



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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DEVELOPMENT & ACQUISITION STATUS

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Tettegouche
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 TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

Tettegouche State Park is located on the north shore of Lake Superior 4.5 miles northeast of Silver Bay on U.S. Highway 61. The statutory boundary encompasses 4,691 acres. Of these, 41 acres are privately owned.

Tettegouche State Park has very rugged terrain and is a land of stark contrasts. The views from the bluffs are unmatched, as is the quality of the five pristine lakes within its boundaries. The Baptism River Valley is a tremendous resource, and increasing numbers of visitors are hiking the park's trails. Shovel Point, a volcanic lava flow that juts out into Lake Superior, is covered with dwarf spruce and pine that gives visitors an appreciation for the kinds of stresses endured by trees in the harsh, shoreline environment. The jagged coastline truly speaks of the power of Lake Superior.

Prominent topographic features within the park are: four mountain type lakes (Tettegouche, Mic Mac, Nipisquit, and Nicado); one and a half miles of the Baptism River; and a mile of the Lake Superior shoreline. The four lakes are shallow, spring fed and range in size from 13 to 121 acres. The Baptism River plunges 300 feet in less than a mile through a spectacular gorge which contains High Falls - the highest waterfall completely within Minnesota.

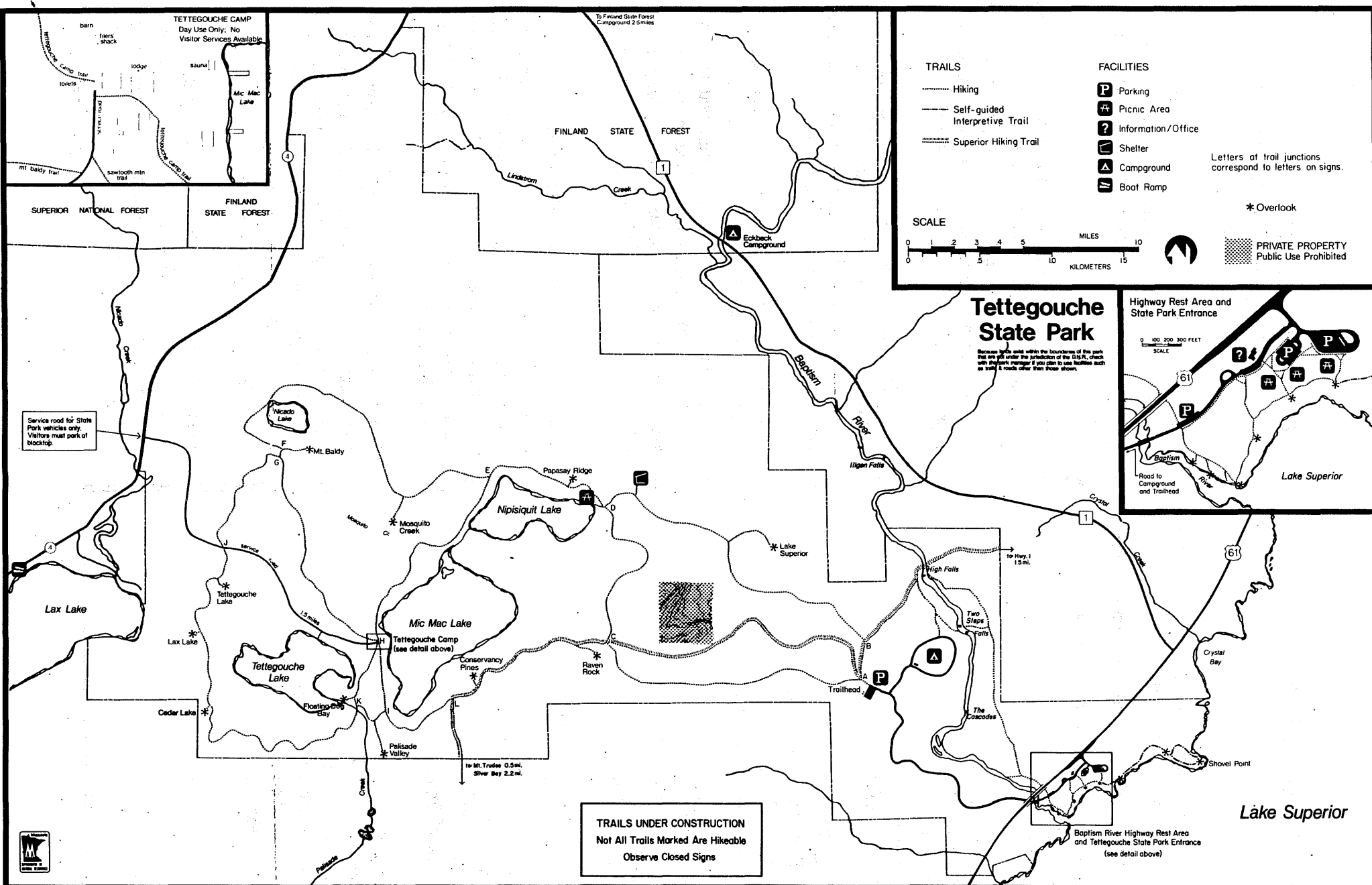
Prior to the arrival of the first Europeans, the vegetation of Tettegouche State Park was dominated by white and red pine with scattered areas of aspen, birch, cedar and fir. By the late 1880's loggers entered the region to harvest the seemingly endless pine forest. In 1898, the Alger-Smith Lumber Company began timber harvesting of virgin pine forests in the area that is now the park. A logging camp was set up on Mic Mac Lake which served as operations base for the timber crews. In 1910 after removing most of the white and red pine, Alger-Smith sold the logging camps and surrounding acreage to the "Tettegouche Club", a group of Duluth businessmen who used the area as a fishing camp and retreat. One of its mem-

