

Minnesota Natural Resources

Department: Environmental
Assessment Files Regarding State
Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

A. <u>Purpose of the Action</u> - Gooseberry Falls State Park was established by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1937.

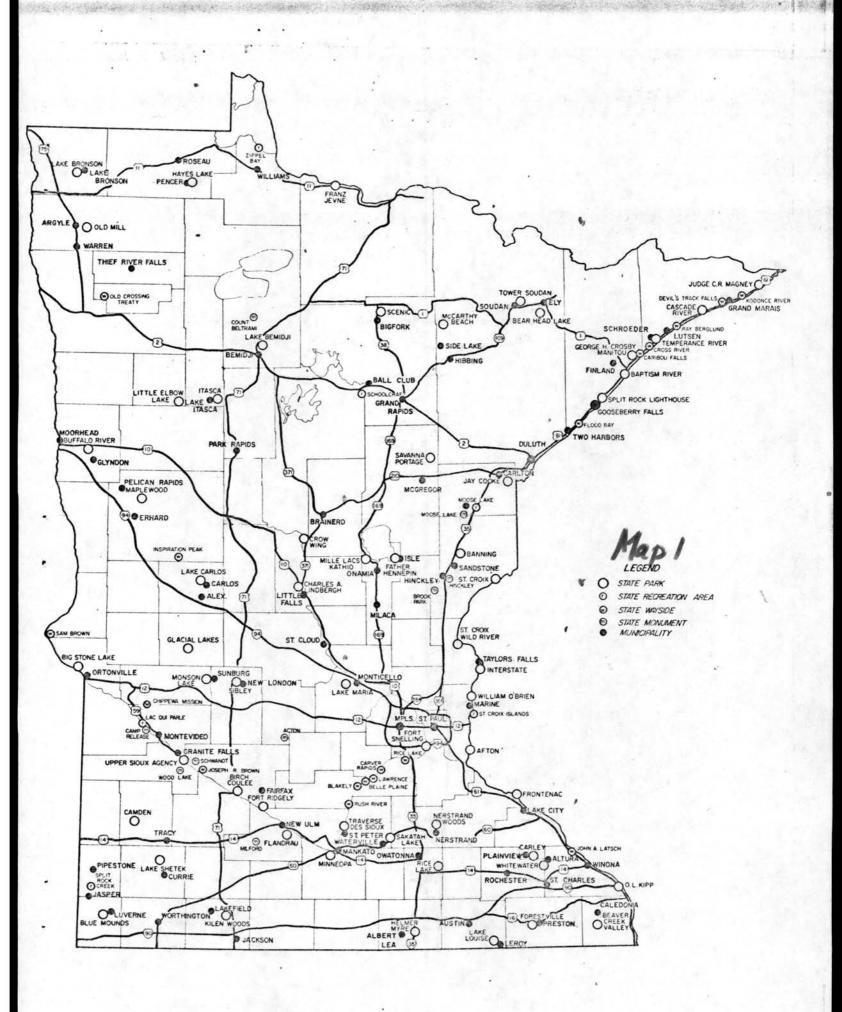
The acquisition and possible development of existing privately owned lands within the park statutory boundary by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Recreation, will provide an additional acreage of publicly owned lands, useable for open space and a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

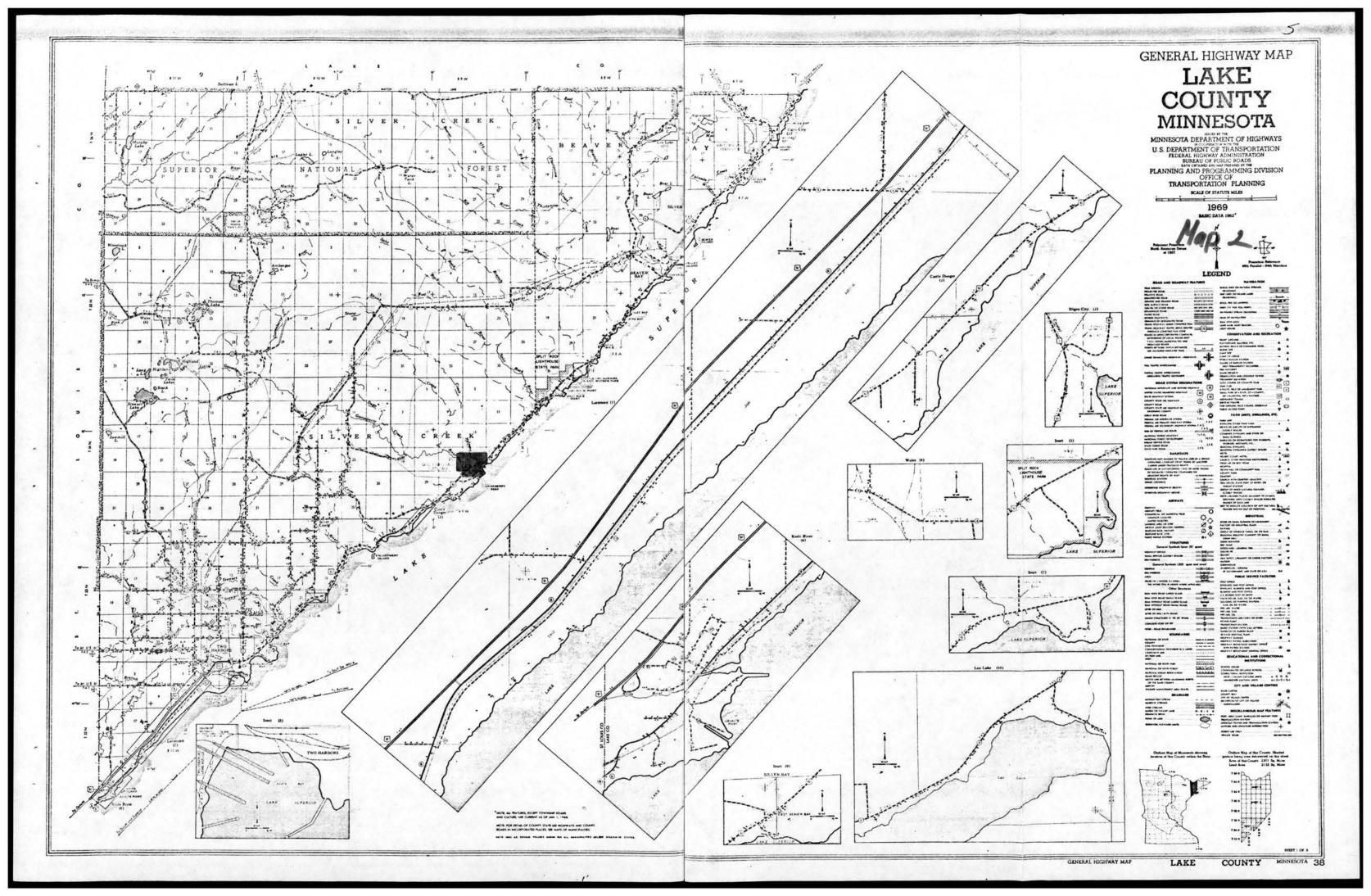
The State of Minnesota proposes that the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as administrator of the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund, participate with the Department of Natural Resources in this proposed action.

