

A Management Plan for  
**Scenic**  
State Park

November, 1978

Prepared by the  
**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**



# Credits

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# Purpose of Plan

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## MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

Minnesota is blessed with an abundance of high quality resources and, even more importantly, with leaders who have the wisdom and foresight to protect these resources. As a result, Minnesota today has one of the finest state recreation systems in the country. The Department of Natural Resources, with the assistance of concerned lawmakers, conservation and recreation groups, and private citizens, intends to do its utmost to provide planning that will be responsive to the needs of this generation while protecting the birthright of the next.

The management and development philosophy for the Minnesota state park system consists of two major objectives. The first is the protection of the natural resources within the recreation system. Without this protection, a resource can be destroyed in an alarmingly short period of time. Thus, protection benefits not only future generations, but present-day users as well. The second objective is maximizing the recreation opportunities available to the user, both in terms of quality and variety. It is the DNR's position that every citizen should share in the beauty and recreational opportunities of Minnesota's natural resources as well as the responsibility for maintaining and preserving them.

Obviously, there are going to be situations where use and preservation conflict. Every attempt will be made to reconcile these conflicts by the use of responsible management and development techniques. When this is not possible, however, the primary concern must be preservation of the resource. Allowing our resources to deteriorate would not only jeopardize high quality recreation for this generation but for future generations as well. To maintain a high quality recreational experience, it may be necessary to limit the number of people using a unit at a given time or to restrict certain activities within that unit. When this occurs, an attempt will be made to provide these activities at a nearby unit that has a higher tolerance to use.

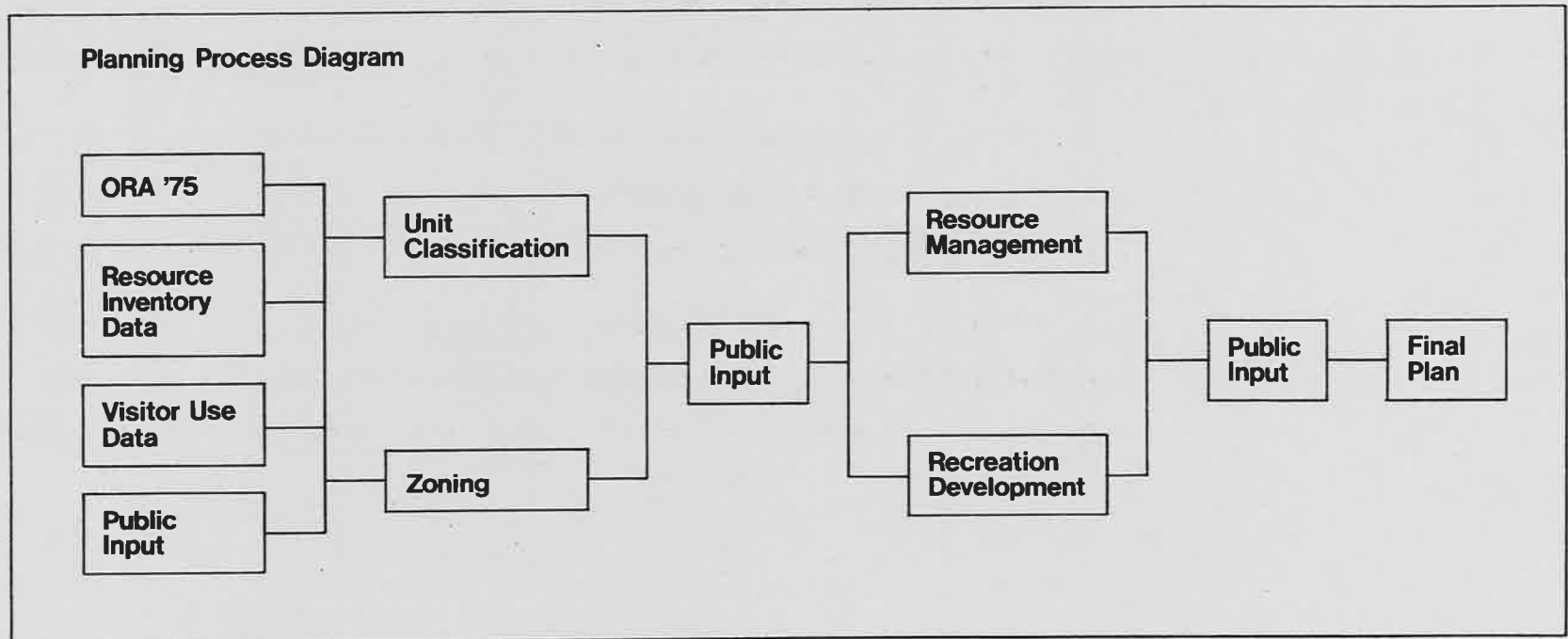
In the management and development process, the DNR will consider probable future impacts which would affect each park. In spite of this, unforeseen circumstances are bound to occur. Therefore, each plan should be reviewed periodically to see that it is still relevant in light of current conditions. While a plan can and should be modified if conditions change, nothing should be done that would be detrimental to the objectives set forth in this philosophy.



## OUTDOOR RECREATION ACT REVIEW

The Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975 (ORA '75) was enacted by the Minnesota Legislature to "preserve an accurate representation of Minnesota's natural and historical heritage" and to "provide an adequate supply of scenic, accessible, and usable lands and waters to accommodate the outdoor recreation needs of Minnesota's citizens." In an effort to improve long-range planning for the state recreation system, the legislature has directed that management and development plans be prepared for each unit in the system.

ORA '75 also redefined certain recreation unit classifications. For example, the state park classification was divided into recreational state parks and natural state parks. As a part of the overall planning process, the classification of each unit will be reviewed to insure that it is consistent with the resources in that unit. These plans will be used as a guide for developing management policies and planning recreation facilities in each unit. The ORA '75 also states that after August 1, 1977, no development funding will be permitted for any unit until a management and development plan has been completed and reviewed for that unit. By authorizing this planning program, the legislature has taken a significant step toward building a state recreation system in which every Minnesotan can take great pride.



# Summary of Plan

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## INTRODUCTION

Scenic State Park is a 1,632-acre park located in northeastern Itasca County, forty-five miles north of Grand Rapids and six miles east of Bigfork. The park is characterized by rolling, wooded topography dotted with lakes.

## CLASSIFICATION

Scenic State Park has been recommended for classification as a natural state park in accordance with the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975.

## GOAL

The goals for Scenic State Park are to restore the vegetation to that of presettlement, pre-logging times and to provide an area for the interpretation and enjoyment of the resources and phenomena which typify the Pine Moraine Landscape Region.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

To identify the origin of geologic phenomena

To maintain the high quality of surficial waters and to restore the natural flow of groundwater and sub-surficial waters

To improve fish populations and species diversity in the lakes identified as fishing lakes

To locate recreational facilities on suitable soils

To restore vegetation (particularly the pine stands) to a state similar to presettlement, pre-logging times

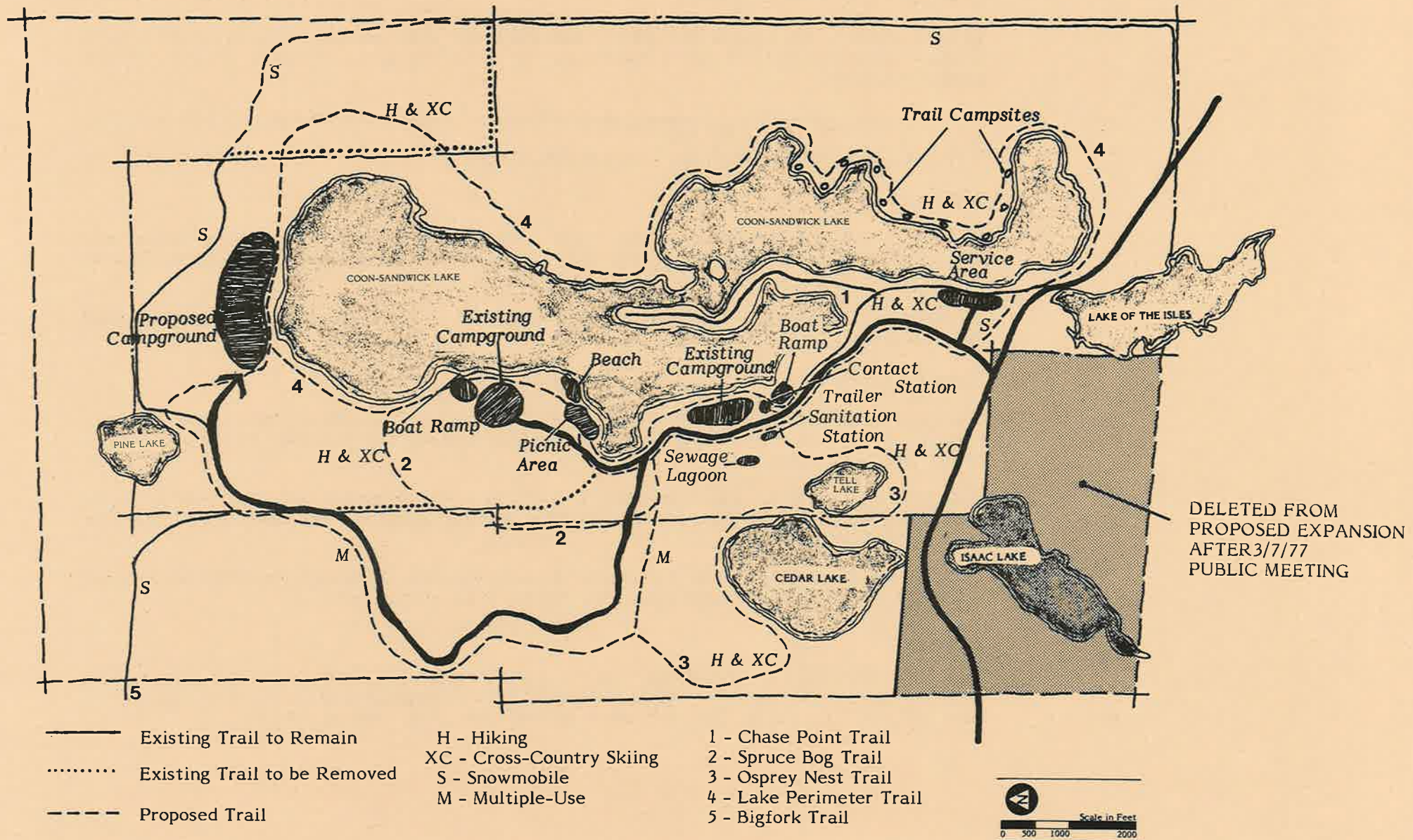
To increase and control wildlife populations and species diversity

To identify and protect any potential prehistoric or historic sites within the park

To provide only those recreational facilities which are necessary for the appropriate use and enjoyment of the park



PROPOSED RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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To expand the interpretive program

To make boundary adjustments and acquire lands which will insure on-land access to the entire park, adequate protection of the park's resources, and sufficient acreage to exemplify the Pine Moraine Landscape Region

To provide sufficient staff and equipment to effectively control park usage and protect park resources

#### NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT

##### Geology

Inventory - Glacial activity played a major role in the formation of the topography of Scenic State Park. The most outstanding geologic formation resultant from this glacial activity is Chase Point on Coon/Sandwick Lake.

Management - Chase Point is believed to be a glacial esker, however, an in-depth study of the point should be undertaken to determine its exact origin.

##### Water Resources

Inventory - Scenic State Park has abundant water resources. There are six lakes either totally or partially within the park's current statutory boundaries and significant acreage is characterized by conifer bogs and swamps.

Management - Surficial water resource management will emphasize programs geared toward maintaining the high quality of the fisheries lakes and protecting the two lakes which have been classified as wildlife lakes.

The blockage of the natural flow of sub-surficial water into Coon/Sandwick Lake should be corrected, allowing the vegetation killed by the backflow flooding to be reestablished.

##### Fisheries

Inventory - Currently Coon/Sandwick Lake has high populations of northern pike and panfish, along with largemouth bass, suckers, walleye, and perch. Issac (Elizabeth) Lake has northern pike, panfish, bass, and perch. Lake of the Isles has panfish, northern pike, bass, walleye, and perch.



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Cedar Lake has perch but, along with Tell and Pine lakes, is subject to frequent winterkill.

Management - Coon/Sandwich Lake has been managed for walleye and panfish, along with stocking of northern pike. It is recommended that northern stocking be stopped and walleye stocking begun, along with possible reclamation of panfish. Issac Lake has been managed for largemouth bass and panfish. Recommended management will focus on largemouth bass. Lake of the Isles has been managed for panfish and bass with walleye stocking. Recommended management will focus on largemouth bass.

Cedar and Tell lakes will be managed for aquatic fur-bearers and waterfowl. Pine Lake will not be managed; natural processes will be allowed to continue.

#### Soils

Inventory - The soils in Scenic State Park range from peat and clay in the lowlands, to sandy and sandy loamy soils on the upland ridges.

Management - Many areas within the park have soils which cannot tolerate development. All development and vegetation management should be based on the results of a detailed soil analysis. In areas where there are soil erosion problems, immediate steps should be taken to rectify the situation.

#### Vegetation

Inventory - Considerable portions of the park are covered with pioneer hardwood communities which replaced the pine stands logged off in the early 1900's.

Management - Significant portions of the park should be managed so pine stands will be reestablished, thereby recapturing the original northern conifer forest character of the landscape.

#### Wildlife

Inventory - Over 190 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles inhabit or visit the park regularly.

Management - Wildlife management will be directed toward population control of problem species, habitat improvement for northern conifer forest species, and protection of nesting and den sites. There will be management programs directed toward control of beaver, deer, and wolf populations. The nesting areas of the loon, bald eagle, and osprey, in particular, will be protected.

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### Prehistoric and Historic Sites

Inventory - Because of the existence of several prehistoric and historic sites near the park, it is likely that a field survey will reveal sites within the park.

Management - A field survey will be conducted in conjunction with the Historical Society.

### RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The following actions are recommended to enhance the park's attractiveness and improve management:

#### Chase Point Campground (75 sites)

1. Install a trailer sanitation dump station
2. Upgrade campsites, improve layout of the campground, and install electrical hookups at 40 of the campsites

#### Lodge Campground (42 sites)

1. Upgrade the campsites
2. Remodel the interior of the sanitation building
3. Re-roof the water tower

#### Group Campground

1. Screen the site from County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 7

#### Proposed Primitive Vehicular Campground (on north shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake)

1. Install 30 campsites with picnic tables, fire rings, and tent areas
2. Construct pit toilets
3. Supply a central water source from the fire tower well

#### Proposed Walk-in/Boat-in Campsites (on the east shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake)

1. Develop 12 campsites along the lake perimeter trail; each with a table, a fire ring with a fuel break, and a wilderness toilet

#### Beach

1. Move the swimming beach to a sandy, sunnier location further northeast along the shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake



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### Picnic Area

1. Upgrade the sanitation building

### Boat Launches

1. Screen the Chase Point campground boat launch parking lot from the lake
2. Improve the Lodge campground boat launch ramp to provide low-water access

### Trails

1. Chase Point Trail
  - a. Stop erosion at the tip of the point by riprapping at the waterline, inlaying log risers down the slope, and revegetating
  - b. Upgrade the treadway
  - c. Build small parking area at the base of the point
2. Snowmobile Trail
  - a. Add two miles to the existing trail
  - b. Reroute the section of trail that runs from the trail center to the north end of the park
  - c. Realign portions of the trail that run along the northern border
3. Spruce Swamp Trail
  - a. Build a non-riding, multi-use trail through the spruce swamp immediately north of the Lodge campground
4. Osprey Nest Trail
  - a. Build a non-riding, multi-use trail around Cedar and Tell lakes
5. Lake Perimeter Trail
  - a. Build a non-riding, multi-use trail with 12 walk-in/boat-in campsites along the eastern shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake

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### Roads

1. Park Entrance Road
  - a. Pave the road that runs from the picnic area to the Lodge campground boat launch
  - b. Put culverts under the road to allow for natural drainage flow
2. Parking Lot at the Picnic Lodge
  - a. Pave the existing lot
  - b. Build an adjacent snowmobile parking area
3. Fire Tower Road
  - a. Upgrade the existing road to a primitive gravel road

### Utilities

1. Replace all overhead electrical and telephone lines with underground lines
2. Place all waterlines below the frost line
3. Install a new closed sewage system for the service and development areas on the west shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake

### Buildings

1. Paint the manager's residence and screen it from the lake
2. Build a garage adjacent to the manager's residence
3. Replace the windows in the assistant manager's residence
4. Re-roof and repair the garage and storage buildings
5. Repair and remodel the naturalist's cabin for year-around occupancy
6. Rebuild the stairway on the old fire tower according to current safety standards
7. Construct an addition to the Lodge or an adjacent building which will serve as a trail/interpretive center

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## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

The current interpretive program consists of a morning hike concentrating on the park's wildlife and vegetation, an afternoon hike to the fire tower concentrating on vegetation and geology, and evening films primarily on the flora and fauna of northern Minnesota. The management objective is to aid the park visitors in their understanding of the natural resources of Scenic State Park. The management recommendations are to provide additional multi-media programs explaining the geological, biological, and aesthetic phenomena of the park, and to expand the schedule of hikes. The program should also include distribution of informative brochures to facilitate self-guided interpretive hikes. Once the statewide interpretive plan is completed, its recommendations will be incorporated into Scenic's program.

## BOUNDARY CHANGES AND ACQUISITION

There are several problems at Scenic State Park which are directly related to the current park boundary.

1. The only existing access to the northern portion of the park is the old forestry road which winds in and out of the park.
2. Over half of the acreage within the present park boundary is trust fund land. Even though this land can be used for any park purpose, all income derived must be turned over to the school district.
3. At one point, the east edge of Coon/Sandwick Lake lies only 200 feet from the park boundary.
4. Lakes comprise one-third of the total acreage within the current park boundary.

In order to correct these problems, it was recommended that the statutory boundary be expanded by 1,760 acres. However, the proposed expansion was modified as a result of a recent public information meeting. From the earlier recommendations, 240 acres of private land and 160 acres of state-owned land were deleted (see map, page 14 ).

## STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT

The present staff at Scenic consists of a manager, an assistant manager, four park workers, one lifeguard, three laborers, and one volunteer naturalist. The management objective of providing adequate personnel and equipment to efficiently and effectively manage Scenic State Park will be achieved by providing adequate equipment and increasing the park staff according to the park's development schedule.



VISTA OF SCENIC FROM THE FIRE TOWER.

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## Unit Character

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### REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Scenic State Park is located approximately seven miles east of the town of Bigfork on CSAH 7. Trunk Highways (TH) 6, 38, 65, and 169 are the major north-south highways serving the area. TH 1 and US 2 provide east-west access and intersect most major north-south highways in northern Minnesota. There is no scheduled public transportation available in Bigfork. There is a regularly scheduled bus service in Grand Rapids, 45 miles south of the park.

The nearest population centers are the cities of Grand Rapids, Hibbing, and Virginia. Together they have a population of well over 50,000 and are located within 75 miles of the park. The closest major population center is the Duluth-Superior area, 125 miles southeast. The park is over 225 miles north of the Twin Cities, approximately a 4-hour drive.

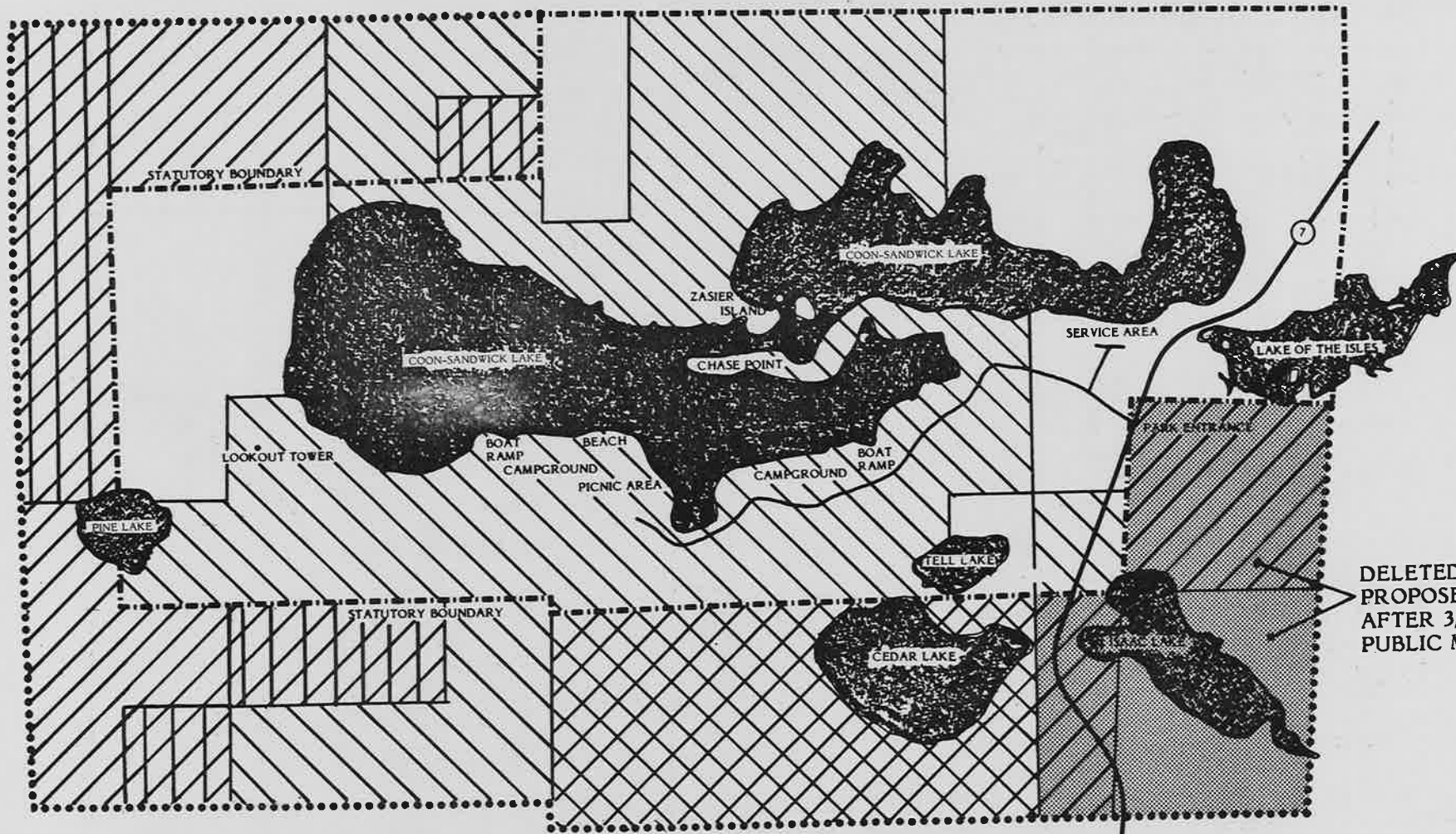
Scenic State Park is in a very high quality recreation area. The western boundary borders the Chippewa National Forest and it lies completely within the George Washington State Forest. Primitive and modern campgrounds, all-season trails, water access sites, beaches, hunting, fishing, and a wide variety of other outdoor recreational opportunities are provided.

Both state and federal governments own land around the park. This property is managed primarily for forest production and serves as an excellent buffer, protecting the park. The only private developments in the area are: several seasonal residences on Pine Lake in the northern part of the park, and two cabins, and a store just outside the southwest corner of the park. Although, these improvements do not have a significant impact on the park, further development of this kind could alter the park's natural character.







Itasca County has a highly developed tourist industry. Of the total gross expenditures in the county in 1974, 11.2% was directly related to tourism. This is a very significant number when compared to the statewide average of 3.4%. The continued provision of attractive, diversified recreational opportunities is essential to maintain the high level of tourist expenditures.

Scenic State Park is located in the Pine Moraine Landscape Region of Minnesota which is part of the "Big Moraine" complex. This is an area of rough terrain shaped like a reversed question mark extending from Albert Lea through the Twin Cities to Detroit Lakes, Park Rapids, and into the Arrowhead. This type of moraine was formed by deposition of glacial materials at the leading edge of repeated glacial advances. Moraines are composed of materials ranging in size from fine clay particles to boulders. In this northern region, the landscape is characterized by ranges of hills and is pocketed with countless lakes, ponds, bogs, and rivers formed by the retreating glaciers. These lakes are now used for all types of activities throughout the year. The shorelines are dotted with seasonal residences, swimming beaches, and access sites along with dozens of private resorts.





