

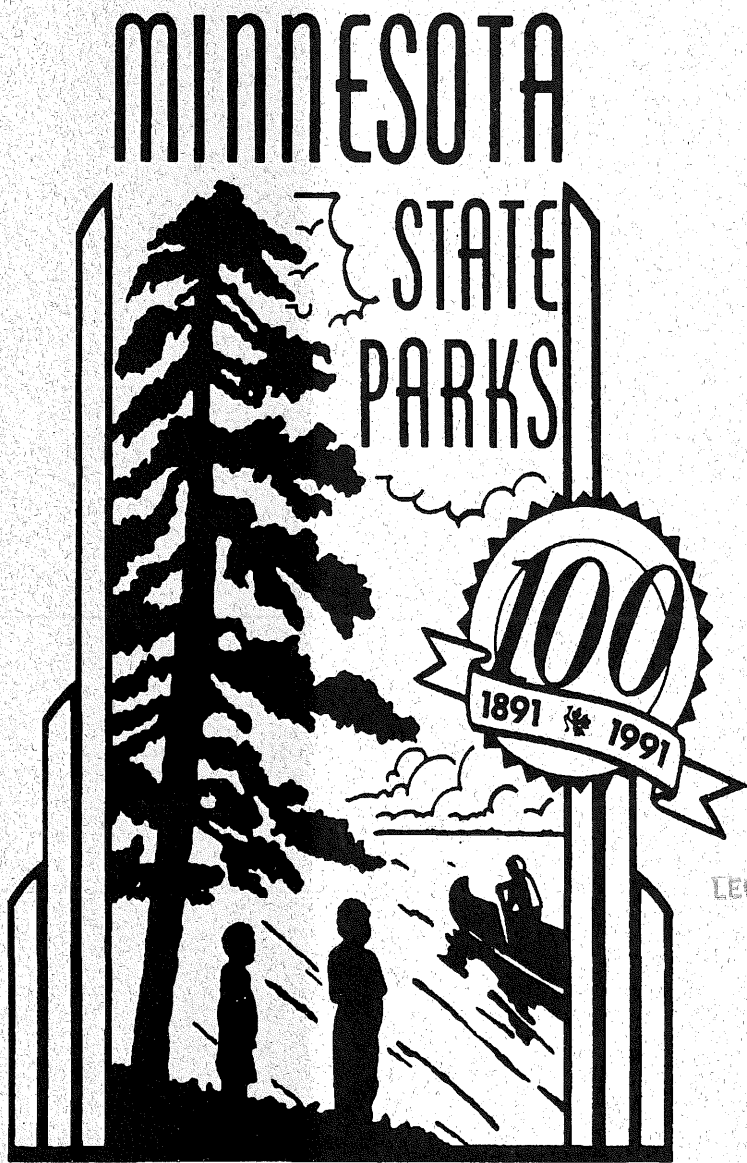
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# 100th STATE PARK 1st STATUS REPORT

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

SB  
482  
.M6  
M593  
1991

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MAR 19 1991

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# I. OVERVIEW

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*"It will be something by which to remember pleasantly this legislature...taking the first practical steps to secure a great park within the boundaries of Minnesota. This is the time for action...Wise indeed are those who have pushed the subject of parks to the front at the present (legislative) session." St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1891.*

These words were written 100 years ago when the Minnesota State Legislature designated Itasca as Minnesota's first state park. They are still true today.

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 diverse recreational opportunities.

To accomplish this mission, Minnesota State Parks need your help. That is why this report was written—to give you up-to-date information and statistics on Minnesota's state parks. Reading this report will let you know what the status is and where the challenges lie. If you have specific questions, more information is available from DNR Parks and Recreation, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4039; or from your local state park manager.

*Minnesota was the second state to start a state park system. Itasca State Park was founded in 1891.*

During the past century Minnesota citizens have succeeded in securing 65 state parks stretching over 200,000 acres. These preserve many of the plant communities and geological wonders described by early settlers, the seas of grass, the "Big Woods," the "Blue Mounds" and cascading waterfalls. These very special places are preserved for people to wander and wonder, to discover nature, or simply, to step back from a hectic schedule and relax.

Clearly, many people have done just that. In 1989, there were nearly 8,000,000 visits to Minnesota State Parks. Over 500,000 people journeyed to Itasca State Park to splash in the waters of the Mississippi, to look up to the towering ancient pines, to camp, hike, swim, ski and learn about nature. Since 1985, state park attendance has jumped 48 percent. Trends suggest visitations will continue to rise because of the public's demand for natural settings in which to

recreate, enjoy wildlife, and commune with nature. Such public demands create serious problems and needs. As stewards of these parks, we need to accelerate our analysis of how these crowds endanger the natural beauty in our parks and how to save them. That requires a solid, strong commitment to effective planning and resource management.