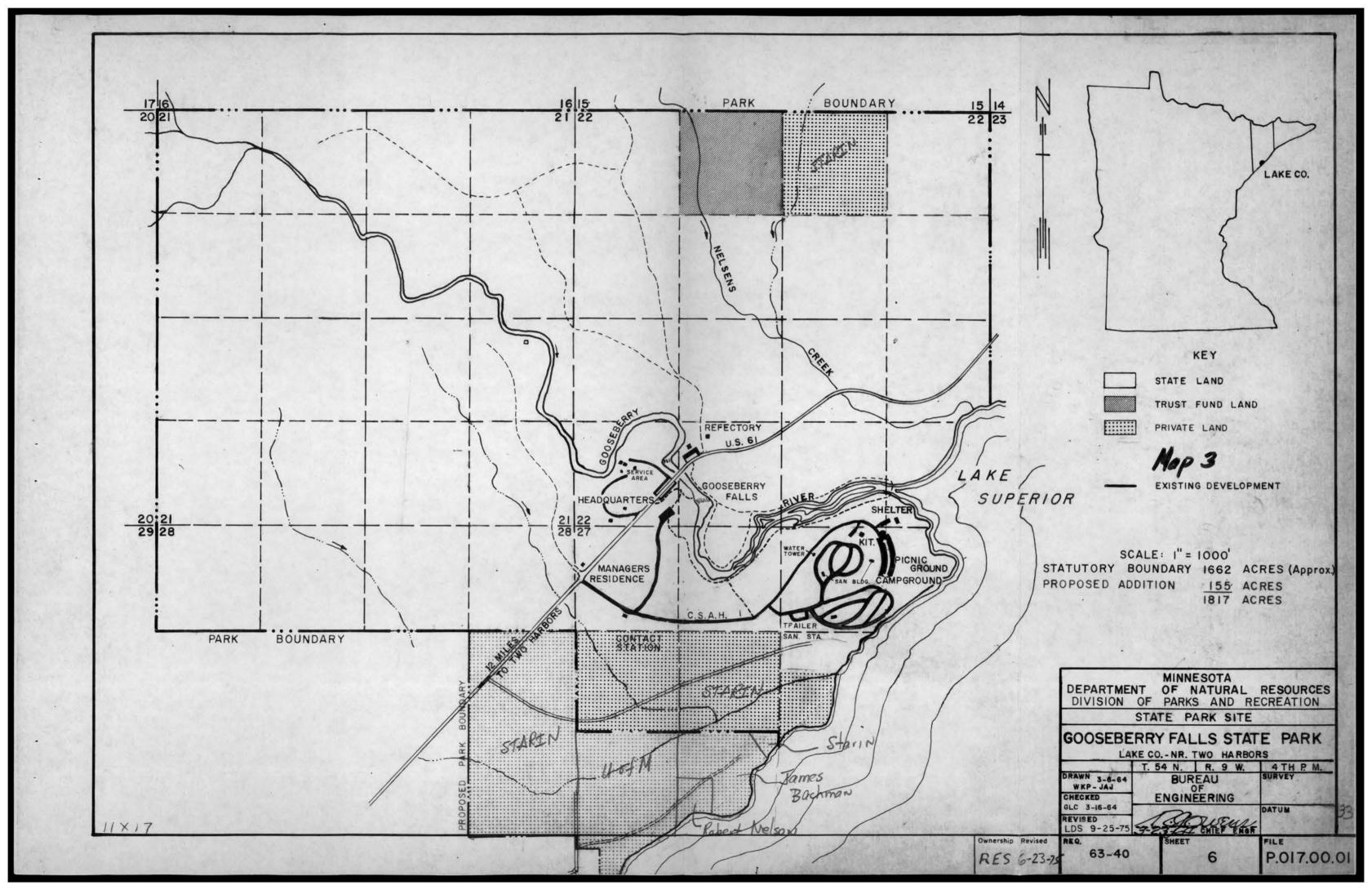
B. Location and Magnitude of the Project - Gooseberry Falls State Park is geographically located adjacent to the north shore of Lake Superior in northeastern Minnesota (south-central Lake County). The community of Two Harbors is situated approximately 12 miles to the southwest of the park (Maps 1 and 2).

The original legislative act authorized 638 acres for establishment of the park. Minnesota legislative laws of 1967-Chapter 787 authorized expansion of the park to encompass its present land area of 1,162 acres (Map 3). The present statutory acreage contains 137.30 acres (2 tractslowner) of privately owned lands within the park.

The Division of Parks and Recreation proposes that this acreage be acquired with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.







Complete and immediate acquisition of this acreage is currently estimated to cost \$77,000. No relocation costs are involved with this application.

C. Timing of the Project - The Minnesota State Park system currently contains approximately 53,000 acres of privately owned lands within its statutory boundaries. The Division of Parks and Recreation has initiated a six year (1976-82) statewide acquisition program for the purpose of acquiring most of this remaining acreage. Completion of this program is currently estimated to cost in excess of \$43 million.

The statewide acquisition program has been divided into three steps, each consisting of a two-year biennium period and each with established land acquisition priorities. Acquisition priorities for the initial program step (1976-77 biennium) totaled approximately 12,100 acres. Appropriations to complete this step totaled \$9.5 million.

Although the Division of Parks and Recreation has established its acquisition priorities for each park, completion of these priorities is almost exclusively dependent upon private land owners willing to sell to the State.

The program acquisition goal for Gooseberry Falls State Park is to completely acquire the remaining 2 tracts of private lands. Acquisition priorities for the current biennium is to acquire 1 (97.30 acres) of these 2 tracts. Acquisition of this tract is currently estimated to cost \$75,000. However, its acquisition is dependent upon the owner's willingness to sell.

A listing of the tracts to be acquired is included in the appendix.

D. <u>Future Developments</u> - An inventory of the natural resources of the park has been conducted during the current biennium. The data gathered from

this inventory is currently being utilized to form the basis for development of a specific long range management plan for the park. Completion of this plan is tentatively scheduled for the end of the current biennium (June 30, 1977). If not completed by this date, any development within the park will not proceed after August 1, 1977 or until the plan has been completed.

Possible developments prior to the August 1, 1977 deadline will be closely coordinated with the planning staff preparing the management plan so that such developments are consistent with preliminary management plans. After August 1, 1977 all development in the park will follow the established guidelines contained within the management plan.

