine	30,557.40							
Scenic	1921	Itasca	2,121.30							
Sibley	1919	Kandiyehi	378.83							
Whitewater	1919	Winona	688.28							
Wm. O'Brien	1945	Washington	180.30							
† Wright County	1947	Wright								
STATE MEMORIAL PARKS										
Birch Coulee	1893	Renville	82.00							
Chas. A. Lindbergh	1931	Morrison	110.42							
Fort Ridgely	1911	Nicollet	224.80							
MS Carthy Beach	1945	St. Louis	135.00							
Monson Lake	1937	Swift	198.95							
STATE RECREATIONAL RESERVES										
Mound Springs	1937	Rock	194.90							
Pomme de Terre	1937	Stevens	363.51							
Split Rock Creek	1937	Pipestone	227.64							
STATE SCENIC RESERVES										
St. Croix Islands	1943	Washington	39.36							
STATE WAYSIDES										
Camp Release	1889	Lac Qui Parle	17.80							
Father Hennepin	1941	Millie Lake	129.75							
Garvin Heights	1922	Winona	17.00							
Horace Austin	1915	Mower	50.00							
Inspiration Peak	1931	Ottertail	82.00							
Joseph R. Brown	1937	Renville	3.00							
Old Crossing Treaty	1931	Red Lake	111.00							
Oronoco	1937	Olmsted	105.00							
Pine Tree	1947	Beltrami	21.55							
Sleepy Eye	1921	Brown	40.00							
Split Rock	1945	Lake	35.00							
Toqua Lakes	1919	Big Stone	40.00							
Traverse des Sioux	1905	Nicollet	2.27							
Watson	1938	Chippewa	12.00							
STATE MONUMENTS										
Acton	1909	Meeker	0.10							
Brook Park	1915	Pine	0.25							
Count Beltrami	1945	Beltrami	1.00							
Hinckley	1899	Pine	0.10							
Millard	1929	Brown	1.00							
Moose Lake	1929	Carlton	0.10							
Sam Brown	1929	Traverse	1.00							
Schwendt	1915	Renville	0.10							
Wood Lake	1907	Yellow Medicine	1.00							

\* Transfer of title incomplete as of July 1, 1948

† Acquisition still pending as of July 1, 1948



### Deer Control in State Parks

All state parks are game refuges by law, wherein no hunting of any kind is permitted. As a result in 1945 the deer population, especially within Itasca and St. Croix state parks, had increased to a point where over-browsing had eliminated practically all chances for desirable forest trees to reproduce as well as to threaten the animals themselves with starvation. In 1945 it was estimated that Itasca state park had 2,400 deer or an average of almost 50 animals per section. The effects of overbrowsing had been noted for many years, young seedlings to replace and augment the older stands being consumed as soon as they appeared. To remedy this condition, the legislature of 1945 authorized the commissioner to declare open seasons for the taking of deer in state parks whenever in his opinion this becomes necessary in order to protect and preserve the resources of the parks. Controlled hunting seasons were accordingly opened in Itasca and St. Croix state parks during the regular big game open seasons of 1945, 1946 and 1947. As a result the deer herds in these two parks have been reduced to a population of a few hundred in each. Already the reduction in the number of animals in Itasca state park is being reflected in a healthy reproduction of pine and other coniferous forest species. In St. Croix state park there still are too many deer to insure protection from overbrowsing of young forest growths.

During the big game season of 1947 hunting of deer by rifle in St. Croix state park was controlled by the issuance of a fixed number of permits given the hunters in the order in which they lined up at the park entrance. A two weeks bow and arrow season was opened in Itasca and St. Croix state parks during the seasons of 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948. The number of deer killed by archers is not likely to affect populations but the sport does give a great deal of enjoyable recreation to archery enthusiasts.

The concentration of hunters that use state parks creates a major safety problem, the handling of which requires much preliminary planning and extra patrolling during the open seasons. The division's personnel with the splendid cooperation of the division of forestry and the warden service did an exceptional job of preventing serious accidents, during the last year's open season.

To restore normal reproduction of pine and other conifers, so much a part of the environment which make state parks attractive and enjoyed by park visitors, it will be necessary to control the deer herds until a balance has been restored between browsing and reproduction that will insure survival of sufficient trees to keep the forest growth continually coming on to replace mature, wind-fallen and diseased trees. The need for this control is continuous, but after this balance has once been established the opening of state parks to hunting will be gauged solely by needs as reflected by reproduction of trees and food for the animals.

### Itasca State Park

At Itasca state park special consideration was given to the rehabilitation of Douglas Lodge and the surrounding area. The lodge has been such

an inseparable part of Itasca state park since its construction 41 years ago that it has become traditional and many visitors head for the lodge as soon as they enter the park.



*Relaxation is an important feature at Douglas Lodge, Itasca State Park.*

It is the only resort hotel within the state park system operated by the state. It has been the aim of the division to give the guests who come to this lodge the kind of service that reflects credit to the state of Minnesota.

Douglas Lodge and attached facilities are visited extensively by the public especially during weekends and holidays. Not only do our own people enjoy a visit here, but its unique distinction of being near the source of the Mississippi river brings thousands of visitors from other states and nations. On July 4, of this year, for instance, 1,034 automobiles with an estimated 4,136 visitors utilized the facilities in a single day.

State operation of a place of this kind is handicapped by public regulations with which operators of privately operated establishments of a similar nature need not concern themselves. Instead of being given the latitude of planning operation to care for actual probable needs, operations have to be kept within available appropriations often regardless of needs. Limitations imposed by regulations by superior authorities on the purchases of supplies and procurement of labor often prevent dealing with unforeseen conditions on the spot. When seasonal employees filling important assignments quit without notice during the height of the park season a breakdown

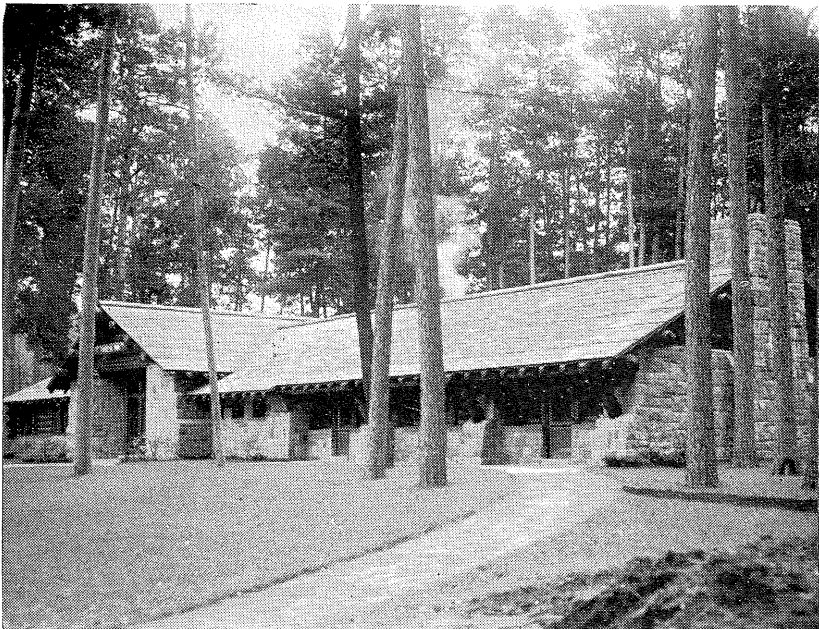
of the service becomes imminent unless a replacement be made at once. Limitations surrounding pay, qualifications, classifications, and other stipulations imposed by public regulations likewise make quick action difficult and delays in action cause public criticism as well as loss in revenue.



*Wildlife is protected and furnishes the camera-hunter with rare and memorable pictures.*

During the park season of 1947 the income from Douglas Lodge operation and Itasca state park service approximated \$104,000. After paying for help, supplies, merchandise for resale and costs of repair and replacements to the physical plant, the operation yielded a net profit of better than seven per cent. Included in the repairs to the lodge and attached facilities were such items as refinishing of the interior of the main lodge, complete rebuilding of the sixty-passenger launch "Itasca," replacement of row boats, and miscellaneous other equipment and furnishings. Hundreds of park visitors take a keen delight in viewing the scenic and historic places surrounding Lake Itasca from the launch. Parking lots have been blacktopped, and service at Forest Inn improved so that hundreds of people who lunch at the coffee shop, and purchase souvenirs at the refectory may be better served. Thousands are entertained by conservation movies shown in the recreation section of Forest Inn and lectures are given by a park naturalist sponsored by the state university, museum of natural history, in cooperation with the division of state parks. The national audubon society and state historical society also feature special programs. From 3,500 to 4,000 visitors took advantage and participated in these weekly activities during the park season.

