



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

900251

DEVELOPMENT & ACQUISITION STATUS

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55455

Flandrau
State Park



December 15, 1989

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MINNESOTA STATE PARK SYSTEM

The mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide a state park system that perpetuates Minnesota's scenic beauty and its natural and cultural resources, while being responsive to public needs and expectations, and providing a diversity of recreational opportunities.

The Division of Parks and Recreation manages 64 state parks across Minnesota. The state park system is vital to Minnesota's tourism, an industry that is becoming the backbone of many economies in greater Minnesota. Our most unique and valuable cultural and natural resources are found within state park boundaries. It is the Division of Parks & Recreation's responsibility to acquire, protect and interpret these unique resources.

Prior to the 1989 legislative session, funding constraints and increasing visitor use seriously eroded the Division of Parks and Recreation's ability to provide quality recreational experiences and services. Since then the Governor and state legislators have responded to the need for increased funding for the operations budget. However, financing the maintenance of existing facilities and new development in the face of increasing visitor use remains a problem. This will be addressed during the 1990 legislative session when a capital bonding bill is considered.

The state park system has the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) largest physical plant with over 2,800 major facilities requiring continuous rehabilitation. The Division of Parks & Recreation has identified more than \$55 million in capital budget needs. These projects include land acquisition, resource management, major rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities and a few new facilities. Legislative funding requests to meet this need will be spread throughout future bienniums.

A recent study conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society identifies 515 historic structures located in the state park system. These structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of these structures are of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Work Progress Administration (WPA) vintage. The CCC/WPA structures were constructed in the 1930's. These facilities are over 50 years old and many are in need of major rehabilitation includes the electrical, sewage, and water systems associated with these buildings.

Many years of intensive use is also a consideration when looking at the current condition of campgrounds, picnic areas, group camps and trail systems. Lack of development and rehabilitation of these and other state park facilities will reduce park use. A reduction in state park use will adversely impact the economic development of adjacent communities and Minnesota's effort to improve tourism.

As capital development funds have become available we have completed the highest priority projects. As additional needs are identified, they are reviewed and placed on the statewide priority list for future completion.

