

Minnesota Natural Resources

Department: Environmental
Assessment Files Regarding State
Parks

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b. Beological Resources - The park is primarly a Big Woods" community. This community is made up of maple + basewood. depen - oak communities are found in thou arear of the park which have been legged. The found of the park includes den, squirel, rabbit, fox water fowl heron. There is not a species lest available at this time. The laker centain warm water fich such as por fish base and walleys. No race or endangered species are found in This park.

(over)

C. Water Resources - The surface water resources of the park one two lakes, Widden Lake which is within the park and Take Carlos which boarden the park. The ground water resources are found in surficial sand and gravel outwark plains. The water quality of both surface and ground water is good.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Purpose of the Action - Lake Carlos State Park was established by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1938.

The repair and rehabilitation of certain facilities and adjoining lands within the park, by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation, will enhance the outdoor recreation experiences of Minnesotans and visitors to the State.

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

B. Location and Magnitude of the Project - Lake Carlos State Park is located in Douglas County approximately eight miles north of Alexandria and 150 miles north of the Twin Cities via Inter-State Highway 94. MAP 1+2

The present authorized land area of the park is 1181 acres.

As of July 1, 1977 the total land area acquired was 1131 1121 acres.

(SCORP) (MAP 3)

It is proposed that campground sanitation building, toilets and nature center be repaired and rehabilitated, and that erosion control and landscaping be undertaken in adjoining use areas with assistance from LAWCON.

200

The estimates cost of the rehabilitation project is as follows:

Repair Roof en campground sanitation building \$3,000

Re-Surface three toilet floors \$10,000

Re-Shingle and Repair Roof and Partitions \$5,000

of Nature Center

Erosion Control and Landscaping of Use Areas \$10,000

Total anticipated cost \$28,000

- C. Timing of the Project State funds are available for the completion of the project, which will be initiated in the spring of 1978 and completed by summer, 1979.
- D. Future Development Under the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation

 Act of 1975, comprehensive management plans are being developed for all state parks. Lake Carlos is tentatively scheduled for planning in the 1980-81 Biennium. This legislation authorizes necessary rehabilitation, coordinated with the planning staff, but no development prior to final plan approval.
- Park receives intensive recreational use, operating at or near capacity throughout the summer season and providing increasingly popular facilities for day-users during all seasons. The park's extensive camping, picnicing, water sports, trails and interpretive programs with both recreationists and local schools all contribute to its increasing popularity. In order to maintain the quality of these facilities, an undegraded park environment, and satisfying experiences for park visitors, this rehabilitation project is proposed.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Topography - Lake Carlos State Park lies within western

Minnesota's picturesque Leaf Hills Region. This part of the

state encompasses the northern Alexandria moraine complex and

pitted outwash plain -- an area characterized by rolling

terrain and sparkling lakes "Big woods" vegetation dominates -
maple-basswood and aspen-oak for ests with old field or brush

prairie openings.

Historical and Archaeological Resources - Although thorough inventory and documentation of park resources awaits the forthcoming master plan, Lake Carlos presently appears to have limited potential in this area. A 1973 survey conducted by the State Archaeologist found that the park contained no significant prehistoric sites.

- has recently been paved to the park entrance from State Highway 29, providing good vehicular access to the park off the north-south route and off Inter-State 94 through Alexandria. A feeder line from the park headquarters and campground area has just been connected with the Alexandria lakes area sewage system.
 - D. Socio-Economic Factors Glacial Lakes State Park lies within

 Economic Development Region 4, a nine-county area in west-central

 Minnesota. This prosperous farming area is fairly well-supplied with outdoor recreation facilities.

- E. Land Use The proposed project sites lie within an area reserved for recreational uses consistent with environmental protection. Adjoining lands encompass some gravel deposits currently under exploitation, and the surrounding area, especially lakeshore, is targeted for residential or commercial development.
- Existing Recreational Facilities -- Park facilities currently include campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming beach, multiple use trails, an interpretive center and outdoor education areas.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

- A. Impact on the Physical and Biological Environment Some extremely localized disruption of flore and fauna may occur in and immediately adjacent to use areas undergoing erosion stabilization and landscaping necessitated by repair of existing facilities.
- B. Impact on Historical and Arachaeological Resources Since the areas to be rehabilitated have already been disturbed and there are no known sites in these locations, no adverse effects are anticipated. However, existing laws require that until an intensive park-wide site survey has been completed, project locations must be individually surveyed and monitored. (MAPC) (Project location map attached.)
- C. Impact on Transportation and Utitlities Neither highways, secondary access roads, nor sewer or other utilities will be significantly impacted by this proposal.