The division of state parks has endeavored to emphasize recreational activities other than those which center around fishing for the enjoyment of park visitors. In this connection the Itasca state park advisory committee recommends the erection of some type of outstanding accommodation building in which visitors who come to hold conferences, symposiums and conventions from our own state and other states can be entertained in a manner that will emphasize the outstanding attractions of Minnesota and which would court favorable publicity from these groups and from the large number of tourists that annually come to Douglas Lodge and Itasca state park. Local community leaders believe that a lodge of rustic refinement should be sponsored and built by the state for this purpose. Hospitality of this type creates lasting impressions and cements cordial friendships which cannot be developed in any other way. Other leading states with much less to offer advertise their recreational and other resources in this manner. Minnesota should do no less.

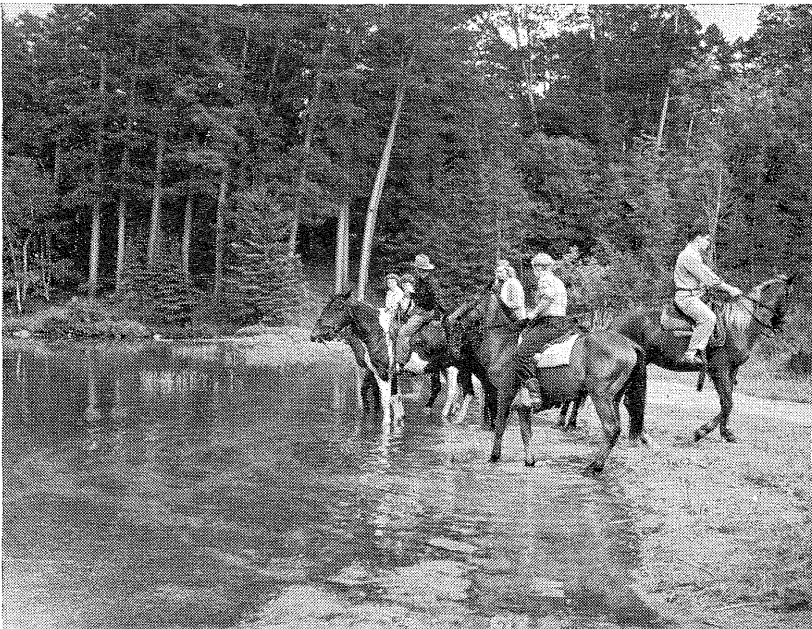


*Forest Inn Refectory, Itasca State Park, provides recreation, lunches, and outlet for sale of souvenirs.*

Douglas Lodge was built in 1906 of logs and stands as a landmark of rustic pattern. Decay and general deterioration is fast making the lodge a hazard and has made inroads into the structure until it will soon be unfit for use as a hostelry and should be replaced by a new building. Its state of semi-obsolescence makes it unattractive as well as unsafe and its limited capacity as a hotel makes it necessary to turn away hundreds of visitors

annually. A new building of sturdy stone and timber construction with a dining room overlooking Lake Itasca can be constructed at an estimated cost of from \$200,000 to \$250,000 and its cost could be amortized in twenty years from revenues yielded by state operation. This would provide ample facility for clean, wholesome and up-to-date accommodations for the park patrons.

A natural history museum has been opened in what was the old Ozawindib cabin near the headwaters of the Mississippi river in Itasca state park. This was done in collaboration with the museum of natural history, University of Minnesota, and the state historical society; the latter having prepared an exhibit of implements used in early logging days. Through the courtesy of the director of the museum of natural history, mountings of wildlife, geological specimens and products of forests have been added to the displays. During the seasons of 1947 and 1948 a naturalist lectured and conducted trail trips for the enjoyment of thousands of park visitors. The latter type of educational entertainment is proving very popular and it is hoped ways and means may be found to continue it as a permanent attraction in all of the state parks adapted to nature studies.



*Itasca state park offers guided tours on horseback.*

Saddle horses have been made available in Itasca state park under a privately operated concession. As a result park visitors have been able to reach and view some of the more remote and secluded scenic places of the park from the saddle trails. Here again maintenance is inadequate with

saddle trails having been overgrown with brush and deadfalls. The cost to the state of providing this type of recreation has been nominal, shelter for the saddle horses being maintained from the money collected from the concessionaire.

Refectories from which soft drinks, confections, and souvenirs of the parks are sold park visitors are always popular and generally are the centers of the greatest activities. Forest Inn near Douglas Lodge is an example of such a refectory.

### St. Croix State Park

St. Croix state park embracing 30,000 acres located midway between the metropolitan areas of Duluth and the Twin Cities is in dire need of facilities to provide visitors with meals while within the park. The park is located in the midst of a wilderness area with no outside meal service within twenty miles. Visitors coming from Duluth or the Twin Cities look for a place where they can enjoy a meal, only to find that they have to drive out of the park and a long distance beyond to secure meal service. The St. Croix state park advisory committee made up of business men from surrounding communities usually opposed to state-operated concessions as competitors with their own business, favor the development of facilities for meal service within the park. They recognize the value of goodwill of park visitors as an inducement to tourist trade and realize the disappointment that those who come long distances must feel when told they must seek their food elsewhere. This lack of hospitality may well cost in the alienation of goodwill many times the cost of a coffee shop or lunch counter to supply meal service. Douglas Lodge in Itasca state park and attached facilities may be cited as an example of how meal service is appreciated by visitors. Every weekend in summer from two to four thousand people stream into the public use areas comprising forty to fifty acres and because of the opportunity afforded them to purchase lunches and souvenirs they, their children and friends come to spend and enjoy the entire day in leisure amid the attractions of the park. Similar facilities in the St. Croix state park it is believed would invite a much larger attendance because of the added comfort and enjoyment that meals would afford.

A suitable campgrounds refectory dining and lunch room is a real need and can be provided at a cost of from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

A small museum has been established in the contact station and a few nature trails have been opened up to the visiting public. These trails and others to be added, if kept cleared of brush and otherwise improved and maintained, will prove popular and, based on experiences already had in Itasca state park, will be extensively used and enjoyed by the visiting public.

An energetic tree planting program to replace trees damaged by deer and fire was carried out during 1947 and 1948 through the cooperation of the division of forestry and boy scout units. In the spring of 1948, 6,500 trees were planted and in 1947, 3,500. To add to the comfort of visitors, the public use areas of Interstate, Itasca and St. Croix state parks were treated with



*Small Museums on natural history subjects are being featured in state parks (St. Croix).*

D.D.T. to learn how effective the application of this insecticide could be made in the control of mosquitos. The relief from mosquitos, at once noticeable, was deeply appreciated by visiting guests. The success thus far had in St. Croix state park has resulted in the initiation of more thorough extermination projects in other state parks. The success already achieved by these limited experiments in our own state parks and results reported from similar extermination projects elsewhere indicate quite definitely that park visitors will expect extensive treatment of public use areas in the future. Sufficient funds should be made available to the division to enable it to control the mosquito in all public use areas for the greater enjoyment of park facilities.

#### Whitewater State Park

Whitewater state park is one of the most interesting geological and scenic areas of the state. Here an old work camp has been renovated to accommodate youth groups for summer camping to the delight of hundreds of youngsters. This park is located in a well populated area and is constantly subjected to intensive public use. It is to be regretted that a standard group camp of the type built by the national park service in St. Croix state park is not available in this park also.

There is urgent need for expanded refectory facilities in this park the present refectory being wholly inadequate to serve the thousands of park visitors. An addition of a 30' x 55' "T" shaped extension to the present refectory should be erected to provide additional space for display of

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

souvenirs, coffee counter and the dispensing of soft drinks and ice cream, as well as room for a small museum and enlarged shelter very much in need for inclement weather.

The golf course in Whitewater state park, idle during the war, was reconditioned and opened up in the summer of 1948. It is recognized that golf courses are not generally included as public facilities in state park developments, and this park is the only one in the Minnesota state park system at present offering this type of recreation. However, in this instance a golf course was already fully developed and was being used by golfers from St. Charles, Winona and other nearby communities at the time the area was acquired for state park purposes and for this reason has a peculiar value to the local people who enjoy golf. Furthermore, the portion of the park used as a golf course can probably not be developed for a better public use for the present or immediate future. It has an outstanding scenic setting, nestled in a valley entirely surrounded by the high bluffs and cliffs for which the park is famous and offers golfers who visit the area a chance at this sport in an attractive environment. The course is operated as a revenue producing facility.



*Golf course in Whitewater State Park.*

#### **Interstate Park**

This park is the closest to the Twin Cities of any of the state parks and is usually overcrowded with visitors especially on weekends. A trip by automobile of only sixty miles makes this park an ideal place for families

from the metropolitan area of St. Paul and Minneapolis to spend weekdays and even weekday evenings at family and group picnics. It is estimated that from ten to fifteen thousand persons visit the potholes and picnic grounds each weekend, enjoying particularly the spectacular view of the St. Croix river valley and rugged gorges. Hiking the trails to the high promontories overlooking the valley, taking short excursions by launch, and viewing the curious pothole formations is among the most popular activities. Canoe trips on the St. Croix river between the park and Stillwater is also a delightful pastime for young people.