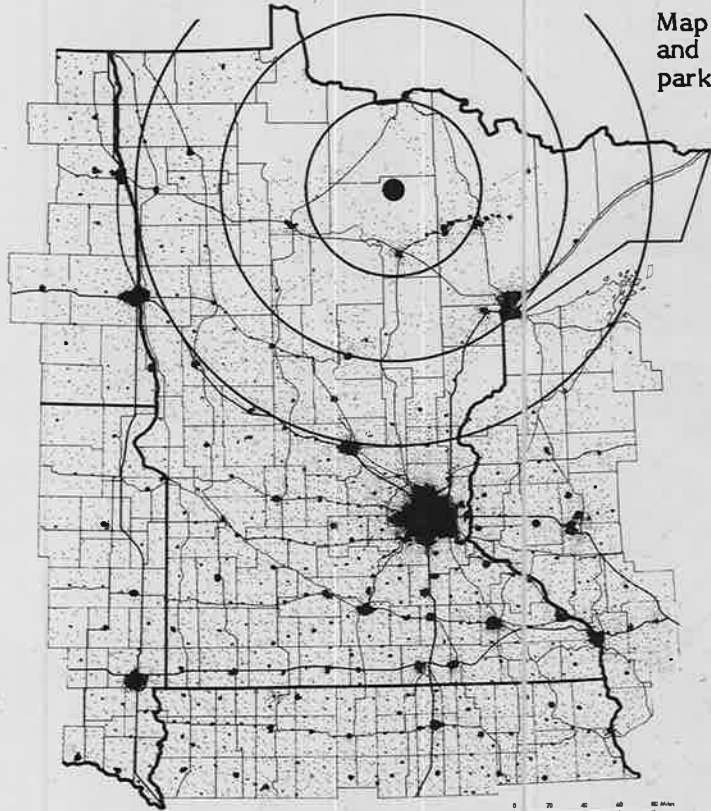
DELETED FROM  
PROPOSED EXPANSION  
AFTER 3/7/77  
PUBLIC MEETING

- |   |         |   |                   |
|---|---------|---|-------------------|
|  | State   |  | Trust Fund        |
|  | Private |  | Federal           |
|  | County  |  | Proposed Boundary |





POPULATION DISTRIBUTION 1970



Map indicates 50, 100, and 150 mile radii from park.

PROXIMITY TO POPULATION CENTER

Center	*Distance	Travel Time	Approximate Population
Grand Rapids	45	1 hrs.	7,247
Duluth	126	2½ hrs.	100,578
Twin Cities	200	4 hrs.	2,090,000
Counties within 25 miles:			
Itasca			33,740
Koochiching	*Approx. Road Mileage		16,285
St. Louis			214,005

LOCATION MAP





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Prior to the settlement by Europeans, vegetation consisted largely of pine, with scattered hardwoods in the western portion of the region and some spruce-fir in the eastern portion. While some pine has regenerated in the cut-over areas, aspen and birch forest generally dominates the region today.

Before 1890, the population of Itasca County consisted of only a few trappers and loggers. However, as the upper Mississippi River Valley began to be settled, homesteaders and farmers moved in and business soon followed. By 1890, the population had risen to nearly 24,000 people. As the iron mining industry continued to grow, the population continued to grow along with it. Within the last 10 years the population has leveled off at about 35,000 and is expected to remain fairly stable.

#### Sources

Department of Economic Development, The Economic Distribution of Tourist Travel Expenditures in Minnesota by Regions and Counties, (St. Paul: Department of Economic Development, 1975).

Bureau of Planning and Environmental Planning Section, Minnesota Resource Potentials in State Outdoor Recreation, Project 80, Staff Report #1, (St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and State Planning Agency, 1971).

Aguar, Jyring, Whiteman, and Moser, Background for Planning Itasca County, 1968, p. 14.



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## CLIMATE

Scenic State Park is subject to the strong continental weather patterns that influence all of Minnesota. The park is influenced by cold Arctic air during winter months and is frequently dominated by hot air masses from the Gulf of Mexico during summer months.

### Temperature Variations

Mean January Maximum	16 <sup>o</sup> F
Mean January Minimum	-10 <sup>o</sup> F

Mean July Maximum	80 <sup>o</sup> F
Mean July Minimum	52 <sup>o</sup> F

### Mean Average Extremes/Frequency

-0 <sup>o</sup> F	60 days/year
+90 <sup>o</sup> F	5 days/year

### Precipitation

Annual Total	25-26"
Annual Snowfall	65-70"

### Prevailing Winds

Northwest	(October - May)
Southeast	(June - September)

### Source

U. S. Department of Commerce, Climate of Minnesota, by Earl L. Kuehnast, Climatography of the United States No. 60-21, 1959, Rev. 1972.

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## GEOLOGY

During the Ice Age, glaciers centered in Canada advanced and retreated several times through most of Minnesota. The Rainy lobe came down from the north and the St. Louis sublobe of the Grantsburg-Des Moines lobe from the northwest. The landscape of most of the state was shaped by this glacial movement and meltwater.

Chase Point is a long, narrow ridge which projects into Coon/Sandwich Lake. It begins one quarter mile north of the park headquarters on the west side of the lake and extends northward for nearly a mile. Boulders are strewn along the top of the ridge, which in some places is 60 to 70 feet high. A stand of Norway pine covers its surface. This long ridge may be what is referred to geologically as an esker. The geological processes which formed Chase Point are not completely understood at this time. Therefore, further study is needed to positively identify the origin of this landform.

Lake of the Isles, Spring, Cedar, Tell, and Pine lakes all appear to be glacial lakes formed by the melting of stationary ice blocks which broke off the glacier. Pine Lake, on the northern boundary of the park has slopes up to 50 feet high. They were formed by the glacial drift which accumulated in front of the ice block. When the ice melted the glacial till remained forming a steep vertical slope.

Streams from the retreating ice northwest of the park flowed around the melting ice masses. In some places the streams moved the glacial debris while in others they deposited sedimentary loads of sand and gravel. A gravel pit in the northwest corner of the park reveals the nature of these deposits. Boulders two to three feet in diameter are intermixed with cobbles, pebbles, and sand.

### Source

Zumberge, James H., "Geology of Scenic State Park," Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, July-August 1950, p. 22.

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## PARK HISTORY

The early area residents organized a movement to preserve the scenic virgin pine surrounding Coon/Sandwick Lake. In 1921, a commission was named to supervise the park, under direction of the state auditor, Ray P. Chase. In 1925, the first park building was erected on Chase Point picnic ground. The ranger's cabin and superintendent's residence were built by the forest service. In 1933, the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), through the National Park Service, constructed a road from the base of Chase Point to the west side of Coon/Sandwick Lake, where a picnic ground and campground with all necessary facilities were built.

Use of the park has grown from an estimated attendance of 12,214 in 1936 to 48,258 in 1974. It is extensively used for family camping. Today there are 117 campsites, including the original 30 developed by the CCC program.

According to the 1974 Minnesota State Park Users Survey, camping was the most popular activity at Scenic. Other popular activities, in decreasing order were hiking, fishing, and swimming.

### Source

Information on Scenic State Park is taken from "On the Banks of the Bigfork" written by people of the area in 1956.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Environmental Planning and Protection, Minnesota 1974 State Park Users Survey: Technical Report, (St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 1975).



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#### ADJACENT LAND

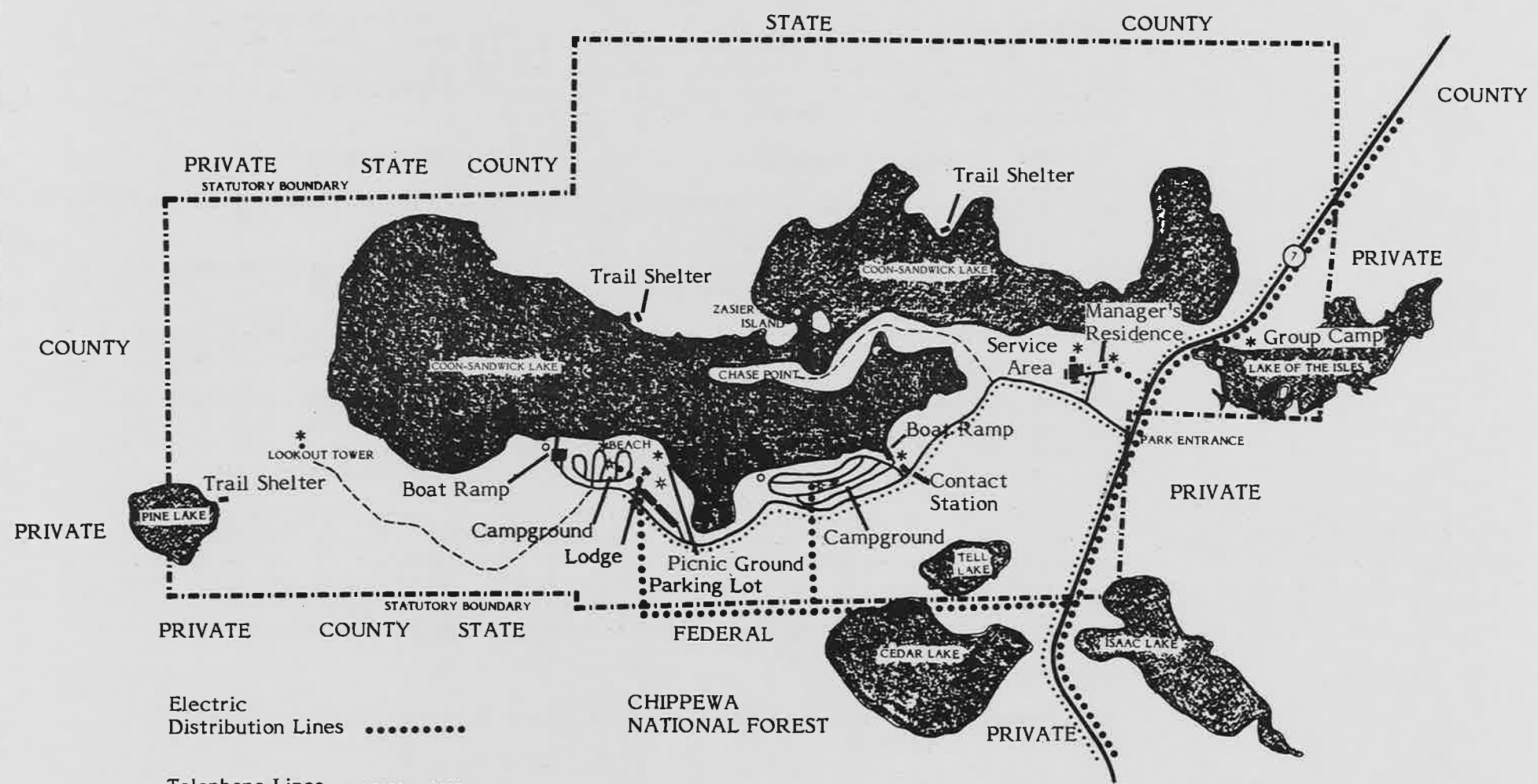
The land surrounding Scenic State Park is nearly all undeveloped. Only a few cabins break the acres of forests, swamps, and lakes. The major uses of the land in the area are forestry and recreation. Approximately two-thirds of the adjacent land is publicly owned (county, state, and federal), one-third is privately owned.

The access corridor into Scenic is CSAH 7, a paved highway that cuts across the southwest corner of the park. The vegetation along this roadway is predominantly forest with some swamps and lakes. The only development within this corridor is a cluster of residences just outside the western boundary with a few others scattered along the road.

The overhead electric and telephone lines that parallel CSAH 7 through the park are visible and as such, are major intrusions. The road to the lookout tower is a minor intrusion because it is also used for access to some of the private land in the northwest corner of the park.

UTILITIES  
 ADJACENT LAND  
 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

GEORGE WASHINGTON STATE FOREST



- Electric Distribution Lines    .....
- Telephone Lines            .....
- Water Well                    \*
- Sanitation Building        \*
- Fish Cleaning House        o



# Classification

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## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975 (ORA '75), the park planning staff has reviewed the classification of each park under study this biennium. After the park resource inventory was completed for each park, the planning staff determined:

- A. Which of the eleven classifications from ORA '75 was most appropriate for the park
- B. Whether sub-units should be considered to deal with special areas within the park (scientific and natural areas or other sub-units authorized in ORA '75)
- C. Whether administration of the park should be reassigned to other governmental bodies (other state agencies, county or local governments)

Each park has been recommended for classification according to its resources, and will be managed and developed according to the nature of those resources and their ability to tolerate visitor use.

Of primary concern in setting management direction is the protection of those natural resources which make a park unique. There is also the need for a statewide recreation system which will meet the recreational needs of our society without unduly harming the resources of the park. The intent of state park classification is to relate the above two concerns to an overall management program.

It should be noted that the natural state park classification does not necessarily exclude recreational activities from a park. This classification places management and development emphasis on the preservation and interpretation of the natural resources within the park. By the same token, recreational state park classification emphasizes a wide range of recreational activities, but not to the exclusion of other activities or to the point where the natural resources within the park are damaged. The following paragraphs outline the factors involved in the classification of this park.

### Objective:

To determine the most suitable management direction for a given park, based on its natural resources and recreational potential

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## UNIT CONSIDERATIONS

Scenic State Park has been recommended for classification as a natural state park because it substantially fulfills all of the following ORA '75 criteria:

"Exemplifies the natural characteristics of one of the major landscape regions of the state, as shown by accepted classifications, in an essentially unspoiled or restored condition or in a condition that will permit restoration in the foreseeable future; or contains essentially unspoiled natural resources of sufficient extent and importance to meaningfully contribute to the broad illustration of the state's natural phenomena."

"Contains natural resources, sufficiently diverse and interesting to attract people from throughout the state."

"Is sufficiently large to permit protection of the plant and animal life, and other natural resources which give the park its qualities, and provide for a broad range of opportunities for human enjoyment of these qualities."

Scenic State Park was set aside specifically to illustrate what the area looked like before being logged. Scenic's lakes, bogs, virgin pine stands, and glacial features attract people from throughout the state. This park is a destination park and visitors commonly stay for long periods of time.

The park now has 1,632 acres. This is not large enough for the adequate preservation and perpetuation of its natural resources. A buffer zone is formed around portions of the park by national and state forests, however, the proposed expansion in this plan will further preserve the park's more sensitive communities by increasing this buffer zone.

## PARK GOAL

The goal for Scenic State Park is to maintain and/or restore an example of the landform, vegetation, and wildlife of the Pine Moraine Landscape Region as it existed before settlement by Europeans. The major theme at Scenic will be the interaction of the region's natural and human history. Facilities will be developed around this theme for complementary educational and recreational activities.



# Resource Management

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## ZONING

### Introduction

Before the specific management of an area within a park can be considered, a zoning concept must be established to evaluate the various management alternatives within the park. General management strategies can then be determined by zoning the park according to the management objectives.

### Objective:

To establish a zoning system which formally recognizes the various features of the park and delineates appropriate non-destructive uses

To identify those areas which are suitable for specific uses and establish certain management requirements necessary to provide for overall recreational needs while protecting the park's resources

### Management Zoning

A land classification system utilizing six management zones was adopted which will permit effective, comprehensive management of park resources while centralizing park development and uses.

### Land Classification Zones

The six management zones along with a description of their prime management objectives are defined below. All six management zones may not necessarily be found in each and every park.

The final zoning map is a composite of all potential zones showing where management decisions have been made to eliminate conflicts between individual zones. This final zoning map will guide the recreation and resources management decision-making process (p. 33).

Map Code	1	<u>Ecological Protection Zone</u> - The ecological protection zone includes areas having ecological communities which are either sensitive to certain uses, require special management or protection and/or have significant value for research. Areas having unique or endangered wildlife habitat or vegetative communities are included in this zone. Management will be directed toward perpetuating these ecological values. Development will be restricted to interpretive facilities or trails which do not disturb these values. All forms of access may be prohibited when necessary. In certain instances, small structures may be necessary to orient use and protect habitat.
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- 2 Outstanding Natural Feature Zone - The outstanding natural feature zone includes areas which are geologically or biologically of statewide significance. These features often are the park's principal resource attractions and will be managed to provide for visitor enjoyment without impairing their quality. Development of restricted forms of recreation facilities may be necessary to allow for enjoyment and interpretation. All development must be compatible to the features of the site to protect its natural character. Resource management will be restricted to restoring the resources and perpetuating their natural characteristics.
  - 3 Primitive Zone - The primitive zone includes extensive areas of land and water remote from high-density use areas and major development within the park and removed from the external influences of civilization. Development will be restricted to non-riding trails, primitive walk-in campsites and appropriate interpretive facilities. Resource management will be directed toward restoring and perpetuating the natural environment and the aesthetic character of that environment.
  - 4 General Environment Zone - This zone includes areas which, while they may be very scenic, contain no identified outstanding natural, historical or cultural features. In addition, the resources in this zone must be able to tolerate moderate use. Properly managed, this zone will serve to unite the other zones into a cohesive unit.
  - 5 Historical and Cultural Zone - The historical and cultural zone includes those sites which help to illustrate the historical and archeological heritage of the area that should be preserved or restored. Activities should emphasize the interpretive values of the site. Recreation development will be restricted to activities such as non-riding trails, small picnic areas, interpretive facilities and parking. Activities and improvements should be limited to those which will not adversely affect the preservation and restoration of these sites and should be reviewed with the Minnesota Historical Society. All historical or cultural sites should be surrounded by sufficient natural buffers to minimize encroachment from other activities. Natural resource management activities should maintain and perpetuate historical and cultural values while insuring regeneration of native or historically compatible plant and animal species.

- 
- 6 Development Zone - The development zone includes lands and waters where major park development and intensive use, both existing and proposed, has or will substantially alter the environment. This zone will be managed to provide and maintain the level of development necessary to serve the needs of relatively large numbers of visitors and of park administration. Park roads extending beyond this zone may be included in appropriate natural or historic zones through which they pass. Resource management will be directed toward improving the recreation capabilities and characteristics of the environment. However, native vegetation should not be extensively replaced solely for aesthetic reasons.

#### Potential Zones

Ecological Protection Zone - Scenic State Park has three major areas that qualify for this zone. The Cedar-Tell Lake area is especially sensitive because of high wildlife utilization. It is an osprey nesting and feeding area and also serves as a waterfowl reproduction and brood-rearing area. The other two areas are both major winter deer yarding areas and contain sensitive bog vegetation. (map, p. 29 )

Outstanding Natural Feature Zone - Scenic has two areas that qualify for this classification. The Chase Point-Zaiser Island area qualifies for two reasons; first, the point is an outstanding geologic feature, and second, the area is an outstanding example of the original pine stands that once covered the area. The other area that qualifies is the large pine stand on the north end of Coon/Sandwick Lake. It is an excellent example of the huge pines that once covered most of northern Minnesota. The main reason for establishing the park was to preserve these pine stands. (map, p. 30 )

Primitive Zone - A large area of the park on the east side of Coon/Sandwick Lake has the potential to be a primitive zone. This area has interesting and aesthetically pleasing natural resources and it is sufficiently removed from the sights and sounds of civilization. (map, p. 31 )

General Environment Zone - Areas which do not meet the criteria of other zones should be placed in this zone. (map, p. 33 )

Development Zone - A large portion of the park contains soils that have recreational development capabilities. The shaded areas on the map indicate soils that are not suitable for development. They include peat soils, clay soils, poorly drained soils, and soils with high water tables. (map, p.32 )

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### Established Zones

There are many areas of the park that have potential to be classified into more than one management zone. Where conflicts exist the zone was classified into the most restrictive category unless the classification proposed is restrictive enough to provide sufficient protection. (map, p. 33)

Zone 1 - Ecological Protection Zone - Only two of the potential ecological protection zones have been established; the deer yarding area on the northwest side of Coon/Sandwick Lake and the osprey and waterfowl nesting area around Cedar and Tell lakes. The deer yarding area on the east side of Coon/Sandwick Lake was zoned primitive because it is believed that this classification is restrictive enough to adequately protect the resources of the area.

Zone 2 - Outstanding Natural Feature Zone - The Chase Point-Zaiser Island area has the potential to be classified as a development zone and a portion has the potential to be classified as a primitive zone. However, because of its high scenic quality and the desirability of keeping it undeveloped, it has been classified as an outstanding natural feature zone.

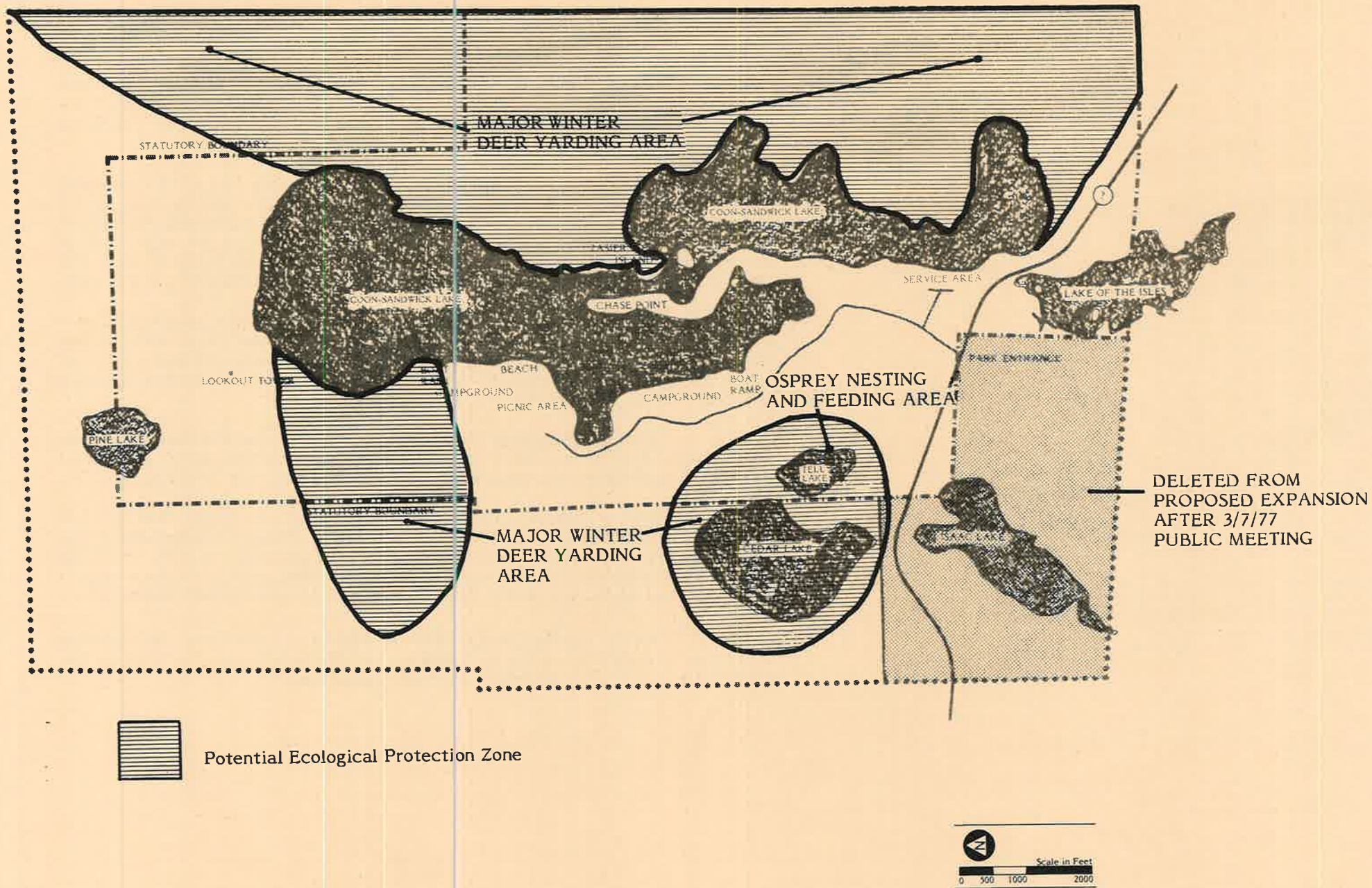
Zone 3 - Primitive Zone - The east side of Coon/Sandwick Lake has been classified as a primitive zone. It has been so designated because it sufficiently exemplifies the features necessary for its primitive classification.

Zone 4 - General Environment Zone - In some cases, land that had potential for inclusion into a more restrictive zoning category was included in the general environment zone. This was done for two reasons; in some cases the remaining land was not large enough to be a manageable zone and in other cases it was considered adequately protected under the general environment classification.

Zone 6 - Development Zone - In addition to the three development areas that already exist on the west side of Coon/Sandwick Lake, an area on the north shore of the lake has been zoned for development.