- D. <u>Impact on Socio-Economic Factors</u> The local economy should benefit from local contracting and increased attractiveness of the park to tourists.
- E. Impact on Land Use Since the area is already being used for recreational purposes, the project is compatable with present land use and shouldn't be of significant impact.
- IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

 Much of the proposed erosion control and landscaping will

 mitigate against the long-term impacts of overintensive use,

 which will be addressed in the forthcoming master plan.

 A cultural project site assessment will precede implementation.
- V. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

 Rehabilitation of existing facilities will have minimal impact on plant and animal life in the immediate vicinity. Losses will be more significant in areas which undergo wrosion control and landscaping, although these will be largely temporary.
- VI. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM LOSSES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

 If the project is implemented, the resulting trade-off will

 result in the loss of some highly localized flora and fauna

 and expenditure of \$28,000 in public funds to gain improved

 sanitation and interpretive facilities, and stabilization and

 beautification of an area deteriorated from overintensive use.

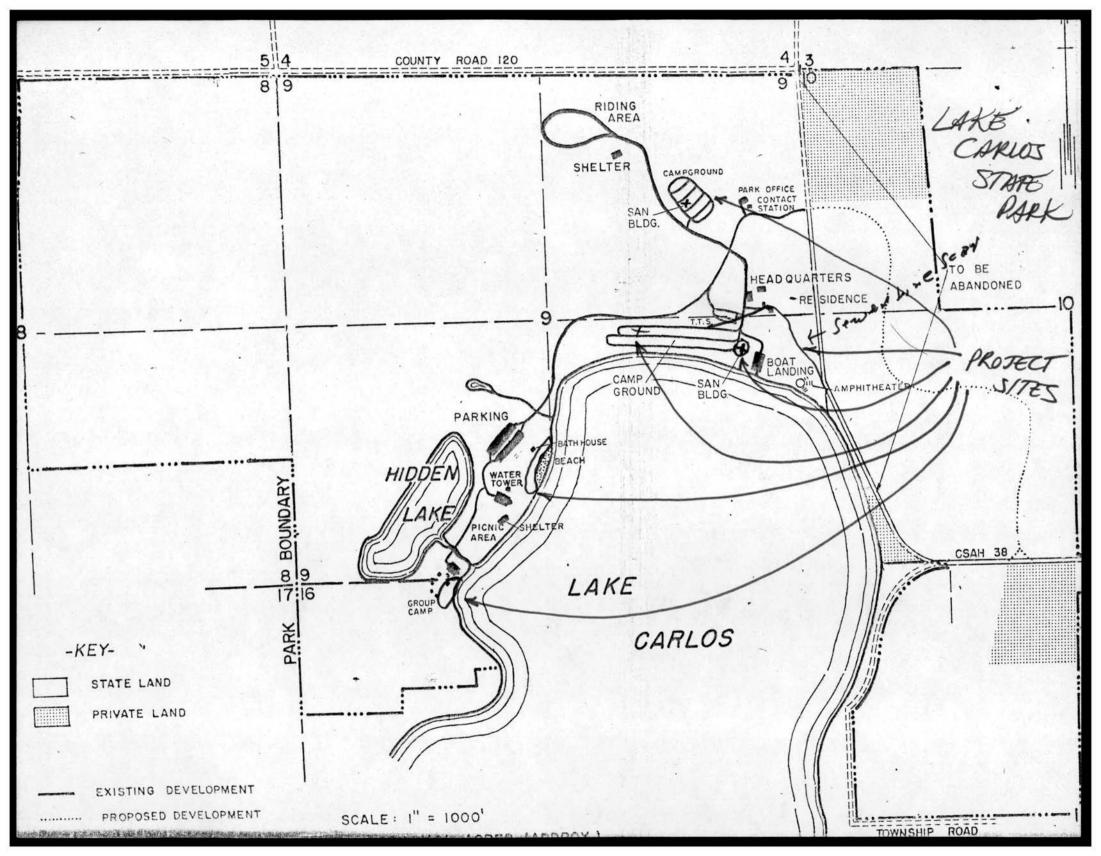
 The long-term effect will be enhanced recreational experiences

 for park visitors.

