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DEVELOPMENT & ACQUISITION STATUS

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Maplewood
State Park



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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 MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

Maplewood State Park is located in west central Minnesota in northwestern Ottertail County, 7 miles east of Pelican Rapids. Minnesota Trunk Highway 108 provides the major park access.

During the 1950's a Fergus Falls physician, Dr. Norman Baker, generated interest in establishing a state park in the area of Maplewood. Dr. Baker contacted U.W. Hella, then Director of Parks and Recreation and a search for a suitable park site was undertaken. After completing extensive aerial and ground surveys a DNR planner located a scenic and largely underdeveloped location.

The state legislature established Maplewood State Park in 1963. Land acquisition began that year when members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, a private organization, used private funds to option land. This land was later purchased by the Department of Natural Resources. Today 9,250.04 acres lie within the parks statutory boundaries, of this 1,220.10 acres remain in private ownership.

Maplewood State Park is located on a transition zone between prairie to the west and northern hardwood forest to the east. The parks' glacially formed landscape is pocketed with nearly two dozen lakes and numerous marshes. The lakes range in character from clear and deep Fladmark Lake to shallow James Lake.

High hills provide exceptional scenic views of Maplewood's impressive terrain. The highest hills approach elevation of 1600 feet above sea level. Most dramatic is the panoramic vista afforded by Halloway Hill which overlooks three lakes. From this vantage point the park's diverse nature is immediately evident. Steep ravines, lakes, hardwood forests, prairie knolls and farm fields all are visible from this lofty point.

Original vegetation was a mature northern hardwood forest dominated by maple and basswood sprinkled with prairie openings. Farming practices have increased the number of forest openings but extensive areas of maple-basswood forest are still intact.

Maplewood's recreational potential is substantial. Its location offers several types of recreational experiences. Large numbers of lakes provide opportunities for boating, fishing, and canoeing another water oriented activities. Steeply rolling topography offers hikers exceptional opportunities to explore the park and survey the countryside. The park's location between two major transportation arteries, U.S. highway 10 and Interstate highway 94 enhances future park use.



LEGEND

TRAILS

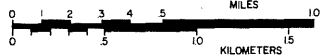
- Hiking
- Interpretive

FACILITIES

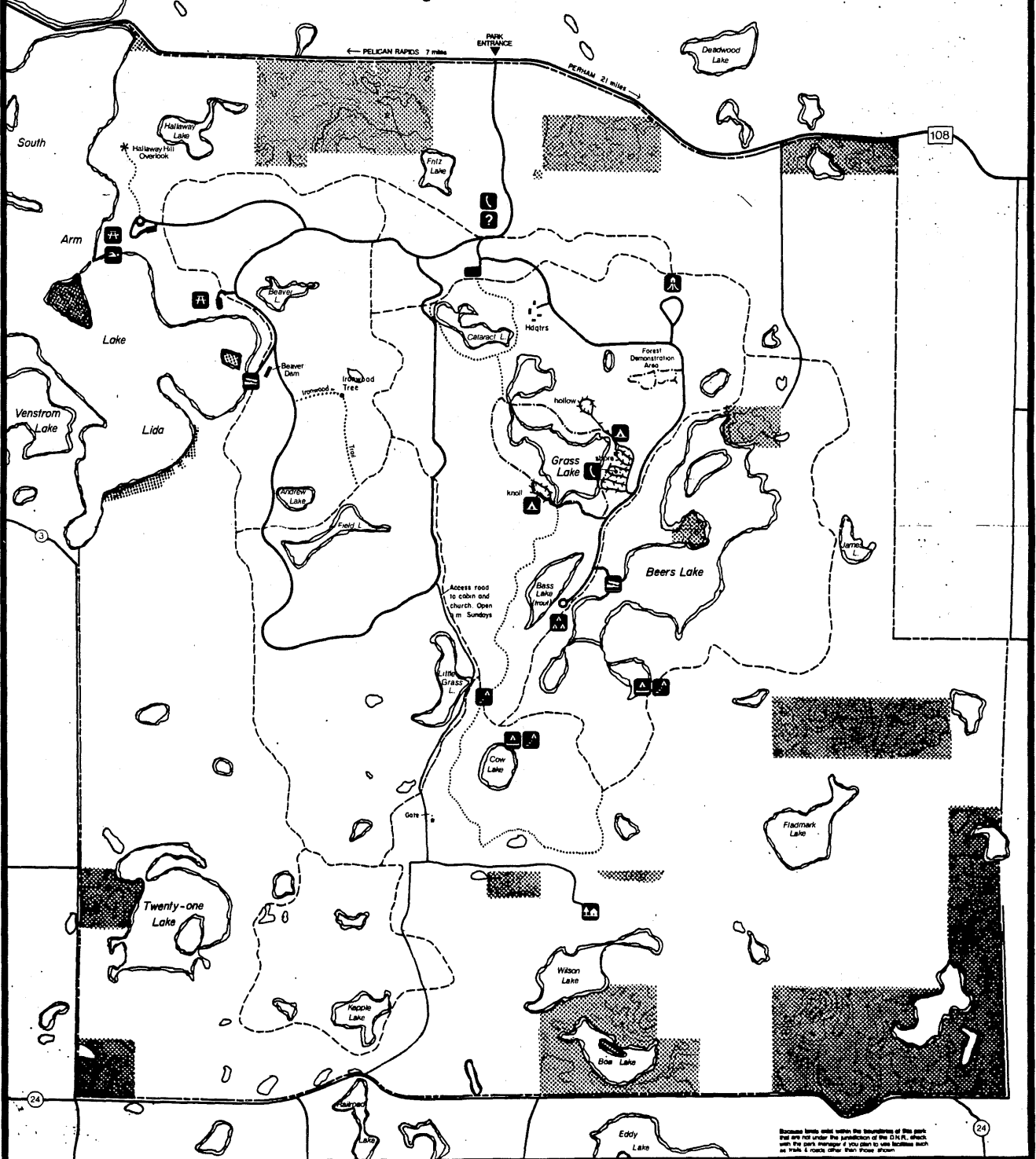
- Information/Office
- Picnic Area
- Swimming
- Trail Center
- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Primitive Group Camp
- Backpack Camping
- Canoe Camping
- Wilson Lake Cabin
- Public Phone