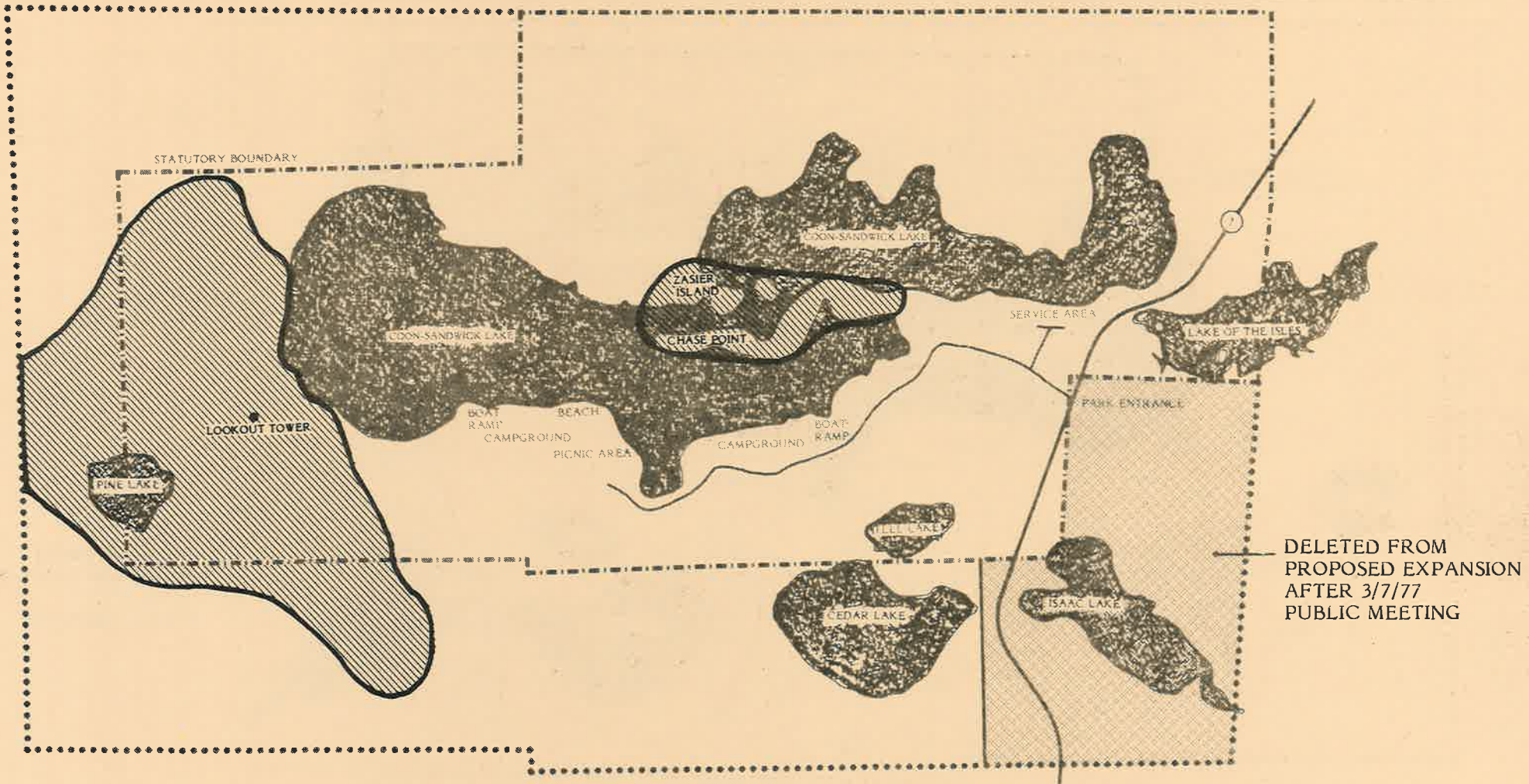


POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION ZONE






POTENTIAL OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE ZONE

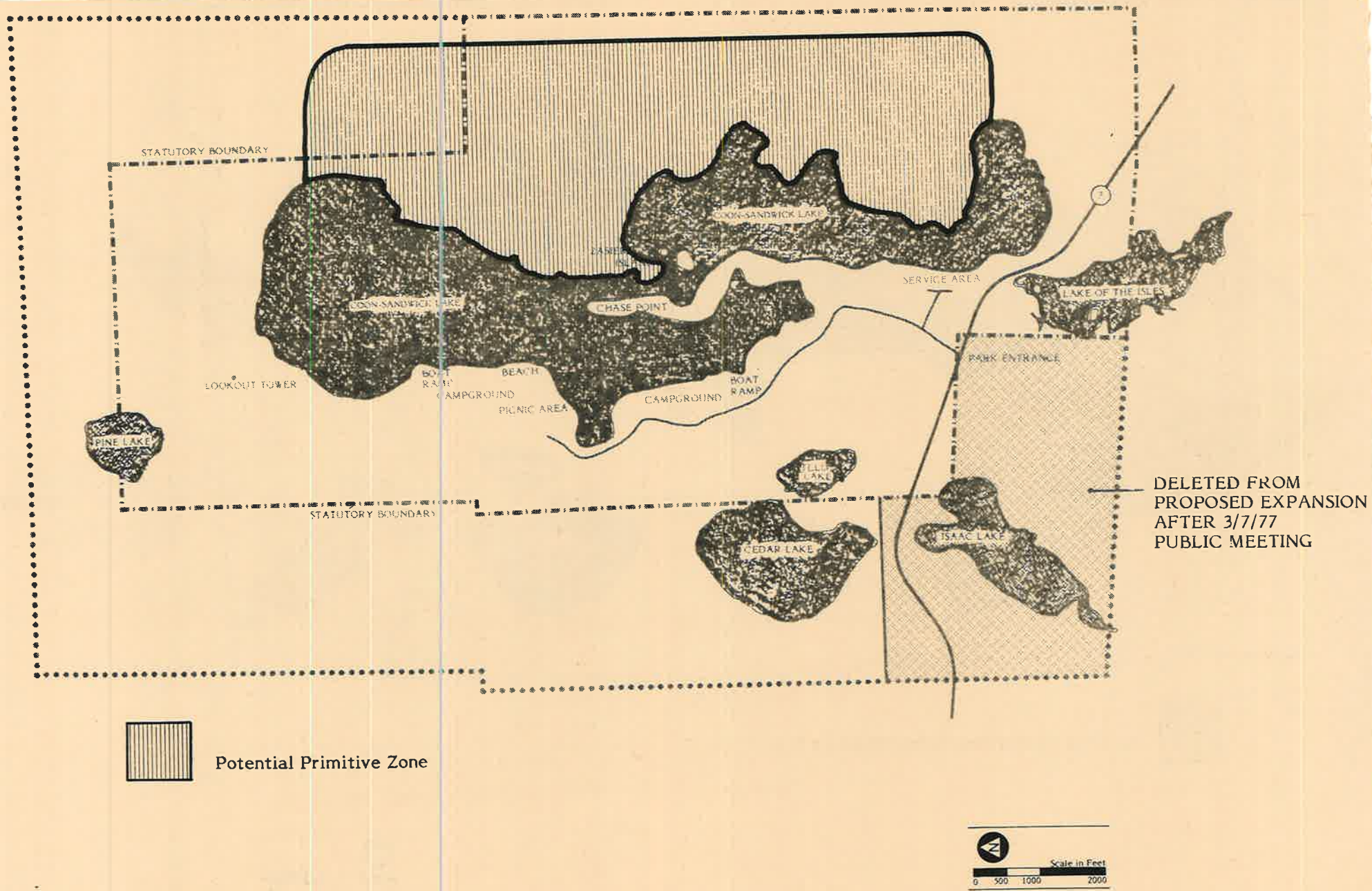


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 Potential Outstanding Natural Feature Zone



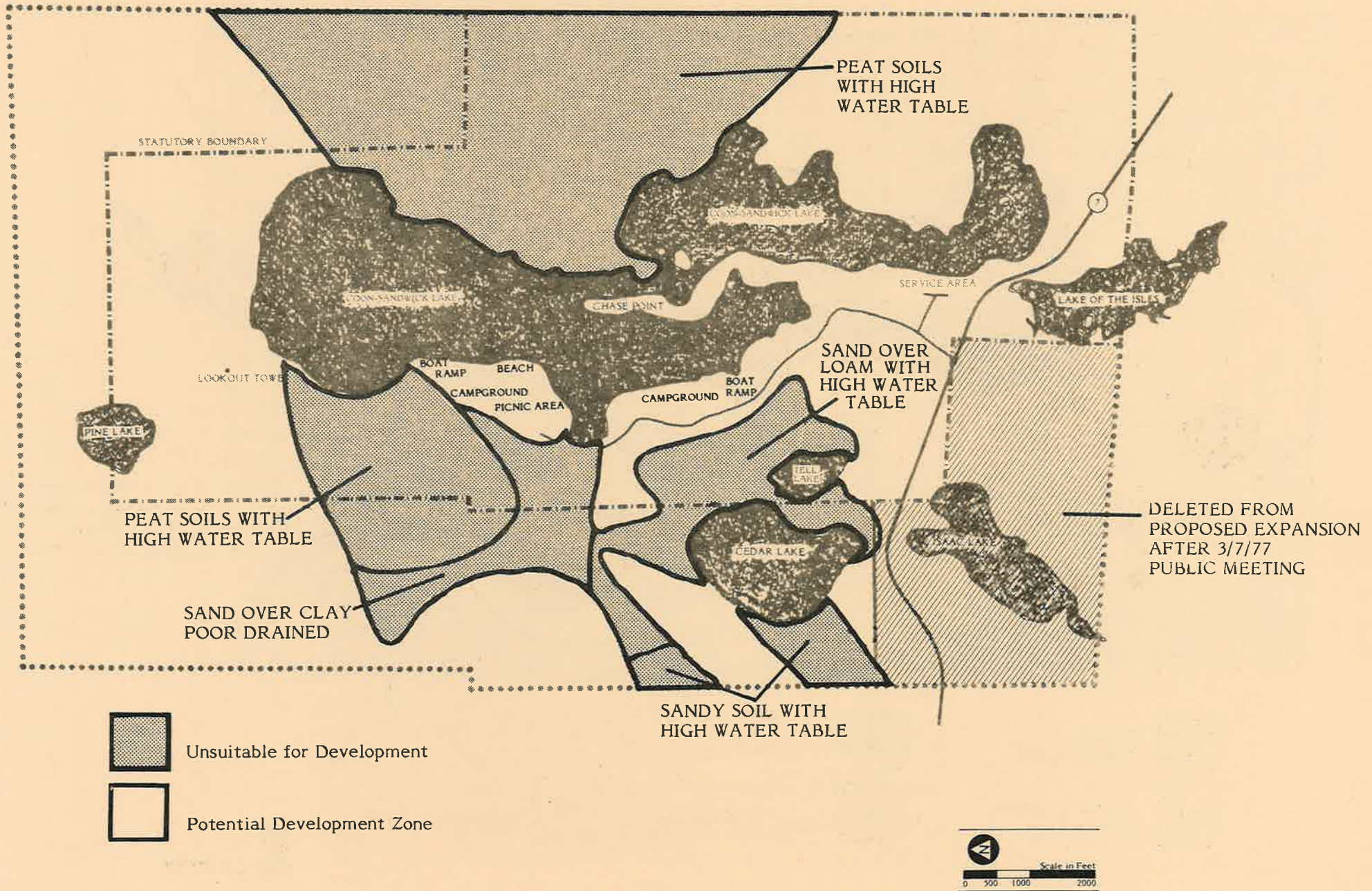
# POTENTIAL PRIMITIVE ZONE



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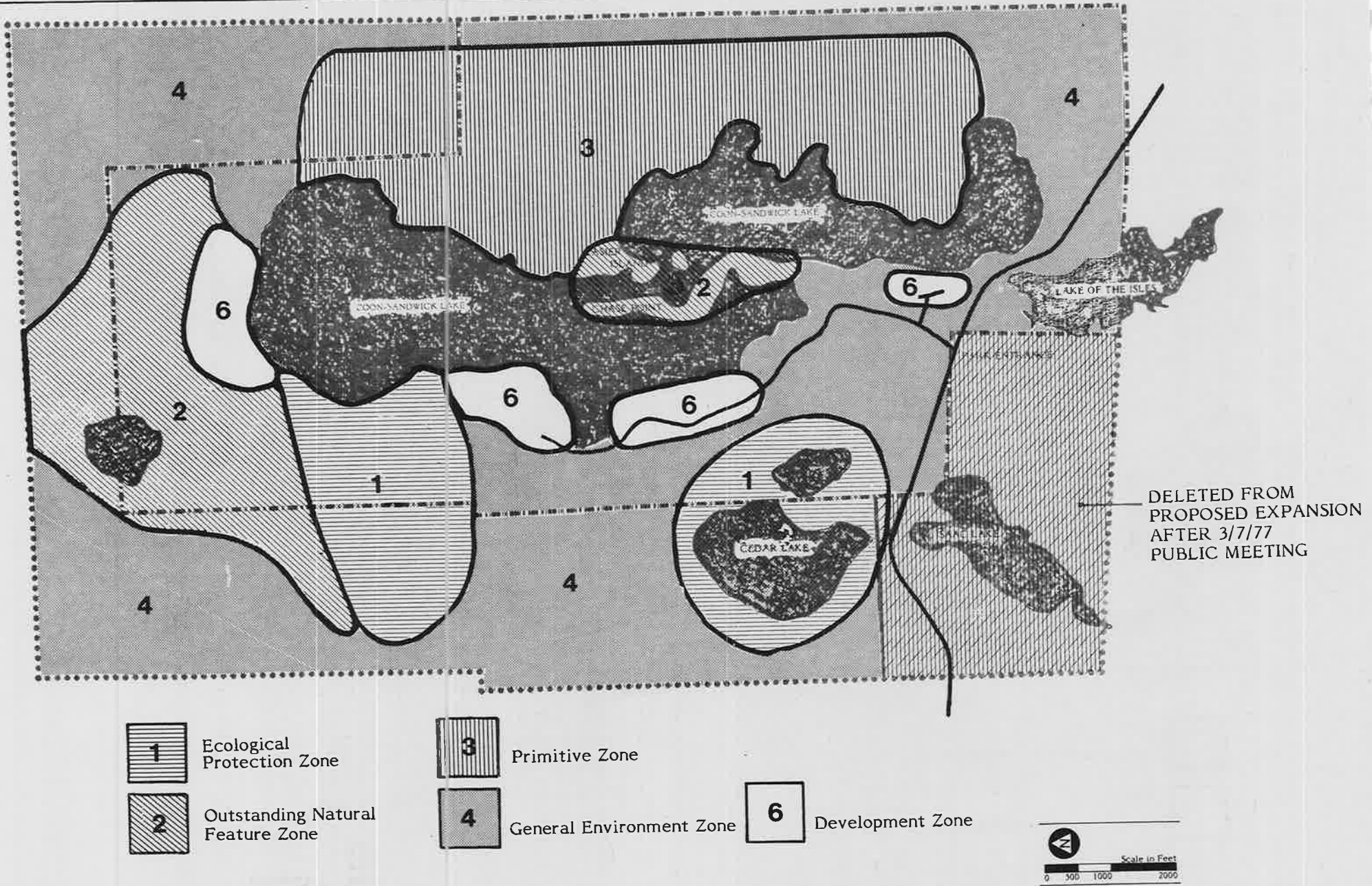


POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE





FINAL ZONING MAP



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## GEOLOGY MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

Geology is a resource that is not usually managed, however during the course of the inventory for this management plan, questions arose about the origin of some of the geological features in the park. This study will answer such questions so that recreation management can continue without damaging any unique or fragile geological resources.

### Management

#### Objective:

To determine the true origin of Chase Point

#### •Specific Management

A comprehensive geological study should be completed on Chase Point to determine whether it is a glacial esker or some other glacially originated formation. The University of Minnesota and/or Minnesota Geological Survey should carry out the study using funds provided by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

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## WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

There are two aspects to water resource management -- underground and surficial. In general, underground water resources are managed to maintain a high quality and supply. Surface water management programs ideally should include total watersheds, not just an individual lake or stream. Unfortunately, few parks encompass total watersheds, therefore effective management is minimized.

By statute, the Division of Parks and Recreation can control surface as well as shoreline use of any lake or stream which is totally within a park's statutory boundary and in state ownership. However, if any parcels along a shoreline are in private ownership, a common agreement must be reached before any effective management techniques may be employed on the water body.

### Groundwater Inventory

The well logs for most of the park wells were incomplete or unavailable. However, some conclusions can be established from the two available well logs.

Both these wells are in glacial till which characteristically is recharged by percolation from the immediate area. This generally produces a high volume well. The pumping tests completed on these wells show that there is only a small drawdown after heavy pumping for 4-5 hours. No water quality data was available. However, the Department of Health checks all park wells annually. The well locations are shown on the Existing Development - Utilities Map on page 22.

<u>Well</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Static Water Level</u>	<u>Aquifer</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Pumping Test Pump Vol.</u>	<u>Drawdown</u>
Mgr. Residence	98'	41'	Till	5 hrs.	50-70 gpm	20'
Group Camp	97'	42'	Till	4 hrs.	25 gpm	4'

### Surficial Water Inventory

There are two lakes totally within the current park boundaries and four more partially within the park. Coon and Sandwick lakes are considered one lake in this plan because they occupy one basin. The table, below lists the pertinent hydrological data for the six lakes.

	Cedar	Coon Sandwick	Isaac	Lake of the Isles	Pine	Tell
Area (Acres)	78	595	81	62	No Data	No Data
Max. Depth	13	60'	63'	50'	18'	35'
Water level fluctuations	±1'	+0.5 to -0.2	±0.5'	±2'	No Data	No Data
Control Structures	None	None	None	None	None	None
Inlets	Unnamed Stream	Small stream at northwest corner of lake	Unnamed stream	None	No Data	No Data
Outlets	Unnamed stream	None	Unnamed <sup>1</sup> stream	None	No Data	No Data
% Lakeshore Within Park	5	100	8 <sup>3</sup>	60 <sup>3</sup>	60 <sup>3</sup>	100
Navigability <sup>2</sup>	Small boats	Any boat	Any boat	Any boat	Small boats	Small boats
Color	Stained	Clear-brown	Clear	Brown	No Data	No Data
Turbidity <sup>4</sup>	6'	10.5'	20'	6'	No Data	No Data
Alkalinity/ph	No Data	51.3 ppm	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data



	<u>Emergent Vegetation</u>			
	Cedar	Coon/Sandwick	Lake of the Isles	Isaac
<u>% of Emergent Vegetation</u>	18%	3%	10%	2%
<u>Species</u>				
Blue Flag		X		
Hardstem Bulrush	X	X	X	X
Cane	X			
Common Cattail	X	X		X
Foxtail		X		
Grass				X
Sedge	X			X
Threeway Sedge			X	
Spikerush		X		
Water Arum		X		

Submerged and floating vegetation is common all around the shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake to a depth of 12 feet, with a particularly dense stand along the north shore of the lake. In Cedar Lake vegetation grows only to a depth of 10 feet and is distributed over the entire lake. The vegetation in Isaac Lake grows continuously around the shore to a depth of 16 feet. Lake of the Isles also has vegetation growing continuously around the shore, but the depth to which it grows is undetermined.

Floating and Submerged Vegetation

Species	Cedar	Coon/Sandwick	Lake of the Isles	Isaac
Blatterwort		X		
Floating-leaf Bur-reed		X	X	
Coontail	X			X
Muskgrass		X		
Broad-leaf Pondweed		X		
Clasping-leaf Pondweed	X	X	X	X
Fern Pondweed		X		
Flatstem Pondweed		X		
Floating-leaf Pondweed				X
Large-leaf Pondweed			X	
Leafy Pondweed	X			
Narrow-leaf Pondweed			X	
Robbins Pondweed				X
Whitestem Pondweed	X		X	
Smartweed			X	
Little White Waterlily	X			
White Waterlily		X	X	X
Yellow Waterlily	X	X		X
Water Milfoil		X		
Watershield	X			
Waterweed		X		
Canada Waterweed				X
Wild Celery		X		

	Cedar	Coon Sandwich	Isaac	Lake of the Isles	Pine	Tell
Shoreline Character %						
Muck	100%	25%	80%	70%	100%	No Data
Marl			20			
Clay				30		
Gravel		5				
Sand		60				
Rocks and Boulders		5				
Bog		5				
Pollutants Types, Sources	None	None	None	None	No Data	No Data

<sup>1</sup>Stream is actually seepage through swamp.

<sup>2</sup>Navagability determined by author from lake depths.

<sup>3</sup>Approximation

<sup>4</sup>Determined by Secchi disc.





The watersheds for these lakes are slightly larger than the lakes themselves, except for those having streams flowing into them. None of these watersheds have been calculated to date.

The data for Coon/Sandwick Lake is from a 1952 study. This summer a new lake survey will be completed and when this data becomes available it will be added to the plan. The data used in this section and the Fisheries Section was taken from fish surveys and summaries on file in the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

There was no data on mineral content or coliform counts. The table below contains the available temperature and dissolved oxygen data.

Water Temperature<sup>1</sup> and Oxygen Content<sup>2</sup>

	Cedar		Coon/Sandwick		Isaac		Lake of the Isles		Pine*	Tell*
	Temp.	D.O.	Temp.	D.O.	Temp.	D.O.	Temp.	D.O.	D.O.	D.O.
Surface	72°	8ppm	76°	8.5ppm	72°	8.0ppm	68°	10.0ppm	3.4ppm	4.8ppm
10 feet							40°			
15 feet										
17-18 feet					40°	trace		0ppm		
20 feet					3.7ppm					
28 feet			56°	0ppm						

<sup>1</sup>Temperature is in degrees Fahrenheit

<sup>2</sup>D.O. = Dissolved Oxygen

ppm = parts per million

\*Temperatures are not available.

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### Management

#### Objectives:

To prevent contamination of ground and surficial waters

To correct the present interruption of the natural flow of groundwater

#### •Specific Management

Water resources play an important role in the management of Scenic State Park because of its numerous lakes. The park's groundwater supply appears to be abundant. However, a study should be carried out to verify more accurately the volume and location of the aquifer. The cost for such a study is estimated at \$5,000. There are no present groundwater pollution problems.

The surficial water management for Scenic centers around its lakes. Coon/Sandwick and Tell lakes are completely within the park's boundary and under DNR control. The proposed expansion would place Pine and Cedar lakes totally within the park boundary. Lake of the Isles and Issac Lake would then be the only lakes partially under the management of Parks and Recreation.

Three low marshy areas are crossed by roads or trails blocking the natural drainage flow. This water backup is affecting surrounding vegetation by depriving some vegetation of needed water while flooding other vegetation. Culverts should be put under the road at these sites. An engineer and hydrologist should determine size and number of culverts for each site. The cost of installing these culverts varies depending on the size of the culvert from \$8/foot to \$70/foot or between \$250 and \$2,000 per culvert for materials and approximately an equal amount for the installation. Total cost for research and implementation would be approximately \$17,000. It may be possible to receive some county state aid highway funds for the installation of culverts under the park entrance road.

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## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

The primary goal for any fisheries management program is to maintain the optimum natural fish population that a water body can support. This optimum is determined by such factors as water fertility, oxygen supply, food supply, and water temperature. Periodic fishery surveys are conducted to determine species diversity, and the size and condition of fish populations. The results of these surveys then determine the classification and site-specific management goals for a water body.

### Inventory

Coon/Sandwick Lake is managed for walleye and panfish, Isaac is managed for largemouth bass and panfish, and Lake of the Isles is managed for walleye, bass, and panfish. Cedar, Pine, and Tell lakes are all winterkill lakes and thus are not managed for fisheries.

Species	Cedar	Coon/Sandwick	Lake of the Isles	Isaac
Largemouth Bass		X	X	X
Rock Bass				X
Black Crappie		X		
Perch	X	X	X	X
Northern Pike		X	X	
Common Sucker		X		
Bluegill Sunfish		X		X
Greer Sunfish		X		
Pumpkinseed Sunfish		X	X	X
Walleye		X	X	

In Cedar Lake, perch appears to be most abundant. Northern pike and bluegills were the most abundant fish in Isaac Lake. Pumpkinseed was the most abundant fish in Lake of the Isles followed by northern pike, walleye, and perch. In Coon/Sandwick Lake, the bluegill is by far the most abundant followed by the pumpkinseed and northern pike.

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It is very difficult to assess the size of fish in these lakes. Some figures from the existing surveys will give a general idea but sizes are constantly changing, therefore, only with annual monitoring will the size figures have any validity. In Coon/Sandwick Lake, bluegills averaged 0.2 lbs.; pumpkinseeds, 0.18 lbs.; and northern pike, 1.4 lbs. In Lake of the Isles, pumpkinseeds average .25 lbs.; northern pike, 1.0 lbs.; walleye, 1.5 lbs.; perch, .25 lbs.; and bluegill, 0.2 lbs.

Coon/Sandwick Lake has excellent northern pike spawning areas in the northeastern bay, the channel by Chase Point, and in the bays on the southeastern shore of the lake. It has good spawning areas throughout for panfish, but poor areas for walleye. The lake receives heavy fishing pressure for walleye and a stocking program is recommended.

Lake of the Isles receives heavy fishing pressure on the north end adjacent to the group campground. The lake has only fair spawning areas for walleye and pumpkinseeds and poor areas for northern pike. There are relatively few fish in the lake, yet summer angling success is good. In the past, the lake has been stocked with walleye fry and fingerlings. It appears that periodic stocking is necessary to maintain adequate fish populations for the heavy summer angling pressure it receives.

Isaac Lake has fair spawning areas for northern pike and poor areas for bass and panfish. The lake can tolerate the present light summer angling pressure it receives.