A quiet crisis is emerging within the state park infrastructure. We need to maintain our state park landmarks: historical buildings, archaeological sites, and natural areas. These sites link park visitors to the past and the natural world. Many of the most loved landmarks are starting to suffer from excessive use and lack of management. Over the years increased use and absence of maintenance programs have led to serious deterioration of park resources and facilities. Vegetation, roads, buildings, structures, trails, and campgrounds have deteriorated to the point where some are closed and more will be closed in the future unless we take corrective action.

The interpretive staff and programs need to be expanded for people to understand the fragile environment within state parks. State parks offer precious "learning laboratories" for people to explore various natural plant communities and discover their benefit to the environment.

State parks serve as the "banks" for Minnesota's natural, historical and cultural resources. For 100 years we've been making more withdrawals than deposits. Before long, the deterioration will be very visible, and the loss will be irreplaceable. Contributions into the "state parks bank" need to be made so the state park heritage will be preserved for future generations.

This report highlights the status and critical needs of the state park system. With this information, we can work in partnership to keep step with the growing demands for state parks and state park experiences, while guaranteeing their maintenance and rehabilitation.

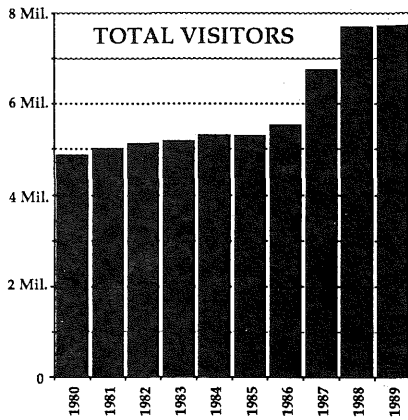
***Today, state parks contain:***

450	<i>registered heritage landmarks</i>
565	<i>historic buildings</i>
51	<i>archaeological sites</i>
7	<i>Scientific and Natural Areas</i>
4,000	<i>campsites</i>
4,200	<i>picnic sites</i>
75	<i>group camps</i>
33	<i>beaches</i>
43	<i>visitor centers</i>
1,000	<i>miles of trails</i>
95	<i>water accesses</i>
335	<i>miles of road</i>
1,600	<i>buildings</i>

## II. TRENDS

### More People Are Enjoying State Parks

People are visiting Minnesota State Parks at a growing rate. From 1985 - 1989, state park attendance has increased by 48 percent.



Why the increase? On the surface, good weather conditions, and stronger marketing, promotion, good public service and interpretive programs attract more people to state parks. But there is more to the story.

People want quiet, restful places to escape the hectic pace of their lives. Their concern for personal fitness has caused more demand for hiking, bicycling and cross country ski trails. More people are taking shorter but more frequent vacations. State parks offer the opportunity to "get away" without leaving Minnesota.

Visitors' experiences in state parks are overwhelmingly positive: 94% enjoyed their stay, 98% would return, and 97% would recommend state parks to a friend.

### Changing Population Demands New Programs and Focus

Park visitors will change by the year 2000. Compared to 1986, the number of Minnesotans between the ages of 35 and 54 will increase 51 percent. In sharp contrast, there will be a 14 percent decrease in people between the ages of 15 to 34. We need to plan now to accommodate the needs of this growing middle-aged population. This group will have more leisure time, disposable income, and higher expectations for comfort and services than current park visitors. The types of activities these visitors demand will change. They will require more hiking and biking trails, fishing opportunities, and improved roads for pleasure driving. In addition, their increased interest in environmental issues can be enhanced with state park interpretive programs. They'll experience first-hand the importance of caring for their natural and cultural heritage. In short, we need to plan for changes in outdoor recreation as the population ages.

*Projected percentage changes in recreation activities by the year 2000:*

Walking/hiking	29%
Fishing	14%
Pleasure driving	10%
Biking	7%
Nature study	6%
Golf	5%
Baseball/softball	-4%

## **The Economic Impact of State Parks**

Park visitors make a positive contribution to local rural economies. In 1989, park visitors spent \$137 million in communities surrounding state parks for travel expenses, goods and services. Local communities and their businesses have benefited from state parks for many years. Bringing new recreation dollars into Minnesota has long been an important function of the system. Parks located throughout the state have played an important role in redistributing dollars from metro to rural areas in a two economy state. Many of these dollars were spent by people from other regions and states, thereby fueling the economic growth and well-being of rural areas, and Minnesota as a whole.