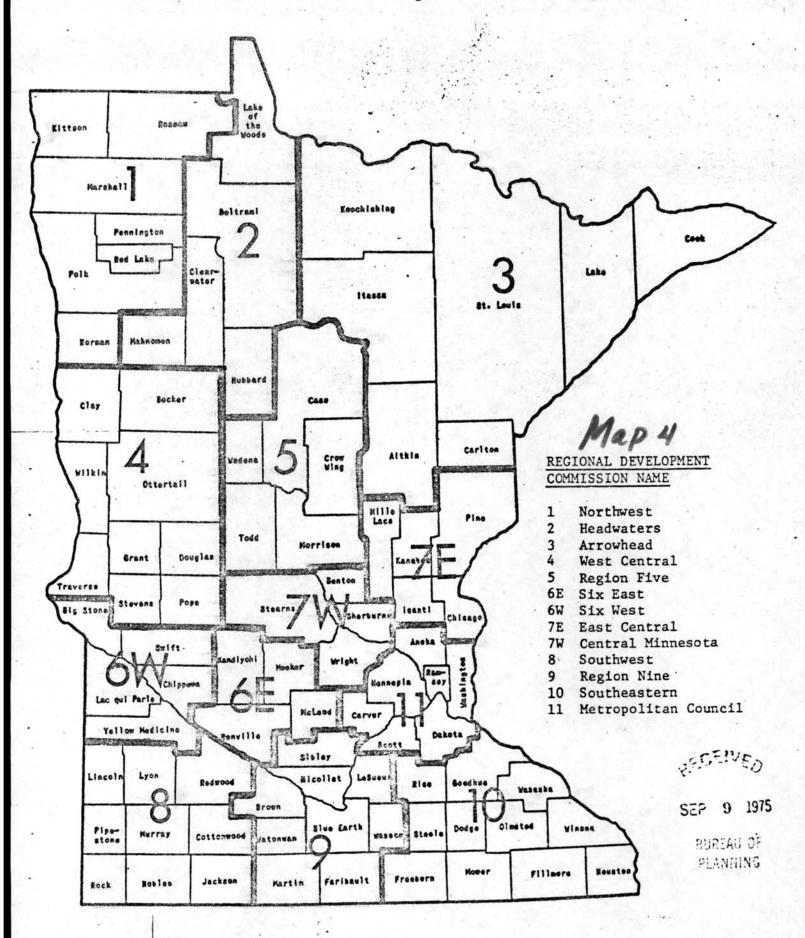
Under authority granted by the 1975 Outdoor Recreation Act, Gooseberry Falls State Park has been classified as a Natural State Park. In keeping within the criteria used to establish such a classification, future developments will be restricted to those which will provide for increased recreational opportunities but yet maintain those natural characteristics of the park for which it was initially established. In this respect development will include camping and picnic facilities, recreational trail facilities and interpretive programs.

E. Recreational Needs to be Served by the Proposal - Gooseberry Falls

State Park lies within Economic Development Region 3, a 7 county area of northeastern Minnesota (Map 4). This region ranks first among the ll State Economic Development Regions in its water and forest acreage.

These land use types and the fact that much of the acreage is in public ownership affords this region significant potential for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. The 1974 Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), identified existing use levels

Minnesota Development Regions



State Planning Agency Office of Local & Urban Affairs 9/30/74 of several components of the available regional outdoor recreation facilities, and projected the following use levels concerning these facilities:

	Existing Use Levels	Projec	ted Use	Levels
	1975	1975	1980	1990
Picnic Tables Camping Sites Hiking Trails (Miles) Snowmobile Trails (Miles)	2,185 7,191 760 1,632		-1,470 -2,487 *	

Park users data during the past 15 years (1960-1975) shows some very significant increases in total park attendance at Gooseberry Falls

	Youth	Tourist	Day	Total
	Camps	Camps	Visitors	Visitors
1960 1965 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974	2,220 1,000 1,508 1,864 2,194 1,700	38,920 46,677 48,521 45,312 44,694 42,829 51,815	300,259 335,567 403,980 413,657 414,816 383,776 618,070	282,000 339,179 384,464 453,501 460,477 461,374 428,799 671,585

Although State Planning Agency (SPA) population projections through the year 2000 show relative stability within the county and the region, projected facility deficits and past park attendance figure trends indicate that the demand for future recreational opportunities will increase. The SCORP recommends that the State, because of the large acreage of land and water under its jurisdiction, continue to play a key role in providing such opportunities.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

* No projections available

State Park during this period.

A. Topography - The physiographic features of the park area are a result of several glacial ice invasions. The land surface rises irregularly

from Lake Superior in the southeast to the northwest, the rise being controlled by the directional dip of the underlying precambrian rocks. Maximum topographic relief from the normal lake level elevation is approximately 300 feet. The Gooseberry River within the park has eroded a gorge, some 30-60 feet deep through the glacial deposits and into the bedrock, thereby exposing this bedrock in many places. From the rivers entrance into the west end of the park, it drops approximately 170 feet in two series of rapids and three separate falls on its way to Lake Superior.

- B. <u>Soils</u> The general soils classification contained within the arrowhead region is the course to fine textured forest soils and rock outcrops of northeastern Minnesota. The specific soil association found within the park area is the Ontonagon-Rock Outcrops. The rock outcrops are almost exclusively basalt, having formed from lava flows. The overlying, light colored Ontonagon soil has formed from weakly calcareous red lacustrine clay.
- C. <u>Climate</u> Mean January maximum and minimum temperatures average 20°F and 2°F respectively. The respective July temperatures average 76°F and 54°F. Total annual precipitation averages 28 inches. Because of Lake Superior's affects on the climatic conditions of the adjacent land areas, annual snowfall averages greater than 70 inches near the shoreline.
- D. <u>Water Resources</u> Surface water resources within the park consist of approximately the last 3 miles of the Gooseberry River and several miles of smaller streams (primarily intermittent) tributary either to the Gooseberry River or directly to Lake Superior. The southeastern park boundary abuts Lake Superior, this being the largest inland body of fresh water in the world.

Although ground water is available from the glacial drift material within the area, the lava flows within the precambrian bedrock contain the best acquifers.

- E. <u>Mineral Resources</u> Both the mineral potential and the geologic reliability of economically extractable concentrations of copper occurring within the park are rated as fair. Other metals could occur in economic concentrations, but the likelihood of such occurrence is generally less than for copper.
- F. Flora The original vegetation of the park area was almost exclusively dominated by the white and red pine type. Accessibility of the area, with respect to Lake Superior, resulted in an almost complete removal of this type during the initial years of the logging era.