Here too the lack of maintenance personnel is being reflected in hazardous conditions developing on several of the trails leading to scenic views. Trail bridges are in need of replacement, a maintenance item far beyond the capacity of our park superintendent and his helper to overcome. The boat landing, below the pothole area, is in need of complete reconstruction to make it safe.

In order to relieve the present overcrowding of this popular park the immediate development for public use of the William O'Brien state park, located between Taylors Falls and Stillwater should be a project for serious consideration.



*Contact stations in major state parks provide the visitors with proper information and direction to points of interest or accommodation.*

### **Gooseberry Falls State Park**

This park, located along the shores of Lake Superior north of Two Harbors provides a panorama of a broad expanse of one of the largest inland lakes surrounded by the rugged terrain and coursed by swift streams for which the north shore is noted. It is a mecca for those who prefer to camp. It has become so popular to campers that a new campground is a much needed addition. The fluctuating waters of the Gooseberry river make swimming hazardous in natural pools and Lake Superior is usually too cold for this activity. An inland swimming pool would at once be very popular to this area. One of the finest souvenir and coffee shops on the whole north shore is maintained in this park. A new warehouse and shop building has been built in the service area from former C.C.C. buildings to house equipment used in the maintenance of the park. This work was done during the winter of 1947 and spring of 1948.

### **Camden State Park**

This park, near the city of Marshall, deserves extensive improvement for the benefit of the rural areas of the southwestern part of the state. Its setting is in the valley of the Redwood river, one of the outstanding scenic attractions in a prairie section of the state and holds unusual public interest. It has a spring fed swimming pool and splendid grounds for camping and picnicking are available. However, the Redwood river coursing through the park frequently overflows its banks causing damage to the roads and trails. An addition to the park refectory is greatly needed to adequately serve the park visitors.

### **Fort Ridgely State Park**

The site of early army headquarters, and commanding a magnificent view of the valley of the Minnesota river this park is a historic reminder of the fierce struggles waged between the white man and the Sioux Indians as well as typifying the scenic aspects of the Minnesota river valley. It is a favored campground for boy and girl scouts and annual memorial day celebrations. The old road approaches an old stadium which is in need of extensive improvement if it is to continue to serve the public needs. The restored headquarters of the old army post serves as a museum in which countless relics of the Indian wars are preserved and displayed. This park is not located too far from the Twin Cities to be reached and enjoyed for a holiday outing and its attractions and facilities for such outings deserve greater publicity.

### **Lake Bronson State Park**

This park is located near the village of Bronson and has as its chief attraction an artificial lake created by the impounding of the waters of Two Rivers. It is located in the Red River valley known for its flat and unbroken terrain and is about the only place where people residing in the extreme northwest corner of the state may go for their summer outings. It provides picnic grounds, bathing, boating, and fishing. Reforestation of its environs and a better entrance road connection to the highway are major considerations.

### Scenic State Park

This state park, near the village of Bigfork is one of the most attractive areas for campers in Minnesota. Each camper has a private living room underneath huge Norway and white pines, overlooking a lake of great sylvan beauty. Each site has running water and a screen of spruce to keep it private in nature. Campers usually develop a neighborly spirit and group up for all recreation activities. They come back year after year. The park's drawback has been the lack of a suitably maintained road to connect it with the highway.

### Lake Shetek State Park

The Keeley Island area, a portion of Lake Shetek State Park separated from the main park by water, and occupied by an old W.P.A. camp, was sold in the spring of 1948 to a religious group for \$40,100. The legislature of 1947 had authorized this sale and directed that the money received therefrom should be used for the purchase and development for park purposes of additional land adjacent to the park mainland and that the funds be used within a five-year period. Negotiations are under way for the acquisition of this land. On their completion, buildings, extensions, sewage systems, water supplies and other public use facilities are to be provided from the balance of the funds realized from the sale of the old camp and site.

The planning of buildings and other improvements for the new area in process of being acquired for the Lake Shetek state park and of much needed alterations, additions and extensions to facilities in other parks brings to sharp focus the need for an architect or architectural park planning engineer as an addition to the division's staff. Kilen Woods, Big Island, Father Hennepin, William O'Brien and McCarthy Beach state parks all of them designated by recent legislature await plans for development by some one especially trained in park design. Preliminary basic plans founded on the best and most complete use of the natural attributes of a park area mean well-organized and efficient operation, where make-shift and aimless developments may depreciate rather than enhance natural assets and may result in irreparable errors. The budget to be presented to the legislature of 1949 will contain a request for funds for the creation by the division of such an architectural or engineering planning section.

Tables 4 to 10 show operating revenues, the income from various parks and their use as reflected by relative attendances:

TABLE No. 4  
Summary of Receipts and Expenditures Fiscal Year 1947

RECEIPTS

Appropriation for			
Administrative Salaries.....	\$ 15,605.00		
Administrative Expense .....	2,450.00		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Salaries .....	69,175.00		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Expense .....	26,245.00	\$113,475.00	
Balance carried forward in			
Working Capital Fund.....	\$ 7,500.00		
Receipts Credited to			
Working Capital Fund.....	157,545.09		
Maintenance and Improvements.....	4,684.00	\$169,729.09	\$283,204.09
Non-Dedicated Receipts reverted to			
General Revenue Fund.....		*\$ 756.13	

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Salaries .....	\$ 15,156.44		
Administrative Expense .....	2,385.05		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Salaries .....	67,757.57		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Expense .....	27,151.23		
Working Capital .....	157,105.10	\$269,555.39	
Balance carried forward in			
Working Capital Fund.....	\$ 6,564.48		
Reversion from Working Capital			
Fund to General Revenue Fund.....	*\$ 1,375.51		
Unexpended balances from Appropria-			
tions reverted to General Revenue			
Fund .....	*\$ 5,708.71	\$ 13,648.70	\$283,204.09

\*Total Credits to General Revenue Fund — \$7,840.35.

Table No. 4 — Continued

Fiscal Year 1948

## RECEIPTS

Appropriation for			
Administrative Salaries .....	\$ 17,898.00		
Administrative Expense .....	3,000.00		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Salaries .....	82,944.00		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Expense .....	45,555.00	\$149,397.00	
Balance carried forward in			
Working Capital Fund.....	\$ 14,663.08		
Receipts Credited to			
Working Capital Fund.....	188,130.93		
Maintenance and Improvements.....	5,025.00	\$207,819.01	\$357,216.01
Non-Dedicated receipts returned to			
General Revenue .....		*882.55	

## EXPENDITURES

Administrative Salaries .....	\$ 17,461.00		
Administrative Expense .....	2,962.41		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Salaries .....	79,596.52		
Maintenance and Improvement			
Expense .....	46,126.04		
Working Capital .....	187,643.22	\$333,789.19	
Balance carried forward in			
Working Capital Fund.....	\$ 7,527.12		
Reversion from Working Capital Fund			
to General Revenue Fund.....	*\$ 7,623.67		
Unexpended balances from Appropria-			
tions reverted to General Revenue			
Fund .....	*\$ 8,276.03	\$ 23,426.82	\$357,216.01

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\*Total Credits to General Revenue Fund — \$16,782.25.

Table No. 5  
 STATE PARKS RECEIPTS CREDITED TO GENERAL REVENUE FUND  
 Fiscal Years 1947 and 1948

PARK	Totals		Land Rentals		Sale of Wood, Hay, Ice		Restitutions		Refunds	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Beaver Creek Valley.....		\$ 1.50						\$ 1.50		
Birch Coulee.....		80.00		\$ 80.00						
Buffalo River.....		15.00		15.00						
Camp Release.....		10.00						10.00		
Father Hennepin.....		30.00		30.00						
Flandrau.....	\$ 88.00		\$ 88.00							
Fort Ridgely.....	85.00	120.05	85.00	120.05						
Horace Austin.....	9.00		9.00							
Inspiration Peak.....	7.00		7.00							
Itasca.....	20.00		20.00							
Jay Cooke.....	11.50		11.50							
Kaplan Woods.....	20.00	36.00	20.00	36.00						
Lac qui Parle.....	124.00	85.00	124.00	80.00		\$ 5.00				
Lake Bemidji.....	25.28				\$ 25.28					
Lake Bronson.....	1.85							\$1.85		
Lake Carlos.....	90.00	60.00	90.00	60.00						
Middle River.....	10.00	25.00	10.00	25.00						
Minneopa.....		10.00		10.00						
Mound Springs.....	54.00		54.00							
Old Crossing Treaty.....		8.00		8.00						
Pomme de Terre.....	132.50	205.00	52.50	125.00	80.00	80.00				
Toqua Lakes.....	46.00	32.00	46.00	32.00						
Whitewater.....	32.00	150.00	32.00	150.00						
William O'Brien.....		15.00		15.00						
Totals 1947.....	\$756.13		\$649.00		\$105.28				\$1.85	
Totals 1948.....		\$882.55		\$786.05		\$85.00		\$11.50		

Table No. 6

EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION OF STATE PARKS FOR ADMINISTRATION SALARIES, ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE,  
AND MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF PARKS