Minnesota took part in a nationwide survey in 1986. The economic importance of state parks was determined by questioning park visitors about their expenditures. The 1986 findings were updated to 1989 values by adjusting for inflation and increased park visitation. People who drove from home to visit a park during the day spent an average of \$17.00 per person in 1989. Visitors who camped overnight in a state park spent an average of \$20.40 per person per day. All told, this \$137 million in expenditures generated \$197 million of business for the state and supported 3,381 full and part-time jobs. The State of Minnesota directly received \$17.4 million in revenues (\$5.9 million from park visitor fees, \$7.2 million from sales taxes and \$4.3 million from indirect taxes).

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## III. ISSUES

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### 1989-1991 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 1989 Legislature approved a five million dollar increase in the State park operating budget due to strong public and legislative support. This increase was used to expand state park operating staff to minimum operating standards. This was a big step toward achieving a park system that provides quality service for today's park visitor and also maintains and manages the park infrastructure and resources. Subsequent reductions due to budget shortfalls in 1990 again required reduced public services and renewed dedication of state park professional staff. Even under these conditions the staff still accomplished a lot this biennium.

- Planning and fund raising are underway for the 1991 state park system centennial celebration.
- The number of state park visitor occasions has grown from 5.6 million in 1986 to 8 million in 1989.
- Established Grand Portage State Park in 1989 through the cooperative efforts of the Parks and Trails Council, the Grand Portage Indian Band and the Division of Parks and Recreation.
- Established Hill Annex Mine State Park in 1989 in cooperation with the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB).
- Mystery Cave 1 was renovated.
- Provided a two week short course for recreation professionals in cooperation with the University of Minnesota.
- Over 50 special events were held, including a variety of daily and multi-day festivals, and 26 volksmarch events.
- The Youth in Natural Resources program provides state park and other DNR work experience for American Indian youth.
- Acquired four parcels of land for a total of 1,619 acres.
- Added 500 state park buildings and structures to the National Register of Historic Places.
- A system of operating standards has been developed to assure that an acceptable and consistent level of service is provided at each state park.
- Implemented a program review process that assures clear communication between central office, region and park staff, and that addresses park specific problems.

**OPERATIONS:**  
**Keeping State  
 Parks Running**

Operating and maintaining state park facilities is a complex job. In many ways it is comparable to managing a small community. A system of operational standards has been developed. These standards assure that an acceptable and consistent level of services is provided at each of the 65 "small communities" in the state park system. These standards identify jobs to be done and describes them in terms of how often, what level of quality, and staff time allowed to complete each. The standards also provide a means to establish budgets, allocate money equitably to each park, communicate management expectations, and evaluate performance of park staff.

If adequate money is not available to operate parks at a minimally acceptable level of operation, the standards provide a means to allocate the existing budgets where they will do the most good and to identify what jobs and services can or cannot be done.

**RESOURCE  
 MANAGEMENT:**  
**Caring for the State  
 Park Treasures**

There is a delicate balance in bringing people and nature together. People must have access to park resources, but natural, cultural and historical resources deteriorate from overuse. Expanding resource management activities to ensure preservation of significant resources is a high priority need for Minnesota State Parks. A quick tour of Minnesota state parks shows that many resources are being threatened.

Consider the north shore parks. For a century fragile rock outcrops and pine and birch forest communities have been nearly loved to death. Assessments of North Shore vegetation communities and extensive rehabilitation of trails and heavy use areas are critical to prepare for the next century of footsteps along the shore.

Travel to Itasca State Park where 500,000 visitors come to experience the primeval pine forest and the headwaters of the Mississippi. Resource management, in particular pine restoration on the 200-300 year old pine stands, has been neglected. To guarantee the integrity of the Itasca park experience, we need to focus on managing this forest community to ensure there will be towering pines for the next century of park visitors.

Come to Blue Mounds State Park, where rock cliffs and prairies offer one of the most spectacular views in southwestern Minnesota. Canada thistle and other noxious weeds threaten over 20 of the state's rare and endangered plant species harbored in this park. Increased labor crews, inventorying, mapping, research and planning are critical to address the complexity of challenges faced at Blue Mounds.



At Forestville State Park in southern Minnesota, visitors enjoy premium horseback riding. Steep terrain and unstable soils, characteristic of this unique region, contribute to the major rehabilitation and constant maintenance needed on the park's 15 miles of riding trails.