Chief components of the resultant second growth forest were aspen and birch. These two hardwood species, occurring either as monotypic or mixed stands, predominate the forest type within the park today. Much of this type is in a mature or over-mature stage. Other types of lesser acreages existing within the park include the conifer bog and swamp type and the brushland type. The first type, being composed primarily of white cedar, black spruce and balsam fir, is located mainly in several fairly large stands within the park. The second type consists of both dry upland and wet lowland brush areas, and is found scattered throughout the park.

G. Fauna - The distribution and diversity of the terrestrial and acquatic habitats within the area is similarly exemplified by the distribution and diversity of fauna species which may utilize these habitats. A listing of the avian species which could likely be found within the park, as either a permanent or seasonal resident, migrant, or occasional visitant, would include the common loon, American merganser, several

species of raptors, ruffed grouse, several species of shorebirds, and a variety of the smaller passerine species.

A similar listing of the mammals would include the snowshoe hare, least chipmunk, northern flying squirrel, short-tailed weasel, porcupine, mink, red fox, white-tailed deer, and a variety of the mole, shrew, and mouse species.

Various biotic and abiotic characteristics of the area have been the prime factor in limiting the diversity of the remaining three major faunal classes. The richest of these classes, in terms of species diversity, is the fishes. Species present within the aquatic resource systems include several species of trout and salmon, smallmouth bass, walleye, and white sucker. Very few species belonging to the amphibian and reptilian classes occur within the area.

- Species which the State of Minnesota lists as meriting special consideration and management, and the geographic ranges of which overlap with that of the park are the: American peregrine falcon (endangered species); Canada lynx, fisher, eastern timber wolf, Cooper's and marsh hawks, and osprey (species of changing or uncertain status); and the bobcat, greatblue heron, common loon, and pileated woodpecker (species of special interest).
- H. Air and Water Quality Specific air quality data for the park area are not available. However, considering the parks remoteness from air pollution sources, particularly of the industrial type, air quality impairment is not considered to be of any consequence. A source of air pollution exists as a result of local vehicular traffic patterns.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency criteria for water quality analysis, classifies those Lake Superior Watershed streams (including the

Gooseberry River) with a moderately high degree of natural protection, as suitable for drinking as specified by the Public Health Service drinking water standards. Suitability according to these standards can be attained with approved disinfection, such as simple chlorination or its equivalent.

- I. <u>Historical and Archaeological Resources</u> The Minnesota Historical Society lists no sites as occurring within the park. Field archaeological surveys by the University of Minnesota found no prehistoric archaeological sites to exist within the park.
- J. Transportation and Utilities Access to the park is provided by U.S. Highway 61 which parallels the Lake Superior north shore and transects the park in a southwestern-northeastern direction. Daily traffic volumes on U.S. 61 averaged 3,600 vehicles during 1974. Access to the primary use areas within the park is provided by C.S.A.H. 1 which directly intersects U.S. 61.

Preliminary consideration is being given, primarily by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, for the probable upgrading of portions of U.S. Highway 61 along the Lake Superior north shore. Such upgrading presently includes that portion of U.S. 61 within the park. This is being done in an effort to facilitate vehicular traffic flows through the area and will likely involve the realignment of the existing highway. Three proposed realignment alternates to the existing alignment all conflict with one or more aspects of designated State park land uses. Primary areas of conflict involve present recreational uses, including the aesthetic uses of the proposed alternate sites; the potential safety hazard to pedestrian park users in river crossing site areas (this potential hazard exists with the present highway

alignment); and less access control to existing park lands, thereby making management of the park much more difficult and less efficient.

A proposed alternate by the Division of Parks and Recreation would involve the realignment of the highway through the lightly-utilized western and northern portions of the park. This realignment would eliminate those areas of conflict which the previous three alternate realignments would create, as well as the existing potential safety hazard in the river crossing area.

Since some future realignment of U.S. 61 is very likely, and although whatever the proposed alternate adopted, it will not be concerned with the LAWCON program. Considering existing land ownership within the park, it appears quite safe to assume that a future alternate realignment will follow that route (or a proximate alternate route) which is currently proposed by the Division of Parks and Recreation. Therefore, where appropriate, this assessment will concern itself with this alternate realignment.

Commercial bus passenger service is available to communities adjacent to U.S. 61. Commercial airline service is available to the City of Duluth, approximately 35 miles to the southwest of the park.

Utilities available to public facilities in the park and private residences within the area are telephone and electricity.

K. <u>Socio-Economic Factors</u> - The Minnesota State Planning Agency (SPA) population projections for Lake County and Economic Development Region 3 show relative stability for both geographic areas:

Projected Populations

	Lake Co.	Region 3
1975	13,500	331,100
1980	13,700	330,300
1990	14,200	332,400
2000	13,900	325,400

Based on 1970 population statistics, the SPA estimates the employed labor force within Lake Co. to be 4,223 persons. Major fields of employment for this labor force were: Mining (30.3% of the employed labor force); wholesale and retail trade (15.5%); professional and related services (14.3%); and transportation (10.1%). Although not reflected in the above statistics, the forest products industry contributes very significantly to the county and regional economies. Family income within Lake Co. averaged \$9,557/household. This statistic compared to a statewide/family average income of \$11,097.

The two remaining private land tracts within the park are unutilized from an economical standpoint since the one owner of both tracts is currently a resident of the State of Oregon. This land is useable for recreational purposes.

Tax levies on assessable private properties within the concerned township totaled \$271,687 for 1975. The 1975 tax levy on existing private property within the park totaled \$541.85. Tourist-travel expenditures within Lake Co. totaled \$3,360,636 during 1974. Such expenditures accounted for 8.4 percent of the gross county sales.

L. Land Use and Development Trends

 Agriculture - None of the existing private lands are committed to such uses, nor are they likely to because of the unsuitability of this area for such uses.

- 2. <u>Residential</u> None of the private lands are presently committed to this use, nor does such future use appear likely because of the residential status of the concerned land owner.
- 3. <u>Commercial Business</u> No land use of this type currently exists within the park nor is it likely to occur within the future.
- M. Existing Recreational Facilities Such facilities within the park are limited to a 100 unit campground and two separate picnic areas, totaling approximately 200 tables. Also available for various recreational uses is approximately 7 miles of nature trails and 1 mile of snowmobile trail, and a refectory.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Impact on the Physical and Biological Environment - The acquisition proposal will not directly impact the physical and biological environment of the park. Topographic characteristics, and the fine texture and generally shallow depth to bedrock of the overlying soil resource within the park, makes this resource quite easily vulnerable to compaction and erosion problems. Such problems are presently noticeable under the current use levels of the campground area. Indirectly however, completion of the acquisition proposal, including a proposed boundary expansion and acquisition alternative (discussed in Section VIII C of this assessment), will benefit the soil resource within the existing campground area. This will be accomplished by the development of a proposed campground facility and a subsequent partial deletion of the existing facility. Not only will dispersion of users away from the existing facility directly benefit the soil resource within this area, it will also indirectly benefit it by permitting the vegetative growth necessary for soil stabilization.