Project implementation will result in increased attractiveness of the area to recreationists and enhanced value of nearby recreational lands. The manpower, materials and funds necessary to carry out the project will be irretrievably committed.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Major alternatives considered are 1) no action and 2) a project of larger scope. In 1), failure to upgrade sanitation facilities and control erosion could result in intensified degradation of resources resulting in the eventual loss of the same flora and fauna that would be sacrificed through the project. In 2), more extensive rehabilitation is not judged necessary at this time, since potential problems should be addressed in the master planning process.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF



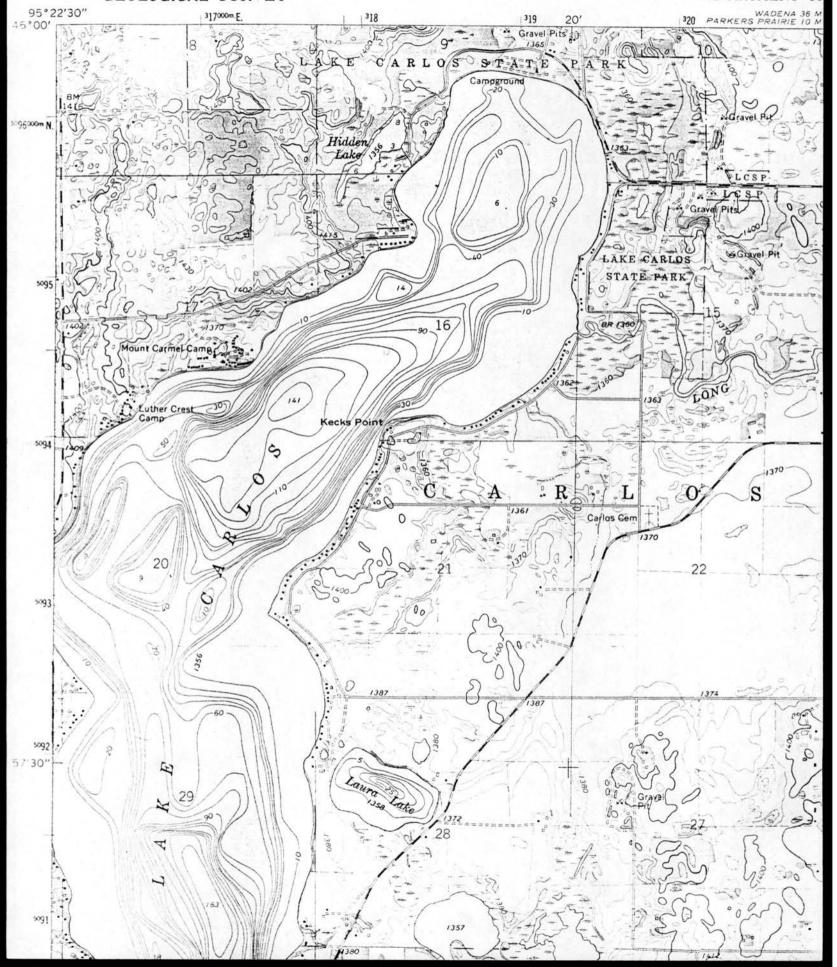
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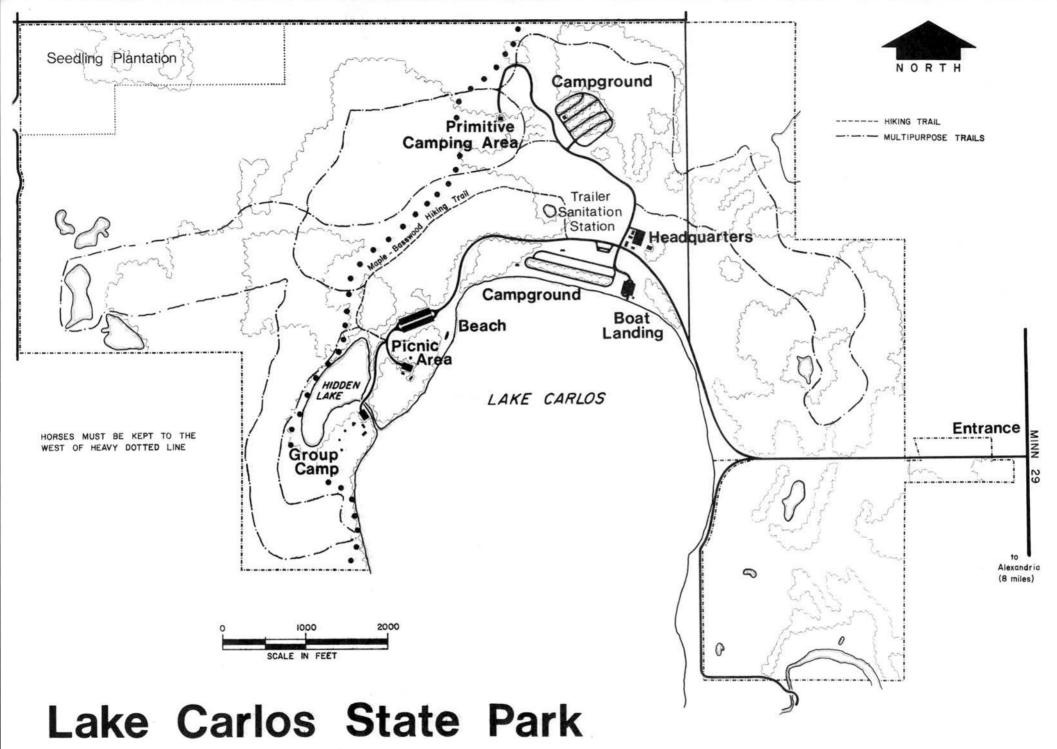
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF





Douglas County

LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK CARLOS, MINNESOTA 56319

Lake Carlos State Park is located 10 miles north of Alexandria, Minn. on state highway 29 in Douglas County. It's in the west central recreational center of the state, consisting of 1,168 acres on the north end of Lake Carlos, the deepest and cleanest lake in this part of Minnesota. Established in 1937, the park's rolling topography is covered with sugar maples and other deciduous trees on the higher ground and dense tamarack swamps in the lower area. The swamp is natural habitat for deer.

PARK MANNERS

Read and heed all posted rules and park signs.

Help protect your park. Preservation is everyone's business.

Take pictures and memories; leave only footprints. Don't dig trenches, pick plants, molest animals, or scavenge dead wood — it's needed for the soil environment.

Be considerate of others. Maintaining a clean, quiet park is best for everybody.

The use of firearms, explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows and all other weapons is prohibited.

Pets are prohibited from all park areas except when restrained on a leash measuring six feet or less. Pets may not enter buildings. Horses are permitted only on trails specifically designated for such use.

The park is closed from 10:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. of the following day, except in campgrounds or in cabin areas. Loud noises or other disturbances are prohibited after 10:00 p.m.

Park permits are required for every vehicle and can be purchased at park headquarters. Permit prices are \$3.00 per car for Annual Permit; \$1.00 for Daily Permit.

Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are allowed only on the motor vehicle roads - not on the trails.

FACILITIES

Camping, Picnicking and Hiking

Campsites are provided with water and toilet facilities. Tables and parking areas are available for picnicking. Trails provide diverse opportunities to experience the park and participate in nature.

Water Sports

Where appropriate, boat launching and swimming facilities have been developed. Activities should be confined to designated areas. Fishing subject to state law.