Fiscal Years 1947 nad 1948

PARK	Salaries		Other Services		Materials and Supplies		Acquisition of Property		Totals	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Administration.....	\$17,844.44	\$20,821.00	\$ 2,998.37	\$ 5,768.43	\$2,244.23	\$ 2,222.01	\$2,260.82	\$5,040.29	\$ 25,347.86	\$ 33,851.73
Alexander Ramsey.....	1,595.10	1,846.78	57.55	78.43	39.12	37.86			1,691.77	1,963.07
Baptism River.....				4.25						4.25
Beaver Creek Valley.....	515.88		150.67	27.22	44.53	31.00			711.08	58.22
Birch Coulee.....	519.75	695.65		13.85	34.61				554.36	709.50
Brook Park.....		700.00	40.00	40.00					40.00	740.00
Buffalo River.....	773.42	759.89	44.68	50.16	11.51	17.53			829.61	827.58
Camden.....	2,160.03	2,908.00	233.14	216.26	187.33	429.83	132.00		2,712.50	3,554.09
Camp Release.....					1.04				1.04	
Chas. A. Lindbergh.....	1,317.50	1,564.00	163.75	146.43	45.93	22.27			1,527.18	1,732.70
Douglas Lodge.....	180.38		1.06	2.19	89.08				270.52	2.19
Father Hennepin.....	200.00	775.25	80.00	60.59	21.53	171.80			301.53	1,007.64
Flandrau.....	3,201.84	3,795.88	335.52	10,145.78	301.16	596.40	1,256.99		5,095.51	14,538.06
Fort Ridgely.....	1,789.00	2,425.00	208.70	747.53	35.25	651.65			2,032.95	3,824.18
Gooseberry Falls.....	2,270.84	2,927.44	538.54	579.65	415.60	579.39	1,360.87		4,585.85	4,086.48
Horace Austin.....	575.00	607.50			12.05	15.25			587.05	622.75
Inspiration Peak.....	78.88								78.88	
Interstate.....	2,593.50	3,124.00	643.22	747.90	470.83	479.64	19.95	1,489.54	3,727.50	5,841.08
Itasca.....	7,694.21	7,424.32	360.13	515.57	1,227.06	3,852.06	1,755.19	466.47	11,036.59	12,258.42
Jay Cooke.....	3,936.00	4,776.00	706.65	443.69	357.83	365.16			5,000.48	5,584.85
John A. Latsch.....	680.00	840.00	57.50	92.85	50.39	5.38			787.89	938.23
Kaplan Woods.....	440.00	592.50		10.00	91.61	9.65			531.61	612.15
Kodance River.....			2.75		22.18				24.93	
Lac qui Parle.....	1,432.64	1,598.28	123.55	157.95		14.47			1,556.19	1,770.70
Lake Bemidji.....	589.22	639.50	3.20	31.52	58.73	3.25			651.15	674.27
Lake Bronson.....	2,070.16	2,619.92	434.61	438.17	150.97	305.05			2,655.74	3,363.14
Lake Carlos.....	1,903.61	2,352.84	346.06	288.52	98.96	170.90			2,348.63	2,812.26
Lake Shetek.....	2,107.84	2,687.24	398.21	243.84	153.86	268.13			2,659.91	3,199.21
McCarthy Beach.....	274.00	650.16	18.68	94.65	84.02	86.61	52.71		429.41	831.42
Middle River.....	1,406.76	1,840.00	66.46	65.40	25.29	151.60			1,498.51	2,057.00
Milford Monument.....			25.00	60.00					25.00	60.00
Minneopa.....	1,962.28	2,678.40	177.18	214.83	18.60	103.39			2,158.06	2,996.62
Monson Lake.....	524.32	488.24							524.32	488.24
Moose Lake.....			40.00	40.00					40.00	40.00
Mound Springs.....	479.16	495.72	8.50		7.75	14.15			495.41	509.87
Old Crossing Treaty.....	335.24	365.84			6.21				341.45	365.84

Table No. 6—Continued

EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION OF STATE PARKS FOR ADMINISTRATION SALARIES, ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE,  
AND MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF PARKS

Fiscal Years 1947 and 1948

PARK	Salaries		Other Services		Materials and Supplies		Acquisition of Property		Totals	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Oronoco.....	495.00	578.71	16.00	19.45	.....	6.99	.....	.....	511.00	605.15
Pine Tree.....	.....	128.52	.....	3.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	131.52
Pomme de Terre.....	575.00	548.48	.....	11.25	57.65	16.99	.....	.....	632.65	576.72
St. Croix.....	6,201.82	6,621.43	943.70	791.06	1,706.73	2,017.42	1,120.10	.....	9,972.35	9,429.91
Scenic.....	1,963.56	2,272.20	145.44	116.58	219.01	311.65	.....	.....	2,328.01	2,700.43
Sibley.....	1,928.06	2,768.84	339.95	261.34	71.89	83.23	.....	.....	2,339.90	3,113.41
Sleepy Eye.....	278.40	346.12	4.75	121.80	.....	.94	.....	.....	283.15	468.86
Split Rock Creek.....	389.35	.....	.....	66.50	10.14	.....	.....	.....	399.49	66.50
Supervisors.....	6,355.00	7,308.15	1,719.52	1,792.27	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,074.52	9,100.42
Toqua Lakes.....	443.48	388.52	2.60	15.00	14.55	4.00	.....	.....	460.63	407.52
Traverse des Sioux.....	133.69	149.26	12.30	54.67	53.71	.....	.....	.....	199.70	203.93
Whitewater.....	2,699.65	2,947.94	202.90	389.35	76.15	733.30	1,305.92	.....	4,284.62	4,070.59
Wood Lake.....	.....	.....	45.00	60.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.00	60.00
Totals 1947.....	\$82,914.01	.....	\$11,695.84	.....	\$8,517.09	.....	\$9,264.55	.....	\$112,391.49	.....
Totals 1948.....	.....	\$97,057.52	.....	\$25,027.93	\$13,778.95	.....	\$6,996.30	.....	.....	*\$142,860.70

\*This figure represents actual disbursements. There is a balance of \$3,285.27 of unliquidated encumbrances to be paid from 1948 appropriations.

TABLE NO. 7

OPERATION STATEMENT OF STATE PARKS  
WORKING CAPITAL FUND

January 1, 1947 to January 1, 1948

## RECEIPTS

Revenue from Sale of Merchandise.....		\$119,268.15
Revenue from Other Sources:		
Bathhouse .....	\$ 3,391.35	
Electricity .....	550.90	
Telephone .....	1,176.98	
Launch and Other Services.....	861.10	
Boat Rentals .....	6,723.00	
Cabin and Room Rentals.....	22,908.70	
Camping and Parking.....	2,985.75	
Group Camps .....	4,763.50	
Phonograph .....	216.60	
Watercraft Permits .....	126.00	
Linen Rentals .....	284.99	
Commissions .....	2,129.49	
Ice Sales .....	597.01	
Bus Fares .....	858.22	
Fishing Licenses .....	187.68	
Gas and Oil .....	4,845.34	
Sale of Equipment.....	7.50	
Restitutions .....	15.50	
Petty Cash and Refunds.....	910.00	\$ 53,539.61
		<hr/>
Less Legislative Claim Adjustment.....		\$172,807.76
		35.00
Grand Total of Receipts.....		<hr/> \$172,772.76

## EXPENDITURES

Cost of Merchandise Sold:			
Inventory 1/1/47 .....	\$ 14,721.84		
Stores for Resale .....	\$ 81,179.88		
Less Inventory 1/1/48.....	\$ 19,007.96	\$ 76,893.76	
Operation Costs:			
Personal Services .....	\$ 65,139.81		
Retirement Contribution .....	959.05		
Other Services .....	8,408.52		
Materials and Supplies.....	8,552.10		
Petty Cash .....	860.00		
Claims .....	1.17	\$ 83,920.65	\$160,814.41
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Profit .....			\$ 11,958.35

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Table No. 7—Continued

## BALANCE SHEET

January 1, 1948

Cash Balance 1/1/48.....	\$	42,942.17	
Petty Cash—Itasca and St. Croix.....		100.00	
Merchandise Inventory 1/1/48.....		19,007.96	
Equipment and Non-expendables			
Prior Years.....	\$28,166.66		
Acquired 1947..	7,745.08		35,911.74
Appropriation .....	\$7,500.00		
Less canc. to Gen. Rev.			
1942 .....	\$ 534.19		
Less canc. to Gen. Rev.			
1945 .....	8.36		
Less canc. to Gen. Rev.			
1946 .....	3,297.00		
Less canc. to Gen. Rev.			
1947 .....	1,375.51	5,215.06	\$ 2,284.94
Operating Profit 1/1/41 to 1/1/47			83,718.58
Operating Profit 1947			11,958.35
		<u>\$ 97,961.87</u>	<u>\$ 97,961.87</u>

