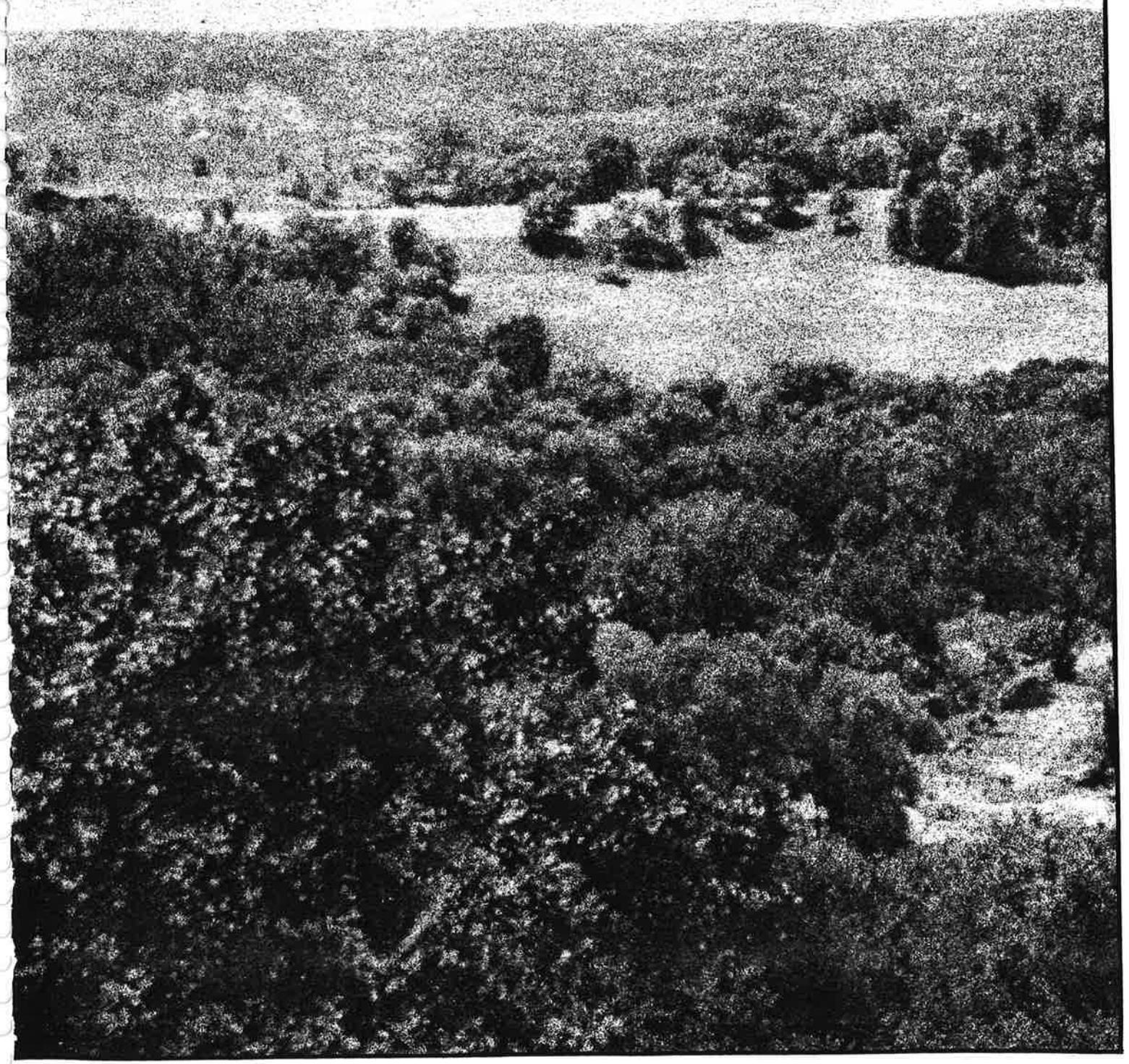
A Summary of the

Fort Ridgely State Park Management Plan

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Office of Planning
Printed-August 1983



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Introduction

THE PLANNING PROCESS

In 1975 the Minnesota State Legislature passed the Outdoor Recreation Act (ORA). The intent of this legislation is to ensure, through long-range planning, the protection and perpetuation of Minnesota's outstanding resources. Also included in this legislation is the mandate to provide recreational facilities which are desired by the citizens of Minnesota but which do not compete with the private sector. The Park Planning Section of the DNR, Office of Planning was established to formulate long range resource management and recreation development plans for 82 state parks, recreation areas, and waysides. Funds for these plans are appropriated biennially by the Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources (LCMR).

The park planning process consists of the following six steps:

1. An inventory of natural resources, visitor use, and existing facilities is compiled. Specialists from other DNR divisions and sections assist in collecting pertinent data. At this point the first public workshop is held.

2. Alternatives for park management and development are developed. A second public workshop may be held to review these alternatives and invite further public comment. These alternatives are then reviewed by the Park Planning staff and the DNR, Division of Parks and Recreation.

3. The recommendation for park classification is made, the park goal is developed, and the draft plan is written. This step culminates in the first interdepartmental review.

4. The draft plan is revised as the result of the interdepartmental review. The revised plan is made available to the public for a 30 day review period, after which the final public meeting is held.

5. The draft plan is revised according to information received from the public review. The plan is then sent to the Department of Energy, Planning, and Development for a 60 day reviewal period. (This management plan was approved in May 1983.)