#### Management

##### Objectives:

To maintain the present level of fishing opportunities

To establish and maintain a natural (non-stocked) fish population

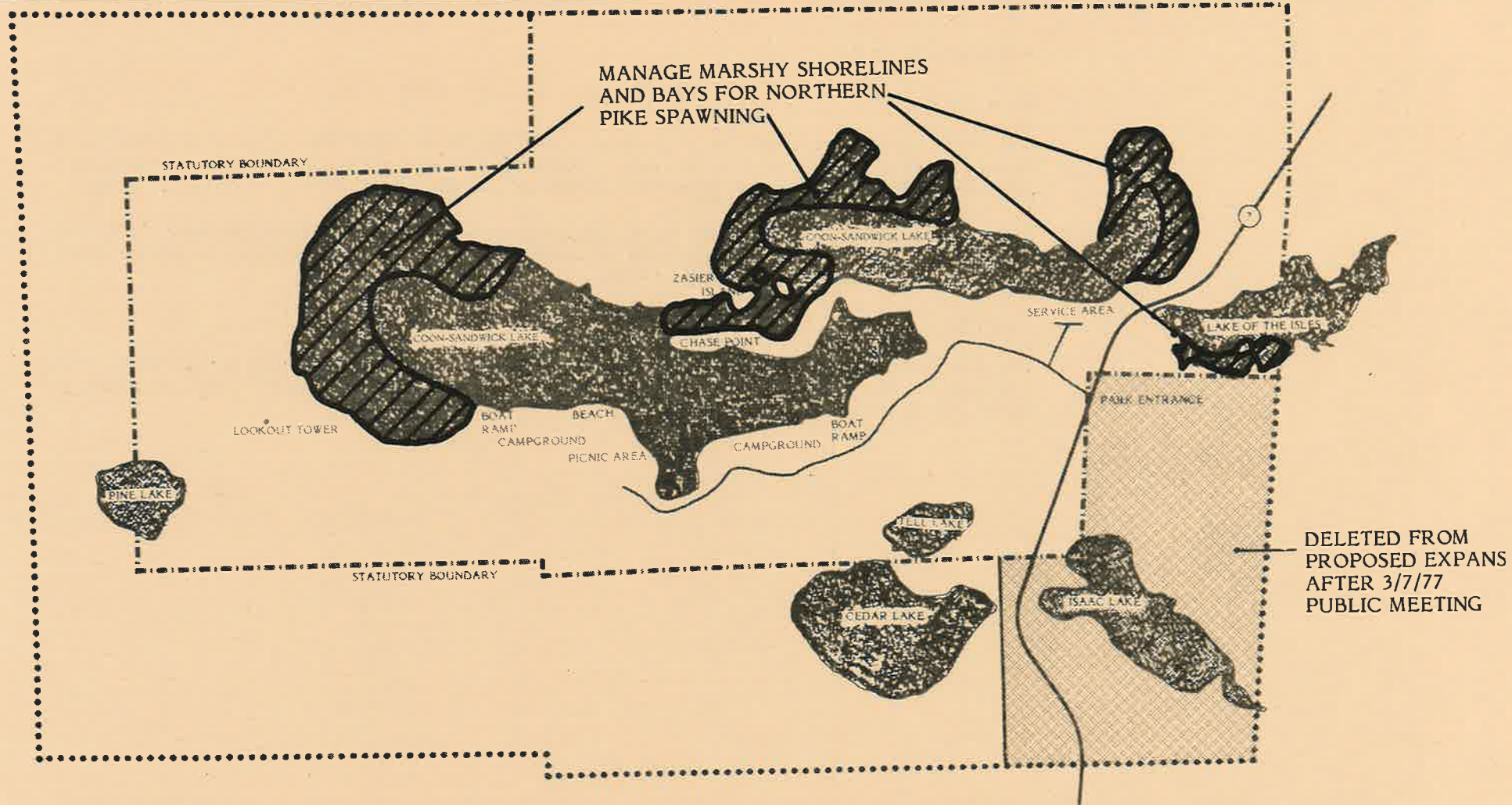
##### •Specific Management


Cedar and Tell lakes will be managed for aquatic fur-bearers or waterfowl. Cedar is classified as Type V-A Wetland (a marginal fish lake) and is so shallow that winterkills occur regularly. Tell Lake is small and presently unclassified. It has an active osprey nest and will be managed to protect this rare bird. Pine Lake is classified as Type V Wetland (fish lake), but because of its low oxygen levels, frequent winterkills occur. With the uncertainty of sustaining a viable fish population and its remoteness, this lake should remain unmanaged, allowing natural processes to occur.



<u>Name</u>	<u>Management Classification</u>	<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Specific Recommendations</u>
Coon/Sandwick Lake	Walleye-Centrarchid	Population Monitoring, Stocking, Reclamation	This lake should be monitored regularly and a walleye stocking program implemented on a three year interval basis. The present practice of northern pike stocking should be discontinued. If a viable panfish reclamation method can be developed and the panfish population remains too high, a partial reclamation project (removal of a part of the panfish population) should be implemented. This reclamation would promote increased growth of the remaining panfish.
Lake of the Isles	Centrarchid/ Largemouth Bass	Population Monitoring	This lake should be managed as a centrarchid lake specializing in largemouth bass. Walleye stocking should be discontinued.
Isaac Lake	Largemouth Bass	Population Monitoring	This lake has been managed for panfish and largemouth bass. It is recommended that management should focus on largemouth bass. The lack of a public access presently prohibits fish stocking and the present fish population appears to be within normal limits for this type of lake. The lake, however, is within the area considered for expansion in this plan and if the total shoreline comes within state ownership other alternatives may become feasible.

The costs for the management recommendations described above will be absorbed by the existing fisheries budget. Reclamation projects may be partially federally funded.



 Northern Pike Spawning Areas

Note: Panfish and Bass spawn throughout all of the lakes in the park.



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## SOILS MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

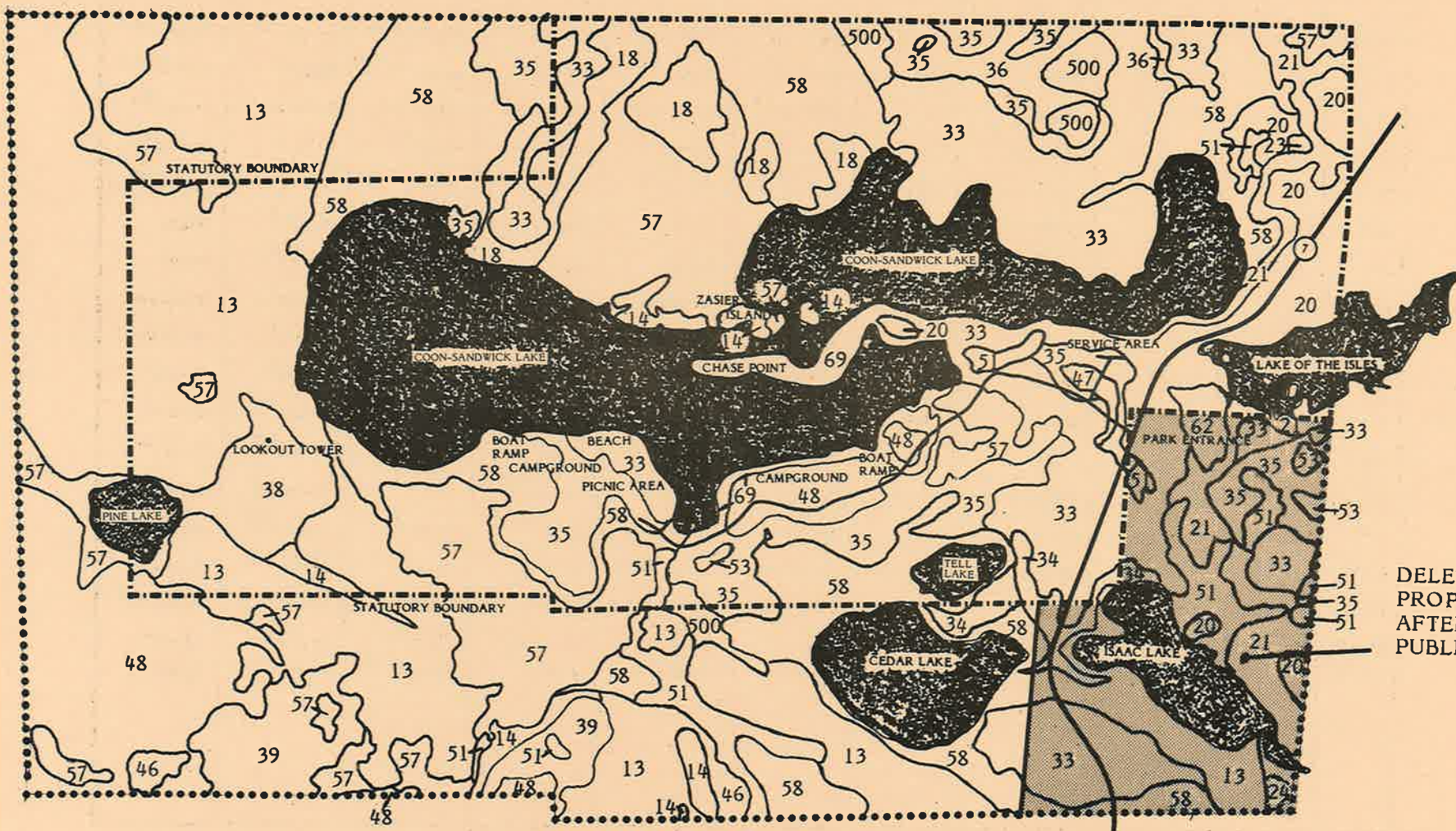
Soil structure, type, and fertility play an important role in dictating what types of vegetation are presently found in the park or what types of plant communities might logically be reintroduced to replicate plant communities which exerted a dominant influence in the formation of that soil type.

In developing a park management plan, detailed soils surveys of the park are a necessity. Soils data must be considered when locating park roads, recreation buildings, campgrounds, picnic areas, sewage lagoons, and septic tank filter fields.

### Inventory

The soils located in Scenic State Park range from well-drained sands to poorly drained peats. The map on page 48 and the table on page 49 show the locations, the characteristics, and limitations of the soils in Scenic.





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SOILS CHARACTERISTICS/SUITABILITY

Soil Type	Slope	Map Code	Permeability	Erosion Hazard	Potential Frost Action	Intensive		Paths and Trails	Recreation Buildings	Sewage Lagoons	Septic Tank Filter Fields
						Picnic Areas	Camp Areas				
Blomford	0-2 %	35	.20-20	Slight	Moderate	Moderate <sup>7,2</sup>	Moderate <sup>7,2</sup>	Moderate <sup>7,2</sup>	Moderate <sup>B,7</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,6</sup>
Bluffton	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	24	.06-.6	Slight	High	Severe <sup>9,7</sup>	Severe <sup>9,7</sup>	Severe <sup>9,7</sup>	Severe <sup>C,10,7</sup>	Slight	Severe <sup>9,7,6</sup>
Braham	1-12	33	.2-6	Slight	Low	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Slight <sup>B</sup>	Moderate	Severe <sup>1,6</sup>
	12-24	34	.2-6	Moderate	Low	Severe <sup>1,2</sup>	Severe <sup>1,2</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Slight <sup>B</sup>	Severe	Severe <sup>1,6</sup>
Cathro Peat	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	51	.06-10	Slight	High	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>C,7,9,10</sup>	Severe <sup>7,9</sup>	Severe <sup>7,9</sup>
Cromwell	0-2	38	.6-20	Slight	Low	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight <sup>C</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>	Slight
	2-6	38	.6-20	Slight	Low	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight <sup>C</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>	Slight
	6-12	38	.6-20	Slight	Low	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate <sup>C</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>
	12-25	39	.6-20	Slight	Low	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate <sup>C</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>
Dawson Muck	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	500	.06-20	Slight	High	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>C-7,10</sup>	Severe <sup>D-7</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>
Greenwood Peat	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	57	.6-20+	Slight	High	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>C-7,10</sup>	Severe <sup>D-7</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>
Grygla	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	36	.6-20	Slight	High	Severe <sup>9</sup>	Severe <sup>9</sup>	Severe <sup>9</sup>	Severe <sup>B,9,7,10</sup>	Severe <sup>6,7</sup>	Severe <sup>6,9,7</sup>
Indus	0-2	46	.06-.2	Slight	Moderate	Severe <sup>6,9</sup>	Severe <sup>6,9</sup>	Severe <sup>6,9</sup>	Severe <sup>C-10,7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>6,7</sup>	Severe <sup>6,7,9</sup>
Marsh	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	62	E	E	High	Severe <sup>7</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>	Severe <sup>D,C-7</sup>	Severe <sup>D-7</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>
Meehan	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	18	6.3-20	Slight	Moderate	Moderate <sup>7</sup>	Moderate <sup>7</sup>	Moderate <sup>7</sup>	Severe <sup>C-7</sup>	Severe <sup>7,6</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>
Menagha	1-12	13	6-20	Slight	Moderate	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Slight <sup>C</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>
	12-25	14	6-20	Slight	Moderate	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Moderate <sup>2</sup>	Slight <sup>C</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>
Moose Lake	0-2 <sup>D</sup>	58	10-20	Slight	High	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>7,2</sup>	Severe <sup>C-7,9</sup>	Severe <sup>7</sup>	Severe <sup>7,9</sup>

Soil Type	Slope	Map Code	Permeability	Erosion Hazard	Potential Frost Action	Intensive		Paths and Trails	Recreation Buildings	Sewage Lagoons	Septic Tank Filter Fields
						Picnic Areas	Camp Areas				
Suomi	0-6 %	48	.06-2	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Slight	Moderate <sup>C-10</sup>	Slt.-Mod. <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>
	6-12	48	.06-2	Slight	Moderate	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Slight	Moderate <sup>C-10</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>
	12-5	49	.06-2	Moderate	Moderate	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Moderate <sup>C-10</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>6</sup>
Warba	0-6	20	.2-6.0	Slight	High	Slight	Moderate <sup>6</sup>	Slight	Moderate <sup>D,C-10</sup>	Moderate <sup>D-6</sup>	Moderate <sup>D-6</sup>
	6-12	20	.2-6.0	Slight	High	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Moderate <sup>6</sup>	Slight	Moderate <sup>D,C-10</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>D-1</sup>
	12-25	21	.2-6.0	Slight	High	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>D,C-1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>0-1</sup>
Wildwood	25-80	69	.2-6.0	Slight	High	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>D,C-1</sup>	Severe <sup>1</sup>	Severe <sup>0-1</sup>
	0-6 <sup>D</sup>	47	.06-.6	Slight	Moderate	Severe <sup>2,D-7</sup>	Severe <sup>2,D-7</sup>	Severe <sup>D-7</sup>	Severe <sup>C-10,D-2</sup>	Severe <sup>2,C-7</sup>	Severe <sup>6,C-7</sup>

#### LEGEND

- <sup>A</sup> Permeability measured in inches per hour
- <sup>B</sup> Based on buildings without basements
- <sup>C</sup> Based on buildings with basement or foundation
- <sup>D</sup> Estimated from available data
- <sup>E</sup> No data

#### LIMITATIONS

- <sup>1</sup> SLOPE
- <sup>2</sup> SURFACE TEXTURE
- <sup>3</sup> DEPTH TO BEDROCK
- <sup>4</sup> FLOODING (DURATION AND FREQUENCY)
- <sup>5</sup> POLLUTION POTENTIAL
- <sup>6</sup> PERMEABILITY
- <sup>7</sup> WATER TABLE
- <sup>8</sup> FROST ACTION
- <sup>9</sup> DRAINAGE
- <sup>10</sup> SHRINK-SWELL

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## Management

### Objectives:

To correct present erosion problems in the park and prevent future erosion from occurring

To locate all park facilities on soils suitable for development

### •Specific Management

With minimal limitations, the soils found in the north end of the park, except for the steepest slopes, can withstand any kind of recreational development. Because of high permeability, the soils can accommodate septic tanks and/or drain fields, but not lagoons. Development can also take place without severe limitations on the uplands in the southern one-third of the park. The Chase Point campground, boat ramp, and service area are all located on these soils. The southeast corner of the park has some relatively steep slopes. Any development would have to be carefully integrated into the terrain. The Lodge campground, boat launch, and picnic area are on soils that are not particularly good for development. The picnic area can remain if a closed sewage system for the sanitation building is utilized. The heavier soils of this area cannot accommodate drain fields. Because of recent rehabilitation, the Lodge campground soils are not in such a critical state. However, when the campground again deteriorates to a point where the resources become affected, it should be phased out and replaced by the new campground on the north shore of Coon/Sandwick Lake.

Scenic State Park has few erosion problems. The tip of Chase Point and a steep bank on Pine Lake are the only known erosion problems. The hiking trail along Chase Point drops down a severe (approximately 40%) slope at the tip. Trail use has worn off the vegetation and the soil is washing into the lake. One possible method of stopping the erosion is riprapping the base of the point from just below the water line to 2-3 feet above the water level with native rock and seeding or planting seedlings and shrubs on the balance of the slope with a tough native ground cover. The seeded area should be closed off for a few years and reopened after the new vegetation has been established. Another method is to riprap the base of the point with native rock and set a natural staircase into the slope using logs as risers and erosion control structures. Because the second method would alleviate the problem immediately and would only cost approximately \$1,000, it is the recommended solution.

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Because snowmobiles, often short cut across Pine Lake instead of following the trail, the east bank is eroding. To correct this, park regulations must be stringently enforced so that all snowmobiles stay on designated trails. Signs along key points of the trail should eliminate the problem allowing natural vegetation to be reestablished, thus stopping erosion. However, if it is not corrected and erosion continues, more drastic solutions will have to be implemented at greater expense.

The rest of the soils in the park are in good condition and should remain stable if general soils management policies are followed.



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## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

Before any management of a park is attempted, an inventory must be taken so that an account of the assets and attributes of a unit is available. The success of a management plan is then judged upon the improvements that have taken place.

### Inventory

To rapidly inventory the vegetation component of a park, a system was devised which would not only categorize vegetation but would also recognize those species of wildlife normally associated with these plant communities. The system used to describe vegetation/wildlife associations is called the "Ecological Community System." In designing the system several factors were considered. These factors included existing land use patterns, soil, moisture, plant species composition, physical appearance (i.e., grassy, brushy, forested, or bare), and the habitat choices of the various species of wildlife commonly found in Minnesota.

### Original Vegetation

Original vegetation of Scenic State Park consisted of pine, spruce-fir, conifer bogs, and swamps.

### Existing Ecological Communities

The predominant ecological communities in the park are pioneer hardwoods dominated by aspen or birch, conifer bogs and swamps, and large remnant pine groves. With the absence of logging and fire, most of the communities are succeeding toward a spruce-fir climax forest. The spruce-fir community is shade tolerant and can reproduce under the canopies of the pine and hardwood forests.

### Major Ecological Communities

Mature Pioneer Hardwoods - Pioneer hardwood communities primarily aspen and paper birch, cover a considerable portion of the park. These communities are second growth communities which replaced the pine logged off during the early 1900's. Pioneer hardwood species are relatively short lived and are replaced by species such as white spruce, balsam fir, white pine, or red pine which do well in shaded situations.

---

Dominant Tree Species

Quaking Aspen  
Big Toothed Aspen  
Paper Birch

Dominant Shrub Species

Red Osier Dogwood  
Beaked Hazel

Dominant Ground Layer Species

No Data

Conifer Bogs and Swamps - Conifer bogs and swamps occupy the low-lying areas in the park. These areas are vegetated by relatively dense stands of black spruce and white cedar. They receive moderate to heavy deer use as is evidenced by many beds and heavy browsing on the cedar, mountain maple, and red osier dogwood.

Dominant Tree Species

Black Spruce  
Balsam Fir  
White Cedar

Dominant Shrub Species

Red Osier Dogwood  
Alder  
Mountain Maple

Dominant Ground Layer

No Data



TOWERING WHITE PINE, A VESTIGE OF THE PRE-LOGGING ERA

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Pine Groves - Present stands of pine in the park occur on upland soils. The red and white pine stands are the remnants of the original virgin timber which survived early logging operations. There are some jack pine stands which probably originated in a post-logging fire. Jack pine cones usually open and release seeds when subjected to intense heat such as a forest fire.

Dominant Tree Species

Red Pine  
White Pine  
Jack Pine

Dominant Shrub Species

Beaked Hazel  
Red Osier Dogwood

Dominant Ground Layer

No Data

Toxic Plants

Currently, there are no known toxic plants in Scenic State Park.

Scenic Communities

Landscapes with the greatest variety or diversity tend to have the highest scenic value. The many diverse vegetative communities combined with the scenic qualities of the water bodies form a landscape that is extremely beautiful. The pine stands that remain in the park have survived logging and disease. They provide an excellent example of the forests that once covered large areas of the surrounding countryside.

Rare or Endangered Species or Communities

There are no known rare or endangered species or communities within the park. More research is needed.



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#### Diseased, Mature, and Overmature Stands

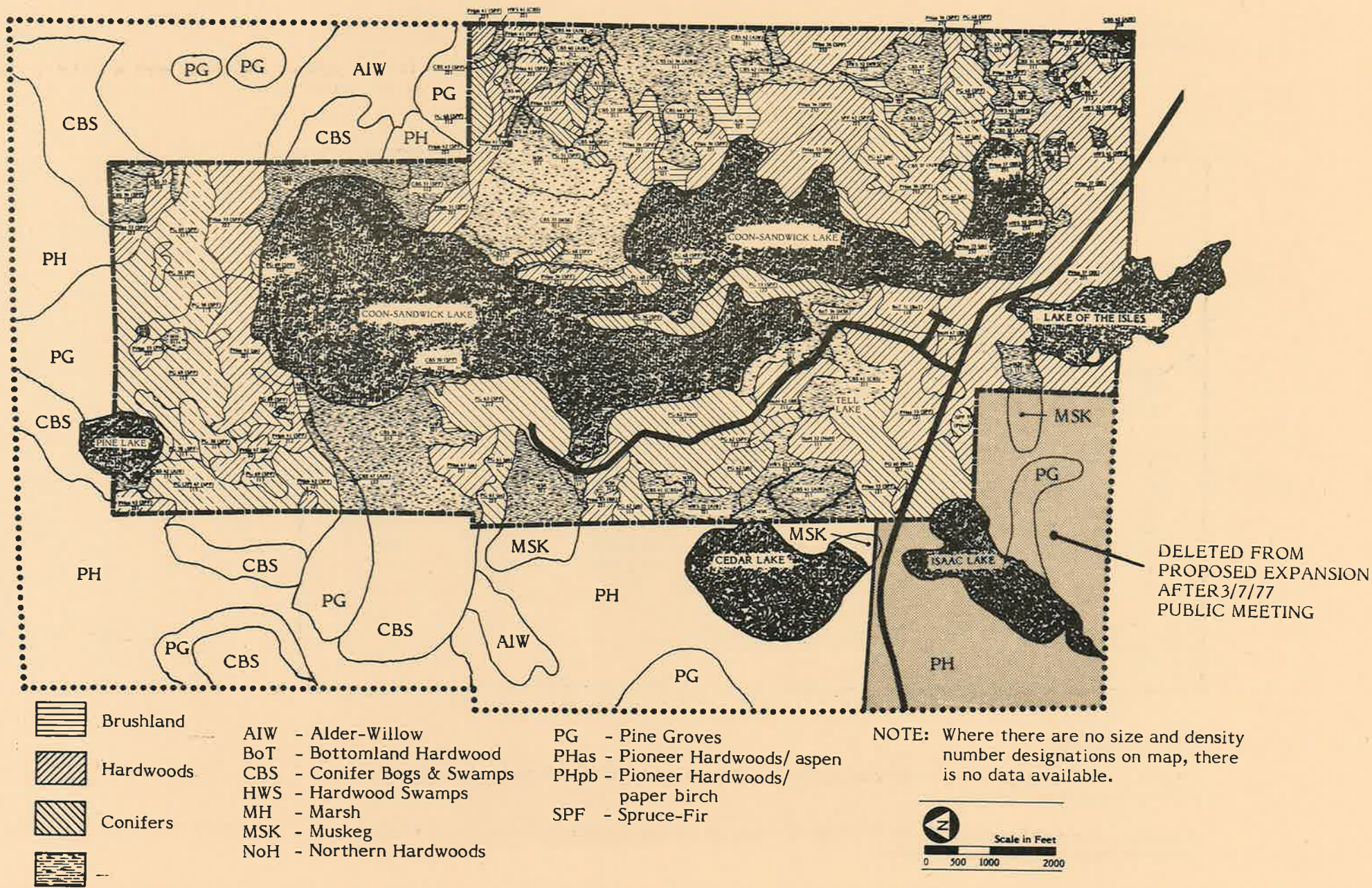
Vegetation in the campground and picnic area is suffering because of overuse. Problems that are common in heavy use areas include soil compaction, breaking and cutting trees for firewood, nails in trees, and girdling of birch trees. Vegetation throughout the park is mature or overmature. The pioneer hardwood and pine grove communities in Scenic are no longer reproducing, but are being reasons for establishing the park. Unless measures are taken to stimulate reproduction of the desired pine species, they will be lost.

