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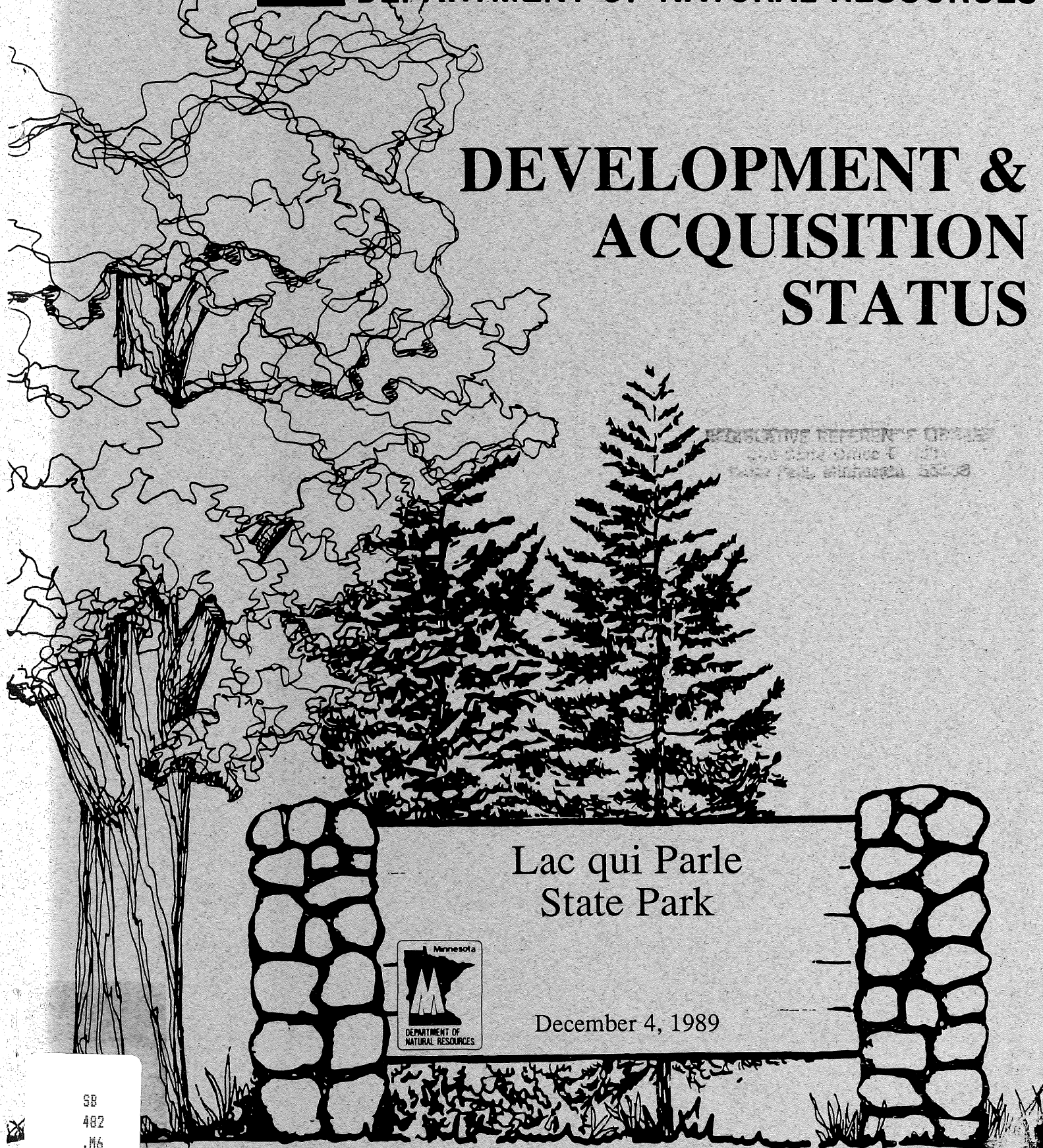


STATE OF
MINNESOTA

900251

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DEVELOPMENT & ACQUISITION STATUS



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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 major 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 which 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.

In 1991, Itasca, Minnesota's oldest state park, will be 100 years old. For 100 years Minnesota has had a park system to be proud of. The present challenge is to manage the park resources and recreational development to ensure that Minnesotans will be proud of their state park system for another hundred years.

AN OVERVIEW OF LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK

Lac qui Parle State Park is located on the Minnesota River in western Minnesota in extreme eastern Lac qui Parle County. The park entrance is approximately 14 miles northwest of Montevideo on County Road 33. The park was established in 1959 and has a statutory boundary encompassing 530 acres. Of these approximately 1 acre is privately owned.

The park is situated at the southern end of Lac qui Parle Lake in the Minnesota River Valley. This river valley was created at the close of the last glacial period 12,000 to 13,000 years ago. By this time the last glacial advance had melted back to the present location of Ortenville. Here, the glacier held stationary for a time, depositing a broad ridge of rock and mineral debris several miles wide. This ridge is now referred to as the Big Stone Moraine.