6. The plan is implemented by the DNR, Division of Parks and Recreation.

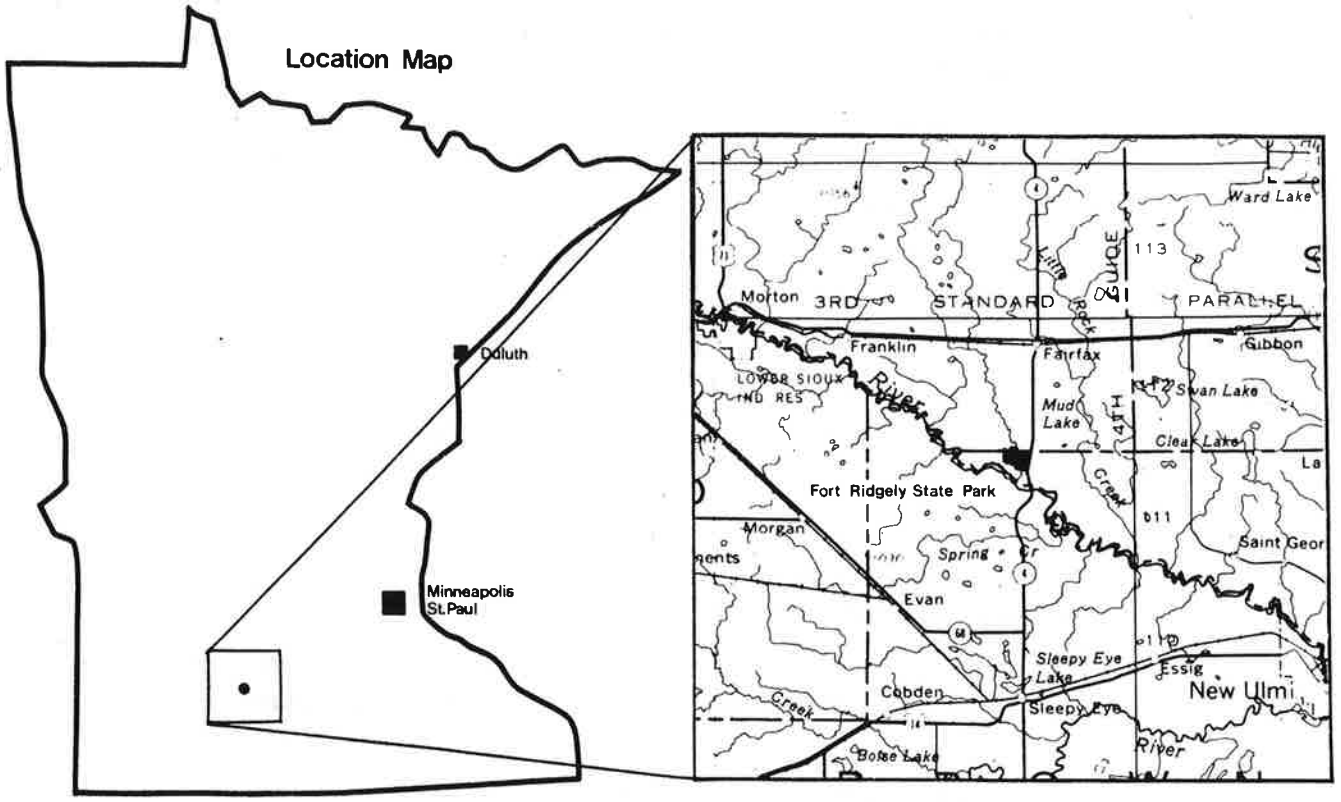
OVERVIEW OF FORT RIDGELY STATE PARK

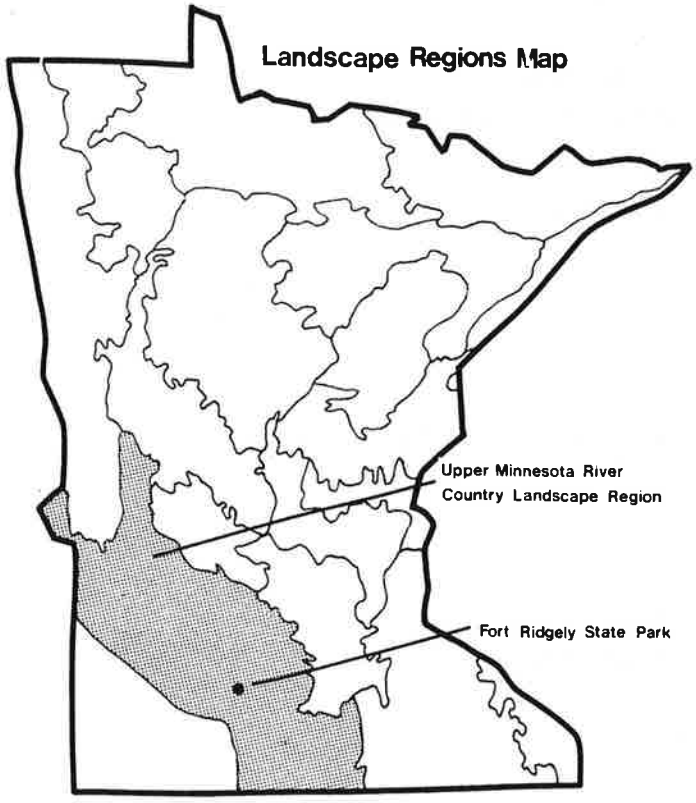
Fort Ridgely State Park is located at the junction of three counties: Nicollet, Renville, and Brown, but the largest portion is located in the northwestern corner of Nicollet County. The statutory boundary of the park is 584 acres in size most of which (504 acres) is state owned. Within the state owned land, the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) administers a 22 acre historic site. The approximately 80 acres in private ownership, includes a 3.5 acre cemetery.

The north bluff of the Minnesota River valley runs through the park. The bluff is vegetated with oak woods and prairie openings and is cut by forested ravines. Through one of these ravines, Fort Ridgely Creek flows to the Minnesota River one mile south of the park. Steep slopes flank both sides of the creek. The southwest facing bluff is vegetated with oak and ironwood interspersed with openings of dry prairie. The northeast facing slope is forested with oak, maple, elm, ash, and basswood.

Fort Ridgely was constructed in 1853 and was the site of a key battle in the Dakota War of 1862 (commonly referred to as the Sioux Uprising of 1862). The commissary building was reconstructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the National Park Service in 1937. It now houses MHS displays which interpret the history and daily life of the fort.

A nine hole, par 34, golf course with sand greens is located in the park. Horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, and ski touring trails take advantage of the varied terrain and scenic vistas. Two picnic areas provide places to eat, relax, and play informal games. An amphitheater in the upper picnic area is used by local organizations for plays, programs, services and concerts. There is a primitive campground with 20 sites along Fort Ridgely Creek and a group camp with a 50 person capacity south of the campground. A horseback rider campground is located in the northeastern corner of the park.





Upper Minnesota River Country Landscape Region

This region encompasses 7,828,000 acres or 14.6 percent of the state. The area is relatively flat and covered by glacial till deposited 10,000 to 12,000 years ago during the Wisconsin glacial period. The most distinctive geological feature in the region is the Minnesota River. It flows through a valley cut by the earlier and much larger glacial River Warren. Pre-settlement vegetation in the area consisted mostly of prairie with river bottom forests along the river banks.

A SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Create and maintain prairie openings.

Manage roughs along the golf course fairways as prairie.

Restore prairie and oak savanna.

Stabilize erosion problems.

Burn hillside prairies.

Remove dead elm and replant major use areas.

Plant oak to create oak savanna.

Conduct vegetation and wildlife inventories.

Maintain maximum abundance of dead standing and downed wood (snags).

Monitor park for Natural Heritage Elements.

Consider establishing a food plot in the park.

Develop a flood warning plan.

Survey centerline of campground road and modify alignment as necessary.

Ensure unobstructed flow of Fort Ridgely Creek.

Replace water lines as needed.

Plug abandoned wells.

Continue annual testing of water supply.

Fill in abandoned underground water storage tank.

Conduct archaeological investigation.

Excavate and interpret building sites.

Develop historic trail.

Locate old fort roads.

Interpret Dakota War of 1862.

Interpret the CCC story.

Field check all proposed development sites for archaeological resources.

Locate ferry crossing.

Relocate historic monument.

Monitor condition of sod house.

Repair some stone drinking fountains.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Campground

Install two unisex toilets.

Construct toilet building with showers.

Provide intersite screening.

Develop 15-20 additional vehicular campsites.

Design campground expansion.

Develop 5-10 primitive tent campsites.

Rehabilitate horseback rider camp.

Develop small open-sided shelter in the new group camp location.

Develop a new group camp.

Picnicking

Stabilize soils near amphitheater.

Install one unisex vault toilet.

Rehabilitate toilet building.

Rewire picnic shelter.

Make picnic shelter kitchen available for public use.

Replace playground equipment.

Develop picnic sites in existing group camp area.

Develop group picnic area at chalet.

Remodel the upper floor of chalet.

Amphitheater

Evaluate structure of the amphitheater.

Trails

Develop ski touring trails.

Develop snowmobile trails.

Remodel chalet.

Develop hiking trails.

Develop horseback riding trails.

Provide two bridges over creek.

Roads and Parking

Construct segment of entrance road parallel to CSAH 30.

Request construction of right turn lane off TH 4.

Request improvement of intersection at CSAH 29 and 30.

Provide safe pedestrian crossing at historic site.

Asphalt campground road.

Golfing

Develop cost accounting system.

Modify alignment of fairways.

Modify golf course.

Administrative Facilities

Move contact station.

Construct new contact station.

Construct unheated storage building.

Bury utility lines where possible.

Construct gas and oil storage facility.

Provide housing for assistant manager if policy allows.

Interpretive Services

Construct several park display boards.

Develop signs explaining ongoing resource management programs.

Develop interpretive signs.

Develop historical brochure.

Develop a slide tape show about the park to be shown at the historic site.

Develop winter interpretive displays for the chalet.

Present some park interpretive programs in MHS presentation room.

Boundary Modification

Delete some privately owned acreage.

Exchange some lands.

Protect ravine along western boundary.

Classification

CLASSIFICATION

There is a delicate balance which must be maintained when recreational facilities are provided for large numbers of people in areas of outstanding and often sensitive resources. Inappropriate development can result in irreparable damage to the resource. To help ensure this recreation/resource balance, the Minnesota State Legislature established, through the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975 (ORA), a classification process whereby each unit in the state recreation system can be identified as one (or more) component in the system. These components are: natural state park; recreational state park; state trail; state scientific and natural area; state wilderness area; state forest and state forest sub-area; state wildlife management area; state water access site; state wild, scenic, and recreational rivers; state historic site; and state rest area. Included in this legislation are general criteria for classifying, planning, and managing each of these components.

Criteria for a Recreational State Park Designation

DNR policy identifies four criteria based on ORA which a park must substantially meet to qualify for classification as a recreational state park. Fort Ridgely State Park meets these criteria.

> "Possess natural resources, or artificial resources in a natural setting, with outstanding outdoor recreation potential.
>
> "Provide outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities that will attract visitors from beyond the local area.
>
> "Contain resources which permit intensive recreational use by large numbers of people and be of a size sufficient to provide for effective management and protection of the natural and/or artificial outdoor recreational resources, so that they will be available for both present and future generations.
>
> "Be located in areas where they appropriately accommodate the outdoor recreational needs of the state populations, provided that they complement but are not in place of recreational service normally offered by local or regional units of government or the private sector."

Within the park's statutory boundary is a 22 acre state historic site which has been classified by meeting the ORA criteria for that unit. Additional historic resources occur around the historic site within the park which also meet the historic site criteria. This area qualifies for classification as a historic site secondary unit within the park because it meets the following ORA historic site criteria.

> "(1) Is the site of or directly associated with a significant historical event;
>
> "(4) Has yielded, or is likely to yield, historical or archaeological artifacts, records, or other original data or information;"

Recommended Classification

Because Fort Ridgely State Park substantially fulfills all of the above criteria, it is recommended that the park be classified as a recreational state park, with a historic site secondary unit..