These parks face serious resource management problems that must be addressed to ensure quality outdoor recreational experiences and natural, historical and cultural resources for future generations (See 1992-93 Resource Management needs page 12 of this report.).

**The primary resource management problems threatening survival of our natural and cultural resources are:**

- Habitat loss and degradation
- Lack of biological and cultural resource data
- Threats and pressures from adjacent land uses
- Limited staff to address long term problems
- Unstable funding sources
- Limited suitable plant materials

#### **Habitat loss and degradation**

Throughout the world, habitat loss and degradation of natural areas are two of the primary causes threatening the survival of species and biological diversity. This is true even in Minnesota, a state known for its abundance of natural resources. Lands acquired for state parks have helped preserve habitat for many biological and cultural resources but many of these lands endured a century of use before becoming state parks. Logging, cropping, grazing, and other forms of use and development have destroyed or degraded many native habitats and cultural resource sites. Introduction of nonnative species such as Purple Loosestrife, Leafy spurge, European Buckthorn, and Canada Thistle threaten the forests, prairies and wetlands of Rice Lake, Fort Snelling, Minneopa, Flandrau, Frontenac, and other state parks. These invaders aggressively choke out native plants and lead to severe and costly problems in natural resource management.

*"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."  
Aldo Leopold*

#### **Lack of biological and cultural resource data**

Few systematic surveys have been done to identify state parks' biological and cultural resources. Most of the resource assessments completed were done to resolve specific problems. Such isolated surveys and reviews have not provided resource information complete enough to guide sound, long-term resource management goals and stewardship responsibilities. Archaeologists have time to provide only cursory surveys on many projects and are unable to meet full compliance of cultural resource protection laws. The natural and cultural resource data base is therefore very

limited for most state parks. This data is necessary to show the location and condition of significant resources. Development and intensive use can then avoid disturbing these sites. For example, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park is designated as a National Historic Landmark District because of 19 major archaeological sites. The existing campground is located in a Dakota cemetery. A systematic survey is essential to identify another site for public camping that will provide a good experience for park visitors without disturbing another archaeological site or significant natural resource community.

#### **Threats and pressures from incompatible adjacent land uses**

Intense forms of land use outside state parks severely limit management and acquisition options. Urban development and land use practices outside state parks directly affect the ability to manage resources now and in the future. Even private land within the statutory boundary of parks is subject to uncontrolled development (See Land Acquisition needs, page 15.). It is essential that planning efforts with other divisions, agencies, local government and the private sector provide resource management and recreational opportunities on a regional basis. Currently these efforts are minimal or nonexistent.

#### **Limited staff to address long term problems**

The administration and implementation of resource management activities in Minnesota's 65 state parks are carried out by two archaeologists and seven resource specialists. Depending on budgets, seasonal project crews may help with resource responsibilities. As operations and capital budgets shrink, and demands for service by the public increase, more staff time is spent on public service. Less time and money is devoted to resource management activities that are complex, difficult, and have long range affects not immediately apparent to park visitors. Thus, natural and cultural resource management needs are often neglected or not even identified. Over time these resource management needs accumulate, escalating to major projects that become far more expensive and difficult to correct. At some point in this escalation, remaining resources may be lost forever.

#### **Unstable funding**

The continuity of resource management has always suffered from the short term and limited funding process of biennium budgets. Funding has usually been sufficient only for meeting a few short term critical needs. Most natural resource management activities require a commitment of 10, 20, 30 or more years to ensure long-term resource rehabilitation and maintenance. Funding cuts in the middle of a project can make resource problems worse.

### Limited suitable plant materials

Over 10,000 acres of prairie, savannah and woodlands need restoration. A primary step in community restoration is the reintroduction of local native plants. However, seeds and plants of local genetic origin are generally not available from either private or public sources. A source for these materials should be established.

### INTERPRETATION: The Vision and the Challenge

Visit a Minnesota State Park with a visitor center or interpretive program and a new world opens up to you. Visitor centers provide people with an overview of the park resources, their significance and how to use and enjoy them.

State park interpreters are as vital to the park as a map and compass are to the hikers who traverse the trails. They orient visitors to the natural, cultural, and historical world of state parks. They provide opportunities for visitors to learn by giving them first-hand experiences about nature through guided nature walks, exhibits and audio visual shows. These experiences help visitors understand, appreciate, protect and wisely use the irreplaceable world we live in.