As glacial melting increased, meltwater accumulated behind the Big Stone Moraine and created Glacial Lake Agassiz. Glacial Lake Agassiz grew in size as the glacier melted and retreated from Minnesota and southern Canada. Eventually this lake covered large areas of northwestern Minnesota, northeastern North Dakota and Central Canada and became one of the largest freshwater lakes ever known.

As the lake level rose, it overflowed the Big Stone moraine at Brown's Valley and created ancient River Warren. This river quickly eroded down through the Big Stone Moraine releasing a torrent from Lake Agassiz. The enormous amount of water flowing in the river carved the Minnesota River Valley which is over one mile wide in the park area.

Eventually a drainage outlet appeared to the north and created the Red River. With its supply of water greatly diminished, Glacial River Warren was reduced to the Minnesota River of today.

Prior to European settlement prairie dominated almost all of the land around the river valley. Within the river valley bottomland deciduous trees occupied much of the floodplain. These included boxelder, ash,

willow, cottonwood, silver maple, red elm, and basswood.

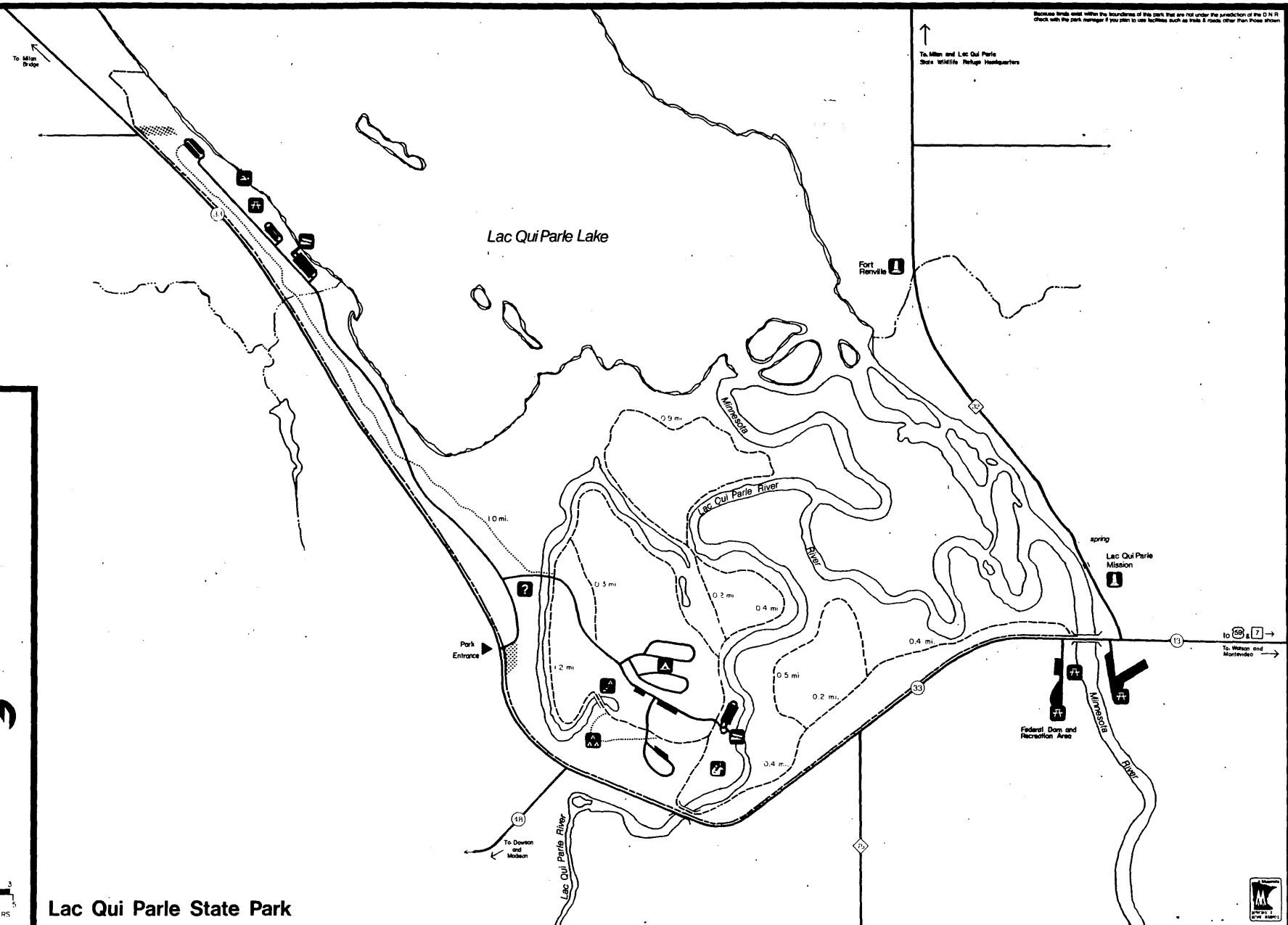
Today only small areas of degraded native prairie still exist along the bluffs of the park. Most of the prairie areas were converted to agricultural production as the region was settled. Although much of the bottomland areas had been previously logged, natural regeneration has allowed these areas to become forested. Efforts are currently underway to re-establish native prairie throughout the park bluffs and to maintain a vegetational pattern of bottomland forest consistent with presettlement times.