Winter Sports

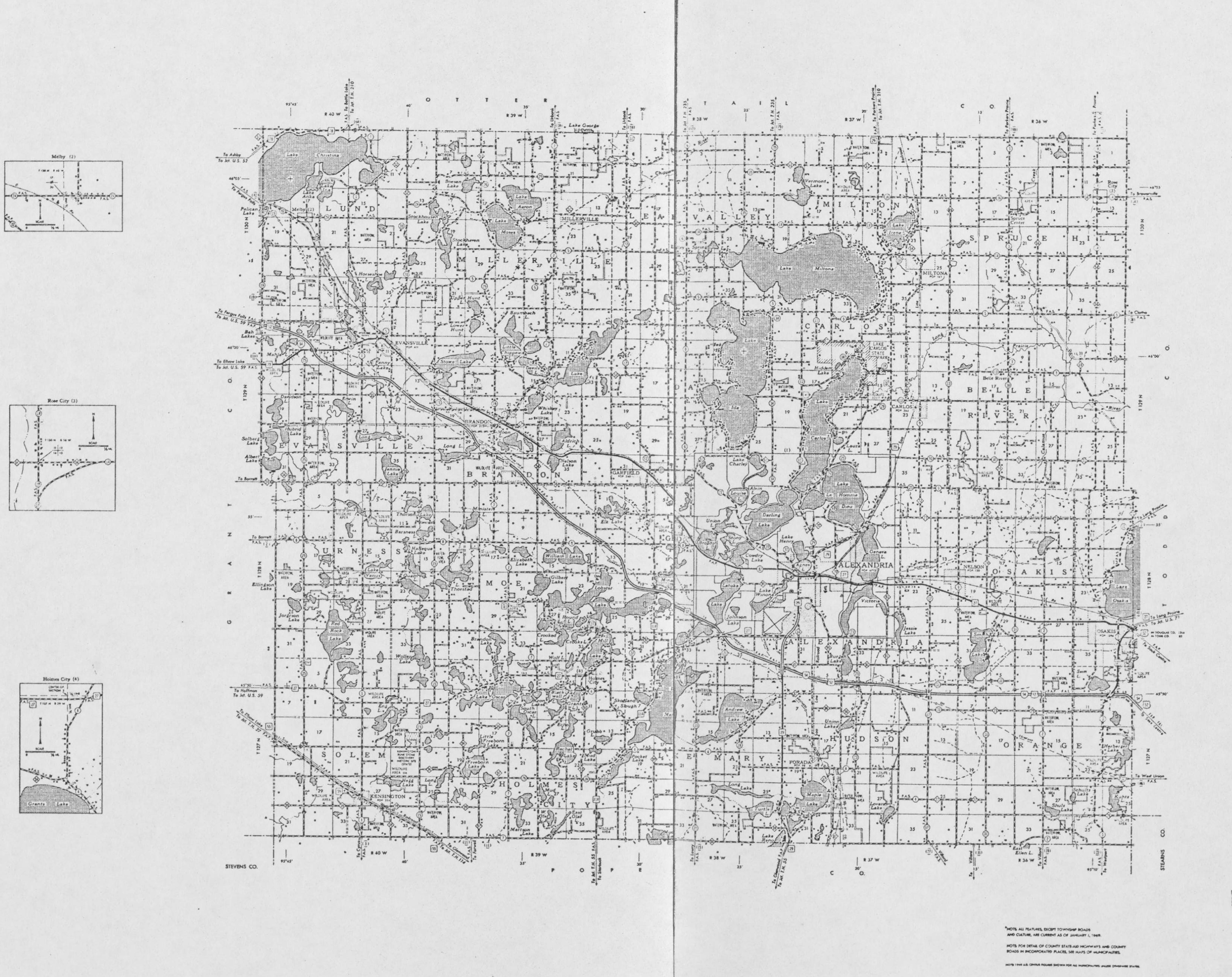
Ski touring and snowshoeing are encouraged in all state parks and are not confined to marked trails unless specifically restricted. Snowmobiling is permitted only in designated areas and posted trails under conditions considered adequate for park protection by the park ranger or manager.

Environmental Education

Schools and conservation-oriented groups aren't the only ones that can benefit from outdoor learning experiences. Make the most of your recreational experience here by using it to get closer to natural laws that bind us to one another and to the living environment that sustains us. Your state parks are unique and precious resources for building values and life styles necessary for the survival of a healthy biotic community.

This park is managed by the Minn. Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Recreation, Centennial Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn. 55155.





GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

DOUGLAS COUNTY MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

N COOPERATION WITH THE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Polyconic Projection
North American Duran
of 1927

Projection Reference
66th Parallel — 94th Heridia

CADOB AND STATEM DESIGNATIONS

BOARD TRAINS MANUAL STATEM

SARCH CHOTHERS

CHAPTER

CHAPT

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DISTANCE SCALES

DESCRIPTION OF COMMENTS

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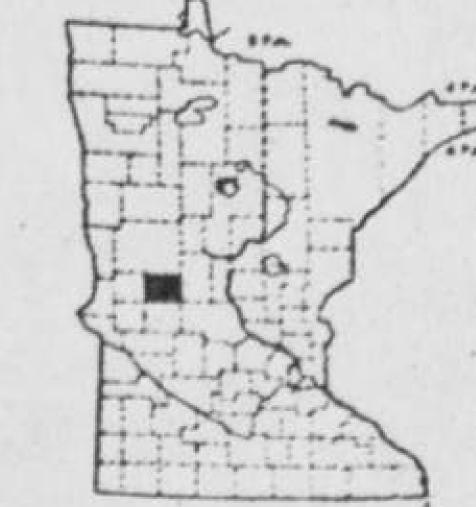
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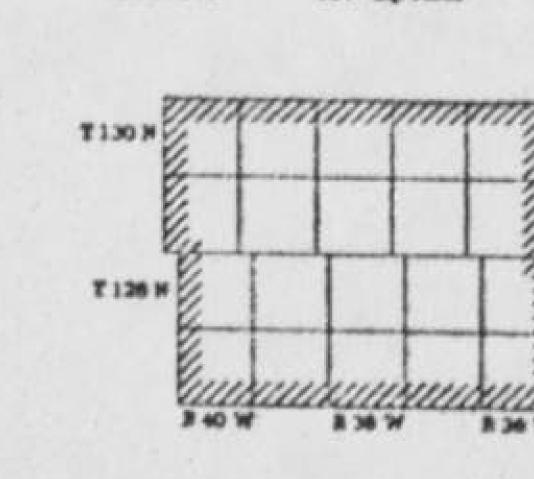
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
Define Map of this County. Shaded portion being area delineated on this sheet.

Area of this County. 723 Sq. Miles.

Land Area. 637 Sq. Miles.







ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. <u>Purpose of the Action</u> - Lake Carlos State Park was established by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1938.

The renovation of certain facilities and adjoining lands within the park, by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation, will enhance the outdoor recreation experiences of Minnesotans and visitors to the State.

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

B. Location and Magnitude of the Project - Lake Carlos State Park is located in Douglas County approximately eight miles north of Alexandria and 150 miles north of the Twin Cities via Inter-State Highway 94 (Map 1 and 2).

The present authorized land area of the park is 1261 acres.

As of July 1, 1977, the total land area acquired was 1121 acres (Map 3).

It is proposed that campground sanitation building, toilets, and nature center be renovated, and that erosion control and landscaping be undertaken in adjoining use areas with assistance from LAWCON.

The estimates cost of the rehabilitation project is as follows:

Roof the campground sanitation building \$3,000

Re-Surface three toilet floors \$10,000

Re-Shingle and Repair roof and partitions \$5,000

of Nature Center

Erosion Control and landscaping of use areas \$10,000

Total anticipated cost \$28,000

- C. <u>Timing of the Project</u> State funds are available for the completion of the project, which will be initiated in the spring of 1978 and completed by summer, 1979.
- D. Future Development Under the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975, comprehensive management plans are being developed for all state parks. Lake Carlos is tentatively scheduled for planning in the 1980-81 Biennium. This legislation authorizes necessary renovation, coordinated with the planning staff, but no development prior to final plan approval.
- E. Recreation Needs Served by the Proposal Lake Carlos State

 Park receives intensive recreational use, operating at or near

 capacity throughout summer and providing increasingly

 popular facilities for day-users during all seasons. The park's

 extensive camping, picnicking, water sports, trails and

 interpretive programs with both recreationists and local schools

 all contribute to its increasing popularity. In order to

 maintain the quality of these facilities, an undegraded park

 environment, and satisfying experiences for park visitors,

 this renovation project is proposed.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- A. Topography Lake Carlos State Park lies within western Minnesota's picturesque Leaf Hills Region. This part of the
 state encompasses the northern Alexandria moraine complex and
 pitted outwash plain an area characterized by rolling terrain
 and sparkling lakes (Map 4).
- B. Biological Resources The park is primarily a "Big Woods" community. This community is made up of maple and basswood.