GOAL FOR THE PARK

The goal for Fort Ridgely follows the overall goal for recreational state parks as stated in the DNR policy.

> "It is the goal of the Department of Natural Resources in recreational state parks to:
>
> "Provide lands and waters which offer a broad selection of outdoor recreational activities in a natural setting and which may be used by large numbers of people."

The goal for the historic site secondary unit is:

> "A state historic site shall be established to preserve, restore, and interpret buildings and other structures, locales, sites, antiquities, and related lands which aptly illustrate significant events, personalities, and features of the history and archaeology of the state or nation."

Park Resources

CLIMATE

Fort Ridgely State Park is located in a region that has an average July temperature of 74°F. The average January temperature is 12.9°F. The average annual precipitation is 29 inches. The average wind speed is approximately 12 mph and prevails from the northwest in the winter and the south in the summer.

GEOLOGY

The park provides several scenic vistas of the Minnesota River valley. Small areas of Precambrian bedrock can be observed in the park along Fort Ridgely Creek where glacial meltwater erosion has exposed them. There are several terraces in the park that were formed as the result of glacial River Warren draining Glacial Lake Agassiz. The soils on each terrace are different and reflect the action of the glacial river.

SOILS

The majority of the soils in the park were formed from glacial till. A complete discussion on park soils and their suitability for development is included in the comprehensive management plan and the management plan details (MPD).

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

Information on the vegetation prior to European settlement was obtained from the map "Original Vegetation of Minnesota" by Francis J. Marschner and from the original U.S. General Land Office survey notes. Copies of these notes are included in the MPD.

Before European settlement, the original vegetation pattern in the vicinity of the park included five plant communities: river bottom forest; Big Woods; oak openings; prairie; and wet prairie, marshes, and sloughs.

Plant communities in the park today were mapped from aerial photographs and color slides taken by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). The vegetative

composition of these communities was field checked by DNR personnel in fall of 1981.

An abundance and diversity of wildlife is found in the park due to the variety of habitats including forested ravines alternating with prairie bluff tops, groves of oak, floodplain forest, steep hillside prairies, upland forest, and old fields. Complete information on park wildlife is included in the comprehensive management plan and the management plan details.

Many of the recommeded vegetation management actions will benefit wildlife by improving habitat. A diversity of habitats will be created and maintained to provide forest edge environment and food for wildlife.

SURFACE WATERS

Fort Ridgely State Park is located within the Minnesota River-Hawk Creek watershed. The watershed has an area of 1,479 sq miles and is drained by the Minnesota River which runs along the southwestern edge of the watershed.

Fort Ridgely Creek runs in a north-south direction through the park and empties into the Minnesota River approximately a mile from the park's southern border. The creek is not suitable for canoeing or fishing. Fort Ridgely Creek is 74 miles long. Approximately 88 percent of the creek has been channelized. This has been done upstream from the park. The average width of the creek is 6 ft and the average depth is approximately 6 inches. The valley through which Fort Ridgely Creek flows has been the focus for much park development. The DNR, Division of Waters conducted a study to determine the nature of flooding in the park. This study is included in the comprehensive management plan.

GROUNDWATER

The watershed in which Fort Ridgely State Park is located is covered with glacial till varying in thickness from 100-400

feet. Depth of glacial till is 100-200 ft in the area of the park. Lenses of sand and gravel within this till are the most accessible and widely used aquifer in the watershed.

There are two operating wells in the park, one southeast of the park manager's residence and the other near the golf chalet. The water supply for the park manager's residence, upper and lower picnic areas, and the campgrounds is provided from the well near the manager's residence. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Health, the quality of the water in both wells is good.

Additional wells are located in the shop building, horseman's area, and on newly acquired lands.

FISHERIES

An electrofishing survey of Fort Ridgely Creek was conducted in 1980 near the campground. No game fish were found, although it is likely some enter the creek from the Minnesota River during high flows in the spring.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

Archaeological sites in the Minnesota River valley span a range of time from 5000 B.C. to historic times. There are approximately 29 known sites, mostly villages and burial mounds, near the river between Redwood Falls and New Ulm. Experts believe that a comprehensive survey of the river valley would reveal many more.

When European explorers reached the Minnesota River region, they found the Dakota Indians living in tribal bands or living in small farming communities. The tribal bands used fishing, hunting and gathering wild food to feed and clothe themselves. The Dakota hunted with stone and bone weapons, bow and arrow, and spears.

By the mid-1800s, the Minnesota River valley was virtually trapped out. But when glowing reports of the fertile valley were brought back by traders and explorers, people to the east began clamoring for the Minnesota River region to be opened to white settlement.

In 1851, two treaties were negotiated with the Dakota Indians. The Dakota were persuaded to sell 24 million acres of what is now Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. The upper Minnesota Dakota Indians were allowed a reservation 10 miles wide on either side of the river from Lake Traverse to the Yellow Medicine River; the lower Minnesota Dakota Indians were allowed a similar strip from the Yellow Medicine River to the Little Rock River.

As soon as word of the 1851 treaties was public, settlers began moving in. They should legally have waited for the evacuation of the Indian population and for government land surveys to be conducted, but these early settlers claimed land and planted crops, relying on public sentiment to protect their interests. Fort Ridgely, built in 1853, was the third military post in Minnesota built to defend the frontier and provide protection from a possible Indian assault. A small company of soldiers and their families were stationed at the fort until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, when the regular troops were withdrawn, leaving the fort to be defended by volunteers.

In the summer of 1862, the need for Civil War supplies superseded all other obligations, and neither money nor sufficient food was forthcoming for the Indians. The Dakota were starving and resentful.

On Sunday, August 17, 1862, four young Indians from Rice Lake camp of the lower Minnesota Dakota band killed five people at Acton. This incident led to what is known as the Sioux Uprising of 1862.

The successful defense of Fort Ridgely and New Ulm played an important role in protecting the settlements further downstream. The wooded valleys surrounding the fort are much the same, as are the original powderhouse and the reconstructed storehouse.

Fort Ridgely State Park was established in 1911. The original acreage included portions of the historic fort site, the outbuildings, early settlement wagon roads, and the Pony Express Trail. An expanded discussion of the 1862 conflict is included in the comprehensive management plan.

A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was located in the park in 1934 in the area now used as the lower picnic ground. The CCC work projects included construction of recreational use buildings in Fort Ridgely State Park and Birch Coulee Historic Site. The CCC camp at Fort Ridgely was comprised of 23 buildings. Trail development, road development, and historical research were also completed. The CCC project ended in 1938.

There are two other structures of historic significance in the park - the stone monument in the fort parade ground and the amphitheater in the picnic area. The stone monument was erected in 1896 as a memorial to the victims of the Dakota War of 1862. The amphitheater, constructed in 1927, consists of a cement platform and block background with bronze plaques of Colonel Timothy Sheehan and Charles H. Hopkins on it.

A replica sod house was constructed on park land in 1979 by a student to illustrate an architectural style and method of construction which was prevalent during the settlement of the prairie. It is located adjacent to the #6 fairway.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Resource management objectives have been formulated for all recreational state parks in the state park system.

To utilize resource management techniques that will harmonize with the park's natural systems

To improve diversity and perpetuate renewable resources

To identify, interpret, and protect the park's historic resources

The following cost estimates were generated in March, 1982. These costs were based on current prices and available information.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Total
Vegetation						
1 Maintain two prairie openings.	$ 500			$ 500		$ 1,000*
2 Create prairie openings.					$ 5,000	5,000*
3 Manage roughs adjacent to fairways as prairie.	1,000			1,000		2,000*
4 Restore prairie in old field OF3.	3,000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	1,000	500	6,500*
5 Restore oak savanna.					15,000	15,000*
6 Stabilize eroding soils.	500			500		1,000*
7 Burn hillside prairies.	500		500		500	1,500*
8 Remove dead elm and replant major use areas.	10,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	35,000
9 Plant oak to create savanna in OF1.					15,000	15,000
10 Manage OF6 and MD for prairie.			5,000			5,000*
11 Conduct vegetation and wildlife inventory.	Covered in region's operational budget.					

*Denotes ongoing management required beyond the life of this plan.