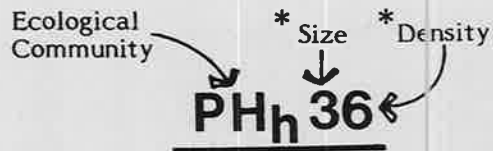
#### Wildlife/Vegetation Relationship

Vegetation provides habitat for wildlife. Generally, the more diverse a vegetation cover, the more wildlife species will be found there.

#### Source

National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2, Chapter 1, The Visual Management System, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Handbook Number 462.





<u>Overstory Size and Density Code</u>					
* Size					
	1	2	3	4	5
* Density	Seedlings (0-1" dbh) Trees/Acre	Saplings (1"-5" dbh) Trees/Acre	Poles (5"-9" dbh) Trees/Acre	Small Saw Timber (9"-15" dbh) Trees/Acre	Large Saw Timber (15"+ dbh) Trees/Acre
0	*	*	0-30	0-19	9-5
1	0-500	0-250	31-90	11-40	6-20
2	500-1,000	251-500	91-150	41-60	21-30
3	1,001-2,000	501-1,000	151-210	61-80	31-45
4	2,001-5,000	1,001-2,500	211-270	81-100	46-60
5	5,001-10,000	2,501-5,000	271-330	101-130	61-75
6	10,000-20,000	5,001-10,000	331-390	131-150	76-90
7	20,001-30,000	10,001-15,000	391-450	151-180	91-105
8	**	**	451-510	181-200	**
9	**	**	511+	201+	**

\* dbh - diameter/breast height  
 \*\* Not a valid density code for these size classes

#### Succession Code

Letters in parentheses indicate which ecological community will most likely replace the existing one barring fire or wind damage.

Example: Pioneer Hardwood-aspen community - with an understory northern hardwoods component would be described as PHas 36 (NoH)



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Shrub Density; Woody plant material usually greater than 4' tall.

- 0 None; Brush layer absent, may have been removed by artificial means.
- 1 Light; High visibility within stand even when leaves are out; no difficulty encountered in walking through stand.
- 2 Moderate; Some visual obstruction by small to large brush pockets. Walking may be hindered to some degree by brush.
- 3 Heavy; Visual obstruction severe, visibility limited to less than 100', walking is extremely difficult.

Ground Cover Density; Herbaceous plant material usually less than 6' tall.

- 0 None; Litter layer absent, native ground cover absent or heavily disturbed by use.
- 1 Light; Litter layer readily visible, low growing plants widely scattered or in small clusters.
- 2 Moderate; Litter layer somewhat obscured by low growing plants; occasional extensive areas without plants may occur.
- 3 Heavy; Litter layer obscured by low growing plants.

Fire Susceptibility; Ease with which the plant community can carry a fire during the normal seasonal fire period.

- 0 None; fuel is sparse or absent.
- 1 Low; adequate fuel to carry a fire is present in scattered patches.
- 2 Moderate; fuel is present in sufficient amounts to carry a fire for some distance.
- 3 High; large accumulations of fuel. Potential for extensive, damaging fire is great.

Example: Pioneer Hardwood-aspen community with dense hazel and ground cover (with a moderate fire susceptibility would be expressed as:  $\frac{PH_{as} 36}{332}$ )

332



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### Management

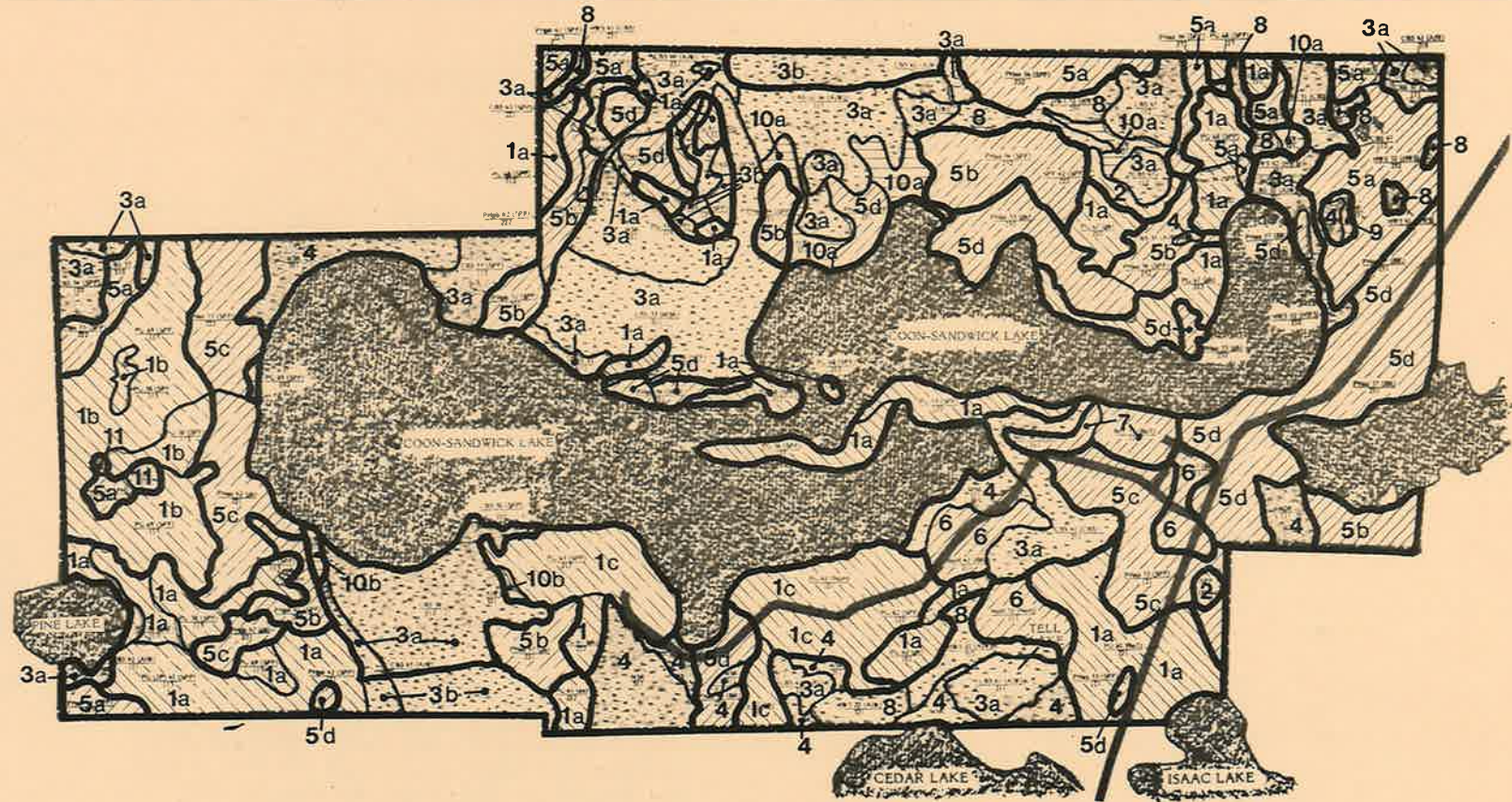
#### Objectives:





To perpetuate and expand the conifer forests (particularly pine)



To enhance the age, class, and species diversity

#### •Specific Management

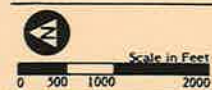
The primary vegetation management objectives for Scenic State Park are the reestablishment and perpetuation of the native northern conifer forest, and improvement of the forest for wildlife habitat. However, to convert the entire park area into coniferous forest would severely reduce vegetation habitat diversity. Therefore, a management plan that restores coniferous forest to some areas, while maintaining other areas in different forest types, will provide this park with near optimum vegetative conditions. The following table outlines the recommended management practices for each ecological community.



-  Brushland
-  Hardwoods
-  Conifers
-  Marshland

-  Similar Management Groups
-  Specific Management Areas Within Groups

Note: See text for key of specific management practices.





Vegetation Management Table

<u>Map Code</u>	<u>Ecological Community</u>	<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Specific Management</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1a	Pine Groves (PG)	Pine regeneration	Through a combination of cutting and burning, the understory and ground litter will be removed to enhance pine regeneration. Also in very dense stands, some of the overmature pine may be cut to allow more sunlight to penetrate. In 1978, everything but red and white pine should be cut in 1/3 of the area. The district forester and park manager will determine if there is enough marketable timber to warrant contracting commercial logging. The second 1/3 of the area should be cut in 1980 and the final 1/3 in 1982.	Cutting \$100/acre \$15,000/10 yrs. Burning \$60/acre \$9,000/10 yrs.
1b	Pine Groves (PG)	Maintain	Remove overmature and hazardous trees. Trees should be replanted if this cutting creates large openings. Commercial logging is recommended if feasible. In all commercial logging contracts there will be careful monitoring of the operation.	Cutting \$250/yr. \$2,500/10 yr. Planting \$150/yr. \$1,500/10 yr.
1c	Pine Groves (PG)	Reestablish	Most of the area doesn't require cutting, but it must be replanted with either nurse stock or 6-foot-minimum pine species to reestablish the pine community. One half the area should be planted in 1978 and the balance in 1980.	\$6,160/10 yrs.
2	Spruce-Fir (SPF)	Maintain	Fire suppression.	None
3a	Conifer Bogs and Swamps (CBS)	Maintain	If current growth and succession are allowed to continue, the community should maintain itself (with exception of cedar which is not regenerating well, (see 3b).	None



<u>Map Code</u>	<u>Ecological Community</u>	<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Specific Management</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
3b	Conifer Bogs and Swamps (CBS)	Enhance cedar regeneration	In 1978, small tracts in varying sizes (not larger than 1/2 acre) sand shapes should be burned to enhance cedar regeneration. Tracts should be located next to, but not within, an existing cedar grove. If burns are successful, more tracts should be burned in 10 years.	\$50/acre \$350/initial burn \$450 successive burn
4	Muskeg (MSK)	Maintain	Fire suppression.	None
5a	Pioneer Hardwoods/aspen or paper birch (PH/as or PH/pb)	Diversify stand age	<p>Areas in varying sizes and shapes should be cleared and cut to enhance regrowth of pioneer hardwoods. If a commercial contract is negotiated, the entire 51 acres can be cut in one biennium. If park laborers do the cutting, 10 acres per biennium should be cut, as follows: (See 5a areas on Vegetation Management Map, p.62 )</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Area near CSAH 7 in the southeast corner of the park.</li> <li>2. Two small areas (approximately 4 and 7 acres) along the east side of the park just north of area #1.</li> <li>3. The area just north of the 7 acre tract in #2.</li> <li>4. The two small areas in the eastern most corner of the park.</li> <li>5. The two areas in the northern most corners of the park.</li> </ol> <p>The order in which these areas are cut will be determined by the park manager and district forester.</p>	\$5,000/10 yrs.
5b	Pioneer Hardwoods/aspen or paper birch (PH/as or PH/pb)	Create wildlife openings	<u>Method #1 on East Side of Lake</u> -- Treat one 1-acre tract per year beginning in 1980 with chemicals to create and maintain openings for wildlife.	\$175/acre \$1,400/8 yrs.

<u>Map Code</u>	<u>Ecological Community</u>	<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Specific Management</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
			<u>Method #2 on West Side of Lake</u> -- Create two 1-acre wildlife openings in 1980 and maintain with chemicals. Beaver are naturally cutting some of these clearings. If that is not sufficient, then other methods should be used. These would include issuing fuelwood permits; park personnel cutting the wood for park purposes when feasible; park personnel cutting the wood and leaving it for wildlife.	Cutting \$250/acre \$500/10 yrs. Chemical treatment \$5/acre \$10/yr. \$20/10 yr.
5c	Pioneer Hardwoods/aspen or paper birch (PH/as or PH/pb)	Enhance conifer growth	Beginning in 1980 remove the canopy from a few small tracts (approximately 1/2 acre in size) per year to enhance underlying regeneration. This can be done by issuing fuelwood permits, cutting by park personnel, or logging by commercial contract. Beaver cutting may be sufficient in aspen stands, but not in birch and other areas.	\$250/acre \$500/yr. \$4,000/8 yrs.
5d	Pioneer Hardwoods/aspen (PH/as)	Natural succession	No active management except fire suppression. Aspen will gradually give way to conifers or brush.	None
6	Northern Hardwoods (NoH)	Maintain	Fire suppression. Stand may eventually convert to conifers.	None
7	Bottomland Hardwoods (BoT)	Maintain	Fire suppression. Stand may eventually convert to spruce and/or cedar.	None
8	Hardwood Swamp (HWS)	Natural succession	Fire suppression. Stand will eventually convert to pioneer hardwoods and then a spruce-fir community.	None
9	Brush (3r)	Natural succession	Fire suppression. Stand will convert to pioneer hardwoods and then to spruce-fir community.	None

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<u>Map Code</u>	<u>Ecological Community</u>	<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Specific Management</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
10a	Alder-Willow (AIW)	Maintain community	Fire suppression.	None
10b	Alder-Willow	Enhance cedar regeneration	Burn small areas (maximum 1-acre tracts) in 1978 to enhance cedar regeneration.	\$25/acre \$75/10 yrs.
11	Marsh (MH)	Maintain	If the marsh starts to burn naturally and surrounding vegetation communities are in no danger, the fire should be permitted to burn.	None
1-11	All of the Above	Research	Research projects should be carried out to determine effectiveness of management recommendations. Recommendations 1a, 3b, and 10b particularly, should be studied because of the present regeneration problem. The College of Forestry, University of Minnesota, and the North-Central Forest Experiment Station should be consulted for further potential management recommendations.	\$5,000/biennium \$25,000/10 yrs.

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Tornadoes in 1971 and 1975, along with shallow root systems have left large numbers of trees in a weakened condition. Therefore, trees judged to be hazardous, especially near recreational facilities must be cut and cleared away. Cut trees should be replaced with nurse stock pine (six foot minimum) planted with a tree spade, so that at least part of their root system will grow below the hard clay pan which caused the existing mature trees to form shallow root systems.

Cedar regeneration is a problem in Scenic. There are extensive areas of conifer bogs and swamps with mature cedar, but there are few young plants. One reason for this problem is that deer yard up in the cedar stands and browse on the young seedlings. Hopefully management burns will clear out the taller trees, allowing the young cedar to grow to the point where the deer won't be able to browse off them.

The management plan for Scenic State Park calls for a 1,360-acre boundary expansion. If the expansion is approved, the area which is already inventoried, should be analyzed and specific management practices recommended.

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## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

Many species are commonplace but unnoticeable because of their elusive or secretive behavior. For many visitors, the mere awareness of the presence of wildlife is all that is needed to change a dull, uneventful walk through the brush into challenging, refreshing stroll through nature's handiwork. In order to provide such an experience for park users, detailed inventories of park wildlife are needed so that managers are better able to manage habitat to attract certain species or protect habitat to ensure the continued presence of existing species. The following wildlife inventory was based on checklists and reports submitted by local residents, 'birders', naturalists, area game managers, and park managers. The list is not all inclusive and will continue to be revised and updated as new data is reported.

Certain wildlife species occurring within a park are especially noteworthy because special precautions are required in their management or protection. These species may be sensitive to human activity or have the potential of damaging vegetation and property or they may pose a threat to park visitors. These wildlife species and the potential problems are discussed in the following paragraphs.

### Inventory

Wildlife species reside in or migrate through Scenic State Park. There are 138 bird species, 39 mammal species, and 14 amphibian and reptile species inhabiting the park or the immediate area. See checklist on pages 69-73.

### Endangered, Threatened, or Rare Species

Species within this group are those which are presently in danger of extinction in Minnesota in the immediate future; species which could become endangered in the foreseeable future in Minnesota, but not necessarily throughout their entire range; or species that once resided in Minnesota, but have been extirpated because of changes in land and water use patterns.

There are presently no known species of birds, mammals, reptiles or amphibians inhabiting the park which are endangered, threatened, or rare.



# BIRD CHECKLIST

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
●	Common Loon	●						●					
	Red-throated Loon												
	Red-necked Grebe												
	Horned Grebe												
	Eared Grebe												
	Western Grebe												
●	Pied-billed Grebe		●					●					
	White Pelican												
	Double-crested Cormorant												
●	Great Blue Heron		●					●					
	Green Heron												
	Cattle Egret												
	Great Egret												
	Black-crowned Night Heron												
	Yellow-crowned Night Heron												
	Least Bittern												
●	American Bittern		●					●					
●	Whistling Swan		●						●				
●	Canada Goose		●						●				
	White-fronted Goose												
●	Snow Goose		●					●					
●	Mallard		●					●					
●	Black Duck		●					●					
	Gadwall												
	Pintail												
●	Green-winged Teal		●					●					
●	Blue-winged Teal		●					●					
●	American Wigeon		●					●					
	Northern Shoveler												
●	Wood Duck		●					●					
	Redhead												
●	Ring-necked Duck		●					●					
	Canvasback												
	Greater Scaup												
●	Lesser Scaup		●					●					
●	Common Goldeneye		●					●					
●	Bufflehead		●					●					
	Oldsquaw												
	Harlequin Duck												
	White-winged Scoter												
	Surf Scoter												
	Black Scoter												
	Ruddy Duck												
●	Hooded Merganser		●					●					
●	Common Merganser		●					●					
	Red-breasted Merganser												
●	Turkey Vulture		●					●					
●	Goshawk		●				●						
	Sharp-shinned Hawk												
	Cooper's Hawk												
●	Red-tailed Hawk		●					●					

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
	Red-shouldered Hawk												
●	Broad-winged Hawk		●					●					
	Swainson's Hawk												
	Rough-legged Hawk												
	Ferruginous Hawk												
	Golden Eagle												
●	Bald Eagle		●					●					
●	Marsh Hawk		●					●					
●	Osprey		●					●					
	Peregrine Falcon												
●	Merlin		●					●					
●	American Kestrel		●					●					
●	Spruce Grouse		●					●					
●	Ruffed Grouse		●					●					
	Greater Prairie Chicken												
	Sharp-tailed Grouse												
	Bobwhite												
	Ring-necked Pheasant												
	Chukar												
	Gray Partridge												
	Sandhill Crane												
	King Rail												
	Virginia Rail												
●	Sora		●					●					
	Yellow Rail												
	Common Gallinule												
●	American Coot		●					●					
	Semipalmated Plover												
	Piping Plover												
	Killdeer												
	American Golden Plover												
	Black-bellied Plover												
	Ruddy Turnstone												
●	American Woodcock		●					●					
	Common Snipe												
	Whimbrel												
	Upland Sandpiper												
●	Spotted Sandpiper		●					●					
●	Solitary Sandpiper		●					●					
	Greater Yellowlegs												
	Lesser Yellowlegs												
	Willet												
	Red Knot												
	Pectoral Sandpiper												
	White-rumped Sandpiper												
	Baird's Sandpiper												
	Least Sandpiper												
	Dunlin												
	Semipalmated Sandpiper												
	Western Sandpiper												
	Sanderling												



BIRD CHECKLIST

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
	Short-billed Dowitcher												
	Long-billed Dowitcher												
	Stilt Sandpiper												
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper												
	Marbled Godwit												
	Hudsonian Godwit												
	American Avocet												
	Wilson's Phalarope												
	Northern Phalarope												
	Parasitic Jaeger												
	Glaucous Gull												
●	Herring Gull		●										●
●	Ring-billed Gull			●									●
	Franklin's Gull												
	Bonaparte's Gull												
	Forster's Tern												
	Common Tern												
	Caspian Tern												
●	Black Tern			●									
	Rock Dove												
	Mourning Dove												
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo												
●	Black-billed Cuckoo			●									
	Screech Owl												
●	Great Horned Owl			●									
●	Snowy Owl			●									
●	Hawk-Owl			●									
	Burrowing Owl												
●	Barred Owl		●										
●	Great Gray Owl			●									
	Long-eared Owl												
	Short-eared Owl												
●	Saw-whet Owl			●									
	Whip-poor-will												
●	Common Nighthawk			●									
	Chimney Swift												
●	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			●									
●	Belted Kingfisher			●									
●	Common Flicker			●									
●	Pileated Woodpecker			●									
	Red-bellied Woodpecker												
	Red-headed Woodpecker												
●	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			●									
●	Hairy Woodpecker			●									
●	Downy Woodpecker			●									
●	Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker			●									
	Northern 3-toed Woodpecker												
●	Eastern Kingbird			●									
	Western Kingbird												
●	Great Crested Flycatcher			●									
	Eastern Phoebe			●									

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher												
	Acadian Flycatcher												
●	Willow Flycatcher												
●	Alder Flycatcher			●									●
●	Least Flycatcher			●									●
●	Eastern Wood Pewee			●									●
●	Olive-sided Flycatcher			●									●
	Horned Lark												
●	Tree Swallow			●									●
	Bank Swallow												
	Rough-winged Swallow												
●	Barn Swallow												●
●	Cliff Swallow			●									●
●	Purple Martin			●									●
●	Gray Jay			●									●
●	Blue Jay			●									●
	Black-billed Magpie												
●	Common Raven			●									●
●	Common Crow			●									●
●	Black-capped Chickadee			●									●
●	Boreal Chickadee			●									●
	Tufted Titmouse												
●	White-breasted Nuthatch			●									●
●	Red-breasted Nuthatch			●									●
●	Brown Creeper			●									●
●	House Wren			●									●
●	Winter Wren			●									●
	Long-billed Marsh Wren												
	Short-billed Marsh Wren												
	Mockingbird												
●	Gray Catbird			●									●
	Brown Thrasher												
●	American Robin			●									●
	Varied Thrush												
	Wood Thrush												
●	Hermit Thrush			●									●
●	Swainson's Thrush			●									●
●	Gray-cheeked Thrush			●									●
●	Veery			●									●
●	Eastern Bluebird			●									●
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher												
●	Golden-crowned Kinglet			●									●
●	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			●									●
	Water Pipit												
	Sprague's Pipit												
	Bohemian Waxwing												
●	Cedar Waxwing			●									●
●	Northern Shrike			●									●
	Loggerhead Shrike												
●	Starling			●									●
	Bell's Vireo												



BIRD CHECKLIST

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE					
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNK-NOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN	
●	Yellow-throated Vireo													
●	Solitary Vireo		●											
●	Red-eyed Vireo	●												
	Philadelphia Vireo													
	Warbling Vireo													
●	Black-and-white Warbler		●											
	Prothonotary Warbler													
●	Golden-winged Warbler		●											
	Blue-winged Warbler													
●	Tennessee Warbler		●											
●	Orange-crowned Warbler		●											
●	Nashville Warbler	●												
●	Northern Parula		●											
●	Yellow Warbler		●											
●	Magnolia Warbler		●											
	Cape May Warbler													
	Black-throated Blue Warbler													
●	Yellow-rumped Warbler		●											
●	Black-throated Green Warbler		●											
	Cerulean Warbler													
●	Blackburnian Warbler		●											
●	Chestnut-sided Warbler		●											
●	Bay-breasted Warbler			●										
●	Blackpoll Warbler		●											
●	Pine Warbler		●											
●	Palm Warbler		●											
●	Ovenbird		●											
●	Northern Waterthrush		●											
●	Louisiana Waterthrush		●											
●	Connecticut Warbler		●											
●	Mourning Warbler		●											
●	Common Yellowthroat		●											
	Wilson's Warbler													
	Canada Warbler													
●	American Redstart		●											
●	House Sparrow		●											
●	Bobolink		●											
●	Eastern Meadowlark				●									
●	Western Meadowlark				●									
	Yellow-headed Blackbird													
●	Red-winged Blackbird		●											
	Orchard Oriole													
●	Northern Oriole		●											
●	Rusty Blackbird		●											
	Brewer's Blackbird													
●	Common Grackle		●											
●	Brown-headed Cowbird		●											
●	Scarlet Tanager		●											
	Cardinal													
●	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		●											
	Blue Grosbeak													

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE					
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNK-NOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN	
●	Indigo Bunting				●									
	Dickcissel													
●	Evening Grosbeak		●											
●	Purple Finch		●											
●	Pine Grosbeak		●											
	Hoary Redpoll													
●	Common Redpoll		●											
●	Pine Siskin		●											
●	American Goldfinch		●											
●	Red Crossbill		●											
●	White-winged Crossbill		●											
	Rufous-sided Towhee													
	Lark Bunting													
	Savannah Sparrow													
	Grasshopper Sparrow													
	Henslow's Sparrow													
	Le Conte's Sparrow													
	Sharp-tailed Sparrow													
●	Vesper Sparrow					●								
	Lark Sparrow													
●	Dark-eyed Junco		●											
●	Tree Sparrow		●											
●	Chipping Sparrow		●											
	Clay-colored Sparrow													
	Field Sparrow													
	Harris' Sparrow													
	White-crowned Sparrow													
●	White-throated Sparrow		●											
	Fox Sparrow													
	Lincoln's Sparrow													
●	Swamp Sparrow		●											
●	Song Sparrow		●											
	Lapland Longspur													
	Smith's Longspur													
	Chestnut-collared Longspur													
	Snow Bunting													



