



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Lake Vermilion State Park Facility Planning, Design and Development Costs

April 25, 2008

Facilities for the next generation of park visitors

Many of the current state park facilities were designed and built in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. These state parks have been successful in providing quality experiences and are well-loved by many park visitors.

However, the way people connect to the outdoors and their recreation patterns are changing (more and larger gear, less knowledge or experience in the outdoors, greater participation in scheduled activities).

The facilities proposed for Lake Vermilion State Park will offer new opportunities for park visitors and attract new audiences to state parks. It will use new facility designs and other techniques to reach out to today's population while continuing the state park mission of protecting resources, interpreting natural and cultural history, and providing recreation opportunities (interactive interpretive displays, larger campsites with more screening and privacy, social gathering spaces, outdoor skills instruction).



Facility development costs: \$30 million

\$30 million is the anticipated cost for developing Lake Vermilion State Park (see the following page for a breakdown of the proposed facilities). The mix of facilities and recreational opportunities will be finalized during the next steps in the creation of Lake Vermilion State Park

Steps to finalizing facilities:

- Conduct resource inventories and develop a unit resource plan – including targeted resource management goals
- Develop a park management plan – statutorily required plan that includes public involvement
- Design facilities and other infrastructure – buildings, roads, parking areas, etc.



Opening to the public

The new state park will be open to the public in summer 2010, with some initial day use and primitive camping facilities ready for visitors. The remaining facilities will open to the public in fall 2011.

Lake Vermilion State Park Facility Development Costs

Conservation Education & Visitor Services

<i>Visitor Center/Contact Station/Administrative Office</i>	\$3,360,000
Energy-efficient LEED certified design	
<i>Trail Center</i>	\$1,680,000
Interpretive area, classroom/meeting room	
<i>Interpretive Facilities</i>	\$1,000,000
Kiosks, interactive exhibits, wireless hotspots	

Overnight Use

<i>Campground</i>	\$4,075,000
150 sites (100 electric), 2 sanitation buildings, fish cleaning facility	
<i>Primitive Campground</i>	\$660,000
20 boat-in and 20 hike-in sites, trail access, docking area, fish cleaning facility, vault toilets	
<i>Lodging</i>	\$1,000,000
20 camper cabins	
<i>Class 1 Group Center</i>	\$1,500,000
Cooking facility/lodge, sanitation building	

Day Use

<i>Trails</i>	\$500,000
10 miles of trail	
<i>Day Use Area and Swimming Beach</i>	\$800,000
Beach building, parking area, play area, picnic area	
<i>Fishing Piers</i>	\$150,000
2 accessible structures	
<i>Picnic Shelters</i>	\$750,000
3 shelter buildings	
<i>Day Use Area South of Hwy 169</i>	\$1,000,000
Sanitation building, parking, trail shelter	

Infrastructure & Operations

<i>Roads and Parking</i>	\$3,250,000
10 miles of new road, 150 parking spots	
<i>Rehabilitate & Expand Soudan Shop Complex</i>	\$750,000
Rehabilitate existing shop buildings, add cold storage space, build connector road	
<i>Resource Management</i>	\$500,000
Best management practices demonstration areas	
<i>Seasonal Employee Housing</i>	\$840,000
20 room bunkhouse with shared bath	
<i>Water Supply</i>	\$1,000,000
Well construction or municipal connection	
<i>Sewage Treatment</i>	\$2,000,000
Onsite or municipal connection	
<i>Renewable Energy, Telecommunications & Electric Service</i>	\$1,500,000