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Total
Wildlife						
1 Maintain the maximum abundance of dead standing and downed wood (snags).	No cost.					
2 Plant native species.	Cost covered in Vegetation Management Actions.					
3 Monitor the park for Natural Heritage Program Elements.	No cost.					
4 Consider establishing food plot in park.	Conditional					
Surface Water						
1 Request development of a flood warning plan.	DNR, Division of Waters					
2 Survey centerline of campground road.	DNR, Bureau of Engineering					
3 Modify campground road as necessary.	Conditional - Depends on results of Action #2					
4 Ensure unobstructed flow of Fort Ridgely Creek.	Covered in operational budget					
Groundwater						
1 Replace water lines.	Conditional					
2 Cap off abandoned wells.	$ 2,000 (Additional costs are conditional)					$ 2,000
3 Continue annual testing of water supply.	Minnesota Department of Health					
4 Fill in abandoned underground water storage tank at chalet.	500					500
Historical Resources						
1 Conduct archaeological survey west of CSAH 30.	6,000					6,000
2 Excavate and interpret building sites.	5,000 (conditional)					5,000*
3 Develop historic trail.	Included in trail action #4					
4 Locate old fort roads.	Included in Historical Resources action #1					

*denotes ongoing management required beyond the life of this plan

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Total
5 Interpret battle.					$ 3,500	$ 3,500
6 Interpret CCC story.			$ 500		500	
7 Field check all proposed development sites.	$ 5,000					5,000
8 Locate ferry crossing.					1,500	1,500
9 Relocate historic monument.	To be determined					
10 Monitor condition of sod house.	Conditional					
11 Repair some stone drinking fountains.	To be determined					

Physical Development and Recreation Management

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Campground
- 20 campsites
- a toilet building (not accessible by people with physical disabilities)

Group Camp
- picnic tables and fire rings
- no water supply or toilet facilities
- capacity 50 people

Horseback Rider Camp
- 2 pit toilets
- picnic tables
- fire rings
- water for horses only

Picnic Areas

Upper area
- amphitheater
- 40 picnic tables
- stone picnic shelter
- toilet building (not accessible to people with physical disabilities)
- parking lot (capacity 300 vehicles)

Lower area
- 20 picnic tables
- vault toilet building (accessible to people with physical disabilities)
- stone picnic shelter
- parking lot (capacity of 90 vehicles)

Trails
- Horseback riding - 3.5 miles
- Ski touring - 2 miles
- Snowmobiling - 2.5 miles
- Hiking - 6 miles

Amphitheater
- cement platform with block background
- semicircle of benches (seating capacity of 750)

Sliding Hill
- several hills near chalet

Golf Course
- 9 - hole par 34 golf course with sand greens
- chalet for golf registration, rental of equipment, and vending machines

Administrative Facilities
- contact station
- park manager's residence
- service court with park office/shop
- wood storage building
- stone water tower

Historic Site
- 22 acre site
- reconstructed commissary serves as the interpretive center
- foundations of the other fort buildings excavated and signed for interpretation.

Cemetery
- 3.5 acres private ownership
- .02 acres national cemetery

RECREATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To coordinate the development of all recreational facilities in the park with private and other public facilities and resources in the vicinity

To limit park development to that which is necessary for efficient management and for the public to experience, study, and enjoy the natural resources

To locate park development where it will not adversely affect sensitive natural or historic resources, will not detract from the enjoyment of other users, and will allow easy access to areas of high scenic or study value

To ensure physical accessibility and program usability of new developments by people with physical disabilities, the elderly, and the very young

To recognize and make efforts to comply with appropriate state, county, and municipal policies and regulations as they refate to park development and management

The following cost estimates were generated in March, 1982. These costs were based on current prices and available information.

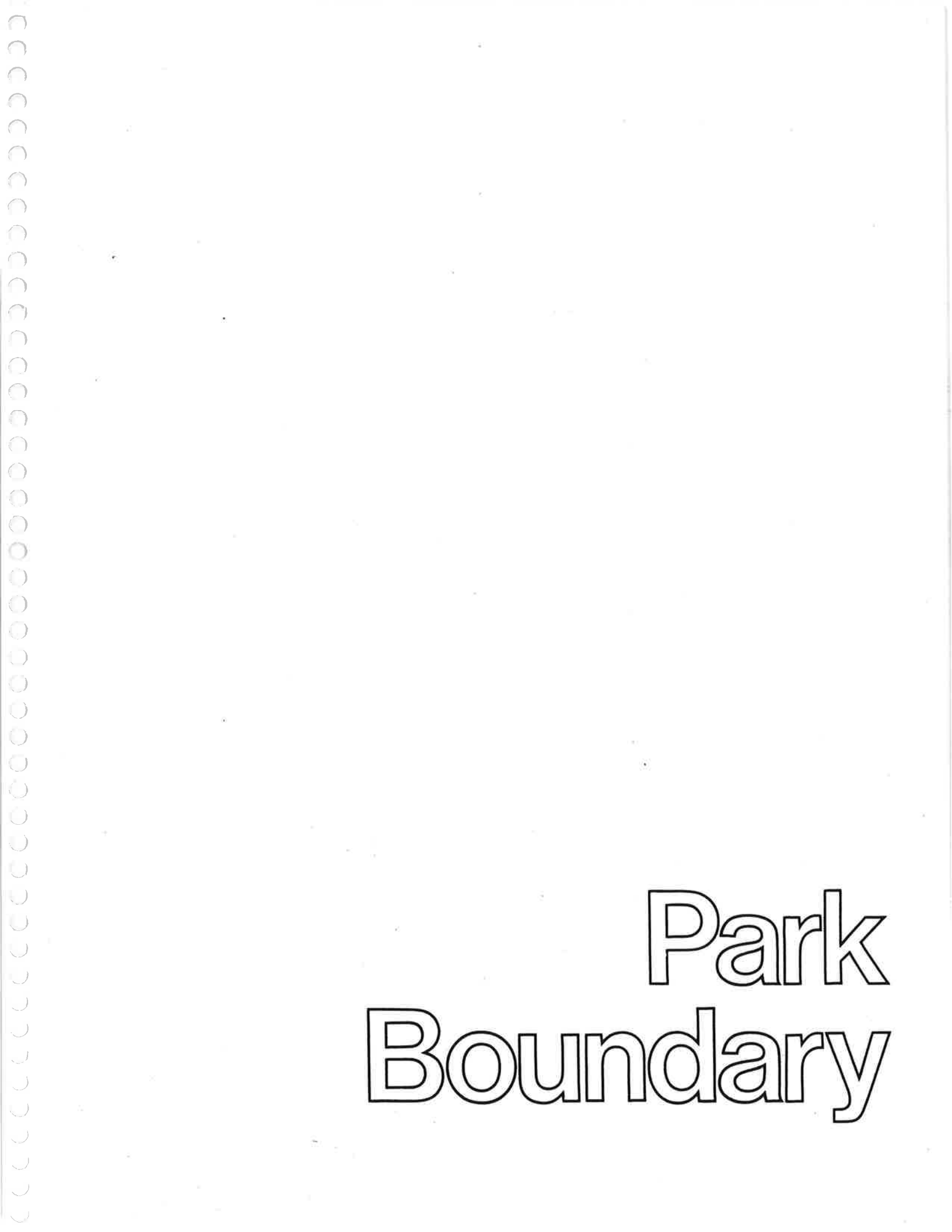
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Total
Campground						
1 Install two unisex toilets.	$ 7,000					$ 7,000
2 Construct toilet building with showers.		$90,000				90,000
3 Provide intersite screening.	Covered in Vegetation Management action #8					
4 Develop 15-20 additional vehicular campsites.	Conditional		$35,000			35,000
5 Design campground expansion.	DNR, Bureau of Eng., covered in Veg. Mgmt. Action #8					
6 Develop 5-10 primitive tent campsites.		6,000			$ 6,000	12,000
7 Rehabilitate horseback rider camp.			35,000			35,000
8 Develop small open-sided shelter in the new group camp location.					15,000	15,000
9 Develop a new group camp.			5,000			5,000
Picnic Areas						
1 Stabilize soils near amphitheater.	15,000					15,000
2 Install one unisex vault toilet.	3,500					3,500
3 Rehabilitate toilet building.	5,000					5,000
4 Rewire picnic shelter.	500					500
5 Make picnic shelter kitchen available for public use.	No development costs					
6 Replace playground equipment.					2,000	2,000
7 Develop picnic sites in existing group camp area.					4,500	4,500

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Total
8 Develop group picnic area at chalet.	$ 5,000		$ 1,000		$ 1,000	$ 7,000
9 Remodel the upper floor of chalet.	Included in Trails, action #3					
Amphitheater						
1 Evaluate structure of the amphitheater.	1,000					1,000
Trails						
1 Develop ski touring trails.	7,500					7,500
2 Develop snowmobile trails.	5,000					5,000
3 Remodel chalet.	7,000					7,000
4 Develop hiking trails.	Cost included in other Trails, actions					
5 Develop horseback riding trails.	Cost included in Trails, action #2					
6 Provide two bridges over creek.	15,000		10,000			25,000
Roads and Parking						
1 Construct segment of entrance road parallel to CSAH 30.	30,000					30,000
2 Request construction of right turn lane off TH 4.	Request work to be done by MN/DOT, conditional					
3 Request improvement of intersection at CSAH 29 and 30.	Request work to be done by county, conditional					
4 Provide safe pedestrian crossing at MHS.	No cost					
5 Asphalt campground road.					20,000	20,000
Golfing						
1 Develop cost accounting system.	Cost covered in park-operational budget					
2 Modify alignment of fairways.	No cost					
3 Modify golf course.	Conditional					