Table No. 8  
**RECEIPTS CREDITED TO STATE PARKS REVOLVING FUND**  
 Fiscal Year 1947

PARK	Totals	Merchandise for Resale Meals Bus Tickets Fishing Licenses	Bathhouse Utilities Other Services	Boat Rentals and Watercraft Permits	Cabin Rentals and Camping	Group Camps	All Other Permits	Commissions	Land Rentals and Ice	Restitutions	Petty Cash Refunds
Alexander Ramsey .....	\$680.75	\$670.75									\$10.00
Buffalo River .....	1,545.66	1,297.16	\$213.50		\$15.00						20.00
Camden .....	1,757.98	1,494.08	214.65		23.25	\$6.00					20.00
Chas. A. Lindbergh .....	1,066.75	1,039.50			7.25						20.00
Douglas Lodge .....	79,466.64	61,916.98	345.88	\$1,052.75	14,670.35		\$266.05	\$852.13	\$32.50		330.00
Flandrau .....	3,787.08	2,231.58	444.70	521.00	5.00	458.85	104.20	1.75			20.00
Fort Ridgely .....	1,786.70	1,763.70	3.00								20.00
Gooseberry Falls .....	5,754.97	5,147.97			567.00						40.00
Interstate .....	8,999.80	7,734.50			733.25			532.05			
Itasca .....	16,890.30	9,141.79	1,291.84	2,773.50	3,551.75	35.50		76.56			19.36
Jay Cooke .....	4,255.24	4,052.99			177.25		25.00				
John A. Latsch .....	9.50				9.50						
Lac qui Parle .....	6.50							6.50			
Lake Bemidji .....	31.22	31.22									
Lake Bronson .....	3,086.35	2,095.27	145.85	663.00		57.50		104.73			20.00
Lake Carlos .....	690.16	396.56	54.35	173.50	12.00	30.00			3.00	\$0.75	20.00
Lake Shetek .....	2,692.14	1,668.11	311.45	486.75	20.00	169.45		34.88	1.50		
Middle River .....	1,404.14	1,157.74	224.90		1.50						20.00
Minneopa .....	3,279.61	3,259.61									20.00
Oronoco .....	17.75			17.75							
Pomme de Terre .....	541.91	351.96	137.20	42.75							10.00
St. Croix .....	7,878.99	3,126.28	571.01	131.00	869.00	3,035.80	46.30	49.60			50.00
Scenic .....	3,166.85	1,059.50	2.50	641.75	1,414.75			18.35			30.00
Sibley .....	2,635.18	1,942.23	70.85	215.00	68.25	338.85					
Whitewater .....	6,147.92	3,248.45	207.20		1,691.90	941.50		58.30			.57
Totals .....	\$157,580.09	\$114,827.93	\$4,238.88	\$6,718.75	\$23,837.00	\$5,073.45	\$441.55	\$1,734.85	\$37.00	\$0.75	\$669.93

Table No. 9  
**RECEIPTS CREDITED TO STATE PARKS REVOLVING FUND**  
 Fiscal Year 1948

PARK	Totals	Merchandise for Resale Meals Bus Tickets Fishing Licenses	Bathhouse Utilities Other Services	Boat Rentals and Watercraft Permits	Cabin Rentals and Camping	Group Camps	All Other Permits	Commissions	Land Rentals and Ice	Restitutions	Petty Cash Refunds
Alexander Ramsey	\$793.56	\$770.56			\$3.00						\$20.00
Buffalo River	1,579.56	1,281.36	\$262.70		15.50						20.00
Camden	2,664.71	1,979.81	587.00		20.25	\$57.40			\$0.25		20.00
Chas. A. Lindbergh	1,011.01	975.26			15.75						20.00
Flandrau	2,887.72	1,452.82	167.75	\$112.25	2.00	1,051.00	\$51.75	\$14.15		\$6.00	30.00
Fort Ridgely	1,734.14	1,711.31	2.33						.50		20.00
Gooseberry Falls	7,028.07	6,222.12			749.25				16.70		40.00
Interstate	10,403.60	8,663.60			911.00			45.85	753.15		30.00
Itasca	18,795.61	9,572.73	1,745.86	3,536.75	3,282.50	462.90		85.07	107.80	2.00	
Douglas Lodge	93,811.11	74,118.89	153.60	1,036.75	16,475.50		72.15	1,624.22			330.00
Jay Cooke	4,095.33	3,785.33			245.00		25.00				40.00
John A. Latsch	22.50				22.50						
Lac qui Parle	1.25				1.25						
Lake Bemidji	566.53	341.28	3.00		202.25						20.00
Lake Bronson	4,577.38	3,463.70	222.65	652.75		65.00		153.28			20.00
Lake Carlos	771.96	348.91	64.15	225.25	22.00	82.50			9.15		20.00
Lake Shetek	5,013.30	3,242.55	734.35	677.25	42.75	268.50			15.15	2.75	30.00
McCarthy Beach	741.29	338.69	2.10	370.50							30.00
Middle River	1,764.70	1,412.55	323.80		8.10				.25		20.00
Minneopa	3,542.52	3,522.52									20.00
Oronoco	286.25			276.25							10.00
Pomme de Terre	851.30	575.40	225.40	30.50							20.00
St. Croix	8,786.61	3,107.28	389.89	276.75	1,779.65	2,617.85	58.05	108.20	342.19	6.75	100.00
Scenic	4,025.20	1,607.85		772.25	1,500.00			21.40	93.70		30.00
Sibley	3,477.81	2,479.11	156.70	263.25	88.75	438.10		3.95	27.95		20.00
Whitewater	8,891.11	4,813.51	781.35		1,985.40	560.75	545.00	69.80	65.30		70.00
William O'Brien	6.80				6.80						
Totals	\$188,130.93	\$135,787.14	\$5,522.63	\$8,230.50	\$27,372.40	\$5,610.80	\$751.95	\$2,125.92	\$1,432.09	\$17.50	\$980.00

Table No. 10

## EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION OF STATE PARKS FOR FACILITY OPERATIONS UNDER WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Fiscal Years 1947 and 1948

PARK	Salaries		Other Services		Materials and Supplies		Acquisition of Property		Merchandise for Resale		Awards and Indemnities		Totals	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Administration.....	\$4,093.80	\$4,389.16	\$ 848.27	\$ 844.96	\$1,753.26	\$ 977.09	\$3,793.37	\$ 195.25	\$2,399.84	\$ 621.20	.....	\$1,301.82	\$ 12,888.34	\$ 8,329.48
Alexander Ramsey.....	126.50	57.46	.45		6.00	24.00			430.78	501.89			563.73	583.35
Beaver Creek Valley.....														
Buffalo River.....	337.59	431.12			86.18	132.22			579.61	1,144.22			1,003.38	1,707.56
Camden.....	668.86	873.72	30.97	48.17	141.10	127.01			787.76	1,630.56			1,628.69	2,679.46
Chas. A. Lindbergh.....	818.01	295.80	26.28	27.24	10.00	12.65			682.22	378.04			1,516.51	713.73
Douglas Lodge.....	21,339.40	25,823.53	1,046.95	596.66	2,725.32	770.57	932.03	352.82	33,939.79	39,696.74	\$ 1.17		59,984.66	67,240.32
Father Hennepin.....				.50										.50
Flandrau.....	722.73	455.26	132.12	117.81	158.59	233.96			1,509.84	1,023.68			2,523.28	1,830.71
Fort Ridgely.....	217.66	239.02	76.47	38.42	14.20	69.68			1,252.03	981.12			1,560.36	1,328.24
Gooseberry Falls.....	1,546.57	1,933.24	124.83	137.18	136.28	66.62			3,594.39	3,106.56			5,402.07	5,243.60
Interstate.....	1,495.63	2,357.38	83.70	179.66	137.06	280.25	300.07		5,312.28	4,439.96			7,328.74	7,257.25
Itasca.....	9,998.31	12,356.75	2,590.79	2,230.10	919.45	2,225.73	1,891.09	2,886.65	6,604.77	9,840.87			22,004.41	29,540.10
Jay Cooke.....	511.52	661.64	77.95	75.52	110.55	74.50	48.50		2,735.37	2,110.66			3,483.89	2,922.32
Lac qui Parle.....	28.60				3.55								32.15	
Lake Bemidji.....	53.07	241.40			72.80	82.11			56.87	286.41			182.74	609.92
Lake Bronson.....	1,161.75	1,529.11	80.52	65.15	36.90	102.91			1,472.39	2,172.90			2,751.56	3,870.07
Lake Carlos.....	284.36	378.90	49.19	15.35	91.59	77.35			231.68	253.52			656.82	725.12
Lake Shetek.....	753.26	926.42	7.18	31.85		89.88			1,399.65	1,906.98			2,160.09	2,955.13
McCarthy Beach.....	489.60	474.12	10.75		21.01	10.42				237.38			521.36	721.92
Middle River.....	356.60	415.48	10.00		48.00				736.61	982.56			1,151.21	1,398.04
Minneopa.....	519.64	599.42	32.16	31.34	5.18	56.00			2,413.32	2,051.76			2,970.30	2,738.52
Oronoco.....		130.00				30.05								160.05
Pomme de Terre.....	327.13	428.06	5.00		14.00	59.60			204.73	406.16			550.86	893.82
St. Croix.....	3,451.59	4,308.63	1,355.65	646.52	423.68	409.30	179.25	237.50	2,100.29	1,758.24			7,510.46	7,360.19
Scenic.....	379.76	548.56	7.23	33.60	214.21	4.70			608.10	1,049.79			1,209.30	1,636.65
Sibley.....	639.10	692.72	80.50	63.51	55.80	40.00			1,182.02	1,439.13			1,957.42	2,285.36
Supervisors.....	2,880.00	3,450.00	255.40	180.35									3,135.40	3,630.35
Whitewater.....	1,275.06	1,830.31	422.88	153.29	74.11	120.47	75.20		2,128.21	3,142.66			3,975.46	5,246.73
Totals 1947.....	\$54,475.90		\$7,355.24		\$7,258.82		\$7,219.51		\$72,342.55		\$1.17		\$148,653.19	
Totals 1948.....		\$65,827.21		\$5,517.18		\$6,077.07		\$3,672.22		\$81,162.99		\$1,301.82		*\$163,558.49