MAMMAL CHECKLIST

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
	Opossum												
	Eastern Mole												
●	Star-nose Mole		●					●					
●	Cinereous Shrew		●					●					
●	Richardson Shrew		●					●					
●	Water Shrew					●		●					
	Pygmy Shrew												
	Least Shrew												
●	Short-tailed Shrew		●					●					
●	Little Brown Bat			●						●			
	Keen Myotis												
	Big Brown Bat												
	Pipistrelle Bat												
	Silver-haired Bat												
	Red Bat												
	Hoary Bat												
	White-tailed Jackrabbit												
●	Snowshoe Hare		●					●					
	Eastern Cottontail Rabbit												
●	Woodchuck		●					●			●		
	Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel												
	Franklin Ground Squirrel												
●	Least Chipmunk					●		●					
●	Eastern Chipmunk			●				●					
●	Red Squirrel		●					●					
	Eastern Gray Squirrel												
	Fox Squirrel												
	Southern Flying Squirrel												
●	Northern Flying Squirrel		●					●					
	Northern Pocket Gopher												
	Plains Pocket Gopher												
	Pocket Mouse												
●	Beaver		●					●			●		
	Western Harvest Mouse												
	Northern Grasshopper Mouse												
	Prairie Deer Mouse												
●	Woodland Deer Mouse		●					●					
●	White-footed Mouse		●					●					
●	Bog Lemming					●		●					
	Northern Bog Lemming												
●	Boreal Redback Vole					●		●					
●	Meadow Vole		●					●					
	Rock Vole												
	Prairie Vole												
	Pine Vole												
●	Muskrat		●					●			●		
●	Norway Rat		●					●					
●	House Mouse		●					●					
●	Meadow Jumping Mouse		●					●					
●	Woodland Jumping Mouse		●					●					

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
●	Porcupine							●	●			●	
●	Black Bear		●					●				●	
●	Raccoon		●					●				●	
●	Fisher							●	●				
	Marten												
●	Short-tailed Weasel		●					●					
	Long-tailed Weasel												
	Least Weasel												
●	Mink		●					●					
●	River Otter							●	●				
	Spotted Skunk												
●	Striped Skunk		●					●				●	
●	Badger							●	●			●	
●	Red Fox		●					●					
	Gray Fox												
●	Coyote							●	●				
●	Timber Wolf							●	●				
●	Canada Lynx							●	●				
●	Bobcat							●	●				
●	White-tailed Deer		●					●	●				
●	Moose							●	●				



REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN CHECKLIST

FOUND IN PARK	SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE							SEASONAL OCCURRENCE				
		ABUNDANT	COMMON	UNCOMMON	RARE	ENDANGERED	UNKNOWN	PERMANENT RESIDENT	SUMMER RESIDENT	MIGRANT	WINTER VISITANT	SEASONALLY INACTIVE	UNCERTAIN
●	Common Snapping Turtle						●	●				●	
	Wood Turtle												
	Map Turtle												
●	Western Painted Turtle		●					●				●	
	Blanding's Turtle												
	False Map Turtle												
	Western Spiny Softshell												
	Eastern Spiny Softshell												
	Northern Prairie Skink												
	Five-lined Skink												
	Six-lined Racerunner												
●	Northern Red-bellied Snake		●					●				●	
	Texas Brown Snake												
	Northern Water Snake												
	Eastern Plains Garter Snake												
●	Eastern Garter Snake		●					●				●	
	Red Sided Garter Snake												
	Plains Hognose Snake												
	Eastern Hognose Snake												
	Blue Racer												
	Eastern Smooth Green Snake												
	Western Smooth Green Snake												
	Bullsnake												
	Western Fox Snake												
	Black Rat Snake												
	Eastern Milk Snake												
	Eastern Massasauga												
	Timber Rattlesnake												
	Mudpuppy												
	Central Newt												
●	Jefferson Salamander							●				●	
	Eastern Tiger Salamander												
	Gray Tiger Salamander												
●	Red-backed Salamander							●				●	
	Dakota Toad												
●	American Toad		●					●				●	
	Great Plains Toad												
●	Northern Spring Peeper							●				●	
●	Eastern Gray Treefrog		●					●				●	
	Blanchard's Cricket Frog												
●	Boreal Chorus Frog		●					●				●	
	Western Chorus Frog												
	Pickerel Frog												
●	Mink Frog		●					●				●	
●	Northern Leopard Frog		●					●				●	
●	Green Frog		●					●				●	
●	Wood Frog		●					●				●	

DEFINITIONS

Abundant - Trained observer may see several individuals in one day during the residency period of the species.

Common - Trained observer may see one or more individuals in one day.

Uncommon - Trained observer may see one individual in the course of one summer.

Rare - Species normally not observed by the trained observer.

Endangered - Listed in the Federal Register as a threatened or endangered species.

Unknown - Abundance of an individual species in a given park has not been determined.

Permanent Resident - Resident in the park area on a year-round basis.

Summer Resident - Only found in the park area during the summer months, presence may or may not indicate breeding activity.

Migrant - Normally found in the park area only during the spring or fall migratory season.

Winter Visitant - Normally found in the park area only during the winter months.

Uncertain - Seasonal occurrence status is not known for the species in the park area.

Seasonal Inactive - Species is seasonally inactive in the park area, may enter dormancy, hibernation or aestivation.

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Species of Special Interest

Species within this group include those which are uncommon or locally distributed in Minnesota and are not presently threatened or endangered, but might become so. Also included are those species which presently are not in any particular difficulty but should be closely watched because of unusual or special values, because they are of special public interest, or because their habitat is especially vulnerable. Special habitat management techniques may be required.

Birds

Seasonal Residents

Common Loon  
Marsh Hawk  
Bald Eagle

Permanent Residents

Pileated Woodpecker

Mammals

Canada Lynx  
Timber Wolf  
Fisher  
Bobcat

Reptiles and Amphibians

Snapping Turtle  
Red-backed Salamander

Troublesome Species

Troublesome species include those species of wildlife which might be detrimental to either the natural resources of a park, park property, or park visitors.

Mammals

White-tailed Deer  
Porcupine  
Beaver  
Raccoon  
Striped Skunk  
Black Bear

Potential Problems

Vegetation destruction  
Vegetation destruction  
Vegetation destruction  
Nuisance  
Nuisance  
Nuisance

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### Sensitivity to Humans

Species listed within this group are those which are unusually sensitive to disturbance by human activity. Disturbance during one season or another may result in nest or den abandonment, decrease in territorial size or shift in territorial movement. Such disturbance might be detrimental to the survival of the species in a given area or may have effects over a much larger area.

#### Birds

Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Loon

#### Mammals

Timber Wolf

### Management

#### Objectives:

To increase the diversity and number of species that inhabit the park, particularly those species which require the northern coniferous forest for their habitat

To protect any sensitive species found inhabiting or visiting the park

#### •Specific Management

Wildlife management in Scenic, as in all parks, should be directed toward species diversity. In Scenic, special emphasis should be placed on species that inhabit the northern coniferous forest. The major wildlife management technique, other than habitat improvement and protection, is population control of certain species.

Loon are common on Coon/Sandwick Lake and have nesting sites there. If the current limit (10 mph maximum) for motor boats on this lake is continued and lake users are informed of the nest locations, the chances of the continued presence of this species are good.



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The bald eagle is also commonly seen soaring high above the park. In the past, the bird has nested in the park. There are several active nests in the adjacent Chippewa National Forest. The park manager and naturalist should watch for nests, and, if any are found, users should be kept away from the area during the brood season.

Other particular concerns include the management of Cedar and Tell lakes. There is an active osprey nest on Tell Lake that must be protected. An interpretive trail now being built around Tell Lake will be kept well back from the nest. Screening and blinds should be provided on the trail where it comes closest to the nest. Boats with motors should be prohibited from using Tell Lake and non-motorized boats should be severely restricted. Cedar is a large shallow lake that can best be managed for aquatic furbearers and waterfowl. The local wildlife manager along with the park manager should assess these lakes and manage them accordingly.

The beaver population is not presently a problem. There are at least three active beaver colonies in Coon/Sandwich Lake. Their work assists in the vegetative management of the park. However, one colony is working in a use area and may have to be moved, especially if the population increases. Relocation of the colony to Tell and Cedar lakes is recommended. If these lakes do not have resident populations at the time relocation becomes necessary.

The deer problem is seasonal. The park's large expanses of conifer bog provide excellent winter yarding areas. So many deer yard up in the park that nearly all the young cedar is browsed off and everything within reach is chewed off the older trees. The vegetation management section offered habitat improvement as a solution to this problem. If this doesn't work, other programs will have to be implemented. A wolf pack appears to be establishing itself in the park which will help control the deer population. As a final resort, a program of controlled hunting may have to be implemented.

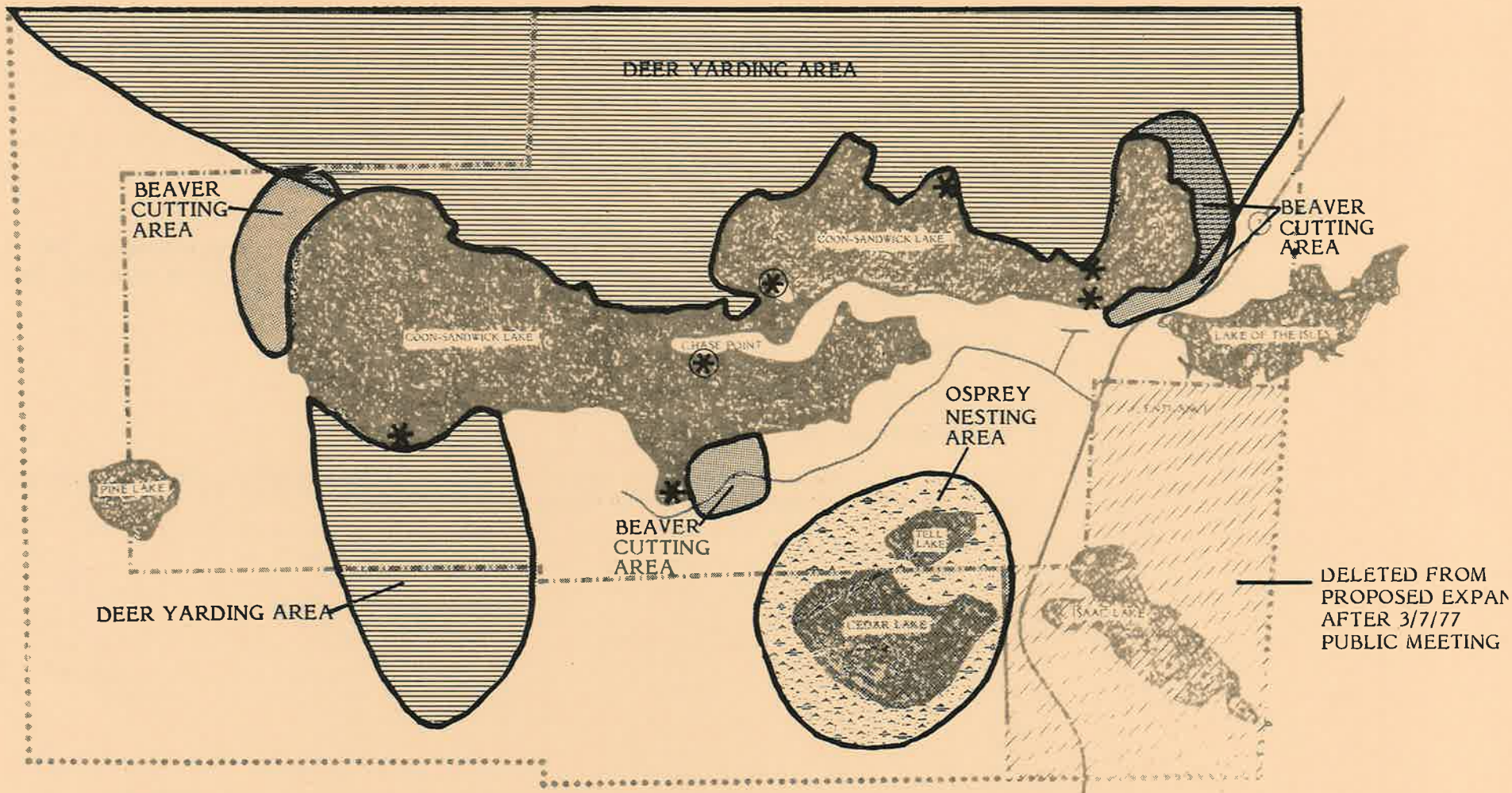
There have been some discussion in recent years about reintroduction of the woodland caribou into the northern reaches of Minnesota. The objective of the wildlife section of this plan is to increase the number of northern boreal forest species. Unfortunately, the caribou and the moose cannot be brought into this park for three reasons. First, both species are nomadic and require large areas to roam. Scenic, even with the proposed expansion, is not large enough to support a viable population of either species. Second, the park is on the very fringe of the natural range of these species creating an unstable condition. Third, neither species adjusts well to the presence of man, and Scenic's many visitors would put considerable stress on them.






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It is recommended that \$10,000 be appropriated to research the song birds, small mammals, and other species that have not been studied. All habitat improvement costs are negligible and will be absorbed by the existing wildlife and parks budgets. The district forester, park managers, and wildlife manager will work closely in implementing the vegetation and wildlife sections of this plan. Their cooperation will result in the improvement of these valuable park resources.

Source

Moye, John B., "The Uncommon Ones," Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 1975, pp. 6-7.



- |   |                     |   |                   |
|---|---------------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Deer Yarding Area   |  | Beaver Lodge      |
|  | Beaver Cutting Area |  | Loon Nesting Area |
|  | Osprey Nesting Area |   |                   |





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## PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

It is of primary importance to protect both known and suspected prehistoric and historic sites until excavation, analysis, and interpretation of these sites can be carried out.

### Inventory

Research revealed that a road and four structures in the proximity of the park date back to c. 1891. Although literature research has revealed no evidence of prehistoric sites within the park, that the area is thought to have considerable archeological potential.

### Objective:

To identify all prehistoric and historic sites in Scenic State Park

#### •Specific Management

A field survey should be implemented with the assistance of the Historical Society to survey all potential prehistoric and historic sites in the park.

Estimated Cost: \$1,800

## USER ANALYSIS

### Introduction

Careful consideration must be given to future needs of the park user. Although a great deal of data exists concerning disparate elements of the subject, no comprehensive authoritative study on recreational tourism demand within Minnesota is currently available. Trends in travel patterns are now discernible, but estimates of the time period over which this demand develops and of its magnitude are only speculative at this time. Furthermore, published data largely documents what people have done in the past. Only if we assume that these trends will continue, can conclusions be drawn. Obviously, this data is not (nor can it be) sensitive to any unpredictable technological changes or political events. For example, the oil embargo created an "energy crisis" overnight. This development and its implications have had a direct impact upon travel patterns.

There are two basic aspects of recreational demand. The first involves measurement of the amount and kind of recreational opportunities/facilities currently demanded by the public (e.g., the size of the park or the number of campsites). The second aspect involves an estimate of latent demand for recreational opportunities/facilities which would exist if citizens were given ample opportunity and adequate conditions to participate in an activity (e.g., the number of handicapped campers that would have utilized campsites if the architectural barriers to their use had been removed).

In the planning for the use and development of state parks, an attempt has been made to anticipate the recreational needs of the public by providing increased recreational opportunities while protecting the park's natural resources.

### Regional Analysis

Economic Development Region 3 includes Itasca, Koochiching, Aitkin, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties.

Scenic State Park is located in Itasca County which ranked thirteen in the state. The amount of income derived from tourist-travel expenditures in 1974 was \$14,721,000. This amount represented 7.2% of total retail sales within the county. Cook County also in this region, has the highest tourist related expenditure average with 68.9%. The statewide average is 3.4%.

The rapidly growing taconite industry has brought a large influx of people into the northeastern part of the state. Many of these people use the area's parks as a focus for their recreational activities. Also Scenic State Park is located near one of the primary access routes to Voyageurs National Park. National parks attract large numbers of people from a wide area. Scenic may become a stop off point for visitors going to or coming from Voyageurs National Park.

The 1974 Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) determined what the surpluses and deficiencies of facilities were probable for each region. The following table denotes SCORP's findings for Region 3 for the three categories that pertain to state parks.

Facility and Land Deficiency (-) or Surplus (+) in Region 3

	Swimming (Water Acres/Land Acres)	Camping (Sites/Acres)	Picnicking (Tables/Acres)
1980 units/acres	+75.6	-2,487/-622	-1,470/-147
1990 units/acres	+65.3	-5,527/-1,381	-1,762/-176

Because of the numerous lakes in this region, there is expected to be a surplus of swimming areas through 1990.

SCORE recommended that counties and private enterprise provide facilities to correct these deficiencies. This is a sound recommendation, if the county wants to take on the task and has money to do the job. In most counties, however, particularly rural ones, the cost is simply too high. Although it is not the intent of the DNR to provide for the total recreational needs of Minnesota, the DNR is committed to assisting in the development of recreational facilities wherever the private sector or local units of government are unable to underwrite such projects.

Scenic State Park can play an important role in providing for the recreational needs of the area. However, because of the vulnerability of Scenic's resources, it must be remembered in development planning that more area than is usually needed must be used in order to fully protect Scenic's resources while providing recreational facilities for an optimum number of people.

Source

Bureau of Environmental Planning and Protection, Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, (St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), 1974.



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## EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Scenic State Park has been significantly improved over the years, however the improvements have been restricted to specific areas. The original campground, midway along the west side of Coon/Sandwick Lake, was rehabilitated and opened during the summer of 1976. The campground has 42 sites, a flush-type sanitation building with showers, four pit toilets, a fish cleaning house, and a boat ramp.

South of this campground, along the lake, is a picnic area and beach. This area contains approximately 40 tables, a flush-type sanitation building, a set of pit toilets, beach changing stalls, a naturalist's cabin, and an enclosed shelter which is also used for interpretive programs.

Further south on the west side of Coon/Sandwick Lake is the other campground which has 75 sites, a flush-type sanitation building with showers, four pit toilets, and fish cleaning house.

A boat ramp is located immediately south of this campground and the contact station/park office is located along the entrance road between this boat ramp and the second campground.

A pioneer group camp which can accommodate 100 people is located on the north end of the Lake of the Isles. The camp has a hand pump, one set of double pit toilets, and one set of single pit toilets.

Other facilities or services at Scenic include three miles of natural trails, five miles of hiking trails, eight miles of snowmobile trails, boats for rent, and a forestry lookout tower. There are three old Adirondack trail shelters along the hiking trail which runs along the east and north sides of Coon/Sandwick Lake.

The electrical line servicing the park runs overhead parallel to CSAH 7. The major feeder line into the park branches off CSAH 7 at the western park boundary and follows the boundary north to a point straight west of the picnic area. Two distribution lines branch from this feeder. One goes to the picnic area and upper campground; the other branches into the lower campground, and from there underground lines go to the campground facilities and the office. A second feeder line branches off the main line along CSAH 7 opposite the headquarters area to service the manager's residence and headquarters. All of the branch lines are old and need to be replaced.

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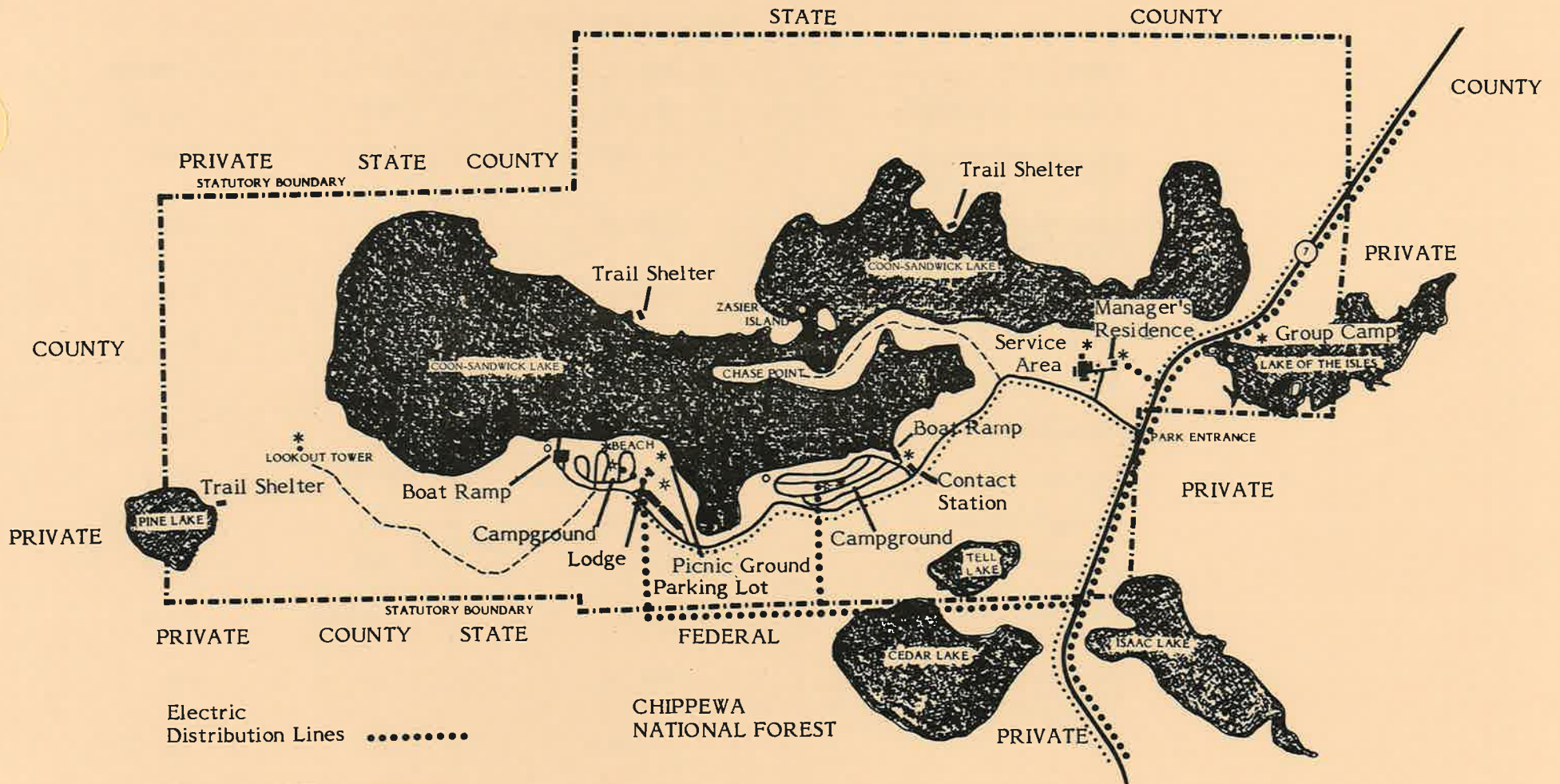
The main telephone line also runs overhead parallel to CSAH 7. An underground line branches off and follows the main park road into the picnic area, servicing the headquarters, the contact station, a public phone behind the contact station, and the naturalist's cabin.

There are eight wells in the park. The forestry lookout tower well is presently capped. The campgrounds and the residences all have pressure systems. In addition, the lower campground, the group camp, and the picnic area have wells with hand pumps.

The sewage systems are in very poor condition and need to be entirely replaced. The upper campground and picnic area both have Imhoff tanks. The lower campground has a septic tank and a drywell. The office and headquarters have septic tanks. The assistant manager's and manager's residences have septic tanks and drain fields.

The map on page 84 identifies the locations of the existing development and approximate locations of the utilities.

GEORGE WASHINGTON STATE FOREST



Electric  
 Distribution Lines    .....

Telephone Lines    .....