PRIVATE PROPERTY
Public Use Prohibited

SCALE



Maplewood State Park



Boundary lines and within the boundaries of the park that are not under the jurisdiction of the DNR, which may be the park manager's responsibility for the facilities such as trails, roads, other than those shown.

EXISTING FACILITIES

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

Acres in Statutory Boundary - 9,250

Acres of state land - 8,029.04

Acres of private land - 1220.10

Campsites

Drive in - 61

Back Pack - 3

Canoe in - 2

Showers

Modern toilets

Miles of Trails

Self-guided Interpretive - 1

Hiking - 25

Horse - 20

Bicycle - 15

Cross Country Ski - 13

Snowmobile - 15

Beaches - 1

Boat & Canoe Rental

Number of Picnic Tables - 146

Water Accesses - 2

Miles of Road

Asphalt - 6

Gravel - 7

Number of Buildings

Over 100 sq.ft. - 4

Under 100 sq.ft. - 15

Miles of Posted Boundary - 18

Park Utilities

Number of Sewage Lift Stations - 1

Number of Septic Tanks - 6

Number of Wells - 6

Number of Individual

Water Distribution Systems - 5

Miles of State Owned Power Line - 4

PROBLEMS FACING MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

There are many public recreational facilities in Maplewood State Park to maintain. Some are in need of major rehabilitation since they were constructed in the 1960's. 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 Maplewood's resources. In the past, facilities were developed in prehistoric and historic use areas. These areas deserve to be protected and interpreted.

Two of the more important items that need attention are the restoration of old farm fields to natural vegetation and providing access to the remote lakes in the area. Not only will restoration of the old fields provide scenic vistas it will also eliminate weed problems which now exist.

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

1. Paving of the park's main entrance road.
2. Construction of new contact/orientation station.
3. Construction of beach area sanitation building.

MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK CAPITAL NEEDS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Old Field Restoration - \$10,000

Restore old farm fields to natural vegetation, including site preparation and planting.

Buckthorn Eradication - \$4,000

Removal of exotic species such as European buckthorn from the park woodlands.

Subtotal \$14,000

MAJOR REHABILITATION

Road Rehabilitation - \$50,000

Improve existing roads by excavating soft spots, installing base and paving to eliminate dust.

Campground Rehabilitation - \$20,000

Project includes improving landscaping, toilets, and electrical outlets.

Rehabilitate Water Access - \$20,000

Rehabilitate the water access at Bears Lake.

Subtotal \$90,000

NEW DEVELOPMENT

New Picnic Shelter - \$75,000

Construct a new combination picnic shelter/trail center, which can also be used for special interpretive programs, and provide new picnic tables near the beach.

Trailer Dump and Fish Cleaning Station - \$25,000

These items will be constructed to provide better public service and comply with health department regulations.

Lake Access and Parking - \$25,000

Construct a water access ramp and parking lot at Lake 21 to provide for increased recreation demand.

Semi-Modern Campground - \$250,000

Develop a semi-modern campground on Lake Lida to accommodate some of the existing public demand.

Subtotal \$375,000

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS \$479,000

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 BY MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

Parcel #	Acres	Parcel #	Acres
6	2.15	86	40.00
10	2.80	93	240.00
11	18.25	96	155.00
13	14.75	97	5.00
18b	214.60	100	126.75
28	.11	101	1.00
29	.12	102	78.20
31	.22	103	40.00
47a	6.00	106	40.00
47b	12.00	112	80.00
52	32.25	113	57.10
64-69,71	5.85	114	18.40
75	1.00	115-132	9.55
80	1.00	133	18.00

Total 1,220.10 acres.

PARK POTENTIAL

What efforts will the completion of resource management, rehabilitation and new development projects have on Maplewood 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 plant communities. These will ensure that future visitors will be able to experience the diverse nature of Minnesota's prairies and 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 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 Maplewood 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 Maplewood 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.

Maplewood State Park acquisition costs will be determined by appraisals.

Maplewood State Park development needs **\$479,000**.

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