\*This figure represents actual disbursements. There is a balance of \$13,131.60 of unliquidated encumbrances to be paid from 1948 income.

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

TABLE NO. 11  
ESTIMATED PARK ATTENDANCE

Fiscal Years 1947 and 1948		
PARK NAME	1947	1948
Acton Monument .....	500	1,000
Alexander Ramsey .....	24,500	22,000
Baptism River .....	500	500
Beaver Creek Valley .....	12,000	15,000
Big Island .....		1,000
Birch Coulee .....	9,500	10,000
Brook Park Monument .....	300	2,150
Buffalo River .....	27,500	32,500
Camden .....	39,800	50,000
Camp Release .....	8,500	10,000
Chas. A. Lindbergh .....	19,500	18,500
Count Beltrami Monument .....		200
Father Hennepin .....	8,500	9,500
Flandrau .....	47,500	37,000
Fort Ridgely .....	24,700	25,000
Garvin Heights .....	10,800	11,000
Gooseberry Falls .....	136,800	130,000
Hinckley Monument .....	750	12,500
Horace Austin .....	24,400	23,000
Inspiration Peak .....	3,000	3,000
Interstate .....	334,000	330,000
Itasca .....	328,000	325,000
Jay Cooke .....	143,000	147,000
John A. Latsch .....	13,600	15,000
Joseph R. Brown .....	500	500
Kaplan Woods .....	4,600	5,000
Lac qui Parle .....	18,200	20,000
Lake Bemidji .....	12,400	11,500
Lake Bronson .....	63,400	68,000
Lake Carlos .....	11,500	12,500
Lake Shetek .....	63,400	75,000
McCarthy Beach .....	9,800	7,500
Middle River .....	21,500	34,500
Milford Monument .....	450	500
Minneopa .....	74,200	75,000
Monson Lake .....	8,600	10,000
Moose Lake Monument .....	8,000	15,000
Mound Springs .....	7,400	5,000
Old Crossing Treaty .....	5,400	5,000
Oronoco .....	14,500	20,000
Pine Tree .....		2,000
Pomme de Terre .....	16,700	18,000
St. Croix .....	40,200	38,000
Sam Brown Monument .....	1,800	7,550
Scenic .....	18,500	26,500
Schwandt Monument .....	200	500
Sibley .....	27,400	50,000
Sleepy Eye .....	9,200	7,000
Split Rock Creek .....	4,500	8,000
Split Rock Wayside .....	500	500
Toqua Lakes .....	6,500	8,000
Traverse des Sioux .....	8,200	6,000
Watson Wayside .....	7,400	6,000
Whitewater .....	46,500	75,000
William O'Brien .....	500	1,000
Wood Lake Monument .....	850	500
Totals .....	1,730,450	1,850,400

### State Aid Parkways

Approach roads and park drives to and within parks are of extreme importance. A dusty, washboard type of gravel road leading to a state park and dusty and neglected roads within state parks leading to the public use areas are evidences of neglect, and by contrast with present hard surfaced and well-maintained trunk highways, are irksome to tourists and are certainly not an invitation to a return visit. The roads leading to and within several of our state parks answer this description.

No direct appropriations have been made to this division for the maintenance and improvement of roads. On roads within state park boundaries, the division has attempted to keep them serviceable from its general park maintenance funds. This plan has proved to be uneconomical and impracticable. The division has little portable road maintenance equipment to serve the needs of all state parks. An investment in road maintenance equipment for each park is of doubtful economic justification.

As regards roads to connect state parks with main highways, maintenance has proven no less successful. The statutes authorize counties within whose borders a state park is located, to expend allotments of gasoline tax moneys on state-aid parkways which connect parks with main highways and parkways established within state parks. County boards with the consent of the commissioner of highways and the commissioner of conservation may designate such highways and recommend allotment of as much of their gasoline taxes for their construction and maintenance as they may find expedient. After several years' experience with this procedure, it has been found rather inadequate to cope with the growing needs for state-aid parkway improvement and maintenance.

In the first place, county boards have more demands for their gas tax allotments for regular county maintained highways than they can supply from the funds available. Secondly, the amounts that the state board of allotments can grant counties for state-aid parkways, on the average, are too small to make awards for maintenance and construction work by contract. The result is that state aid parkways have become "stepchildren" whose establishment and general upkeep suffers because of other pressing demands on the limited funds allotted the counties for the purpose.

The total amount of money allocated by the state board of allotment for state-aid parkroads and approaches thereto for all of the state parks aggregated for the fiscal year 1947, for maintenance \$21,015 and for construction and development \$28,100, or a total of \$49,115. In 1948 the allotments were, for maintenance \$12,034 and for construction and development \$14,000, or a total of \$26,034.

The discouraging aspect of the present plans for maintaining state aid parkways therefore comes from the fact that parks are often miles away from other county maintained roads, that allotments of tax moneys to counties in their aggregate are small and that pressure from interests within the counties naturally tends to crowd state parks into a last priority place when the county boards plan the work.

A workable plan for maintaining roads leading to state parks and park roads within them is an essential before park operation in the best public interests can level off into a stabilized going concern. State parks are recreational centers operated for the benefit of all of the people yet no public agency or group—townships, counties, or the state—has been directed by statute to assume responsible charge of the maintenance of connecting and traversing roads.

A plan to overcome most of these handicaps, if it can be legally justified, would be to place the responsibility of park road maintenance in the state highway department as a general public service. This department has the organization and mobile equipment especially suited for this class of work. Keeping in mind that state park roads are subjected to heavy use for only about three months in the year, the extra time and costs to put this plan into effect should not be great.

#### State Park Maintenance

The following appropriations were made available to the division for park maintenance for the fiscal years 1947 and 1948:

	1947	1948
Legislative Appropriation .....	\$93,230	\$121,499
Legislative Advisory Committee.....	2,190	7,000
Total .....	\$95,420	\$128,499

Of the amount appropriated by the legislature of 1947, \$67,375 went for salaries of superintendents, custodians and laborers, and \$25,855 for materials and expenses. The legislative advisory council appropriated \$2,200 for emergency labor and equipment to clear up fallen trees and broken branches in Itasca state park following a severe sleet storm in order to remove a menacing fire hazard. Of the appropriation made by the legislature for the fiscal year 1948, \$82,944 went for salaries and wages and \$38,555 for maintenance, materials and expenses. The legislative advisory council appropriated \$7,000 for the rebuilding of the dam, in the Cottonwood river, which maintains the lake in Flandrau state park, carried away by floods in the summer of 1947.

In order to fully appreciate the conditions with which the state park system of Minnesota is confronted, it is necessary that the legislature make a realistic appraisal of its needs and provide funds to keep the system in operation for public use. There are 61 areas of all descriptions within the park system. For the purpose of indicating the general over-all picture, ten of the smaller monumental sites and three state parks which are virtually city parks and are not of the average state park caliber will be eliminated from this analysis leaving 48 state parks all of which have physical structures and environments which call for maintenance. In all there are 521 buildings or structures of various types in addition to dozens of parking lots, camping grounds, picnic sites, beaches, and other facilities subjected to heavy public use during the park season and which the visiting public

expects the division to maintain under generally recognized standards of presentability. While average expenditures for maintenance may not mean a great deal when applied to a system of state parks which vary in size from 31,000 acres in the case of Itasca and St. Croix to 114 acres in the case of Minneopa, with the large number of individual parks and waysides of intermediate and smaller areas, the average expenditure for each unit is nevertheless interesting. We find for instance that the average maintenance funds available per state park for the fiscal year 1947 was \$2,459 and for 1948 \$3,145 not appreciably more than the annual salary of one park superintendent. Obviously our state parks cannot be maintained to the satisfaction of a critical public for anything like this pitiful stipend. The state park budget which is being prepared for consideration by the next legislature will request a sufficient increase in maintenance funds to enable the division to restore park facilities to normal operation conditions of the kind the public expects to find in well-managed state parks.