The proper design and location of this proposed campground facility, as well as the proposed picnic facility and trail system expansion developments, will minimize potential adverse impacts upon the physical and biological environments of these development sites.

The proposed project will impact neither the surficial water nor the ground water resources.

Since no concentrations of major metals are known to occur within the park, the proposed project will not have an impact upon such resources.

Because of the nature of the proposed developments, both the direct and the indirect impact on the flora and fauna resources resulting from these developments will be minimal. This will be particularly true of the fauna resource. Completion of the proposed project will have an indirect and positive impact upon the flora and fauna resources of the existing campground area. Similar to any adverse impacts which the proposed project will have upon these resources, the beneficial impacts are anticipated to be minimal. The proposed project will not impact those species which were previously listed by the State of Minnesota as meriting special consideration and management.

Increased use levels of the proposed project will result in increased auto emission levels. Increased emission levels will subsequently result in some deterioration of the local air quality. This however is expected to be insignificant. Increased use levels of the proposed project also have the potential for adversely impacting the surficial water quality.

B. Impact on Historical and Archaeological Resources - The proposed action will not impact resources of these types within or adjacent to the park since none are known to occur.

C. Impact on Transportation and Utilities - With respect to the present alignment of that portion of U.S. 61 within the park and the recreational use of the park in that area where this alignment crosses the Gooseberry River, problems associated with traffic flow patterns and pedestrian safety presently exist. Future increased use levels of the project area will not only further adversely impact this transportation system, but also the pedestrian safety problem. Although accessibility to existing use areas is adequate under existing use levels, future increased use levels will likely impose an adverse impact upon the accessibility.

Since some level of upgrading of U.S. 61 (which will most likely involve the realignment of this highway) presently appears inevitable, and assuming that such realignment follows the Division of Parks and Recreation proposed alternate route, those present problems and future adverse impacts concerning these problems which are associated with the existing alignment will be alleviated or at least minimized. Not only will this realignment facilitate vehicular traffic flows and minimize pedestrian safety hazards, the present alignment can then be used for additional accessibility to use areas.

The proposed project will not impact the existing commercial transportation or public utility systems.

D. Impact on Socio-Economic Factors - Since acquisition of the two remaining private tracts of land is completely dependent upon the owner's willingness to sell to the State and no relocations are involved, no adverse social impacts will result from the proposed action.

Negative social impacts possibly resulting from increased use levels of the proposed project will be those associated with increased incidences of littering and trespassing on adjacent private properties, and

increased noise levels within the park. Such incidences, provided they do result from the proposed action, will be primarily limited to U.S. 61 and adjacent areas, and as such the overall negative social impact is anticipated to be minimal.

The additional recreational opportunities afforded by the proposed project will consequently yield additional social benefits to the greater number of recreationists able to utilize these opportunities.

The proposed acquisition proposal will remove 137.30 acres of tax assessable property from Silver Creek Township. This will in turn result in the loss of tax revenue for this township and for the concerned county and school district. The tax revenue loss for each of these particular taxing units, on taxes levied for 1975, is shown below:

	Tax Revenue	Tax Loss	% Loss of Tax Revenue
Silver Creek Twp.	\$ 271,687	\$102.95	0.038
Lake Co.	1,094,452	265.51	0.024
School District #381	678,261	173.39	0.026

Because of the large acreages of public land ownership within the county, Silver Creek Township encompasses more than one geographic township. Thus the large township budget and the insignificant revenue loss.

Current park use levels do provide some rather substantial benefits to the local economy. Based on the 1975 park use figures shown previously and the current estimated use values, a gross estimate of tourist-travel expenditures generated by the presence of the park can be derived:

- * Data from Park Camping Permits
- ** Dep't. of Agric. and Applied Econ., Univ. of Minn.
- *** Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources

Although all of this total amount is not available to local north shore economies, a very significant portion of it is. As future park use levels increase, so too will the benefits to these economies.

- E. Impact on Land Use Since the existing primary usage of the remaining private lands and surrounding areas is forested, the proposed project will not appreciably alter this land usage as such, but will merely make these areas available for recreational usage.
- F. Impact on Existing Recreation Facilities Completion of the acquisition and development proposals will not adversely impact such facilities.

 The existing campground facility will benefit from the proposed action.

IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

Since each soil association possesses certain characteristics (texture, depth, slope, etc.) which may impose restrictions or limitations concerning the uses or use levels a specific soil can maintain without adverse impaction, the mitigation necessary to insure against or at least minimize such impaction of this resource can be obtained by recognition of such characteristics. The subsequent design and location of developments will then be utilized as the mitigation against soil resource impairment. Specific soil characteristic recognition is the case concerning existing overuse of the campground facility. The mitigation necessary to alleviate this problem is contained in the action by means of a proposed campground facility development.

The mitigative measures used to insure against, or at least minimize, adverse impacts on the soil resources will also be adequate to achieve the same results with respect to the flora and fauna resources.

Developments included in the proposed action such as the proposed campground facility, include such associated developments as an appropriate sanitary system which is necessary to mitigate against potential water quality impaction.

Although no historical or archaeological resources are known to occur within or adjacent to the park, an agreement with the State Historical Society requires that persons engaged in any type of construction activity on State owned lands to watch for such resource materials. If such materials are unearthed, these persons are instructed to stop further construction activities immediately, and report the findings to the State Archaeologist. The State Historic Preservation Officer is then responsible for determining the appropriate course of action.

Existing problems associated with the present alignment of U.S. 61, and the adverse impacts that increased park use levels will have with respect to these problems can be alleviated or at least minimized by realignment of this highway to that alternate route proposed by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Possible adverse social impacts concerning increases in littering, trespassing, and noise levels associated with the proposed action can be partially mitigated through park personnel and local law enforcement authority efforts. Realignment of U.S. 61 should be an aid in such efforts by further restriction of park facility accessibility.

The tax revenue loss to the school district can be mitigated by increasing the State's share of the per unit pupil cost. Tax revenue losses to both the township and the county cannot be mitigated. These losses are however of no significance.

V. ANY ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED

Although the proposal does contain the mitigation necessary to alleviate

or at least minimize existing and potential adverse impacts on the natural resource amenities (soil, flora, and fauna) of the park, nevertheless implementation of the proposal will likely result in a minimal, but unavoidable adverse environmental impact on these amenities.

Implementation of the proposal will result in increased park use levels, and subsequently in increased auto emission levels. Although the resultant impact will be insignificant, it will be an adverse environmental effect.

Any increase in littering, trespassing, and noise levels resulting from proposal implementation, and for which total mitigation is not possible, will also be considered adverse environmental effects.

VI. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

> Short-term uses of our environment as they relate to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity are not considered in terms of years. Trade-offs of environmental uses are necessary in order to gain certain benefits.