*"Nothing ever becomes real until it is experienced." Keats*

Schools can teach facts and concepts. Interpretive programs at state parks illuminate those facts and concepts by providing a sense of place, a framework for feelings about resources. Consider the opportunity of exploring the fragility of groundwater systems in Mystery Cave or teaching concepts of erosion on slopes and hillsides in Whitewater State Park. These first hand experiences produce a deeper understanding and awareness of people's role within our delicate environment, and stimulates concern and active stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

In 1989, 658,457 visitors participated in interpretive services in Minnesota State Parks. Scheduled groups, most often from schools, accounted for one-third of the participants at programs. This was accomplished with 12 year-round interpreters and 18 seasonal interpreters.

Sixty seven percent of park visitors desire nature studies. Some form of interpretive medium is used by 85-97 percent of the visiting public. In addition, visitor centers in state parks show a tremendous potential for attracting visitors to the state. People today are traveling more and often to broaden their horizons, by learning about new people, places, things and ideas.

*For every group we schedule, three groups are turned down because of lack of staffing.*

Unfortunately, limited staffing precludes offering school programs at most of our state parks. Many students may never know about places like Mille Lacs Kathio, Fort Ridgely or Itasca and their significance regarding Minnesota's history and culture. Many people may never hear the story of Old Crow Wing or experience the excitement of working in an underground mine. Our cultural resource stories must not be neglected.

There are full time interpretive positions in only 12 of the 65 state parks. Even this level of effort is new. Eleven of these positions were either new positions or extended from 90% to full time by the 1989 Legislature. The Minnesota State Park system lacks sufficient interpretive personnel to provide for even the most basic interpretive services — signs, exhibits and self-guiding information materials — in all parks. (See 1992-93 Interpretation needs page 13 of this report.)

### **TRAINING: Sharpening Skills for a Changing Environment**

The need for continuing recreation planning and management training is widely recognized in Minnesota's natural resource community. State park professionals are challenged by a host of new and pressing problems, as well as growing numbers of visitors each year. Many problems are resource specific. Others are "people problems," where employees must resolve conflicts with park visitors, and negotiate with local and regional representatives. Park employees benefit from training by their improved ability to meet diverse demands and preferences of the public while protecting park resources. (See 1992-93 Training needs page 13 of this report.)

### **INFORMATION: Providing a solid foundation for management decisions.**

Information collection and dissemination must be efficient for the Division of Parks and Recreation to operate effectively. A sound information system will facilitate improved information flow between parks, DNR disciplines, regional offices, St. Paul offices and park constituencies. The primary benefits of having this improved information will be:

- Quality public service based on identified user needs and an improved understanding of park visitors;
- Improved management decision making;
- Empowering employees to improve their job performance.

## IV. 1992-93 NEEDS

### Keeping the Past In Mind, The Future In Store

The Minnesota State Park system is 100 years old in 1991. Through these many years, state parks have provided countless hours of enjoyment for park visitors, and preserved Minnesota's most outstanding natural features. The state's investment in this excellent state park system must be maintained to make sure that Minnesota's quality of life and diverse economy is maintained.

The 1989 Legislature approved a substantial increase in the State park operating budget due to strong public and legislative support. This increase was a great step toward achieving a park system that provides quality service for today's park visitor and also maintains and manages the park infrastructure and resources for future visitors. While the 1989 legislative increase went a long way to fund minimum operating needs of the state park system, there are still many critical issues that need to be addressed.

### OPERATING BUDGET NEEDS:

The state park system's operating needs continue to expand with increased public use, aging park facilities, public demand for new park activities and the need to preserve Minnesota's most outstanding natural features.

#### OPERATIONS

**1992-93 NEED:**  
*\$2,000,000/Biennium*

Fixed costs rise yearly and these increases cut into park staffing levels. Funding increases are imperative as new parks are added to the system and as activity levels continue to rise. As changes are made to key programs such as Interpretive Services, operational costs also rise. Park operations funding level must be restored to minimum operating standards by restoring the fiscal year 1991 budget shortfalls and by funding for inflation and unfunded salary supplements. **The total operating budget for Fiscal year 1991 was 5.5% less than what is needed to fund state park minimum operating standards.**

#### GRAND PORTAGE STATE PARK

**1992-93 NEED:**  
*One time costs - \$632,000*  
*On-going operating budget*  
*\$266,000/Biennium*  
*2 Full Time Positions*  
*5 Part Time Positions*  
*(3.5 Full Time Equivalent)*

Grand Portage State Park was authorized by the 1989 state legislature and the land acquired in 1990. This park will be designed, developed and operated in cooperation with the Grand Portage Reservation. Interpretive themes will highlight the Lake Superior Chippewa heritage. One time funding is needed for park development, equipment and interpretive displays. Facilities will be handicapped accessible where practical. An operating budget for staff and supplies is needed on an on-going basis. If this funding is provided, Grand Portage State Park will provide thousands of park visitors, access to a spectacular river gorge and Minnesota's highest waterfall. Once developed, this park will have a positive economic impact on the local economy.

