

Regional Park Criteria

The Regional Park Grant Program is available for parks located outside the seven county metropolitan area. The following criteria were developed based on an evaluation completed by the Association of Minnesota Counties in consultation with an advisory committee. These criteria were submitted to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) in 2005 in response to the LCMR Park Study Group Report. These criteria are used to determine eligibility for the Regional Park Grant Program.

- 1) Size: 100+ acres (with exceptions based on use characteristics, special features, etc.)
- 2) Use: Evidence that the park serves at least a regional clientele (as opposed to mostly local). Other related factors may include evidence that the facility draws tourists from outside the local area.
- 3) Recreation Activities Offered: The park should provide outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource based (camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, canoeing, fishing, nature study). A related measure is the range of these activities accommodated within the park (e.g., a park with a beach, campground and boat launch facilities is more likely to attract a regional clientele than a park with only one of these facilities).
- 4) Special Features: Unique or unusual geologic features, historically significant sites, zoos, or parks containing characteristics that are of statewide significance.
- 5) Scarcity of Recreational Resources: The park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. These might include water-based activities, such as swimming, fishing and boating; interpretive nature trails; public campgrounds; etc.