Water Well    \*

Sanitation Building    \*

Fish Cleaning  
 House    o





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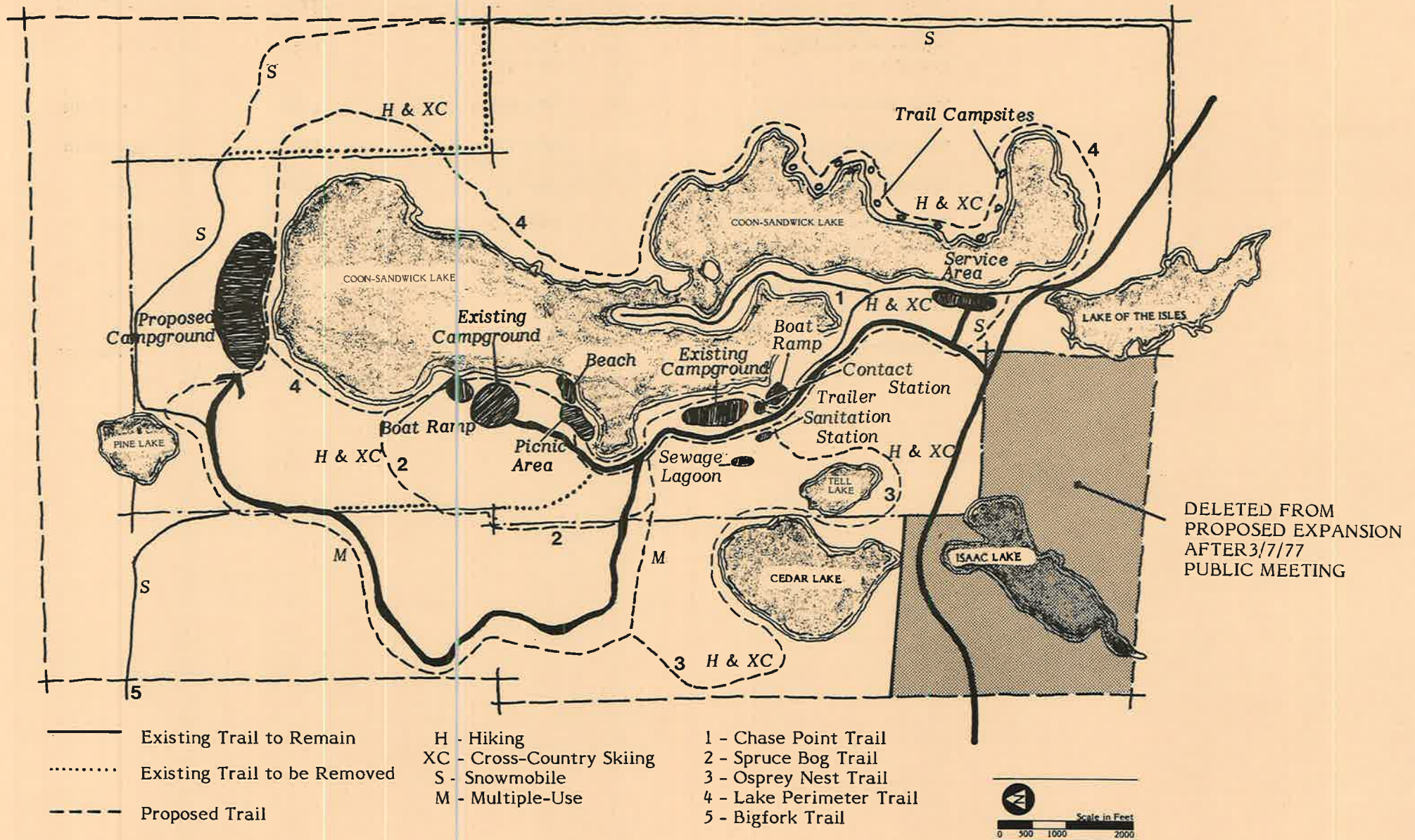
Scenic Building Inventory

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Contact Station/Office	16' x 28'	1975	Excellent
Fish Cleaning House, Chase Point Campground	12' x 15'	1959	Good
Fish Cleaning House, Lodge Campground	12' x 15'	1972	Good
Storage Garage	24' x 49'	1935	Poor
Naturalist's Cabin	19' x 26'	1935	Poor
Oil House (Warehouse)	17' x 22'	1935	Fair
Picnic Shelter	30' x 55'	1935	Good
Lean-to	12' x 20'	1935	Good
Manager's Residence	27' x 36'	1968	Excellent
Assistant Mgr. Residence	24' x 38'	1935	Good
Sanitation Building, Chase Point Campground	24' x 30'	Unknown	Good
Sanitation Building, Lodge Campground	10'x 18'	1935	Fair
	16' x 20'	1935	Fair
	16' x 25'	1935	Fair

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Sanitation Building, Picnic Area	21'6" x 30' 10' x 12'	1935	Poor
Shop, Warehouse	26' x 82'	1958	Excellent
Shop, Warehouse	32' x 72'	1967	Excellent
Storage (Toolshed)	19' x 35'	1935	Fair
Water Storage/Pressure Tank, Chase Point Campground	9'4" x 12'	1974	Good
Water Storage/Pressure Tank, Lodge Campground	12' x 12'	Unknown	Poor
Woodshed	20' x 30'	1974	Excellent

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT





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## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

Physical developments within Scenic State Park should be limited to those which are necessary for adequate management and appropriate use and enjoyment. Moreover, all facilities should be developed with carefully controlled safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate use, insuring the least damage to park values. To the highest practicable degree, location, design, and materials for facilities should be consistent with the objectives of preserving and enhancing the natural features of the Pine Moraine Landscape Region.

All future park buildings and facilities will be accessible and in compliance with the Minnesota State Building Code, Chapter 55. An attempt will be made to upgrade existing park facilities to provide accessibility for all individuals including the handicapped and elderly, where it is not detrimental to the natural resources.

### Architectural Theme

Scenic State Park has a good system of CCC buildings that are in excellent condition. These buildings provide a feeling of serenity and the character of the north woods. Any new building should reflect the CCC theme.

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## Development Plan

### I. Campgrounds

Objective: To improve the present camping experiences and provide alternative campsites

#### A. Existing

##### 1. Chase Point Campground - 75 sites

- a) Proposed Action: Replace the sanitation building sewage system with an approved system and install a sanitation dump station.  
Rationale: The present system is in poor condition and is not up to code.  
Cost: Cost included in total system cost, (see Proposed Utilities, La, p. 99 ).
- b) Proposed Action: Rehabilitate campground by site screening, removal of approximately 10 sites, and interior remodeling of sanitation building.  
Rationale: Some of the sites are too close together. Removal of 10 sites and vegetation screening between sites would increase privacy and raise the quality of the camping experience.  
Cost: \$20,000
- c) Proposed Action: Install electrical hookups in 40 sites.  
Rationale: There is public demand but there are no private, county, or municipal facilities with electrical hookups in the area.  
Cost: \$1,000
- d) Proposed Action: Convert campsite lettering system to consecutive numbering system.  
Rationale: Present system is somewhat confusing and leads to excessive driving to find a site. Also, the campground will have two types of sites and a numbering system will provide clearer direction.  
Cost: \$1,000

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2. Lodge Campground - 42 sites

- a) Proposed Action: Replace sanitation building sewage system with a new closed system.  
Rationale: The present system is old and inadequate. Soils under this campground are not suitable for an open system, therefore a closed system must be installed.  
Cost: Cost included in total system cost, (see Proposed Utilities, Ia, p. 99 ).
- b) Proposed Action: Replace overhead electric service with underground lines.  
Rationale: Overhead lines are unsightly. Present lines have bare spots and other safety hazards.  
Cost: \$6,500
- c) Proposed Action: Add vegetational screening between some sites and along the side of the campground adjacent to the picnic area and beach. Removal of a few sites may be necessary.  
Rationale: Some sites require additional screening. Vegetation and soils have been damaged because campers have not stayed on the camping spur. If this condition cannot be corrected by screening affected sites must be closed. Screening will also separate the campground and picnic area.  
Cost: \$3,000
- d) Proposed Action: Remodel interior of the sanitation building and reroof the water storage building/pressure tank.  
Rationale: The interior walls, ceiling, and roof have deteriorated from age and use.  
Cost: \$2,000

3. Group Camp - Capacity, 100 people

- a) Proposed Action: Plant vegetative screening along CSAH 7.  
Rationale: The group camp is exposed to the road, which detracts from the camping experience.  
Cost: \$100



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3. Proposed

1. Primitive Vehicular Campground

- a) Proposed Action: Develop a primitive campground along the north end of Coon/Sandwick Lake. The campground should contain 30 sites maximum, pit toilets, and a central water source using the fire tower well. Each site should have a picnic table, tent area, and fire ring.  
Rationale: This new campground would offer an alternative form of camping to the present semi-modern campgrounds. It will be located on a highly developable soil, and will eventually replace the Lodge campground.  
Cost: \$90,000

2. Primitive Walk-in/Boat-in Campsites

- a) Proposed Action: Develop approximately 12 campsites along the lake perimeter trail for use by backpackers and boaters. Some sites should be located at old CCC Adirondack shelter sites, if they are repairable. Each site should have a wilderness toilet, a tent area, a fire ring with a fuel break, and a table. Campers must follow a carry in/ carry out policy to eliminate litter.  
Rationale: These sites provide an alternative camping experience, enhancing the range of activities available in the park.  
Cost: \$18,000

II. Day Use Facilities

1. Beach

Objective: To provide a better beach and swimming area

- a) Proposed Action: The beach should be moved to a better location to the northeast.  
Rationale: The existing area doesn't have a sand beach. The northeast location will provide a more enjoyable swimming experience.  
Cost: \$2,000

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2. Picnic Area

Objective: To provide adequate sanitation facilities for picnickers

- a) Proposed Action: Make temporary repairs in existing sanitation building until the addition to the Lodge is completed.  
Rationale: Some repairs are needed immediately, but once the addition to the Lodge is completed the sanitation building will be removed.  
Cost: \$2,500 (\$1,000 repair - 1980, \$1,500 removal - 1987)

III. Boat Launching Facilities

Objective: To reduce the impact of Chase Point boat launch on the park and to improve all the facilities at the Lodge boat launch

1. Chase Point Boat Launch

- a) Proposed Action: Screen the parking lot from the lake.  
Rationale: The present launch is in good condition and can handle the demand. However, the wide expanse of lakeshore that has been cleared for the facility should be re-integrated into the landscape, except for the actual dock area. The lakeshore should be revegetated.  
Cost: \$3,000

2. Lodge Boat Launch

- a) Proposed Action: Modify the launch to improve access during low water periods and improve parking for vehicles with trailers.  
Rationale: The present launch is not functional in low water. Additional parking is needed to accommodate day-use visitors.  
Cost: \$20,000



SPRUCE BOG TRAIL





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#### IV. Trails

**Objectives:** To correct existing erosion problems, to provide snowmobile access to the trail center, to provide through trails linking with trails in surrounding areas, to increase non-riding trail mileage, and to separate the non-compatible trail uses as much as possible

##### A. Existing

##### 1. Chase Point Trail Two miles, non-riding

- a) Proposed Action: Correct minor erosion problems by paving portions of the trail with a 12-inch layer of wood chips.  
Rationale: This is a very popular, heavily-used trail. It is imperative that it be kept in top condition to protect both the users and the resources.  
Cost: \$1,500
- b) Proposed Action: If demand is sufficient, a small pulloff area for a few cars should be developed at the point where the existing trail leaves the park road.  
Rationale: The only parking available for those wishing to hike the Chase Point Trail is at the trail center. The distance from the trail center to the tip of Chase Point and back is four miles, a distance greater than many people may wish to hike.  
Cost: \$800

##### 2. Snowmobile Trail - Eight miles, connects to Bigfork Grant-in-Aid Trail

- a) Proposed Action: Create a separate trail alignment for snowmobiles that begins at the old park entrance road south of Chase Point and winds through the park on the west side of Coon/Sandwick Lake with a branch to the trail center, joining the Bigfork Trail in the northwest corner of the park.  
Rationale: The old trail will be used for hiking and ski touring. Since skiing and snowmobiling are not compatible, a new trail is needed to provide snowmobile access to the trail center and a connecting link to the Bigfork Trail.  
Cost: \$840

b) Proposed Action: Reroute the existing trail from the proposed interpretive trail center to the north end of the park on the road that leads to the new campground.

Rationale: The new trail will be easier to maintain and will cross a less sensitive portion of the park.

Cost: None

c) Proposed Action: If the park is expanded, parts of the trail along the present north boundary and east side of section 32 will be realigned.

Rationale: Realignment will place the trail on more suitable soils; make it more curved, and more visually interesting for the user; and separate the snowmobile trail from the ski touring trail.

Cost: \$1,000

B. Proposed

1. Spruce Bog Trail - Two miles, non-riding

a) Proposed Action: Design and construct a self-guided trail through conifer bog area (see map on p. 87 ). The trail will include approximately 800 feet of floating boardwalk.

Rationale: This trail will give hikers an unusual opportunity to experience conifer bog which is one of the major plant communities in Scenic State Park.

Cost: \$20,800

2. Osprey Nest Trail - Two miles, non-riding

a) Proposed Action: Design and construct trail around Cedar and Tell lakes. The trail (p. 87 ) should not pass too near the osprey nest and should have blinds at a key nest observation point.

Rationale: Observation of this spectacular bird of prey is a very unusual opportunity. Many other kinds of wildlife may also be observed along the trail.

Cost: \$2,700

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3. Lake Perimeter Trail - Eight miles, non-riding

- a) Proposed Action: Design and develop a trail around Coon/Sandwick Lake (see map, p.87 ) connecting the ten walk-in/boat-in campsites. The trail will follow the lakeshore with sections moving inland to include different ecological communities and to avoid obstacles. Wherever practical, the trail will pass by the Adirondack shelters built by the CCC. The shelters should be repaired.  
Rationale: The trail will provide backpacking, hiking, or ski touring access to the campsites.  
Cost: \$20,000

V. Interpretive Services

Objective: To expand the interpretive facilities and to aid the park visitor in understanding and enjoying the natural resources of this region

A. Existing

1. Lodge

- a) Proposed Action: Maintain the Lodge for combination picnic shelter and large-group interpretive area.  
Rationale: This rustic building is very attractive and should be retained.  
Cost: No capital costs

2. Trails

- a) Proposed Action: Develop Chase Point Trail, Spruce Bog Trail, and Osprey Nest Trail as self-guided or naturalist-led interpretive trails. See Trails pp. 94-95, for specific actions.  
Rationale: The unique resources through which these trails pass will contribute greatly to Scenic's interpretive program.  
Cost: Cost included in Trails



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3. Proposed

1. Interpretive/Trail Center

- a) Proposed Action: Construct an addition to the Lodge. The addition would have the same exterior design, but should be winterized, with a fireplace, restrooms, display areas, and a small area for interpretive presentations.  
Rationale: The present lodge is not secure enough for permanent displays. The new building would have locked display cases. The existing structure could not be winterized without ruining its character, but a new addition could. It is in a convenient centralized location with existing parking lots (see Roads and Parking Lots, 2a, p.98 ), adjacent campground, and picnic areas.  
Cost: \$100,000 for the building, equipment, and snowmobile parking spaces

VI. Roads and Parking Lots

Objectives: To upgrade and expand the road system and parking lots providing smooth access to all facilities and to correct the present hydrological problems caused by some of the roads

A. Existing

1. Park Entrance Road

- a) Proposed Action: Pave the road from the picnic area to the Lodge boat launch.  
Rationale: Paving will eliminate dust and mud problems.  
Cost: \$12,500
- b) Proposed Action: Put culverts under the road to allow for increased water flow.  
Rationale: The road presently blocks the natural flow (both surficial and underground) of water. Vegetation has been killed by excess water. Culverts would restore the natural flow allowing the vegetation to be reestablished.  
Cost: The cost is covered in the Water Resources Section, p. 42.

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2. Parking Lot and Picnic Lodge

- a) Proposed Action: Pave the existing lot, create an adjacent snowmobile parking area, and expand the lot if use increases substantially.  
Rationale: Once the interpretive/trail center is added, use may increase substantially and the present lot will not be large enough. The increased use also justifies paving the existing lot and creates the need for a snowmobile parking area.  
Cost: Pave existing lot; \$20,000, expansion lot; \$20,000, snowmobile ( cost is included in Proposed Interpretive Facilities, 1b.,p.97 ).

3. Fire Tower Road - 2.26 miles

- a) Proposed Action: Upgrade present road to a primitive gravel road after the boundary is expanded to provide access to the primitive campground.  
Rationale: The north end of Coon/Sandwick Lake is a highly developable area which needs a road to connect the new campground with the rest of the park facilities.  
Cost: \$60,000

VII. Utilities

Objective: To rehabilitate and develop total utility systems that will function year-around and have minimal impact on the park's aesthetics

A. Existing

1. Power Lines

- a) Proposed Action: Replace all overhead lines within the park boundary with underground lines.  
Rationale: Overhead lines are unsightly.  
Cost: \$45,000

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2. Water Lines

- a) Proposed Action: Place all water lines below the frost line.  
Rationale: The present lines are old and most cannot be used during the winter. Winter activities are increasing, necessitating water service year-around.  
Cost: \$10,000

3. Proposed

1. Sewage System

- a) Proposed Action: A new closed sewage system must be installed for the use areas and the service center. A plan has been completed by a consultant engineer and if approved by the Pollution Control Agency it should be implemented.  
Rationale: A new sewage system is necessary or camping will have to be discontinued.  
Note: There is disagreement regarding the suitability of soils in the proposed sewage lagoon location. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) rates the soils for severe limitations for sewage lagoons based on surface texture and high water table. The consulting engineer maintains that surface texture is irrelevant and the high water table is well below the 5 foot depth of the lagoon.  
Cost: \$250,000 for the total system

VIII: Service Area

Objective: To improve the living and working conditions of the park workers, to maintain a park color scheme, and to improve the security of park facilities

A. Existing

1. Manager's Residence

- a) Proposed Action: Connect the sewage system to the new park system.  
Rationale: Though only a few years old, the present system doesn't function properly because of soils.  
Cost: (See Proposed Utilities, Ia, p.99 )



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b) Proposed Action: Plant additional screening between the house and Coon/Sandwick Lake.  
Rationale: The residence is visible from the lake, detracting from shoreline view from the lake.  
Cost: \$100

c) Proposed Action: Paint the house the same color as the rest of the park buildings.  
Rationale: The present color (green) is different from all the other park buildings. Each park should have one color scheme for all of its buildings.  
Cost: \$1,000

2. Assistant Manager's Residence

a) Proposed Action: Connect the sewage system to the new park system.  
Rationale: The present system is old and doesn't function properly.  
Cost: (See Proposed Utilities, 1a, p. 99 )

b) Proposed Action: Replace the windows.  
Rationale: The windows are old and storm windows cannot be put on, so plastic must be placed over the windows for winter protection.  
Cost: \$1,500

3. Old Garage and Storage Building

a) Proposed Action: Reroof and repair the walls.  
Rationale: The building is old and deteriorating, but it is repairable. It is needed as the garage and storage area for the assistant manager.  
Cost: None

4. Naturalist's Cabin

a) Proposed Action: Repair the exterior and interior and winterize.  
Rationale: The building should be remodeled and winterized so that a technician can live in it year-around providing security for the adjacent interpretive/trail center.  
Cost: \$5,000

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B. Proposed

1. Manager's Residence

- a) Proposed Action: Construct a garage adjacent to the residence.  
Rationale: The manager presently has to use a garage in the service area. This building is a considerable distance from the house which makes it very inconvenient during the winter months.  
Cost: \$3,000

IX. Miscellaneous

A. Existing

1. Entrance Sign and Gate

Objective: To provide a gate and clear, visible entrance signs to the park

- a) Proposed Action: Reevaluate the park entrance complex for signage, gate design, and location; fabricate and install them.  
Rationale: An entrance gate facilitates control of park users.  
Cost: \$7,500

2. Fire Tower

Objective: To provide a safe facility for interpretive programs and scenic viewing of the park

- a) Proposed Action: Rebuild stairway and lookout enclosure for scenic viewing. The stairway must be built to current safety standards.  
Rationale: The tower is basically sound. It will provide the naturalist with another interpretive concept as well as providing the park visitor with an outstanding view of the area.  
Cost: \$4,000

THE OLD FORESTRY FIRE TOWER





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B. Proposed

1. Boundary Surveying and Signing

Objective: To establish a signed, accurate boundary

- a) Proposed Action: Survey, clear, and sign the new boundary.  
Rationale: The boundary of a park must be signed to be officially recognized.  
The survey is necessary to establish the correct legal boundary.  
Cost: \$30,000

# Interpretive Program

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## Introduction

Interpretation is "an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by first-hand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information" (Freeman Tilden). In this light, the interpretive services program fosters in the public an understanding of park resources and management by:

1. Revealing the kinship of park visitors to the park environment and, by associations, their even broader involvement with ecosystems
2. Illuminating the historic and ongoing impacts of natural forces within the park and upon the people who use them
3. Assisting park visitors in the discovery of meaningful and satisfying ways in which to enjoy their visits without intruding on the experiences of others or impairing the quality of the park environment
4. Explaining the mission of the Department of Natural Resources, interdisciplinary park management practices, and the importance of public participation and support in the operation and maintenance of our state park system

Interpretive programs will be developed in recognition of the following:

1. All parks are fragile communities of life which can be perpetuated only through careful management
2. People are a natural and necessary element in park environments -- free to enjoy them in non-destructive ways
3. All natural resource units and the public they serve are tied to one another ecologically, economically, socially, and politically

It is hoped that the people who recreate and learn in the parks will, by experiencing the parks and related interpretive services, derive a better quality of life and gradually increase their environmental awareness. As people are encouraged to think and to feel more about park environments, they can be expected to do more on behalf of these environments. They can also be expected to strengthen their own ties with the land and with our state's cultural heritage.

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**Objective:**

To aid the park visitor in understanding the natural resources in Scenic State Park

Interpretive Theme

The lakes and forest of the Pine Moraine Landscape Region.

The Scenic State Park interpretive program will explain the evolution of the great white and red pine of this area and the diverse ecological communities that surround Coon/Sandwick Lake. Scenic State Park is the park system's best example of the northern pine region and the interpretive program will make the park visitor aware of this unique feature.

Proposed Program

The present program should be expanded by increasing the number of displays in the interpretive/trail center and the diversity of trails. As described in the trails section, the Chase Point, Osprey Nest, and Spruce Bog trails would be developed for self-guided and naturalist-led hikes.

Personnel

There is sufficient demand for an interpretive program seven days a week. In order to carry out a full-time interpretive program, a full-time seasonal (3 month) naturalist is needed. The naturalist would conduct the program with the assistance of VIP's (Volunteer in Parks), the manager (who would take over the program in the off-season), and the regional naturalist.

Equipment and Supplies

The following equipment is needed to run the program efficiently:

- 1 16 mm movie projector
- 2 35 mm slide projectors
- 1 80" x 80" projection screen
- 1 dissolve unit for slide projectors
- 1 tape sync. unit for slide projectors
- miscellaneous equipment for interpretive/trail center (This list can only be itemized after the concepts and designs are finalized.)



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Interpretive Prospectus

Detailed procedures for interpretive plan implementation with specifics on costs and phasing will be prepared by the regional naturalist in consultation with the park planning staff during the next biennium. The prospectus will include recommendations for research on park ecology, visitor use, oral history, and other areas.

# Boundary Modification

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## Introduction

Boundary changes and acquisition must be considered in the management of any state park. The amount of land necessary to manage a park correctly must be determined and acquired before management can be efficiently carried out. There are two goals that should be strived for in every park:

1. To provide sufficient park acreage to preserve and perpetuate the natural resources and provide the necessary recreation facilities to interpret and enjoy these resources, without including acreage that would be unnecessary or unreasonable to purchase. In cases where buffer land is needed but purchase is not reasonable or possible, an attempt should be made to zone the area to protect it or to obtain easements (partial interest) or other forms of agreement with the adjacent landowner. Such agreements would state that, the landowner would agree not to develop any non-conforming use on the land in question.
2. To control all land within the statutory boundary by fee title (direct ownership).

Because it would be fiscally and physically impossible to achieve these goals overnight, this plan will only establish priorities. The following criteria will be used in establishing boundary change and acquisition priorities:

1. Land needed for preservation or perpetuation of park resources
2. Land needed for development of facilities
3. Unimproved buffer land needed to prevent threatened development or use which would be incompatible with existing or potential park purposes

## Object ves:

To ensure adequate preservation of the park's natural resources

To include sufficient acreage within the park to portray the Pine Moraine Landscape Region

To provide on-land access to the entire park

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### Specific Recommendations

Scenic State Park has no private land within its present statutory boundary, but it does have significant acreage in trust fund ownership. It is recommended that this land be acquired so that all non-park restrictions on the land are removed.

After review of the inventory, the planning staff has recommended major expansion for this park. The expansion would increase Scenic's size by approximately 1,760 acres. Ownership of this land is as follows: private, 560 acres; county, 360 acres; state, 160 acres; trust fund 280 acres; and federal, 400 acres. The area is described as follows:

W 1/2 Sec. 33, S 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 28, S 1/2 Sec. 29, S 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 30 and E 1/2 Sec. 31, T61N, R25W; Government Lots and E 1/2 Sec. 1 and NE 1/4 Sec. 12 T60N, R26W, and NW 1/4 Sec. 7 T60N, R25W.

The rationale for this expansion is:

1. Private development nearby is imminent. A new home was just built within the proposed expansion area adjacent to Cedar Lake and there are homesites for sale on or near Pine Lake.
2. Buffer areas are needed to protect the park. The east side of Coon/Sandwick Lake is very close to (200 feet) the present boundary. This not only leaves little buffer from the lake, but makes it extremely difficult to develop a trail along the lakeshore. The present boundary runs through Pine Lake. There is local pressure to develop cabins on the lakeshore. Boundary expansion would protect this lake.
3. User control would be improved. An access road to cabins on private and county lands begins inside the park. Anyone desiring access to that land must be allowed into the park without a sticker. This makes it very difficult for the manager to control use of the park. The expansion would eliminate the problem, because it would put the entire road in the park. This road could be upgraded and used as an access road to the north end of the park.
4. An additional water access would greatly increase the recreational potential of the park. Isaac, Pine, and Cedar lakes are within the expansion area and in the future, an access could be built on Isaac Lake.