## HILL ANNEX MINE STATE PARK

**1992-93 NEED:**  
*\$1,066,000/Biennium*  
*(includes replacing the*  
*\$400/Biennium presently*  
*received from IRRRB)*

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) provides \$200,000 per fiscal year through July 1, 1991, for the operation of this park as part of the custodial control transfer agreement. IRRRB funding will not provide any funds after 1991. The Division of Parks and Recreation will support the entire operation costs. After two years of operation it is clear that \$200,000 per fiscal year is not adequate to fully fund the operation needs of Hill Annex State Park. The division has had to take \$75,000 from the other state parks to operate this mine at a reduced level of service in fiscal year 1991. This is a year when budget shortfalls already require reducing service throughout the state park system. Funding is also needed to maintain the 48 historic mine buildings in a safe condition for interpretive tours. The result of this additional funding will be:

- Park will remain fully operational and will provide the services the public expects.
- The pit will be dewatered to the "A" pocket level. This level has been determined to be the goal for interpretive/preservation reasons.
- The historic mine buildings will be preserved.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**1992-93 NEED:**  
*\$1,484,000/Biennium*  
*11 Full Time Positions*  
*(11 full time equivalents)*

The natural and cultural resources within state parks must be inventoried and managed to ensure their perpetuation. Major resource management projects are identified in the capital budget Rehabilitation of Resources and Facilities section on page 13. As part of normal operations, the Division of Parks and Recreation needs to:

- evaluate and address serious resource management problems in 40 state parks by establishing three park level resource specialists and eight area specialists
- develop baseline inventories in 10 parks and establish a computerized data base
- provide an average of 400 hours of labor annually for 40 parks to accomplish resource management tasks.

The additional staff hours, inventories and data bases will:

- Identify resource management needs and provide information needed to establish management prescriptions
- Mitigate recreational use impacts, heading off serious deterioration and preserving recreational opportunities
- Address critical resource issues, and begin protecting and restoring damaged resource communities.

**INTERPRETATION****1992-93 NEED:***\$1,324,000/Biennium**24 positions**(12.5 Full Time Equivalents)*

A state population that is knowledgeable about natural resource issues is the first step in resolving those issues. A strong interpretive program in state parks is an excellent method of fostering public awareness of resource issues. To complete the first stage of efforts to meet public demand for environmental education and interpretive services identified in the division's interpretive plan we need to:

- upgrade existing interpretive services in 14 state parks
- extend services to 6 additional parks
- establish a system to renovate and replace displays
- provide a stable internship program for university participation.

This will result in increased environmental education opportunities for the public at state parks, increased public awareness of resource issues and recreational opportunities, more efficient and effective interpretive services operation, greater cooperation with educational institutions on environmental education, and more capability to help other DNR divisions develop public awareness and support for resource issues.

**TRAINING****1992-93 NEED:***\$456,500/Biennium**2 Full Time Positions**(2 Full Time Equivalents)*

Staff training is essential if park staff are to accomplish their many diverse responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner. The Division of Parks and Recreation needs to:

- expand and improve training opportunities for our 197 full time and 600 seasonal employees to assure efficient employee performance and facilitate employee development.
- Develop two positions (career development specialist and clerical support) to administer this program along with technical equipment and professional instructors.

These efforts will improve our public service and marketing efforts. It will increase employee knowledge of technical advances, resource management, environmental education and interpretative techniques, and operational efficiency will be improved with this training.

**INFORMATION****1992-93 NEED***\$580,000/Biennium**1 full Time Position**(1 Full Time Equivalent)*

The Division of Parks and Recreation's three major categories of information are: resources, services, and operations/administration data. Much of the information needed in these areas is not available, out-of-date or cumbersome to access. To improve the information systems within these three categories the division must:

- Hire a programmer analyst to streamline existing and design new information systems and to standardize park programs.
- Establish an information infrastructure with compatible hardware, software and employee training.
- Add and improve the professional and administrative support systems.

Implementing these actions will provide quick, easy and economical means of retrieving database information, more accurate and timely management information, and improved public service.

