



# *Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet*



## **2008 CAPITAL BUDGET State Park Rehabilitation and Development Governor's Recommendation: \$10,000,000**

### **It is needed because**

Strategic investments in Minnesota's state parks are needed to address critical trends affecting the state park system and meet growing demands for new outdoor recreation opportunities. These investments are needed to:

- ◆ Engage Minnesotans of all ages and backgrounds in outdoor recreation,
- ◆ Innovate and adapt new strategies to meet different needs of a changing population, and
- ◆ Invest in the next generation to ensure active participation in the outdoors in the future.

Minnesota's state park and recreation system encompasses 66 state parks, seven state recreation areas, eight state waysides, and 54 state forest campground and day use areas. Redevelopment of Minnesota's state parks will ensure public safety, public access to natural resources, a high-quality recreational experience, and attract future generations to the outdoors.

### **Major project elements**

This funding will provide for:

- ◆ Targeted rebuilding of the state park system, including rehabilitation and repair of the extensive existing infrastructure of state parks;
- ◆ Strategic investments that enhance visitor experiences through campground redevelopment, creation of new gathering areas, enhancing group use facilities, redesigning picnic facilities, and utilizing new technologies to communicate with the public; and
- ◆ Increasing the energy efficiency of state park operations and use of renewable energy systems where feasible.

### **Priority-setting**

Criteria used in establishing project priorities include: increasing safety, improving accessibility, and increasing energy efficiency and sustainability of state park operations. Preserving historic structures and extending the life of existing facilities rather than building new structures are also priorities. Building projects follow the Minnesota Sustainability Building Guidelines (B3 Guidelines) according to M.S. 16B.325, which requires all new buildings funded with state funds to meet sustainability criteria. These guidelines are also followed for projects on existing buildings as appropriate. All projects must also conform with park master plans and be consistent with existing spending plans.

### **Project locations**

This funding would provide development and rehabilitation projects at twelve state parks and recreation areas including: Itasca, St. Croix, Tettegouche, Split Rock Lighthouse, Cuyuna, Jay Cooke, Whitewater, Maplewood, Interstate, Lake Louise, Lake Shetek, and Sibley. At times, new emerging problems require shifting priorities to other parks during the life of a capital appropriation to effectively serve park users.

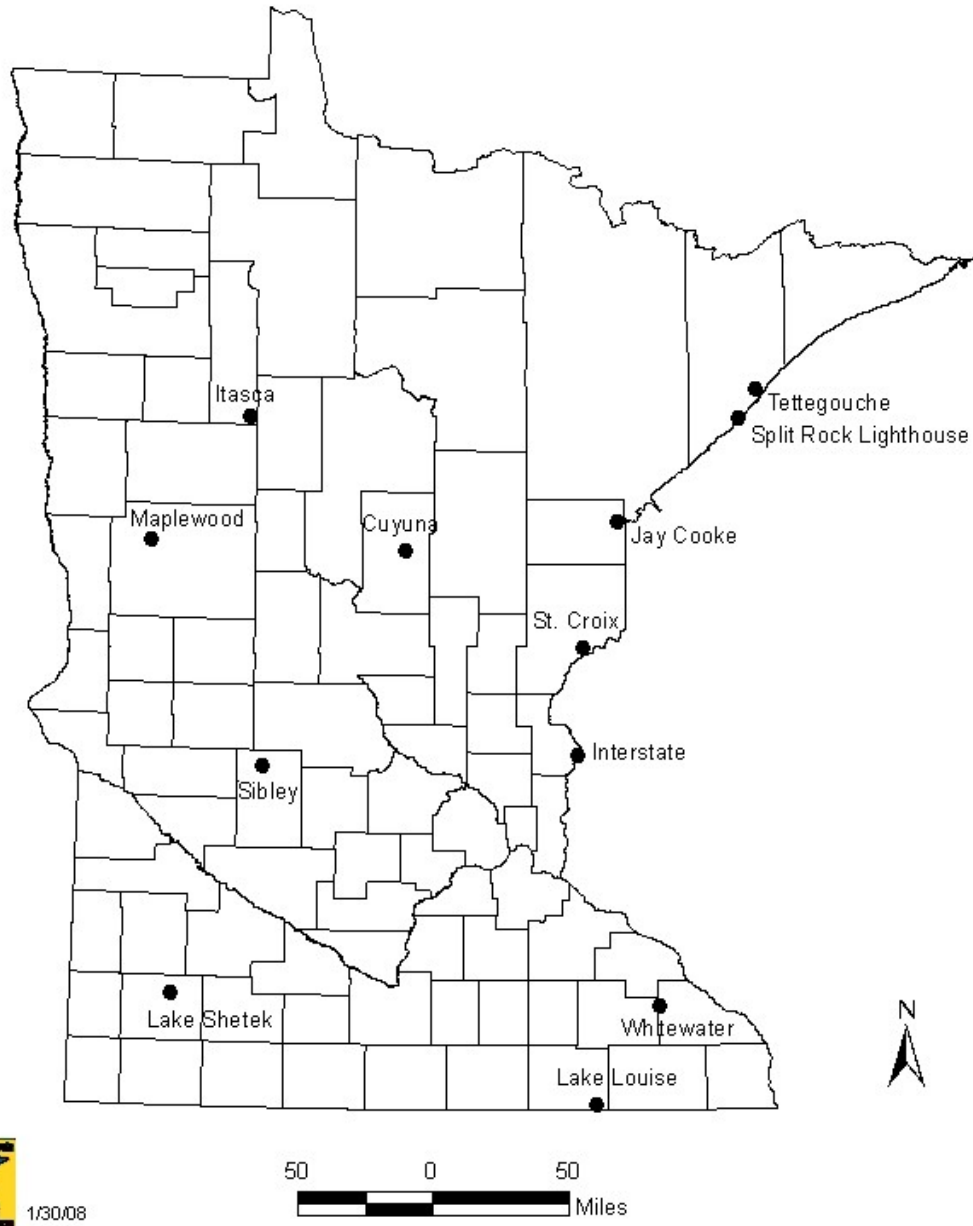
### **Key measures and outcomes**

A healthy, safe and reliable state park system provides high-quality recreational opportunities, meets increasing recreational demands, and attracts new users to the system, while preserving the natural and cultural resources of the state.

- ◆ Maximize state park visitor satisfaction through targeted improvements at state parks
- ◆ Recruit a new generation of users to the state park systems, while meeting the needs and expectations of current park users
- ◆ Increase the efficiency and sustainability of state park operations

DNR Capital Project Priorities as of January 2008

State Park Development and Rehabilitation - \$10 million Request



1/30/08

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