- 1. Public ownership of an additional The loss of this acreage from 137 acres of open space and outdoor recreational lands, dedicated and under-utilized forested in perpetuity for such uses for the people of the State.
- 2. Protection of the natural resource amenities of the presently resources amenities in proposed overused campground facility.
- 3. Social benefits for the increased Possible negative social impacts number of persons able to utilize which may result from increases the additional recreational oppor- in littering, trespassing, and tunities afforded by the proposal. noise levels.
- 4. Increased benefits to the local economy resulting from the initial \$77,000 of public funds for the acquisition and development proposal and from increased use levels.

its existing private ownership usage.

A minimal loss of these natural development areas.

The expenditure of an estimated land acquisition, and an insignificant loss of tax revenue.

VII. ANY IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED

Implementation of the proposed action will result in an irreversible commitment of the existing private land use from such, to open space and various outdoor recreational land uses which will be perpetually dedicated for such uses.

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act further requires such a commitment prior to monies being granted for acquisition and/or development. Approval from the Secretary of the Interior is necessary before a change in the uses of any LAWCON Fund assisted projects can be made.

The manpower, materials, and capital funds necessary for implementation of the proposed action will also be considered to be irretrievably committed.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Major alternatives considered for the proposed action were: (A) No action; (B) acquisition with no development; and (C) project of a larger scope.

A. No Action - Although existing private land uses are not incompatible with designated State park land uses, a no action alternative would permit retention of this private land ownership, thereby prohibiting the necessary development proposals. Increased future park use levels would in turn place additional stress on some already overused natural resource amenities of existing use facilities. The ultimate result would be negative environmental and social impacts on the park, its natural resources, and on the park user. This proposal has therefore been deemed unacceptable as an alternative to the proposed action.

- B. Acquisition with no Development Although this alternative would establish an additional 137 acres of open space and recreational usable State park lands dedicated for such uses, non-development would result in those same adverse environmental and social impacts as would a no action alternative. This alternative has therefore also been determined to be unacceptable.
- C. Project of a Larger Scope This alternative has been given serious consideration since it is of absolute necessity for some of those facility developments contained in the proposed action. This is particularly true with respect to the proposed campground facility. This alternative proposal involves 168 acres within sections 27 and 28 of Silver Creek Township (refer to map 3 for the proposed boundary expansion). Since this boundary expansion requires legislative approval, and at this time such approval from the current legislative session appears quite likely, a brief assessment concerning this alternative action will be given.

The proposed expansion includes approximately 85 acres belonging to the one private land owner within the existing park boundary. Not only is this outside acreage necessary for proposed facility developments, as is the adjacent acreage within the park, but the particular land owner has indicated his willingness to sell only if the acreage is sold in entirety. The remaining proposed expansion acreage exists within three tracts; one belonging to the State (University of Minnesota), and two in private ownership. Both of the latter two tracts harbor seasonal residences. No current acquisition estimate for this acreage is available.

The existing environmental setting of the proposed expansion area is generally quite similar to that of the adjacent park area. The

additional levy on these tax assessable lands totaled \$924.24 for 1975. Land usage of that part of the proposed expansion acreage belonging to the land owner within the existing park, as well as the University of Minnesota tract is similar to the existing private land usage within the park. Together these two tracts approximate 120 acres of the total expansion acreage. Although the remaining two tracts contain seasonal residences, the predominent usage of the tracts remains similar to that on the surrounding area.

Since the environmental setting of the proposed expansion area is similar to that of the park area, and any facility developments proposed for the expansion area are the same as those discussed as part of the proposed action, any resultant impacts upon the physical and biological environment will likewise be similar. Implementation of this alternative proposal will not impact any known historical or archaeological resources, nor will it impact the existing transportation and utility systems. Positive impacts on the socio-economic environment have been discussed as part of the proposed action. Negative impacts upon this environment, which were not discussed as part of the proposed action, will result from two relocations and an additional tax revenue loss for each of the concerned taxing units. Since neither of the seasonal residential occupants are known to either work or permanently reside within the region, and mitigation for relocation is available for both, their relocation and the resultant negative social impact will be minimal. The additional tax revenue loss is shown below:

	Tax Revenue	Tax Loss	% Loss of Tax Revenue
Silver Creek Twp. Lake Co.	\$ 271,687	\$278.56 718.38	0.103
School District #381	678,261	469.15	0.069

Although implementation of the alternative action will incur a larger tax loss upon each taxing unit, such losses will however still remain insignificant.

Impacts of the alternative action upon the land use and the existing recreational facilities will be similar to those discussed for the proposed action.

Any mitigative measures required for implementation of this proposal are the same as those discussed for the proposed action. The only exception to this is the mitigation available for the two seasonal residence owners concerned with relocation. Public Law 91-646 (The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act) entitles those owners willing to sell to the State to receive relocation assistance payments.

Since an assessment of Sections V, VI, and VII concerning the alternative action would be similar to the respective sections concerning the proposed action, such an assessment will not be reiterated.

Since the acreage concerned with this alternative action is considered to be of absolute necessity for the overall effective management of the park unit; that any impacts resulting from implementation of the alternative action will be minimal; and that the necessary legislative approval for alternative action implementation appears likely; this action is considered as an acceptable alternative to the proposed action.

PLOVER BOND

APPENDIX

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

Tracts to be Acquired with this Application

	Acreage	Action	Est. Cost
* Starin	97.30	Willing Seller	\$75,000
Starin	40.00	Willing Seller	\$ 2,000
**Starin		Willing Seller	

^{**}Univ. of Minn.

^{**}R. Nelson

^{**}J. Bachman

^{*} Tracts given acquisition priority during current biennium

^{**} Tracts located within proposed boundary expansion area

AGREEMENT

between

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

and

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Agreement, entered into this 27th day of December , 1971, by and between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, acting through the Commissioner of Natural Resources, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 84 and 85, hereinafter called the Department, the Minnesota Historical Society, acting through its Director, hereinafter referred to as the Society, to coordinate effective efforts to develop, maintain and administer for public benefit historic sites, historic districts and monuments and archaeological sites as they now exist as individual entities or as parts of large state land areas administered by the Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as state land, do hereby define areas of responsibility and authority on state land.