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Total
Administrative Facilities						
1 Move contact station.	$ 5,000					$ 5,000
2 Construct new contact station.				$100,000		100,000
3 Construct unheated storage building.				45,000		45,000
4 Bury utility lines.		$ 5,000				5,000
5 Construct gas and oil storage facility.	8,000					8,000
6 Provide housing for assistant manager.	Conditional - based on policy					
Interpretive Services						
1 Construct several park display boards.	2,000					2,000
2 Develop signs explaining resource management.	1,500					1,500
3 Develop interpretive signs.		1,500			$ 1,500	3,000*
4 Develop historical brochure.			$ 1,000			1,000
5 Develop slide tape show.					3,500	3,500
6 Develop winter interpretive displays for chalet.				1,000		1,000
7 Present some park interpretive programs at MHS site.	Requires agreement with MHS - No cost					
Boundary Modification						
1 Delete some privately owned acreage.	No cost					
2 Exchange some lands.	No cost					
3 Protect ravine along western park boundary.		Conditional				

* Denotes ongoing management required beyond the life of this plan.


Park
Boundary

The present statutory boundary of the park includes 584 acres. The purpose of a statutory boundary is to designate an area which includes outstanding natural and cultural resources of Minnesota as well as lands necessary for the protection and management of these resources and their enjoyment by the people of Minnesota. It is only from within this statutory boundary that the DNR can negotiate and buy land for park purposes from willing sellers. Of the total 584 acres, 504 acres are state owned and 80 acres are in private ownership. Of the 504 acres of state owned land, 22 acres are administered by MHS and 482 acres are administered by DNR. (See the Ownership Map, p 51.)

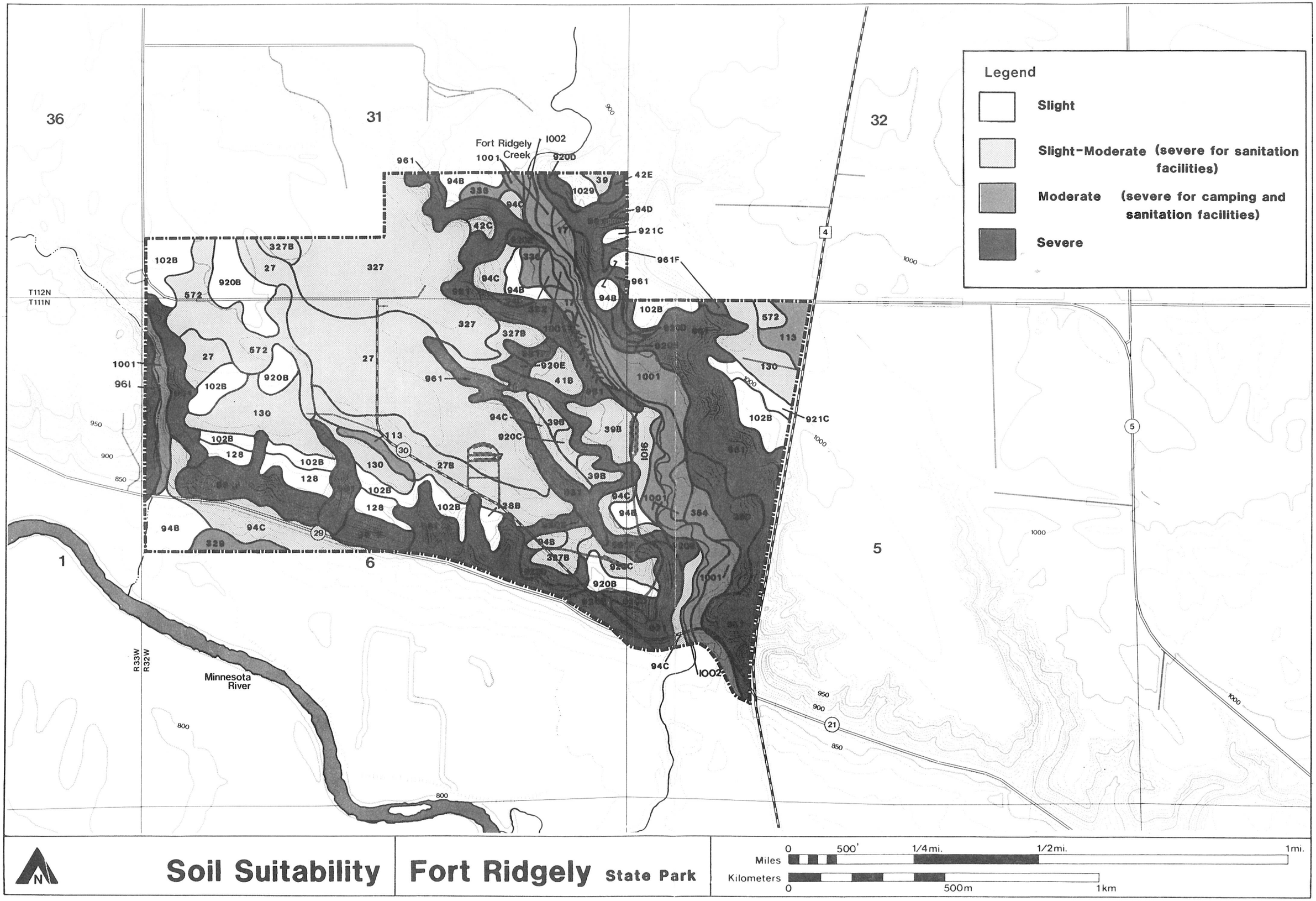
PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

Delete the privately owned acreage from the statutory boundary as illustrated on the Boundary Modifications Map, p 53.

Exchange state owned land for privately owned land of equal value in the northeastern corner of the park. (See Boundary Modifications Map, p 53). This area is needed for development of the group camp and horseback rider camp. Also, a prairie hillside would be included which would augment the existing park resources. The exchange would result in placing more accessible acreage into agricultural production. The exchange is dependent upon agreement from the private land owner and would require a legislative change of the statutory boundary.

Provide for the protection of the ravine along the western boundary of the park. (See Boundary Modifications Map, p 53). This could be accomplished through land exchange or by fee title acquisition. The existing western boundary includes a portion of the ravine but does not include the steep slopes to the western crest. It would be to the park's advantage to acquire the entire ravine. Both land exchange, purchase, and easements could be explored with the land owners to determine if an agreeable solution could be worked out. It would require a legislative change of the statutory boundary to include this land.