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There is considerable land to acquire. To purchase all of it at once would be very difficult. Therefore, priorities must be established. The first priority is to purchase all trust fund land within the present statutory boundary. The second priority is to acquire the land through which the road to the north end of the park passes. The third priority is acquisition of the buffer land along the east side of Coon/Sandwick Lake and around Cedar and Isaac lakes. And the fourth priority is the purchase of all remaining land within the boundaries.

The methods employed for acquiring these lands may include transfer of administrative title, land exchange, and outright purchase. Of primary importance is the expeditious transfer of ownership and fair treatment of the present landowners. The addition of these lands to Scenic State Park will enhance its aesthetic quality and its ability to provide the user an excellent natural park experience.

After presenting the draft plan at the public meeting on 3-7-77, the planning team decided to eliminate some private and state land from the expansion proposal. This area is described as follows: S 1/2 SE 1/4, Sec. 1, and NE 1/4 Sec. 12 T60N, R26W, and NW 1/4, Sec. 7, T60N, R25W. Ownership of the land is stable with no imminent possibility of development. This leaves a current expansion request of 1,360 acres, of which, 320 are privately owned, 280 are in trust fund, 400 belong to the federal government, and 360 belong to Itasca County.

Although some of the described land is in private ownership, its current management is very compatible with the management of the park. Because this land would be a desirable addition to the park, the land should be monitored. If a major land use change is imminent, or if the owners wish to sell to the state, a proposal will be made to have the land incorporated into the statutory boundary.

# Maintenance & Operations

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## STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT

### Introduction

Maintenance is an essential, little noticed, and difficult to finance responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Division. It is the basic obligation of the state to maintain the landscape resources and state park facilities in a safe, sanitary, environmentally sound and esthetically pleasing condition. These facilities must be operated in a manner that provides maximum use and enjoyment at the least possible cost, consistent with state law. There are four basic aspects to maintenance and operations:

1. Maintenance of the landscape resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations
2. Maintenance of the recreation facilities that provide access to those resources
3. Provision of services to the park visitors for maximum enjoyment of facilities and resources
4. Enforcement of rules and regulations to protect the resources from abuse and to ensure enjoyment of the facilities by park visitors

Accomplishment of these goals requires (a) trained staff, (b) sufficient supplies, and (c) proper equipment to maintain an efficient operation and keep costs to a minimum.

The task of providing services to the public and security for park facilities and resources 24 hours per day, 12 months of the year is monumental. During the busy season, full time operations are necessary 98 hours per week (8:00 to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week). The remaining hours are covered by night patrol and the presence of the resident manager. During other seasons only part time operations are provided 98 hours per week, however, maintenance repair and park security responsibilities account for many extra man-hours. If these responsibilities are to be met, competent trained personnel are necessary.

A workload analysis of park operating functions has been initiated to ascertain the personnel needs of each park, based upon existing facilities and current operations. This study identifies the man-hours needed to perform all tasks required for adequate maintenance and operation of the park. Initial results reveal that:

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1. there is an extreme shortage of adequate personnel
  2. high cost labor employees are being used for jobs more appropriate to other job classifications because of difficult procedures in hiring seasonal personnel
  3. a high percentage of man-hours are related to direct services to the public

These factors limit the personnel available for proper maintenance of facilities. Extensive development since the inception of the Natural Resources Act of 1963 has been a primary contributor to the widening gap between maintenance and development. From the workload study, standards can be established to determine man-hour operating requirements for future facilities as they are proposed for development, so that sufficient personnel and supplies can be provided. Facilities must meet the needs of the public, while being operational with minimum personnel at the lowest possible cost to the public.

Another contributing factor to the current park operations problem is the heavy reliance on federally funded work programs, such as CETA, N.Y.C., and Green Thumb. The low cost personnel provided by these programs make it possible for parks to offer programs and services which would otherwise be impossible. However, these employees are hired on a short-term basis (usually 8 to 10 weeks) and often do not have the training and experience necessary to provide needed services without constant supervision in already understaffed parks. To avoid these problems, funding should be made available to hire adequately trained personnel for major public service and maintenance programs using temporary employees only for minor maintenance and special projects.

Enforcement of park rules and regulations is a vital element in the management of state parks. Currently, violations are referred to DNR enforcement officers for follow through on prosecution. Park personnel should have the technical training and tools needed to carry out this responsibility in a manner which will protect the resources from abuse, while educating the visitor of the importance of environmental protection.

One of the major maintenance problems of recreation areas is the extreme impact of large numbers of people concentrating use in specific locations. These areas include campsites, trails, lakeshore, river banks, the area around buildings and scenic points of interest. This overuse affects the ground cover and frequently exposes tree roots to damage from foot traffic. The eventual result may be erosion, slides, disfigured sites, and even danger to the visitors. Regular maintenance programs with adequate personnel, supplies, and equipment would reduce the damage and consequently prevent major reconstruction expenditures. It will also preserve the aesthetic character by preventing unsightly scars or exposed areas.



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The purpose of a maintenance and operations plan is to identify specific problems of each park, establish the basis for solution of those problems, and to specify techniques of management which would decrease the costs of operation. It should make specific recommendations for facilities which will serve the needs of visitors with a minimum of regimentation, and provide for ease of maintenance and enforcement. It should also identify basic management duties, establish adequate staffing requirements, and identify supply and equipment needs.

Objective:

To provide adequate personnel and equipment to efficiently and effectively manage Scenic State Park

Park Management/Administration

The park manager and full-time assistant administer the total park operation. They report to the park supervisor at DNR Regional Headquarters at Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Their job is to supervise maintenance and operations employees, implement this management plan, provide law enforcement consistent with DNR policies, conduct the interpretive program when necessary, maintain local public relations, recruit employees, solicit volunteers, and assist in all other park operations whenever possible. Clerical duties and development projects annually require vast amounts of time for management personnel. These responsibilities allow little time for manager participation in park operations and maintenance functions during the busy season.

Public Services and Maintenance Personnel

Contact station - Park workers provide initial public contact, information, permit sales, camper registration, and firewood sales 98 hours per week.

Swimming - Lone lifeguard can adequately supervise the beach on weekdays, but two lifeguards are needed for seven day protection.

Interpretive services - Personnel (1 volunteer currently) conduct indoor and outdoor programs 3 months each summer. This program should be allotted adequate funding to provide a three month naturalist position and a VIP position.

Maintenance - Personnel (laborers, park workers, and student workers) perform a broad range of duties. This includes maintaining service buildings, public buildings, grounds, trails, roads, parking areas, tables, signs, equipment, conducting night patrol, and providing semi-skilled labor for rehabilitation and development projects.

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For many years, Scenic has been the primary regional park maintenance headquarters. A regional maintenance foreman lives nearby and operates out of the service building, providing assistance to all regional parks. Eventually, this function may be centralized at the regional headquarters in Grand Rapids.

#### Operating Seasons

Summer - The opening of fishing season brings many campers to fish Coon/Sandwick Lake. Capacity weekend camping is common in the two campgrounds (117 sites) for the balance of the season to Labor Day. Camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and swimming are the primary activities during this season.

Spring and Fall - As in most parks, spring and fall are the primary maintenance and construction seasons. Operations involve part time service weekdays and full-time service weekends.

Winter - Nominal snowmobile and ski trail activity require services, maintenance, supervision, and enforcement. The development of interpretive/trail center will increase the influx of visitors for winter park use. Maintenance of tables, buildings, and equipment along with firewood bundling and timber management are prime winter staff programs.

#### Operational Problems

1. Campground maintenance and services - These duties comprise the major portion of the workload during the summer season. Camper information, registration, and firewood sales at the contact station are necessary 98 hours per week. Building and grounds maintenance consists of regular cleaning of two modern sanitation buildings, pit toilets, fire rings, solid waste cleanup, hazardous tree removal, mowing, and enforcement. Night patrol and cleanup are necessary four to five hours per day from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 or 3:00 a.m., seven days per week. Campsites receive highly concentrated use causing tremendous impact on soil and vegetation resources. Maintenance and rehabilitation of these resources have been long neglected in most parks.

#### Recommendations:

- a. A full-time maintenance technician and a full-time laborer could provide these services freeing the manager and assistant for enforcement, administration, public service duties, and more direct supervision of employees and development projects.

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b. A detailed study and testing program for soils and vegetation should be implemented to develop management techniques and vegetation types to be used in the rehabilitation and maintenance of heavily used areas. Funds for research and rehabilitation provided through this plan, are itemized in the budget section.

2. Building restoration and maintenance - Many park buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930's. These log buildings are in need of major rehabilitation.

Recommendation:

See Recreation Development section.

3. Solid waste disposal - Park personnel collect solid waste four or five times weekly with a small compactor and haul it to the Bigfork landfill nine miles away.

Recommendation:

Consideration should be given to contracting a local vendor to provide this service. This would release park personnel and equipment for other maintenance duties.



Staffing Requirements

This staffing program shows how existing staff and proposed staff can aid in maintenance and operations. Anticipated additional staff required to provide services for new facilities, are also noted in the development phasing section of this plan.

	<u>Original - 1976</u>		<u>Identified Needs for 1977</u>	
<u>Administrative Personnel</u>				
Park Manager	12 mo.	\$ 13,425	12 mo.	\$ 13,425
Assistant Manager	12 mo.	9,768	12 mo.	9,768
Technician			12 mo.	9,500
Clerk Typist			5 mo.	2,820
<u>Public Services Personnel</u>				
Park Worker	5½ mo.	3,765	5½ mo.	3,765
	5½ mo.	3,765	5½ mo.	3,765
	5 mo.	3,422	5 mo.	3,422
	4½ mo.	3,080	4½ mo.	3,080
Lifeguard	3½ mo.	2,050	3½ mo.	2,050
			3½ mo.	2,050
Naturalist			3 mo.	1,750
Volunteer	3 mo.	0	3 mo.	0
<u>Maintenance Personnel</u>				
Laborer	7 mo.	6,300	9 mo.	8,100
	4 mo.	3,600	7½ mo.	6,750
	3 mo.	2,700	4 mo.	3,600
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TOTAL	(Annual)	51,875		73,845
	(Biennial)	\$ 103,750		\$ 147,690

## Equipment

The items of equipment listed below, replaced on a regularly scheduled basis, are considered essential for the current overall operations of this park. However, these needs may change, throughout the 10-year projection. Heavy equipment and specialized equipment not listed should be obtained through the regional office. Equipment of the proper size and type must be selected on a park by park basis to match the conditions and jobs. Proper, up-to-date equipment will reduce the personnel needs, the cost of repairs on old equipment, and the cost of maintenance and improvement projects.

### 1978-1987 Projected Equipment Replacement Schedule

Unit	Existing	1978-79	1980-81	1982-83	1984-85	1986-87	Total
Sedan***	1972	\$4,000	\$	\$	\$5,500	\$	\$9,500
3/4 Ton	1974	5,200				6,900	12,100
3/4 Ton	1972	4,750			6,300		11,050
4 Wheel Drive	1975			6,500			6,500
Dump							
1 1/2 Ton	1957		*10,000				10,000
Tractor		10,000					10,000
Groomer			**10,000				10,000
Snow-mobile	1972	1,300		1,500		1,800	4,600
Mowers		4,000	4,200	4,400	4,600	4,800	22,000
Miscellaneous Equipment		5,000				5,000	
Total		\$34,250	\$24,200	\$12,400	\$16,400	\$13,500	\$100,750

Future replacement will be based upon the following general criteria:

- Light maintenance and administrative vehicles: 5 years or 70,000 miles.
- Heavy maintenance equipment: With the limited use received, this equipment should last a long time and be replaced on an individual item basis when necessary, or be exchanged through the region for other improved vehicles.
- Small equipment: Mowers and chainsaws need regular replacement with the consistent use received.
- Other motorized equipment will be purchased and replaced as needed.
- Other equipment: Interpretive furniture and fixtures will be purchased as needed.

\*May be obtained from regional equipment trade-ins.

\*\*Should be coordinated with corridor trail maintenance.

\*\*\*May be replaced with 1/2 ton pickup.

## MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS SUMMARY

The figures for the period 1980 through 1987 are estimated projections intended to illustrate the scope of the potential maintenance and operations costs, including the operation of new facilities plus an estimated 10% 2-year salary inflation cost.

	78-79	Biennium			
		80-81	82-83	84-85	86-87
<b>PERSONNEL:</b>					
<u>Existing 76-77</u>	\$104,000	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Actual Needs</u> (for current operations based on staffing chart)	147,000				
<u>*Personnel Costs</u> (from previous biennium)		161,700	177,900	203,600	224,000
<u>**Additional Personnel Needs</u> (To operate new facilities)			① 7,200		
<hr/> Sub Total			185,100		
<u>*10% Salary Inflation</u>	14,700	16,200	18,500	20,400	22,400
<b>*TOTAL BIENNIAL PERSONNEL COSTS</b>	161,700	177,900	203,600	224,000	246,400
<u>*SUPPLIES: Administrative</u> Overhead and Expenses (20% of personnel costs)	32,340	35,580	40,700	44,800	49,280
<u>EQUIPMENT:</u> (from equipment schedule)	34,250	24,200	12,400	16,400	13,500
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED BIENNIAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS COSTS:</b>	228,290	237,680	256,700	285,200	309,180
<b>ANNUAL COST BREAKDOWN</b>	\$114,145	\$118,840	\$128,350	\$142,600	\$154,590
<b>TOTAL 10 YEAR COST PROJECTION:</b>					\$1,317,050

\*rounded figures

\*\*see page



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Personnel for Future Facilities

① New campground (30-site primitive) currently anticipated for the 1982-83 biennium.

1 Laborer

4 mo.

\$3,600

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COSTS SUMMARIES

	Biennium					Total
	78-79	80-81	82-83	84-85	86-87	
<b>GEOLOGY MANAGEMENT</b>						
Geological Study	\$	\$5,000	\$	\$	\$	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$5,000				\$5,000
<b>WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>						
Groundwater Study		5,000				5,000
Drainage Block Research and Correction		17,000				17,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$22,000				\$22,000
<b>SOILS MANAGEMENT</b>						
Erosion Control Chase Point	1,000					1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,000					\$1,000
<b>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</b>						
Burn	3,425	3,000	3,000			9,425
Timber Removal (Cutting)	6,500	8,000	7,500	2,500	2,500	27,000
Timber Removal (Chemical)		350	360	350	360	1,420
Plantings	3,380	3,380	300	300	300	7,660
Research	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$18,305	\$19,730	16,160	\$8,150	\$8,160	\$70,505

	78-79	80-81	82-83	84-85	86-87	Total
<b>WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT</b>						
Songbird, Small Mammal, and Other Animal Study		10,000				10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>				<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>PREHISTORIC &amp; HISTORIC SITES</b>						
Field Study		1,800				1,800
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,800</b>				<b>\$1,800</b>



RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COST SUMMARIES

Biennium

	78-79	80-81	82-83	84-85	86-87	Total
Assistant Manager's Residence	\$	\$ 1,500	\$	\$	\$	\$ 1,500
Beach		2,000				2,000
Boat Landings		23,000				23,000
Boundary Signing			30,000			30,000
Building Repair & Removal		1,000			1,500	2,500
Campgrounds	6,000	38,500	90,000		100	134,600
Entrance Sign/Gate		7,500				7,500
Fire Tower					4,000	4,000
Manager's Residence		4,100				4,100
Roads/Bridges/Parking Lots			60,000	12,500	40,000	112,500
Trails	23,540	23,300	800			47,640
Trail Campsites		18,000				18,000
Interpretive/Trail Center & Naturalist Cabin		5,000		100,000		105,000
Utilities	250,000		10,000	45,000		305,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 279,540</b>	<b>\$ 123,900</b>	<b>\$ 190,800</b>	<b>\$ 157,500</b>	<b>\$ 45,600</b>	<b>\$ 797,340</b>

TOTAL MANAGEMENT BUDGET

	Biennium					Total
	78-79	80-81	82-83	84-85	86-87	
Resource Management	\$ 21,105	\$ 56,730	\$ 16,160	\$ 8,150	\$ 8,160	\$ 110,305
Recreational Development	279,540	123,900	190,800	157,500	45,600	797,340
Maintenance & Operations	228,290	237,680	256,700	285,200	309,180	1,317,050
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 528,935</b>	<b>\$ 418,310</b>	<b>\$ 463,660</b>	<b>\$ 450,850</b>	<b>\$ 362,940</b>	<b>\$2,224,695</b>



MARSH MARIGOLD





## OVERALL AUTHORITIES

### DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

#### General

Once the management plan has been completed and approved, it will become the responsibility of the director of Parks and Recreation (hereafter referred to as the director) to insure proper implementation of the concepts established in the plan. As such, the director will act as the coordinator and liaison between the planning staff, regional staff, local officials, and the general public to insure that the plan is kept current, remains on schedule, and becomes a reality.

In order to insure the accomplishment of this cooperative planning and implementation effort, the following responsibilities have been established and must be followed.

#### Specific Requirements

The director and staff will:

1. Coordinate and administer field operations as delegated by the assistant commissioner of operations
2. Develop and administer all programs necessary to accomplish plan goals and objectives. Programs include those necessary to implement management plans and to maintain and operate parks and other programs assigned to the division. Specific program responsibilities at this time are: acquisition, development, resource management, maintenance and service operations, interpretive services, and accessibility
3. Prepare policies, guidelines, procedures, and standards necessary to implement programs established in the plan (e.g., responsibilities relating to contracts and force account project,)
4. In coordination with DNR legislative liaison, prepare legislation necessary to provide program funding, boundary changes, and operational authorities
5. Review and approve all detailed plans, specifications, and project proposals prepared by the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) or field staff. Coordinate on-site field staking and site layouts with BOE and regional staff
6. Coordinate divisional administrative functions with other DNR administrative offices
7. Work with DNR's federal grant specialists in order to obtain maximum federal funding (e.g., LAWCON) for all division programs

8. Recommend modifications and provide information necessary to update the management plan. All modifications to the concepts established in the approved plan will be processed through the Office of Planning and Research. The director will submit requests for modifications in writing, stating justification for change and what impact the change would have on the overall management plan. If comments and rationale for opposing a proposed change are not received within 25 working days, agreement is implied. In the event that significant change in the direction of the plan is proposed (e.g., altering goals and/or objectives of the plan) it will be necessary to follow the same procedures established in developing the original plan. If the director and the Office of Planning and Research cannot come to an agreement on the requested change, the director will then submit the request to the commissioner's Planning and Environmental Review Board (PERB) which will formulate the final recommendation to be submitted to the commissioner's Executive Council
9. Assign responsibilities and funding for implementation of the development program to BOE for contracts and to the regional staff for force account projects. In addition, the director shall coordinate the implementation of resource management programs
10. Make recommendations which will expedite the park planning process and evaluate progress toward the achievement of goals and objectives stated in the plan
11. Forward BOE requisitions and field project proposals to the Office of Planning and Research so that the progress of implementation can be monitored

#### REGIONAL OFFICE

##### General

The regional administrator and staff will supervise the physical implementation programs for the approved plans as established by the division.

##### Specific Requirements

1. The regional administrator will assign qualified staff to help implement this management plan. The district forester, wildlife managers, and other specialists should be consulted on specific aspects of the resource management of the plan.
2. The regional park supervisor will supervise and direct the park manager to insure that the management plan is implemented correctly.
3. The regional park supervisor will regularly field inspect all development in the park.
4. The regional park supervisor will submit written reports as necessary to keep the regional administrator and the director informed on the progress of development and any problems encountered.

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5. The regional park supervisor will submit information to facilitate plan updates and changes. The regional park supervisor will submit his recommendations for change in writing to the regional administrator and the director. The recommendations should include rationale and an analysis of the impact the requested change will have on the management plan.
  6. The regional park supervisor will submit project proposals to the regional administrator and the director for review and approval. The director and staff will review all project proposals verifying compliance with the intent of the plan and its schedule.

The region may implement approved project proposals once detailed specifications have been prepared and funding has been provided.

#### PARK MANAGER

##### General

It will be the responsibility of the park manager, under the direct supervision of the regional park supervisor, to coordinate the physical implementation of assigned sections of the management plan. The manager will inform the regional supervisor concerning the progress of the implementation through project proposals and written progress reports.

##### Specific Requirements

The park manager will:

1. Seek the assistance of the regional park supervisor in the resolution of any major implementation problems
2. Consult the regional park supervisor if there is uncertainty, concern, or opposition to recommended management of a specific item within the plan
3. Assist and give direction to field personnel assigned to the implementation of specific sections of this management plan
4. Maintain records on the development of specific items in this plan to insure continuity and reference for future updating and revision
5. Work with the regional park supervisor in initiating project proposals to be submitted to the director for review and approval
6. Submit to the regional park supervisor information to aid in the updating and revision of the plan



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## OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

### General

The Office of Planning and Research will monitor and evaluate implementation of the management plan and make revisions to the plan as necessary.

### Specific Requirements

The Office of Planning and Research will:

1. Review all BOE requisitions and project proposals to evaluate the proposed actions for consistency with the approved plan. Comments, suggestions, or corrections will be submitted to the director
2. Process all modifications to the approved management plan (see Parks and Recreation section)
3. Provide additional information and justification for specific recommendations within the plan when requested by the division
4. Maintain contact with the public, local officials, legislators, and DNR staff regarding the updating of the plan

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## PROCEDURES

### DEVELOPMENT

The development procedure for the Division of Parks and Recreation can be broken down into two categories: (1) contract, and (2) force account.

#### Contract

Director initiates project by preparing a program, which complies with the management plan.

Director distributes copies of preliminary program and drawings to the planning section and regional staff for review.

Director requests BOE to prepare detail drawings and specifications in accordance with approved program.

BOE prepares detailed drawings and specifications and submits them to the director.

Director approves drawings and specifications, insuring compliance with management plan objectives and goals, and re-submits them to the BOE.

BOE processes contract documents through the Department of Administration, Division of Procurement for bidding and contract award procedures.

#### Force Account

Director initiates project by preparing the program, complying with the management plan.

Director distributes copies of preliminary program and drawings to the planning section and regional staff for review.

Director assigns funds to regional administrator.

Regional administrator directs regional park supervisor and necessary staff to implement program.

Regional park supervisor may:

Request that the BOE prepare detailed drawings and specifications for review by the director

Assign the park manager to complete the project with field personnel

Assign park manager and with the regional staff to let bids to local contractors

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BOE provides direction to the contractor and establishes site location and field staking.

BOE supervises construction and approves completed work according to contract documents.

Director and staff monitor the progress, funding, and necessary coordination between other state agencies and funding sources.

Supervision over the project will be the responsibility of regional, divisional, or BOE staff, depending on the complexity of the specific project.

Regional park supervisor will certify to the division that the project has been completed as planned.

Director and staff will monitor the progress of the development program.

#### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The resource management program for the Division of Parks and Recreation is also broken down into contract and force account categories.

##### Contract

Director initiates a project by preparing the program, in compliance with management plan.

Director distributes copies of preliminary program and drawings to the planning section and regional staff for review.

Director approves project and initiates bidding process through the Department of Administration.

##### Force Account

Director initiates project by preparing the program, in compliance with the management plan.

Director distributes copies of preliminary program and drawings to the planning section and regional staff for review.

Director assigns funds to regional administrator.

Regional administrator directs regional park supervisor and necessary resource management staff to implement program.



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Director supervises and monitors the program.

Consultant or contractor, in coordination with divisional and regional staff, completes the project.

Director approves the completed project.

Regional park supervisor and resource staff prepare detailed resource implementation program.

Detailed resource management program is submitted to the director for approval.

Once approved, the regional park supervisor and resource managers may:

Assign the park manager and field personnel to implement program

Prepare contracts to be let to local contractors or consultants to implement program

Regional staff supervises project.

Director and staff monitor the progress of the resource management program.

Regional park supervisor certifies to the division that the project has been completed as planned.

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## MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

The Division of Parks and Recreation will provide the regional staff with necessary direction to maintain and operate state parks as a statewide system. The director will establish rules and regulations pursuant to the ORA '75 for administering state parks. In addition, training courses and manuals will be prepared by the division on park operations, maintenance, enforcement, signing, and construction standards. If necessary, special operational orders will be prepared by the commissioner for specific problem areas. The following illustrates the general operation and maintenance procedures:

Director in cooperation with the assistant commissioner of operations, will establish policies, guidelines, and statewide procedures for maintenance and operations of all state park facilities.

The regional park supervisors, directed by the regional administrator, will follow policies, guidelines, and statewide procedures, of the Division of Parks and Recreation as well as commissioner's orders.

The regional park supervisor will provide the necessary supervision and direction to the park managers to insure that park maintenance and operation policies, guidelines, and procedures are followed.

It will be the responsibility of the park manager, under the supervision of the regional park supervisor, to maintain and operate all park facilities.

The director and staff will inspect and review operations of state parks on a regular basis to insure that statewide procedures are being implemented and followed correctly.