bers, Clement K. Quinn bought control of the land in 1921 and continued to preserve this resource for the next fifty years. In 1971 Mr. Quinn sold Tettegouche to the de Haîtres who continued stewardship for the land. The de Haîtres began negotiations several years later for the preservation of Tettegouche as a state park during which the Nature Conservancy played a vital role (along with other concerned individuals and groups) in the transfer of ownership. On June 29, 1979 Tettegouche was established as a Minnesota State Park.

Today Tettegouche is a mosaic of vegetation cover types ranging from birch and northern hardwoods to lowland grass and marsh. The diverse plant communities support a wealth of wildlife. More than 40 species of mammals inhabit the park including moose, white-tailed deer, timber wolf, black bear, red fox, river otter, fisher, pine marten and northern flying squirrel.

The northeastern part of Minnesota has long been recognized as one of the nation's prime birding areas. Birdwatchers have identified 140 species using the park. These include kinglets, spruce grouse, merlins and northern warblers in the summer and a variety of migrating hawks and waterfowl in the fall. Winter is an excellent time to observe saw-whet, great gray, snowy and boreal owls, woodpeckers, finches and unusual waterfowl and shorebirds.

Tettegouche State Park offers a variety of recreational experiences in a rugged beautiful setting. Twenty-eight miles of hiking and skiing trails provide excellent opportunities to the park's diverse flora and fauna in the tranquility of remote valleys, lakes and scenic overlooks. In addition, Lake Superior and the Baptism River offer anglers excellent salmon and trout fishing. Other popular activities include camping, picnicking and snowmobiling.



EXISTING FACILITIES

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

Acres in Statutory Boundary - 4,691

Acres of state land - 4,650

Acres of private land - 41

Campsites

Drive in - 28

Walk in - 6

Showers

Modern toilets

Miles of Trails

Self-guided Interpretive - 2

Hiking - 16

Cross Country Ski - 12

Miles of Road

Asphalt - 2

Gravel - 2

Vehicular Bridge - 1

Number of Picnic Tables - 17

Number of Buildings

Over 100 sq.ft. - 15

Under 100 sq.ft. - 4

Miles of Posted Boundary - 3

Park Utilities

Number of Wells - 4

Number of Individual

Water Distribution Systems - 4

septic systems - 4

lift station - 1

PROBLEMS FACING TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

There are many public recreational facilities in Tettegouche State Park to maintain. Many new facilities are needed to meet growing recreational demands.