## CAPITAL BUDGET NEEDS:

Capital expenditures in state parks are a wise investment. There are many areas in the state where the demand for recreational facilities far exceeds the supply. Adding new facilities and restoring old ones in state parks will provide needed recreational opportunities and improve the quality of recreational experiences. This in turn will result in greater revenue generated for the state park system and the economy as a whole.

### CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>TOTAL NEEDS</u>	<u>1992-93 NEEDS</u>
DEVELOPMENT	\$33,500,000	\$3,000,000
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	\$4,000,000	\$3,000,000
REHABILITATION	\$17,500,000	\$7,000,000
LAND ACQUISITION	\$22,000,000	\$5,000,000
	<u>\$77,000,000</u>	<u>\$18,000,000</u>

#### DEVELOPMENT

**1992-93 NEED:**  
\$3,000,000/Biennium

Existing state park facilities and resources cannot continue to accommodate growing visitor use or new recreational demands. New state park development is needed to accommodate park visitor needs, provide necessary visitor comfort and safety, and to protect sensitive resources. In many state parks, the existing facilities are being pushed to their limits. In many cases, the natural and cultural resources that the park is supposed to protect are being negatively impacted. Examples include: vegetation loss in campgrounds; electrical system failures, wells and pumps breaking down, eroded unsafe trails, severe turf loss and compacted soils. New facilities such as campground expansions, additional electrical hookups, larger capacity wells, and new trails for new uses will help to reduce the negative impacts increased visitation is producing.

New facilities are necessary to meet expanding recreational demands and provide visitors the appropriate level of safety and comfort while protecting park resources. State park management plans produced through public meetings have identified where and what type of new facilities the public expects. A total of \$33,500,000 is needed for new development in all 65 state parks. In recognition of severe budget constraints, many of these improvements must be delayed. To address the most urgent and critical development needs, \$3,000,000 is requested for the 1992-93 Biennium.



**RESOURCE  
AND FACILITY  
REHABILITATION**

**1992-93 NEED:**  
*\$10,000,000/Biennium*

State Park resources and facilities are in critical need of rehabilitation. State parks contain Minnesota's premier natural resources. Most were heavily impacted by development, logging and agricultural practices before coming under state park protection, and were often overused after becoming state parks. Major resource management actions identified at present to preserve and restore these resources would require \$4,000,000 to accomplish. These projects are needed to mitigate human impact on Minnesota's natural resource treasures. Once these rehabilitation projects are completed, the resources can be maintained through regular park operations.

Many state park facilities were developed by the CCC and WPA in the 1930's and 1940's. Rehabilitation is justified for historical, aesthetic, cost effective and functional reasons. The state park system has a \$500 million physical plant consisting of over 1,600 buildings and facilities. These facilities and related infrastructure, such as roads, wells and sewage systems need continuous upkeep just like the homes, public streets, and water/sewer facilities we use everyday. To serve the eight million visitors each year, major rehabilitation and routine upkeep of this infrastructure is essential. A budget of \$17,500,000 is needed to rehabilitate the facilities in 65 state parks.

This present total need of \$21,500,000 for both resource and facility rehabilitation are only those needs identified in 1990. Additional needs continually surface. So, the priority list must be periodically revised as the funding needed continues to grow. The division identified that \$10,000,000 of resource management and facility rehabilitation projects are critical to be addressed during the 1992-93 Biennium.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

**1992-93 NEED:**  
*\$5,000,000/Biennium*

Acquisition of the land within the legislatively established state park boundaries is needed to protect significant resources and to provide for their use and enjoyment by park visitors.

There are 223,800 acres authorized within the 65 state park statutory boundaries. Of these, 22,000 acres are still privately owned. It would cost approximately \$22,000,000 to acquire this private land. Without a sincere, aggressive effort to acquire this land, there is a serious risk of substantial natural and cultural resource loss. A stable biennial acquisition budget is needed to protect the public interest. A funding level of \$5,000,000 per biennium would allow timely acquisition of needed properties.