- 1. The Society or State Archaeologist agrees to provide research and analysis to determine the sites of historic and/or archaeological significance to be set aside, identified and marked with suitable inscriptions for preservation and interpretation on state land. These sites shall be delineated on any inventory and classification of sites prepared by the Society. This process will directly relate to the funding and staff time available for this purpose determined by the Minnesota Historical Society.
- 2. The Department desires to prepare master plans for the development of facilities, essential to public access and use for recreational purposes as well as updated resource management plans on such land under its jurisdiction so as to avoid and minimize depredation or damage to the historic and/or archaeological areas on such land. Such plans shall be furnished to the Society for their information and guidance. Agreement between the Department and the Society must be reached on plans relating to historical areas before development can proceed. Unless objections are received within 30 days, agreement will be assumed. The Department shall present copies of all developmental plans affecting sites delineated as historical or archaeological on any inventory and classification of such areas to the Society prior to advertising for bid on any construction so that the Society may make studies and investigations of the archaeological and historical values.
- 3. When archaeological or historic sites are known or, based on investigations, are suspected to exist on state land or waters the Society upon request from the Department shall obtain for the Department a licensed, qualified professional archaeologist to help preserve these sites.
- 4. The Department shall notify the Society at least forty days prior to the offering for sale or lease state lands under its jurisdiction, timber, minerals, or gravel or the altering of any body of water within designated historic and/or archaeological sites or areas.
- 5. The Department of Natural Resources will enforce the provisions of the Linnesota Field Archaeology Act of 1963, Linnesota Statutes 138.31 to 138.42, and to subsequent Amendments to these statutes on state land under its jurisdiction

- 6. The Society and the Department may prepare and install interpretive exhibits (in existing buildings or proposed buildings) which, in its judgement, on lands or waters administered by the Departments of Natural Resources which the Society and Department jointly determine are suitable for such purposes, and costs of such features shall be met by any funds appropriated for such purposes to either the Department or the Society.

 7. The Society shall identify original sites or buildings of historical or archaeological significance deserving preservation, restoration or reconstruction on state land administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The Society and the Department jointly shall determine which buildings or sites are suitable for such historical purposes, and decide on alterations in them to render them more suitable for interpretative and public service purposes. Costs of development shall be met by any funds appropriated for such purposes to either the Department or the Society.
 - 8. The Department shall administer, develop, maintain, and operate all buildings, facilities and utilities as required for public accommodation and compatible recreation features, and enforce all rules and regulations and operate special fee services in these state parks as authorized by statutes... Except in those historical areas as described in Minnesota Session Laws 1969, Chapter 956.
 - 9. This Agreement imposes no liability upon the State, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, or any other officers, employees or agents of the State for the acts or ommissions of any officer, employee or agent of the Society.
 - 10. This agreement is in force until amended or repealed by mutual agreement between the Department and the Society.
 - 11. This Agreement shall supercede Agreement number 2 entered into by the State and the Society on the 14th day of August, 1968.
 - 12. To keep this Agreement in force the Department and Society agree to meet at least semi-armually to review the operation of this Agreement and to correct problems that may have arisen because of it.
 - 13. This Agreement shall be subject to the Linnesota Historic Sites Act of 1965 and to subsequent amendments to that statute.
 - 14. Nothing in this Agreement shall be contrary to existing Minnesota Statutes nor to Rules and Regulations as adopted by each agency.
 - 15. This Agreement shall be in effect until rescinded or superceded by joint agreement of the two agencies affected.

R: WITHESS	WHEREOF,	the resp	ectiv	е	authorities affix	their	seals	and	signatures
this	27th		day	of	December	19	71	•	

Rogert L. Hernst

Counissioner

Dept. of Matural Resources

Russell .. Fridley

Director

Historical Society

County

Rate

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

41.44

Assessment District

Town of Crystal Bay

Town of Silver Creek

City of Beaver Bay

City of Silver Bay

Total

Total

Total

Unorganized Territory #1

Unorganized Territory #2

Bonds & Interest

Bonds & Interest

Bonds & Interest

City of Two Harbors

Less Bonds & Interest

Less Bonds & Interest

Less Bonds & Interest

Town of Fall Lake

Town of Beaver Bay

IN LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA FOR TAXES PAYABLE IN THE YEAR 1976

AGRIC. (1) 15.14

15.14

15.14

15.14

15.14

15.14

15.14

15.14

AGRIC. (2) (Homestead) (Non-Homestead) 17.14

SCHOOL RATES

17.14

17.14

17.14

17.14

17.14

17.14

17.14

MILL RATES OF THE VARIOUS ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

Non-AGRIC.

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

27.14

Town or

City Rate

3.58

7.34

9.63

16.10

8.12

9.86

14.67

13.49

28.16

10.01

10.11

20.12

34.34

4.52

38.86

Total

Non-

AGRIC.

72.16

75.92

78.21

84.68

76.70

78.44

83.25

13.49

96.74

78.59

10.11

88.70

102.92

107.44

4.52

Total

62.16

65.92

68.21

74.68

66.70

68.44

73.25

13.49

86.74

AGRIC. 1 AGRIC.2

Total

60.16

63.92

66.21

72.68

64.70

66.44

71.25

13.49

84.74

MELROY PETERSON, Lake County Auditor

Prepared by the Division of Parks and Recreation Minnesota Department of Natural Resources June 20, 1975

PROFILE

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

Lake County

Established:

1937

Authorized Land Area:

1,662 acres

Land Acquired to Date:

811.25 acres

Balance of Land to be Acquired:

850.75 acres

COMMENTS:

The original park land for this park was acquired in 1934 by an action of the State Conservation Commission using Game and Fish funds. The act of establishment as a State Park in 1937 embraced 637.83 acres of land. Chapter 787, Laws of 1967, expanded the boundary to include the present authorized land area.


There are 760 acres of the expanded area owned by Lake County which have not been transferred to the State even though the Attorney General's office aided the county in clearing title to a large land area within the understanding that these lands would be transferred to the State for park purposes. The remaining 104 acres consists of 80 acres with divided title interests and 24 acres in private fee ownership now under negotiation for purchase.

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

ATTENDANCE AND USE (Calendar Year)		,		
	1971	1972	1973	1974
Organized Youth Camp	1,000	1,508	1,864	2,194
Campground	48,521	45,312	44,694	42,829
Day Visitors	403,980	413,657	414,816	383,776
TOTAL	453,501	460,477	461,374	428,799
REVENUES (Calendar Year)				
	1971	1972	<u>1973</u>	1974
Motor Vehicle Permits	\$22,218.00	\$21,079.00	\$22,923.00	\$25,083.00
Camping	24,904.00	23,942.00	36,596.50	36,050.25
Other Income	50,327.03	54,239.70	58,604.56	61,614.06
TOTAL	\$97,449.03	\$99,260.70	\$118,124.06	\$122,747.31
OPERATING BUDGET (Fiscal Year)				
	1971	1972	1973	1974
Salaries	\$35,225.00	\$36,897.00	\$39,322.00	\$42,200.00
Other Expense	20,380.00	20,303.00	29,450.00	31,000.00
TOTAL	\$55,605.00	\$57,200.00	\$68,772.00	\$73,200.00

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

1972 - 1973 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM		\$133,000
Sewage Disposal	110,000	
Building Rehabilitation	9,000	
Utilities Rehabilitation	9,000	
Overlooks and Steps	5,000	
1974 - 1975 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM		\$64,000
Building Rehabilitation	10,000	
Utilities Rehabilitation	1,000	
Sewer Lagoon	44,000	
Campground Rehabilitation	4,000	
Landscape Service Area, including Loading Ramp	3,000	
Foot Trails and Safety Barriers	2,000	
1976 - 1977 TENTATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL		\$25,000
Campground Wastewater Disposal	4,000	
Campground Improvement	10,000	
Foot Trails and Safety Barriers	3,000	
Re-roof Campground Sanitation Building	5,000	
Landscape Service Area	2,000	
Interpretive Facilities	1,000	



School District #381 678,261 173.39 0.026

ExpINSION

Silver Creek Tup. \$ 271,687 \$278,56 0.103 Lake Co. 1,094,452 7/8.38 0.066 Sehal District #381 678,261 469.15 0.069

2,960 veres yeet title co. Plands in Co.