The state parks included in the determining an average cost per park of maintenance just indicated do not include state park areas created by recent legislatures and for which no development or operating funds have been provided. These parks are Father Hennepin, William O'Brien, Kilen Woods, Big Island and Count Beltrami. They either have been or are now in the process of being acquired by the state under authority of the legislature. As soon as areas of this kind become publicly owned people expect to use them. To protect these areas from vandalism and uncontrolled use that may destroy attractions that cannot be replaced, funds must be provided at once with which to provide potable water, toilets, parking lots, camp-grounds, means for disposal of wastes, guide signs, and other facilities to meet requirements for public use and to provide control and protection of the resources of the areas. A brief description of each area and its present status is found in another section of this report.

#### **State Parks Revenue Producing Facilities Provide More Than Half of Operating Cost**

Funds from which to maintain and operate state park revenue producing facilities yielded \$178,000 in 1947; representing income from such sources as sales of souvenirs, soft drinks and ice cream, bathhouse fees, boat rentals, camping privileges, operation of Douglas Lodge, cabin rentals and concessions and made up the state parks revolving fund for that year. The income in 1948 from these same sources will reach an estimated \$180,000. Revenues from these sources may be used only for the purchase of merchandise for resale, repair of buildings, replacement of old equipment, salaries and wages of extra seasonal help and service for the summer park season in the operation of facilities which produce these revenues.

A circumstance wholly inconsistent with the present general needs of state parks is a provision of the statutes which requires the depositing into the general revenue fund of the state on July 1, of each year all moneys standing to the credit of the state park revolving or working capital fund in excess of \$7,500. Money earned by state parks and returned to the general support of state government since the creation of this fund in 1941

to date, under this provision, aggregates a total of \$12,838.73. Of this amount \$7,623.67 was returned to the general revenue fund on July 1, 1948. Inasmuch as state parks are not self-supporting but depend on annual legislative appropriations in addition to earnings to carry on, there seems no logical reason why all revenues derived from operation should not be made available for park needs.

It is therefore recommended that all moneys that accrue from the operation of revenue producing facilities be made available for park maintenance and development.



*Group camp facilities in state parks offer many youth a camping experience through public welfare sponsoring agencies.*

### Group Camps

Due to the high cost of food and supplies, sponsors of group camps are having increased difficulties in financing vacations of needy children in state park group camps. As a consequence, camps have not been used to capacity during the last two years. Efforts are being made, however, to maintain them in usable condition in anticipation of the time when conditions will again permit resumption of the use of summer group camps by boys and girls and camps in which to conduct conservation education courses for both teachers and students.

During 1947 and 1948 the Squaw Lake camp in Itasca state park was leased to the second air force, U. S. department of the army, for a rest and rehabilitation camp. Under the lease the old camp has been rebuilt and restored at government expense so that families of soldiers may enjoy a

vacation in Minnesota's Itasca state park. Those who have been privileged to come to the camp have expressed their delight with their experiences and the opportunities for the rejuvenating recreation provided by the surroundings. After the camp has served its purpose to the army, the plan is to make it available for use as a group camp for underprivileged children.

The Fleming camp at St. Croix state park could and would serve 1,200 youth each summer if it were relocated on a site near some stream or lake within the St. Croix recreational area. Moving and reconstructing it would cost about ten thousand dollars. The state university continuation center has shown an interest and may decide to take the initiative in a movement to re-establish the camp on a new location. The plan in mind is to select a place to which out-of-state groups could be invited to conduct symposiums and institutes of various kinds dealing with the nation's resources and other subjects. Such a center in a state with the variety and wealth of natural resources with which Minnesota has been endowed would be certain to draw conservation and scientific groups from all parts of the nation and should prove a valuable asset to the state.

#### **Improvements Within Recently Established State Parks** **McCarthy Beach State Park**

During the year 1947 initial improvements were commenced within McCarthy Beach state park located 22 miles northeast of Hibbing. This is an area of exceptional scenic beauty lying between Sturgeon and Side lakes. No appropriation had been made by the legislature for improvements but through the cooperation of the cities of Hibbing and Chisholm labor and some equipment were made available with which to erect temporary structures. A caretaker has been stationed in the park and a refectory, bathhouse, toilets, park tables, grills and other facilities have been erected from material salvaged from CCC camp buildings formerly located in Jay Cooke state park. As a result hundreds of visitors have enjoyed the camp and picnic grounds during the past two years. The continued use by the public of this park however will require additional facilities and personnel for which funds should be appropriated.

#### **Father Hennepin**

As in the case of McCarthy Beach state park, the Father Hennepin state wayside located near Isle on Mille Lacs lake has been placed in public use and is being protected and improved through the help and cooperation of local organizations. A road into the park has been improved through the aid of the public spirited county board and county engineer of Mille Lacs county. When a suitable bathhouse, shelter building, parking lots and other needed facilities are provided thousands of tourists and people from the Twin Cities, on their way to and from the Mille Lacs lake region, will throng this beautiful park. Too much credit cannot be given the county board, county engineer of Mille Lacs county and the Father Hennepin state park advisory board for their efforts in developing this wayside for public use.

### **Lake Bemidji**

Lake Bemidji state park is located on the north shore of Lake Bemidji. It was created by the legislature of 1923 and during the war years was left without care for want of funds and as a result suffered considerable damage from vandalism. Originally the care of the park was made the responsibility of the county of Beltrami. Apparently the county, like the division, did not have the funds from which to engage personnel to take over this responsibility. These damages have been partially remedied and a small prefabricated dwelling has been erected as quarters for a full time caretaker. Although this dwelling is not winterized it will serve as quarters for someone to police the area until more adequate facilities have been provided for the control and regulations of the park for public use.

### **Count Beltrami Monument**

Count Beltrami monument at Lake Julia, 12 miles north of Bemidji, was acquired at no expense to the state and is to commemorate the site where Count Beltrami in 1823 ended his search for the source of the Mississippi River. A rustic monument has been erected on the site and a suitable bronze tablet mounted thereon inscribed with appropriate references to this historic event. Toilets, drinking water, and a small museum in which to preserve historic relics have been provided. This monument was dedicated by an elaborate celebration on August 22, 1948, and featured a pageant depicting Beltrami's journeys.

## **RECOMMENDED MEASURES**

### **Park Maintenance**

The need for energetic repair and rehabilitation of state park facilities has reached the point where further delays in dealing with the most serious needs means multiplication of outlay for complete replacements where immediate repairs can prolong the life of the structures. Two plans for caring for present urgent maintenance needs suggest themselves.

One plan proposes the employment of a sufficient number of carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, stone masons, and common laborers to work in each park before, during and after each park season until the parks' physical property has been brought back to a durable operating standard on a day labor or force account basis as it will be impracticable to award much of this class of work on contract. This plan has the disadvantage of requiring employment of a considerable number of workers, most of them in the skilled classes over relatively short periods in the spring, summer and fall before and after the park season. This method of doing the work would throw a relatively heavy burden on division personnel for supervision. An alternative plan proposes the organization of a central maintenance and construction crew with men qualified in the different trades as to be able to deal with every normal problem. Such a crew would be made up of men skilled in the building trades and high-class common laborers equipped with tools and would constitute a mobile unit that could move from park to park

and be continuously engaged on repairs and maintenance . Under this plan the crew could be routed to parks in order of priority of needs and would be available for emergency jobs and the work could be supervised largely by the district supervisors. When viewed in the light of all problems and requirements, the latter plan is recommended as the most efficient and economical.

Based on 1948 inflated prices on labor and material, the development of facilities in park areas created by recent legislatures but for which no appropriations have been made for improvements in order to equip them for normal controlled public use will require an estimated appropriation of more than \$500,000 for the fiscal year 1949 and approximately \$360,000 for 1950.

### Recapitulation

During the park season of 1947 revenue producing facilities within state parks grossed \$178,000; of this \$104,374.81 was yielded by operations in Itasca state park. Deducting the cost of additions, replacements of equipment and repairs and maintenance of facilities left a net return of more than seven per cent. It is estimated that facility earnings for the 1948 park season will aggregate \$180,000 or a total for the biennium of \$358,000.

The legislature appropriated for state park maintenance and operation from the general revenue fund for the fiscal year 1947, \$93,220; and for the fiscal year 1948, \$121,499 or a total of \$214,719. In other words of a total of \$572,719 available from all sources for the operation of the state park system during the biennium ending June 30, 1948, gross revenues collected from operations yielded more than sixty-two per cent.

The national average per capita cost to state governments of acquiring and operating state park systems was 7½ cents in 1946. As compared with this average for the whole nation, Minnesota is at present spending only about three and one-half cents per capita.