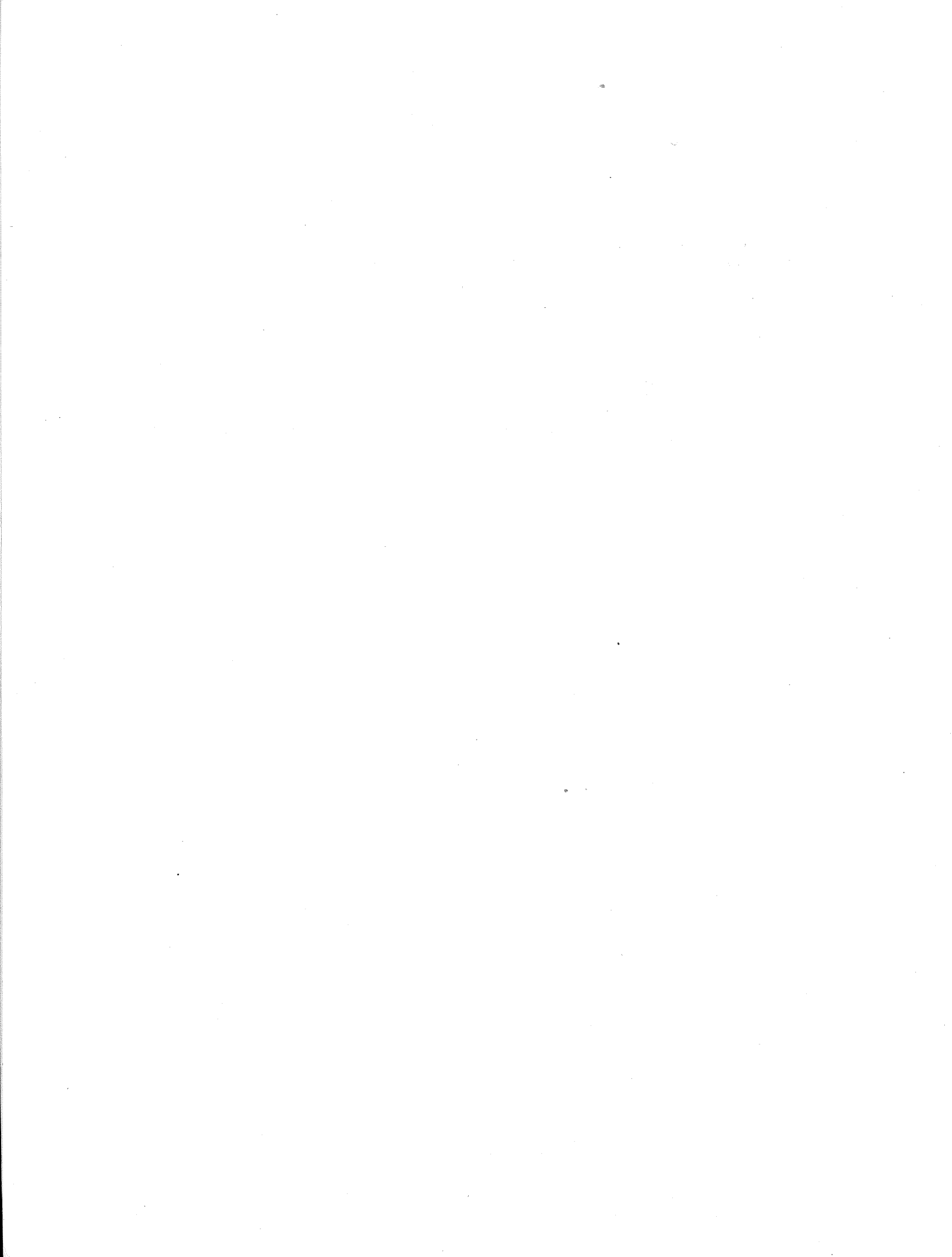
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## V. 1992-93 NEEDS SUMMARY

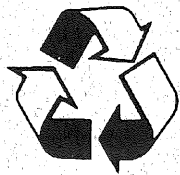
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State parks play an important role in Minnesota's quality of life and economy. That role is growing as park use increases. There is a critical need for funding to manage deteriorating resources, operate all 65 state parks, repair and replace decaying buildings and facilities, and acquire key land parcels.

<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>	<u>1992-93 BIENNIUM NEED</u>
<b>OPERATIONS</b>	
Minimum Standards	\$2,000,000
<b>Grand Portage State Park</b>	
On-going operating budget	\$266,000
One time development, equipment & interpretive display costs	\$632,000
<b>Hill Annex Mine State Park</b>	
On-going operating budget	\$706,000
One time building stabilization	360,000
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	\$1,484,000
<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	\$1,324,000
<b>TRAINING</b>	\$456,500
<b>INFORMATION</b>	\$580,000
<b>UNFUNDED OPERATING BUDGET NEEDS</b>	<b>\$7,808,500</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL BUDGET</u></b>	
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	\$3,000,000
<b>REHABILITATION</b>	\$10,000,000
<b>LAND ACQUISITION</b>	\$5,000,000
<b>CAPITAL BUDGET NEEDS</b>	<b>18,000,000</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>\$25,808,500</b>







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