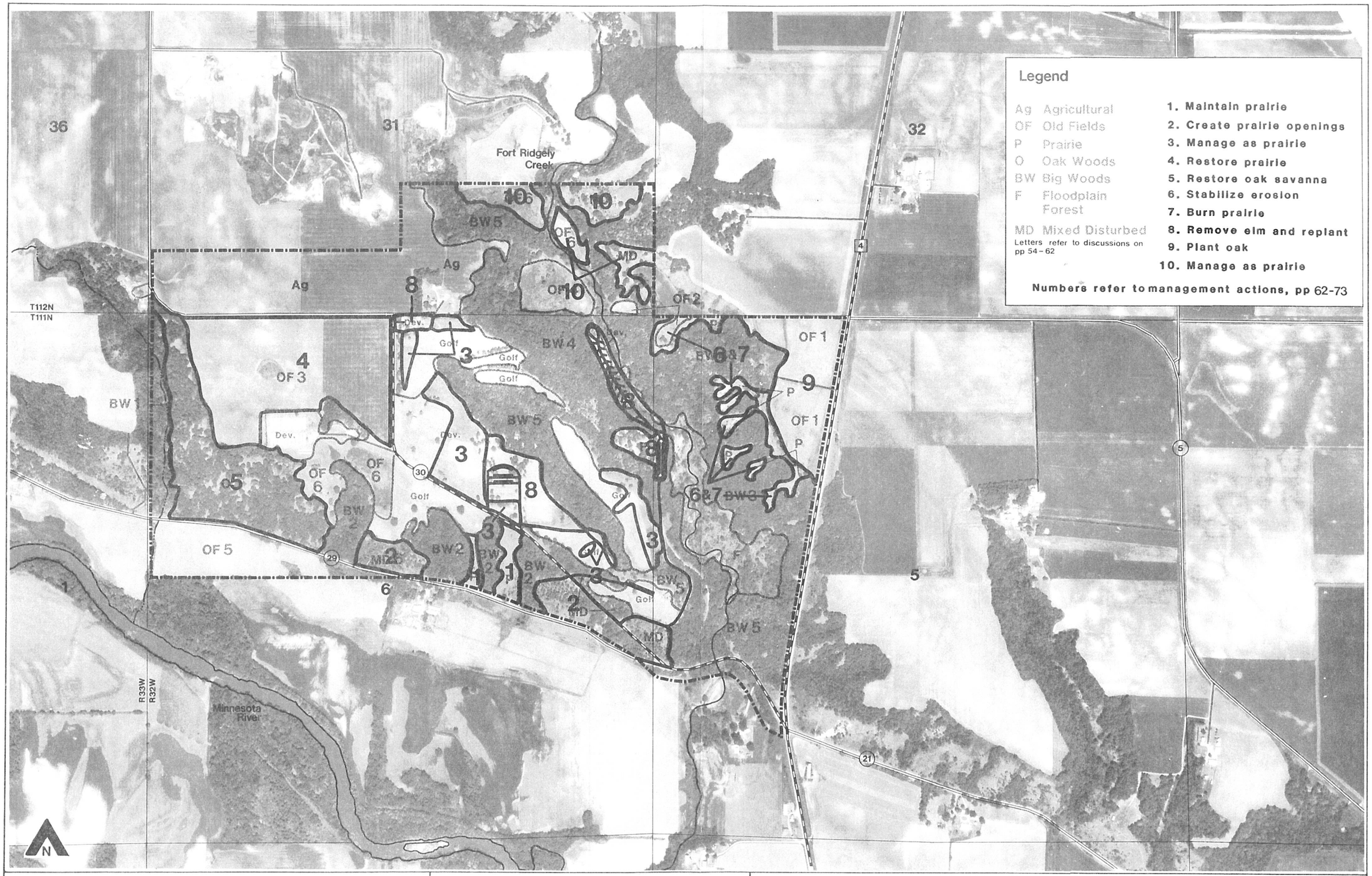
Maps



Soil Suitability | Fort Ridgely State Park

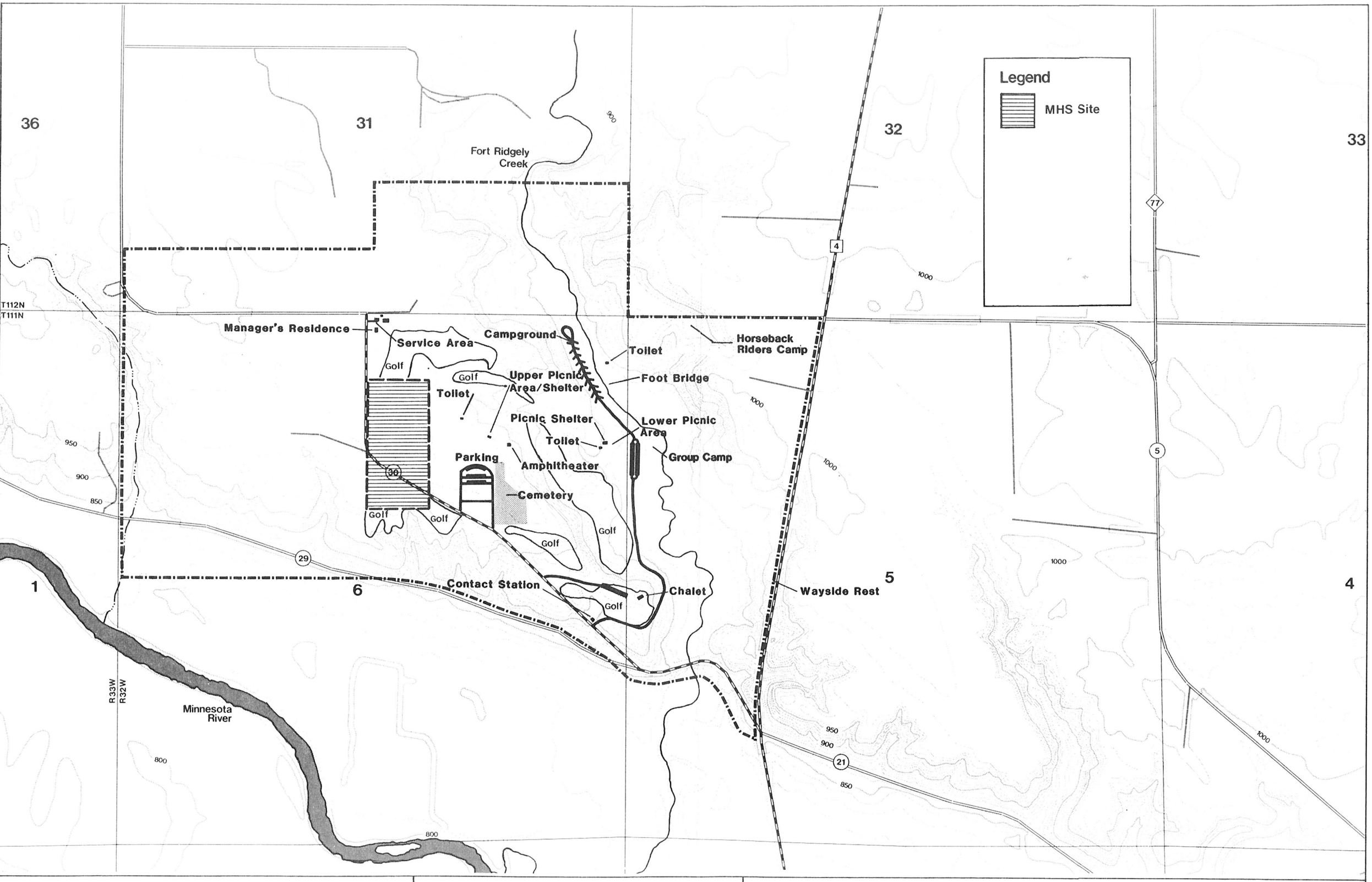
Miles: 0 — 500' — 1/4 mi. — 1/2 mi. — 1 mi.