### Personnel

As already indicated herein limitations imposed by civil service regulations and classifications governing selections of personnel are making it difficult for the division to employ competent seasonal help in competition with private industry. Because of the short season in which parks operate there is no inducement for potential employees to accept employment on the salary they are offered. When the salaries offered by private resort operators are higher than those that may be paid state employees requiring comparable training, delays in the employment of help especially to meet emergencies that develop when key employees quit their jobs without notice, cause a disruption of service, dissatisfaction and criticism of the division and the state. Unless liberal exceptions to prevailing state wide civil service rules regarding employment and some scheme of efficiency ratings for seasonal key employees are permitted, a satisfactory solution of this difficulty will not be possible.

### **Additions to State Parks**

As has already been noted herein, the legislature has created several state parks in recent sessions for the development of which no appropriations were made. Brief references will be made to each of these areas, and their present status.

#### **Kilen Woods**

Kilen Woods state park was created by the legislature of 1945. Acquisitions of the land by condemnation is nearing completion. The park is located just south of Windom in Jackson county and embraces an area of 172 acres. It is a hilly rugged terrain along the Des Moines river, much of it covered by a forest of hardwood species native to this section of the state. Jackson county has graded a road entrance to the park at the northwest corner. Before permitting heavy public use of the area, however, a master plan of the tract should be completed as a guide for its most effective and attractive development. Development of primary facilities by which to control public use and prevent damage from vandalism is an immediate need. Before extensive picnicking can be permitted potable drinking water and sanitary facilities must be provided. A caretaker to police the area against vandals should be assigned to the area and a residence provided for his use. No funds have been made available with which to provide any of these needs.

#### **Nerstrand Woods**

Some years ago a movement was started by local people in Rice county to preserve a remnant of the so-called "big woods" located near Nerstrand by the acquisition of a tract in which there still remained some of the original hardwood trees which covered this part of the state before settlement by the white men. Through negotiations between the land exchange commission and the U. S. forestry service the state has acquired by land exchange some 450 acres of this area and local interests are proposing a further proceeding under which the commissioner and the federal forest service might acquire some of the odd lots still lying within the boundaries of the area already secured but on which the state has thus far been unable to get title. A local advisory committee is energetically sponsoring the acquisition of these additional tracts.

In order that this bit of original hardwood forest land may be preserved it should be designated by law as a state park and measures taken to regulate and control its use by the public, and a plan prepared for its ultimate complete development.

#### **Big Island**

This state park was created by the legislature of 1947 by authorizing the purchase of a tract of land near Albert Lea and appropriating \$11,500 for the purpose. The area embraces 117.3 acres of deciduous forest and is a peninsula almost completely surrounded by the waters of Albert Lea lake. Under the terms of the act authorizing the purchase of the land, should the land sought cost more than the amount appropriated, local interests are to supply the additional funds. These conditions have been met and the

attorney general has filed a petition in district court of Freeborn county for the acquisition of the tract by condemnation.

Here again there are no funds available from which to develop controls and facilities for public use of the area.

#### **Kodonce River**

Kodonce River state park on Kodonce creek on the north shore of Lake Superior embraces one of many interesting gorges and waterfalls areas for which this section of the state is noted. No public use controls or facilities are available.

#### **Caribou Falls**

The creation by the legislature of a state park embracing the waterfalls and scenic gorges on the Caribou river is another commendable effort by the legislature to preserve for public use one more outstanding recreational tract on the north shore. The legislature of 1905 authorized the acquisition of forty acres including the upper waterfalls, and the legislature of 1947 the lands which separate this original tract from state trunk highway No. 61. Negotiations for closing the deal for this latter tract are underway.

#### **Silver Creek**

This recreational reserve in Wright County was authorized by the legislature of 1947 with the thought that title to the needed lands might be acquired through exchanges of land with the U. S. forest service through proceedings before the state land exchange commission. Lack of funds, however, has prevented the U. S. forest service thus far from purchasing the tract.

#### **Pine Tree**

A beautiful twenty acre tract on the shores of Blackduck lake, Pine Tree state park is one of few remaining areas where majestic native white pine and white cedars may be seen in their primeval grandeur. A deed to the land was given the state by the village of Blackduck and thus far maintenance and protection has been provided this past season by this division. While not large, it will furnish an attractive wayside for visiting tourists and others on their way north to the Rainy river region.

Five of the smaller state parks—Horace Austin, Garvin Heights, Toqua Lakes, Pomme de Terre and Sleepy Eye due to their nearness and close relationship to adjacent villages and cities can be better managed at local levels for local use than as state parks.

## SUMMARY OF FUTURE STATE PARKS

## Development Objectives

A long term expansion of the state park program should be adopted as rapidly as possible aimed to—

1. Meet the increased recreational needs of Minnesota residents.
2. Take advantage of the state's exceptional recreational assets and develop them to induce out-of-state tourists to come to Minnesota for their vacations.
3. Provide a state park within a radius of travel of not more than 50 to 60 miles from any point in the state.
4. Build facilities compatible with current demands.

The traveling maintenance and construction crew recommended herein plus a planning engineering section is a first priority need if the excellent physical plant now in operation in state parks shall be saved from irreparable deterioration, and second, the planning expansions to present and construction of new and additional facilities where needed.

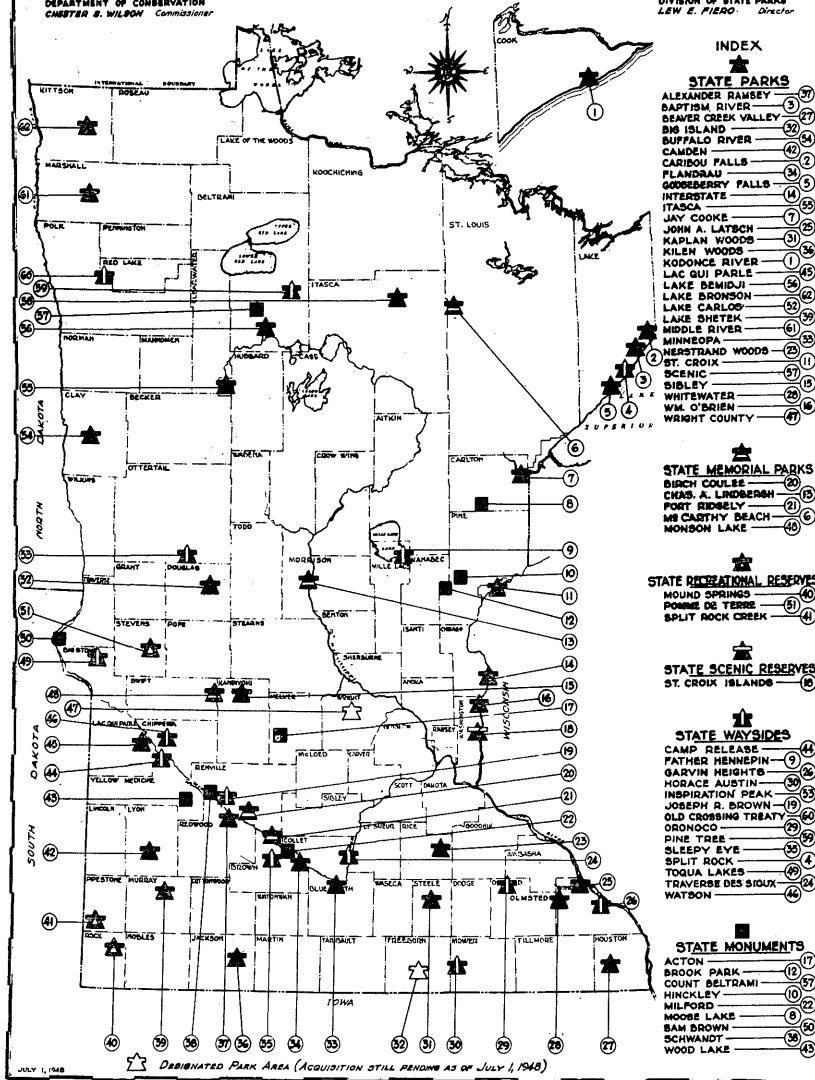
The division cannot plan intelligently for immediate or future needs nor can it plan for long-time development of present undeveloped park areas until a qualified park architect and engineer section has been added to its staff. The present budget does not permit of this addition to the administrative organization. As a matter of fact present administrative personnel are sorely stressed to perform current operating and maintenance duties that logically accumulate and demand action in the supervision and protection of upwards of 100,000 acres of park lands. More than 500 buildings and other structures, extend service to nearly two million visitors annually. Moral responsibility for their safety and the good wishes of the state for their welfare while guests in the parks is our heartfelt desire.

# MINNESOTA STATE PARK SYSTEM

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
LUTHER W. YOUNGDAHL Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
CHESTER S. WILSON Commissioner

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS  
LEW E. PIERCE Director



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JULY 1, 1948

★ DESIGNATED PARK AREA (ACQUISITION STILL PENDING AS OF JULY 1, 1948)