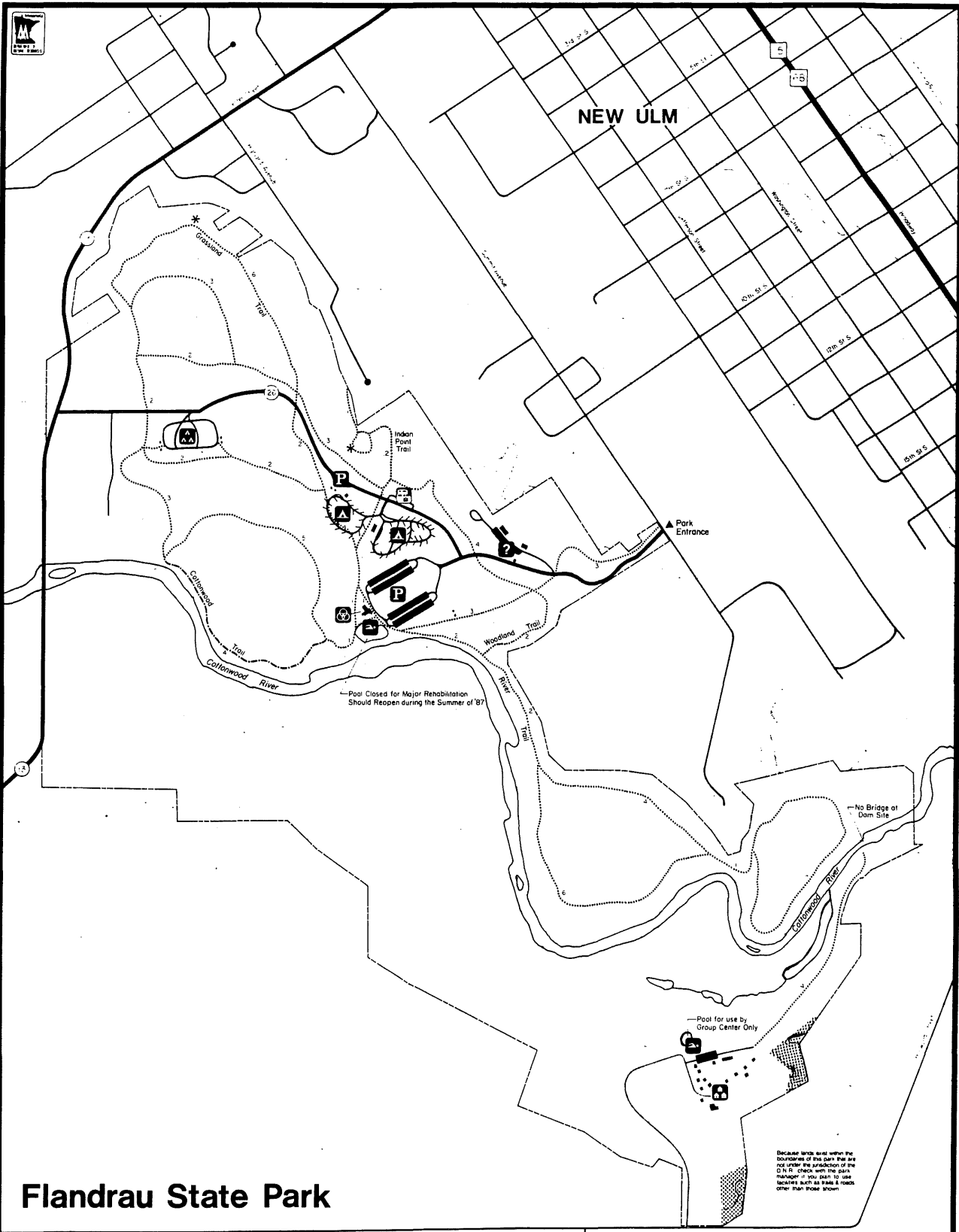
AN OVERVIEW OF FLANDRAU STATE PARK

Flandrau State Park is located in southcentral Minnesota, adjacent to and partially within the City of New Ulm in Brown County. Major transportation routes serving the park area are State Highway #15 and U.S. Highway #14. The statutory boundary encompasses 805 acres of these 3.68 acres are privately owned.

Thousands of years ago glaciers advanced south across Minnesota cutting, crushing, and altering the land as they went. The glaciers carried rock and mineral debris scoured from land to the north. When the glaciers receded they deposited this debris as till in formations hundreds of feet thick. The glacial melt water eroded through one of these glacial till plains creating the river valley in which Flandrau is located. Underlying this glacial material are extensive sandstone, shale, and limestone deposits laid down millions of years ago by vast seas which covered much of North America. These deposits can be viewed near the park's eastern boundary.

Prior to European settlement in the mid 1800's, the land around Flandrau was covered by tall grass prairies. The only exceptions were the forested river valleys. Since the time of settlement the park's vegetation has undergone several changes. Wild fires, necessary for maintaining a prairies, have been severely limited through human intervention. This has allowed stands of aspen, dogwood, and hazelnut to take over many of the areas once dominated by prairie. The valley walls have become more densely wooded with basswood and maple while much of the river bottom was cleared for farm fields.

One of the park's primary management objectives is to return or reestablish the visual character of the parks vegetative cover consistent with that found prior to European settlement and to manage this vegetation for scenic diversity and wildlife habitat. Flandrau State Park, originally named Cottonwood River State Park, was established in 1936. Many of the park's buildings were constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Work Progress Administration (WPA) workers. Today the park offers a variety of recreational experiences.



Flandrau State Park

TRAILS

- Hiking
- Interpretive
- 5 TRAIL MILEAGE
- * Overlook

FACILITIES

- ? Information
- P Parking
- S Swimming Pool
- A Campground

LEGEND

- Trailer Sanitation Station
- Group Center
- Primitive Group Camp
- Visitor Center

PRIVATE PROPERTY
Public Use Prohibited

SCALE

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

MILES

EXISTING FACILITIES

The following is an inventory of the existing physical plant of Flandrau State Park.

Acres in Statutory Boundary - 805.00
Acres of state land - 801.32
Acres of private land - 3.68

Campsites

Drive in - 90
Showers
Modern toilets
Campsites with electricity - 20

Miles of Trails

Self-guided Interpretive - 1.5
Cross Country Ski - 8.0
Snowmobile - 1.3

Playgrounds - 1

Beaches - 1 and swimming pool

Boat/Canoe Rental

Miles of Road

Asphalt - 2
Gravel - 1

Enclosed Picnic Shelter

Number of Picnic Tables - 60
Trailer Dump Station - Yes
Number of Buildings
Over 100 sq.ft. - 25
Under 100 sq.ft. - 9

Miles of Posted Boundary - 8

Seasonal Visitor Centers

Park Utilities

Sewage Lagoon - 1
Number of Septic Tanks - 7
Number of Wells - 5
Number of Individual
Water Distribution Systems - 6

PROBLEMS FACING FLANDRAU STATE PARK

There are many public recreational facilities in Flandrau State Park to maintain. Many are in need of replacement or major rehabilitation. Most were constructed in the 1960's, and are now in need of rehabilitation. Many new facilities are needed to meet growing recreational demands.