Kilometers: 0 — 500m — 1 km



Vegetation Management

Fort Ridgely State Park

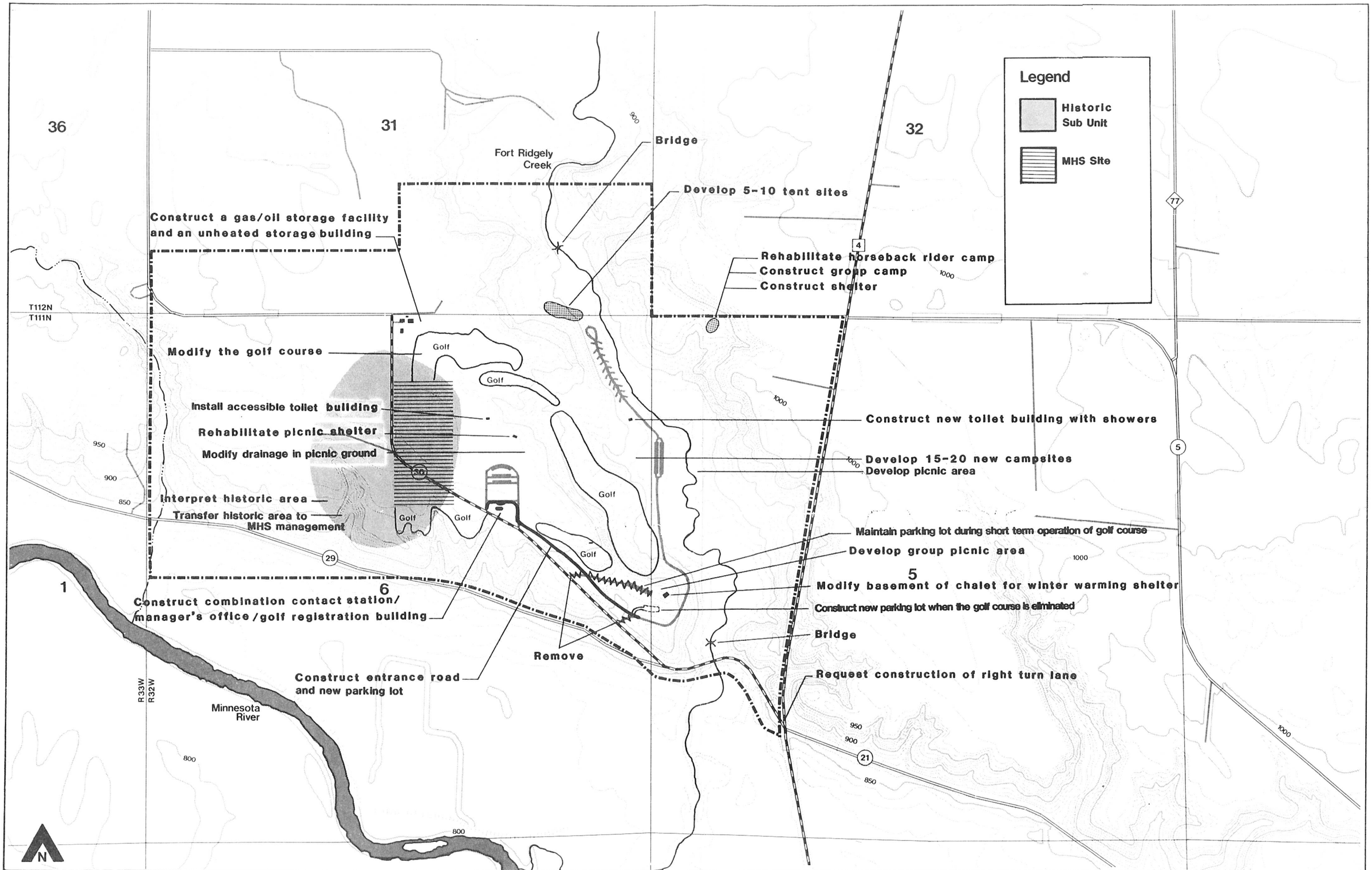


Existing Development

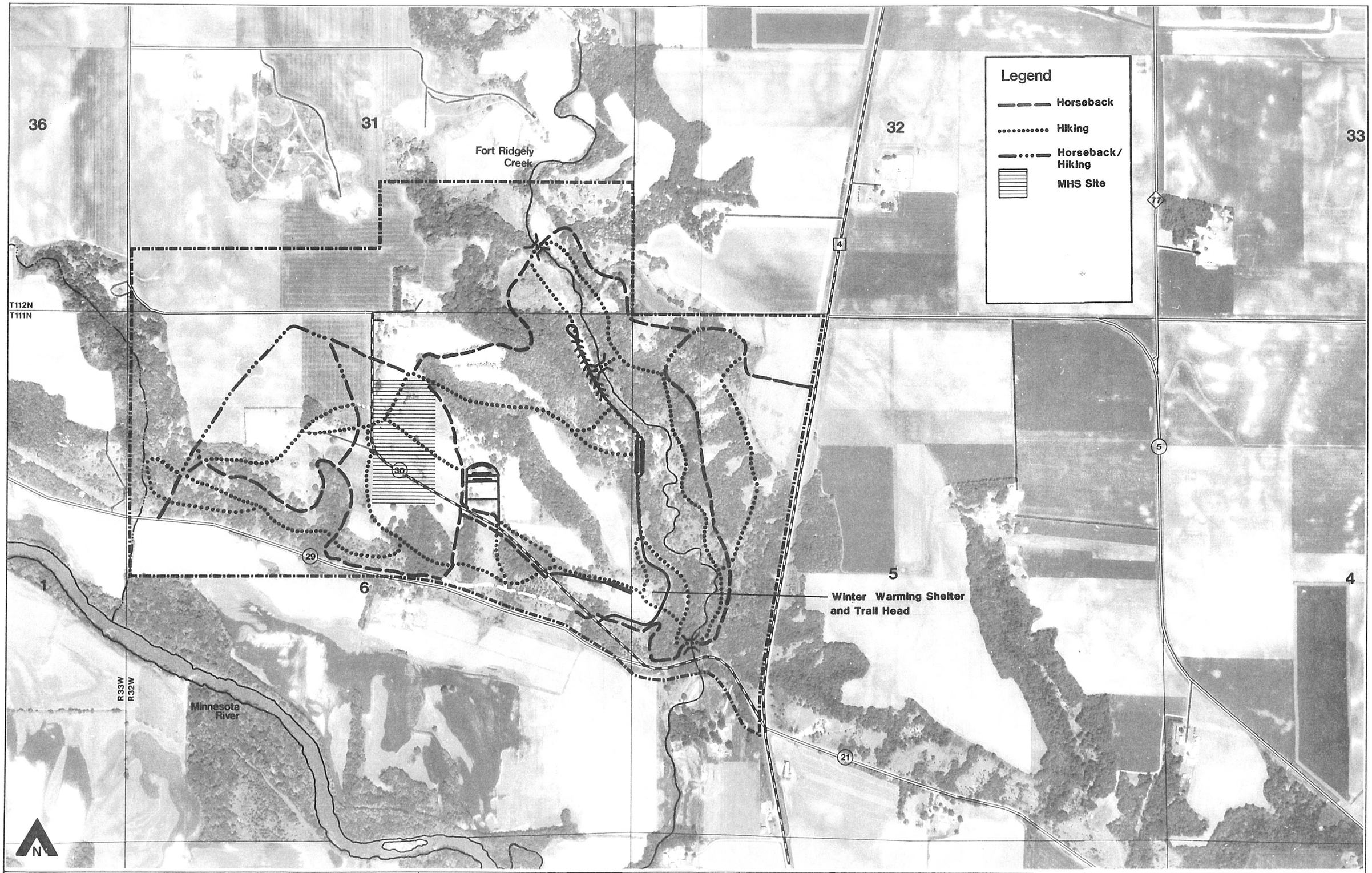
Fort Ridgely State Park

Miles: 500' 1/4 mi. 1/2 mi. 1 mi.

Kilometers: 0 500m 1 km



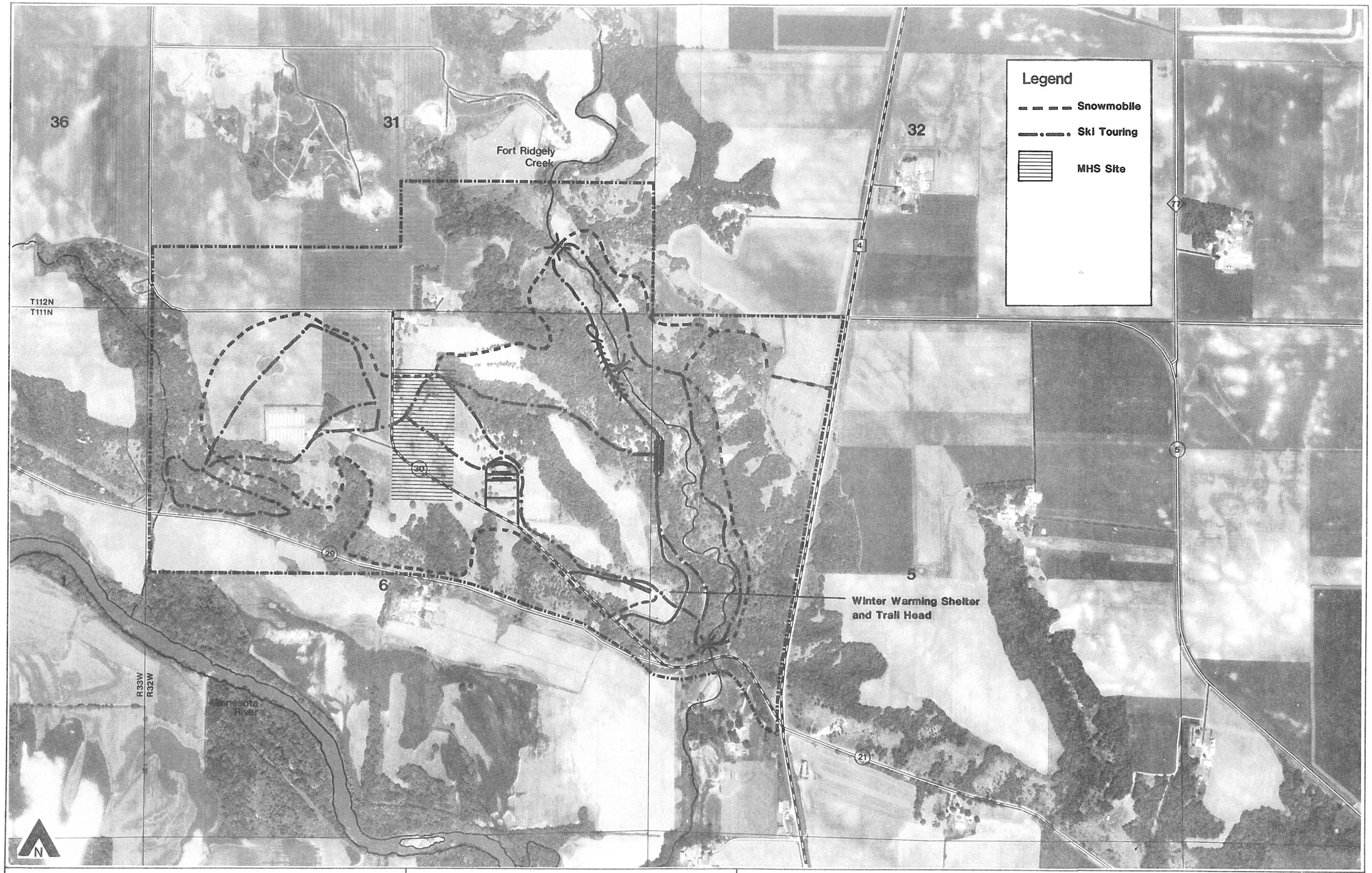
Proposed Development | Fort Ridgely State Park



Proposed Summer Trails | Fort Ridgely State Park

Miles: 0 — 500' — 1/4 mi. — 1/2 mi. — 1 mi.