Professional Services

<i>Design, survey, archaeological investigations</i>	\$4,000,000
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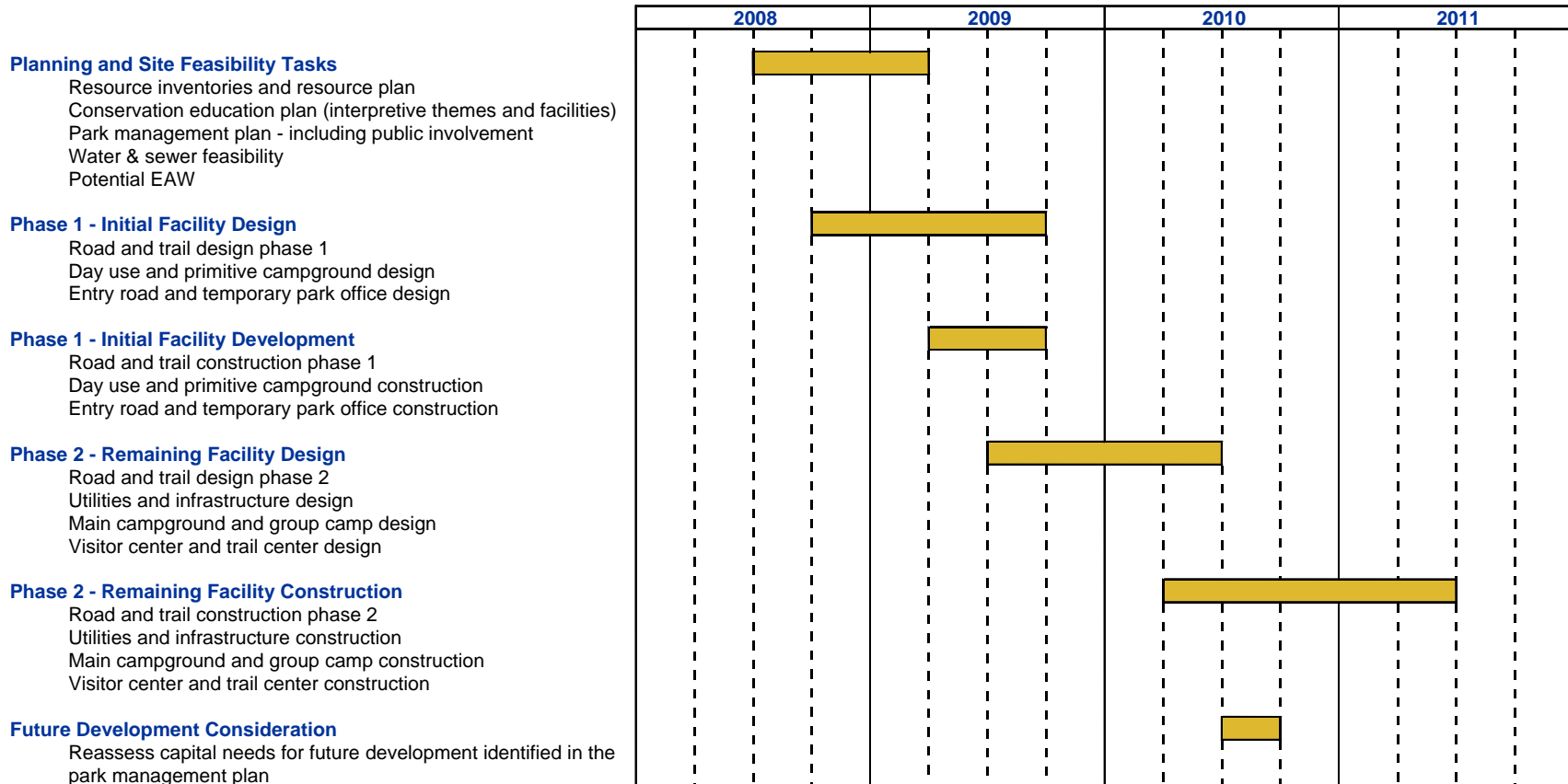
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Lake Vermilion State Park Facility Planning, Design & Development Schedule

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Schedule Phases

Planning, design and development of the proposed facilities will occur in several phases. The initial phase is dominated by resource inventories, infrastructure feasibility studies, and planning activities that will guide later facility design and development activities.





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Lake Vermilion State Park Economic Impact of the State Park and Conclusions

April 25, 2008

Annual economic impact on the Northeast Region of Minnesota from Lake Vermilion State Park with an assumed attendance* (dollars in thousands for 2007)

	300,000 attendance	600,000 attendance
Visitor spending (000's)**	\$9,115	\$18,230
Regional income (value added in 000's)***	\$5,990	\$11,980
"Typical" MN jobs****	90.6	181.2

Conclusions

- The opportunity to purchase a large tract of undeveloped land that consists of natural and scenic resources to qualify as a state park from a single landowner is very rare. Seldom at this point in the state's history will there be the opportunity to deal with one landowner regarding property with these natural features and recreation potential.
- We need to reenergize the effort to create Lake Vermilion State Park. The Legislature needs to understand that an agreement needs to be made to purchase and develop this premier park in northern Minnesota. There are only weeks to go before the adjournment of the Legislature.
- Acquisition and development of the state park need to be tied together in this legislative session. In order to protect and develop the Lake Vermilion State Park, a management plan needs to be finished and funds made available for the visitor services, infrastructure, day use and overnight facilities. These end products will be the result of scientific efforts to understand and protect the natural and cultural resources and planning efforts to create a state park that provides a wide range of year round outdoor activities.

Attendance Estimate:

It is anticipated that a park at Lake Vermilion would be on par with Tettegouche, Gooseberry Falls and Itasca State Parks. 2005 annual attendance at these parks: Gooseberry Falls – 590,031, Itasca – 496,651, Tettegouche – 472,473.

* Source: MN DNR. 2002. Contributions of MN State Parks to State and Regional Economies. Dollar figures from the original report were inflated to 2007 using the CPI-U from 2001 to 2007, from <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. The NE Region includes Cook, Lake St. Louis, Carlton, Itasca and Koochiching counties.

** Excludes payments to governments for park entrance fees, registrations and licenses.

*** Value added includes employee compensation, proprietor income, other property income, and indirect business taxes.

**** The jobs figure is equal to total income divided by \$50,000. The "typical" job in MN averages about \$50,000 in total income, based on IMPLAN database (2001 dollars). Total income is value added less indirect business taxes.