 Aspen-oak communities are found in those areas of the park which have been logged.

The fauna of the park includes deer, squirrel, rabbit, fox, water fowl herons. There is not a species list available at this time.

The lakes contain warm water fish such as pan fish bass and walleye.

No rare or endangered species are found in this park.

C. Water Resources - The surface water resources of the park are two lakes, Hidden Lake, which is within the park, and Lake Carlos, which borders the park.

The ground water resources are found in surficial sand and gravel out-wash plains.

The water quality of both surface and ground water is good.

D. <u>Historical and Archaeological Resources</u> - Although thorough inventory and documentation of park resources awaits the forthcoming master plan, Lake Carlos presently appears to

have limited potential in this area. A 1973 survey conducted by the State Archaeologist found that the park contained no significant prehistoric sites.

- E. Transportation and Utilities County State Aid Highway 38

 has recently been paved to the park entrance from State Highway

 29, providing good vehicular access to the park off the northsouth route and off Inter-State 94 through Alexandria. A

 feeder line from the park headquarters and campground area
 has just been connected with the Alexandria lakes area
 sewage system.
- F. Socio-Economic Factors Glacial Lakes State Park lies within

 Economic Development Region 4, a nine-county area in west-central

 Minnesota (Map 5). This prosperous farming area is fairly well
 supplied with outdoor recreation facilities.
- G. Land Use The proposed project sites lie within an area reserved for recreational uses consistent with environmental protection. Adjoining lands encompass some gravel deposits currently under exploitation, and the surrounding area, especially lakeshore, is targeted for residential or commercial development.
- H. Existing Recreational Facilities Park facilities currently include campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming beach, multiple use trails, an interpretive center, and outdoor education areas.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Impact on the Physical and Biological Environment - Some

extremely localized disruption of flora and fauna may occur in and immediately adjacent to use areas undergoing erosion stabilization and landscaping necessitated by repair of existing facilities.

- B. Impact on Historical and Archaeological Resources Since
 the areas to be rehabilitated have already been disturbed
 and there are no known sites in these locations, no adverse
 effects are anticipated. However, existing laws require
 that until an intensive park-wide site survey has been completed, project locations must be individually surveyed and
 monitored (Map 6).
- C. Impact on Transportation and Utilities Neither highways, secondary access roads, nor sewer or other utilities will be significantly impacted by this proposal.
- D. <u>Impact on Socio-Economic Factors</u> The local economy should benefit from local contracting and increased attractiveness of the park to tourists.
- E. Impact on Land Use Since the area is already being used for recreational purposes, the project is compatible with present land use and shouldn't be of significant impact.
- IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

 Much of the proposed erosion control and landscaping will

 mitigate against the long-term impacts of overintensive

 use, which will be addressed in the forthcoming master plan.

 A cultural project site assessment will precede implementation.

V. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Rehabilitation of existing facilities will have minimal impact on plant and animal life in the immediate vicinity.

Losses will be more significant in areas which undergo erosion control and landscaping, although these will be largely temporary.

- VI. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM LOSSES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

 If the project is implemented, the resulting trade-off will

 result in the loss of some highly localized flora and fauna
 and expenditure of \$28,000 in public funds to gain im
 proved sanitation and interpretive facilities, and stabili
 zation and beautification of an area deteriorated from

 overintensive use. The long-term effect will be enhanced

 recreational experiences for park visitors.
- VII. IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

 Project implementation will result in increased attractiveness of the area to recreationists and enhanced value of nearby recreational lands. The manpower, materials, and funds necessary to carry out the project will be irretrievably committed.
- VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Major alternatives considered are 1) no action and 2) a project of larger scope. In 1), failure to upgrade sanitation facilities and control erosion could result in intensified degradation of resources resulting in the eventual loss of the same flora and fauna that would be sacrificed through the project. In 2), more extensive

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