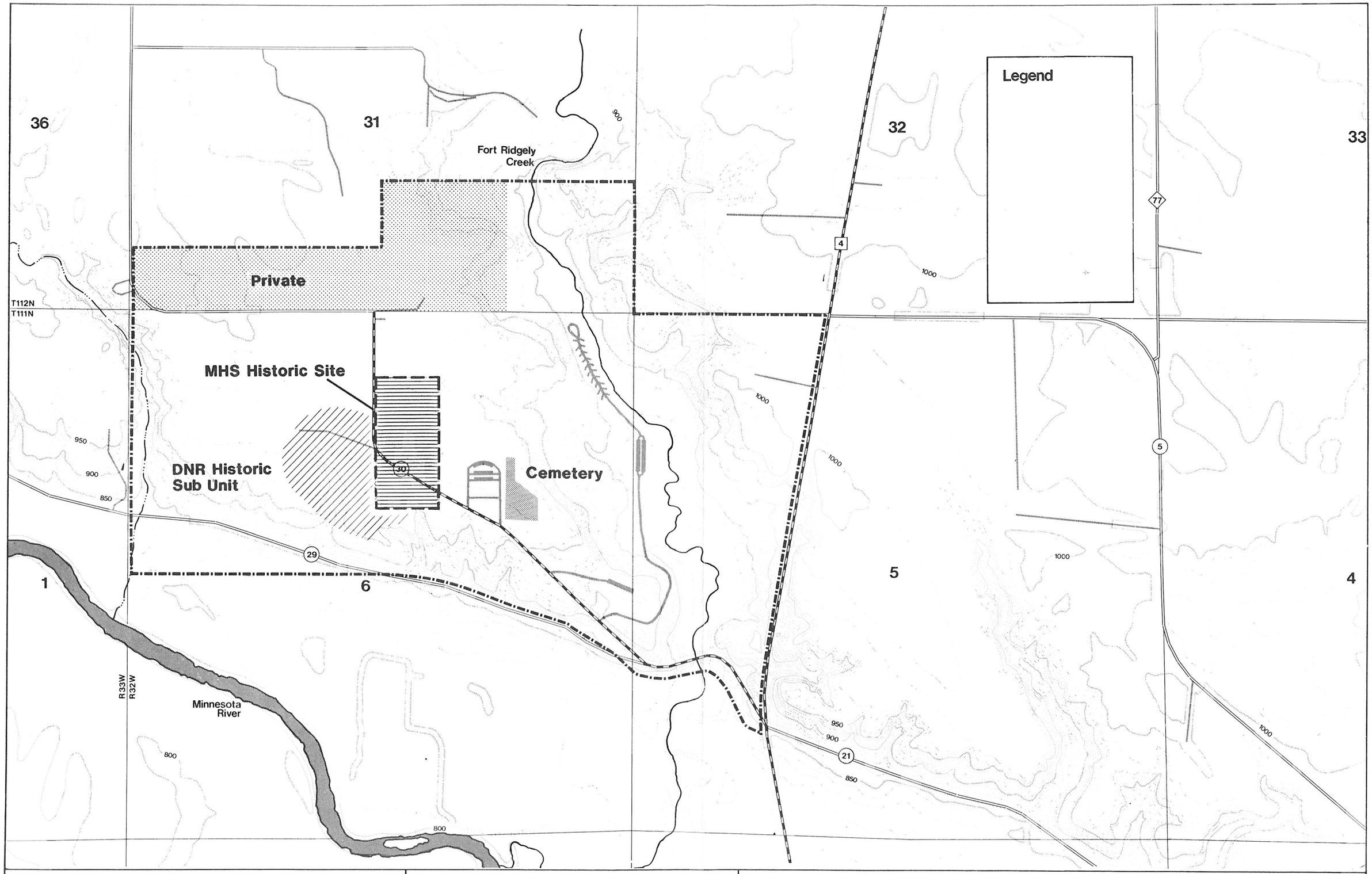
Kilometers: 0 — 500m — 1km



Proposed Winter Trails

Fort Ridgely

0 500' 1/4 mi. 1/2 mi. 1 mi.
Miles
Kilometers
0 500m 1km

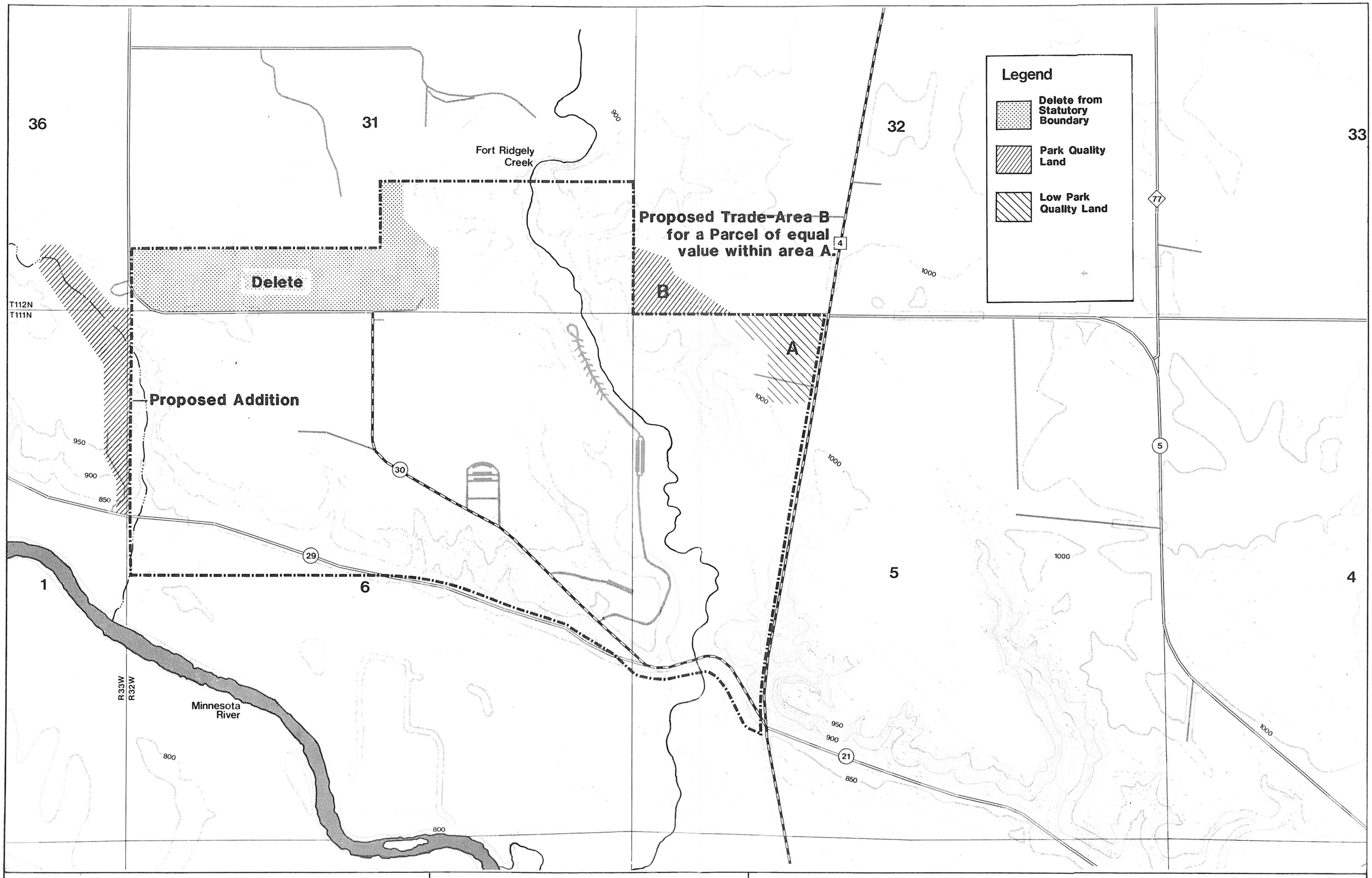


N

Ownership | Fort Ridgely State Park

Miles: 0 — 500' — 1/4 mi. — 1/2 mi. — 1 mi.

Kilometers: 0 — 500m — 1 km



Boundary Modification

Fort Ridgely State Park

Miles: 0 — 500' — 1/4 mi. — 1/2 mi. — 1 mi.

Kilometers: 0 — 500m — 1 km