The park's natural and cultural resources are in need of protection and management to perpetuate Tettegouche's resources. In the past, facilities were developed in prehistoric and historic use areas. These areas must be protected and interpreted.

Since Tettegouche State Park is relatively new many of the existing facilities are functional and in reasonably good condition. There are, however, some pressing needs that must be addressed now.

The Division of Parks and Recreation has recently completed a detailed re-use study of the Old Tettegouche Camp. This study suggested alternative uses that the Division should pursue to prevent the loss of this valuable resource. Many of the camp structures were built in 1911 and are in need of major repair.

Park management has worked hard to reduce visitor impacts. By sensitive trail placement and careful consideration of development, damage has been kept to a minimum. Impacts on Shovel Point have been reduced considerably as a result of the park staff's interpretive efforts.

A pressing need to address vegetation management exists, especially in the campground. The existing birch overstory is dying due to stand age, drought stress and pathogens and is in need of replacement. Regeneration efforts must be considered to preserve the aesthetic integrity of the park.

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

Major development projects over the past few years have included:

1. New wayside rest/public contact area.
2. Picnic area.
3. Day use parking lot.
3. Campground and trail parking area.
4. New service court and shop building.
5. Entrance road and trail development.

TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK CAPITAL NEEDS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

White Spruce Planting - \$10,000

Planting of 50,000 white spruce seedlings in stands where the white birch are dying. This action would ensure and accelerate normal species succession, in areas where natural succession may be slow due to heavy use or site conditions.

Pine Planting - \$3,000

Planting of 10,000 white and Norway pine seedlings in dying white birch stands.

White Birch Regeneration - \$3,000

Controlled burning and limited cutting to open the canopy and encourage regeneration of this pioneer species.

Campground Reforestation - \$15,000

Replant trees in locations where hazardous trees have been removed. Local, native trees will be utilized. Plastic fence enclosures will be constructed to reduce deer browse problems.

Subtotal \$31,000

MAJOR REHABILITATION

Tettegouche Camp Rehabilitation - \$325,000

Rehabilitation to include lodge and cabin repair. New toilet/shower building. Improvements to grounds and associated trails.

Entrance Road - \$25,000

Replace culverts, and repair the road surface.

Subtotal \$350,000

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Theater/Auditorium Addition \$200,000

Construct an addition to the existing contact station building. Structure would include interpretive displays and indoor seating area for interpretive programs.

Campground Expansion - \$90,000

Expand existing vehicular campground to approximately double the existing capacity.

Cart-in Campground - \$45,000

Develop a cart-in campground similar to the one in existence at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park.

Pave Service Court - \$40,000

Pave existing service court to eliminate dust and on-going maintenance costs.

Trail Development - \$50,000

Develop trails to provide an anglers' access to the Baptism River, including waterbars, steps and low retaining walls.

Boundary Posting - \$25,000

Survey, brush, and sign the park boundaries.

Interpret Tettegouche Camp - \$15,000

Develop a self-guided interpretive program to describe the historical significance of Tettegouche Camp.

Subtotal \$465,00

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS - \$846,000

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 TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

Parcel #	Acres
4	1.40
5	40.00

Total 41.40 acres.

PARK POTENTIAL

What efforts will the completion of resource management, rehabilitation and new development projects have on Tettegouche 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 diverse nature of Minnesota's habitats.

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 Tettegouche 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 Tettegouche 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.

Tettegouche State Park acquisition costs will be determined by appraisals.

Tettegouche State Park development needs **\$846,000**

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