The parks natural and cultural resources are also in need of protection and management to perpetuate Flandrau's resources. In the past, facilities were developed in areas of ancient encampments. These encampments deserve to be protected and interpreted. Only scattered information is available on the natural and prehistoric cultural resources in the park.

Since the development of the new swimming facility traffic has increased over 200%. The existing entrance, contact station area cannot begin to handle these volumes of traffic. A new entrance station and road improvements are needed to eliminate safety hazards and improve public service.

The existing campgrounds are inadequate to handle the increased camping traffic. Expanded camping facilities as well as sanitation facilities are needed. There is also a need for improvements to the CCC group camp buildings, which date back to the CCC/WPA era.

Important improvements have been completed at Flandrau State Park in recent years. However, the goals identified in the ten year old management plan have not been achieved.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FLANDRAU STATE PARK

Major development projects over the past few years have included:

1. Partial rehabilitation of the existing beach buildings.
2. Development of a new swimming facility partially funded by the "Friends of Flandrau".
3. Improvements to the group camp sewage system.
4. Installation of playground equipment by the "Friends of Flandrau".

FLANDRAU STATE PARK CAPITAL NEEDS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Brush Reduction \$12,000

Eliminate brush growth in the goat prairie areas of the park.

Remove Black Locust Thickets - \$2,000

Several beginnings of thickets of black locust should be removed before they spread and become more difficult and expensive to remove.

Natural Resource Assessment - \$15,000

Including inventories, releves and permanent plots, essential in establishing baseline information for management.

Subtotal \$29,000

MAJOR REHABILITATION

Beach House Rehabilitation \$50,000

Complete building rehabilitation by tuck pointing old stone work and remodeling concession area to serve interpretive needs and vending area.

Trail Rehabilitation \$15,000

Eliminate eroded areas and install steps and railings where needed.

Group Camp Rehabilitation \$60,000

General rehabilitation of buildings including siding, foundation work and utilities.

Remove Old Dam \$75,000

To reduce safety hazards and improve Fisheries management by removing old dam apron and piers.

Subtotal 200,000

NEW DEVELOPMENT

New Office/Contact Station \$150,000

This will include road work and new office/contact station to eliminate traffic tie ups and safety hazards.

Campground Toilet Building and Expansion \$200,000

Increase number of campsites and add modern sanitation facility.

Group Camp Sanitation Building \$120,000

Replace two existing sanitation buildings with one modern toilet/ shower facility.

Subtotal \$470,000

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS - \$699,000

LAND ACQUISITION

There are approximately 20,000 acres of private land within the boundaries of Minnesota State Parks. Acquisition of these lands is an ongoing process that occurs as parcels become available for purchase and funds are available. Present acquisition costs are averaging about a \$1,000 per acre across the state. It would therefore cost about \$20,000,000 to acquire all the private land within state parks at present values.

The park map shows the location of private holdings within the park. These properties should be purchased before private development increases within the park’s statutory boundary.

The following issues highlight problems associated with private property within state parks.

- * Private lands within state parks are being sought out by developers.
- * Subdivision for residential use will cause such lands to be too expensive to acquire in the future.
- * Land uses such as gravel extraction and clear cut logging adversely impact state parks and adjoining public lands.
- * Some private lands limit public use of existing park facilities and lands because of their location.

These issues associated with privately owned lands within state parks threaten existing public investment and limit public use.

PRIVATE LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED IN FLANDRAU STATE PARK	
Parcel #	Acres
1	2
1a	1.68
Total 3.68 acres	

PARK POTENTIAL

What efforts will the completion of resource management, rehabilitation and new development projects have on Flandrau State Park? These projects along with the acquisition of private lands within the park will assure the preservation of these unique resources and facilities for future generations. Active management will be required to maintain and regenerate existing forest stands. These will ensure that future visitors will be able to experience the ever-changing forests.

Some improvements will not only increase park use but will greatly increase the quality of the visitors experience. Many of the rehabilitation projects will increase staff efficiency and cut the costs of maintaining facilities.

New facilities will improve customer service while giving the visitor a greater opportunity to learn about Minnesota's natural and cultural resources. The acquisition of private lands within the park will assure that private and commercial development do not distract from the natural beauty of Flandrau State Park.

A stable funding source is essential for effective long term resource management and capital budget planning for the Minnesota State Park system and Flandrau State Park.

SUMMARY

Currently, statewide capital needs for development and acquisition are **\$55,000,000**. The mission of the Minnesota State Park System can be achieved by funding support to meet this need over the next several bienniums.

Flandrau State Park acquisition costs will be determined by appraisals.

Flandrau State Park development needs - **\$699,000**

**Help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of the
Minnesota State Park System in 1991!**