A variety of habitats found in the park attract many types of wildlife. Together with the 27,000 acre Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area located immediately to the north and east, this section of the Minnesota River Valley constitutes one of the most important goose management areas in the United States. Management practices have resulted in as many as 72,000 geese using the area at one time. In addition to Canada, snow and blue geese, other waterfowl depend heavily upon Lac qui Parle especially during fall migration. These include trumpeter and whistling swans, mallards, northern pintails, redheads, canvasbacks, wideon, blue-winged and green-winged teal, scaup, ringnecked ducks, and wood ducks.

Many other species of wildlife inhabit or visit the park. Horned larks, grey partridge, ringnecked pheasant, badgers and red fox prefer grasslands that border croplands. Bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, great-horned owls along with white-tailed deer, mink, beaver and muskrat utilize the wooded floodplain, river channel, and backwater areas. Woodpeckers, flickers, kestrels, screech owls, squirrels, raccoons and other cavity nesting species obtain homes in the many snags found throughout the bottomlands.

Lac qui Parle State Park offers visitors a variety of recreational experiences. Popular activities include fishing, camping, swimming, horseback riding and hiking, and wildlife observation in all seasons.

Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the DNR, check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails & roads other than those shown.

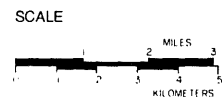


LEGEND

- TRAILS**
- Hiking
 - - - Horseback/Hiking

- FACILITIES**
- I Information/Office
 - P Picnic Area
 - S Swimming
 - B Boat Ramp
 - C Campground
 - W Walk-in Camping
 - E Equestrian Area
 - H Historic Site

PRIVATE PROPERTY
Public Use Prohibited



Lac Qui Parle State Park



EXISTING FACILITIES

The following is an inventory of the existing physical plant of Lac qui Parle State Park.

Acres in Statutory Boundary - 530
Acres of state land - 529
Acres of private land - 1

Campsites

Drive in - 56
Horse - Available in park
Showers
Modern toilets
Campsites with electricity - 22

Miles of Trails

Hiking - 6
Horse - 6
Cross Country Ski - 6

Beaches - 1

Water Accesses - 2
Open Picnic Shelter
Number of Picnic Tables - 33
Trailer Dump Station
Year round Visitor Center

Miles of Road

Gravel - 3

Number of Buildings

Over 100 sq.ft. - 10
Under 100 sq.ft. - 11

Miles of Posted Boundary - 3

Park Utilities

Number of Sewage Lift Stations - 1
Number of Septic Tanks - 5
Number of Wells - 3
Number of Individual
Water Distribution Systems - 2

Miles of State Owned Power Line - .5

PROBLEMS FACING

LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK

There are many public recreational facilities in Lac qui Parle 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 Lac qui Parle's resources. In the past, facilities were developed in prehistoric and historic use areas. These areas deserve to be protected and interpreted.

A major problem at Lac qui Parle State Park is the spring and summer flooding of the campground. This problem can be alleviated by creating a camping area out of the floodplain.

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK

Major development projects over the past few years have included:

1. Installation of electrical outlets in campground.
2. Five acres of fields have been seeded to native prairie species.

LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK CAPITAL NEEDS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Campground Tree Planting - \$10,000

Replace trees that are diseased and those lost from floods.

Prairie Restoration - \$10,000

Plant old fields with grasses and forbs to begin reestablishing a prairie community.

Subtotal \$20,000

MAJOR REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of Campground Shower Building (Add Toilets) - \$80,000

Remodel existing toilet building by adding toilets and upgrading existing facilities. Upgrade will include new fixtures, wall finishes and utilities.

Rebuild Lake Access Parking - \$28,000

Project includes new concrete ramp, parking improvements and improved drainage.

Canoe Access Rehabilitation - \$2,000

Improve road surface and access for the Lac qui Parle River access.

Subtotal \$110,000

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Office/Contact Station - \$150,000

Construct new contact station which will include office space, public contact area and orientation displays.

Horse Camp Electrification - \$6,000

Provide electrical outlets in the horseman's campground.

Fish and Goose Cleaning Facility - \$15,000

Develop a building and disposal system suitable for cleaning both fish and geese.

Subtotal \$171,000

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS - \$301,000

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 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 extensive 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 LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK

| Parcel # | Acres |
|----------|-------|
| 1 | 1.00 |

Total 1.00 acres.

PARK POTENTIAL

What efforts will the completion of resource management, rehabilitation and new development projects have on Lac qui Parle 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 prairies and forests. These will ensure that future visitors will be able to experience the diverse nature of Minnesota's flora and fauna.

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 detract from the natural beauty of Lac qui Parle 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 Lac qui Parle 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.

Lac qui Parle State Park acquisition costs will be determined by appraisals.

Lac qui Parle State Park
development needs - **\$301,000**

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