P. 10 township totaled \$271,687 for 1975
park totaled \$541.85

McCarthy Beach T. 60 R 21

Barrhand Lake T. 62 R14 - None T 62 R13 - None T. 61 RI4 - 4 NEW of SEXY of 5.24 SE 4 of SE 14 of 5.24 NE Y4 of 5.25 SE Y4 of SW & & SE Y4 of 5.25 SEKY of NWKY + N /2 of 5 W /4 + 5W/4 of 5 WW of 5.26 SWK4 of SEK4 of 5. 26 SEXU OF NWKY 5.28 5/2 of SW 4 of 5.29 Lot 4 5. 29 NW/4 of SE14 45/2 of SE14 of 5. 30 NE 14 of 5-31 NE 14 of SE 14 of 5.31 W /2 of NW 4 of 5.33 NE /4 of SW /4 of S. 32 SE 4 of SW 4 of 5.32 What SEX4 055.32 NE YE OF NEXY . F5. 33 SW 4 of NE 4045, 33 N 2 of NE 14 of 5.34

SE 14 of NE 24 of S. 34

SE 14 of SN 16 4 SE 14 5. 34 All of 5. 35

Schussler Co. - Name of property owner on

Kimbaly-Clock Corp. - Newroh, Wi. Name

Backman - Lot 3 (port) - 16 - 697.44 " SE Mof NW (part) - 1 - 5.53 J. 27 Tohoson - Lot 3 (part) - 4 - 158.92	
5.28 Starin - SE* of NE 1240 - 38.53 11 -NE 14 of SE 14 - 40 - 23.82 62.35	
Penry Finish - 5. 10 N/2 of NE K lying N & NW of T NE K of NE K E. of S.H. 1 NWK4 of NE K E. of S.H. 1 NWK4 of NE K E. of S.H. 1 Loko Sup. Postly NE K Of NE K 4, 5.20 - 40 - 6,40 NW K of NW K 5.21 - 40 - 6,40 SW K of NW K 8.21 - 40 - 6,40 SE K Of NW K 8.21 - 40 - 6,40	H 1 -9.40 acres -38.34 acres -2.94 acres -1.14 acres 56.4 8 5.60 2.53 89.16 1.12
Storin 5.27 Lot 2 (part) 0.6-416.54 Lot3 (part) 6.77-76.47 SW4 of NW4 40.00 23.52 SEM STNW4 39.50 20.61 94 -537.14	103.41



Environmental Assessment - Addendum to EIS submitted to your office on 1-26-77.

I. <u>Description of the Action</u> - The State of Minnesota proposes that the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as administrator of the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund, participate with the Department of Natural Resources in a two-stage development 'project.

The first stage of this proposal constitutes up-grading of existing trails and rehabilitating the shop in the service area. The trail will be upgraded to multi-seasonal use and erosion control measures will be initiated. The shop in the service area will be improved by installing a water and sewer system. The shop presently has no provision for these facilities.

The second stage of the proposed project will include such capitol improvement items as campground development (including construction of new sanitation buildings), sewage system for entire park, fisheries management (to include trout habitat, barriers, wing deflectors and bank stablization along the Gooseberry River), vegetation management (includes restoration of original vegetation, tree planting, brushing) and site preparation.

It is proposed that the rehabilitation be completed during fiscal year 1978 and that the second stage of the project be activated as soon as the long range management plan for Gooseberry Falls State Park is completed.

- II. . <u>Description of the Environment</u> The environment is described in EIS submitted to your office on 1-26-77.
- III. Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action Although temporary disruption of the environment will occur during development of the campground and especially during construction of the sewage system, the long term benefits far outweigh the short term environmental disruptions. The present campground will be relieved of the heavy usage which is occuring and the installation and upgrading of the sewer system will prevent the possibility of water quality deterioration.

The rehabilitation, fisheries and vegetative management project will have little or no effect upon the existing environment. The rehabilitation will be performed upon existing structures: the vegetative projects will be to restore native plantlife to the area and; the fisheries management will be for the improvement of trout habitat and for bank stablization.

Further environmental impacts are as explained in the environmental impact assessment submitted to your office on 1-26-77.

IV. Mitigating Measures Included in the Proposed Action - In many respects the major items of development included in the proposed action are the mitigations against soil resource impairment and potential water quality deterioration.

Mitigation of adverse impacts caused by rehabilitation work in the proposed project is not necessary because the work is on existing structures. Any disruption of flora resources will be countered by reseeding, erosion control and tree planting. Additional information of mitigating measures is highlighted in the assessment submitted on 1-26-77.

V. Any Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided

Should the Proposal Be Implemented.

Although the proposal does contain the mitigation necessary to alleviate or at least minimize existing and potential adverse impacts on the natural resource amenities of the park, the implementation of the proposal will likely result in a minimal but unavoidable adverse environmental impact on these amenities.

Implementation of the proposal will result in increased park use levels, and subsequently in increased auto emission levels.

Although the resultant impact will be insignificant, it will be an adverse environmental effect.

VI. Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Short-term uses of our environment as they relate to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity are not considered in terms of years. Trade-offs of environmental uses are necessary in order to gain certain benefits.

GAINS

- Protection of the natural resource amenities of the presently overused campground facility and the park in general.
- 2. Social benefits for the increased number of persons able to utilize the additional recreational opportunities afforded by the proposal.

LOSSES

- A minimal loss of these natural resources amenities in proposed development areas.
- Possible negative social impacts which may result from increases in littering, trespassing, and noise levels.

- Increased benefits to the local economy resulting from the development and from increased use levels.
- 3. The expenditure of an estimated \$670,475 of public funds for development.
- Would be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented.

 The manpower, materials, and capital necessary for implementation of the proposed action will be considered to be irretrievably committed.
- VIII. Alternatives to the Proposed Action The only alternative to this particular proposal is no action. This alternative is not feasible as the actual and potential adverse impacts outweigh those that would exist if the proposal where implemented.