

Minnesota Natural Resources

Department: Environmental
Assessment Files Regarding State
Parks

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HANN Knoke for your Information

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HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA 68113-500

2 6 MAY 1989

Mr. Thomas W. Balcom Supervisor Natural Resources Planning and Review Services Department of Natural Resources 500 LaFayette Road St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Balcom

This letter is in response to your environmental concerns that we solicited regarding the US Air Force, Strategic Air Command's proposal to use an existing low-level route, VR-1616, to gain access to the Hardwood Weapons Range in Wisconsin. This range and route are owned by the Air National Guard and have been in operation for a number of years.

In view of the several concerns that we received, we have created a new alternate entry to VR-1616, whereby we will not traverse the state of Minnesota. Our aircraft will enter VR-1616 at Point C located in Wisconsin.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your comments regarding our proposal.

Sincerely,

HUGH M. STIRTS, GM-15

Director, Environmental Management DCS/Engineering and Services

cc: HQ USAF/LEEV

CC. RICE LARE S.P.
REG I



DEPARTMENT: Natural Resources

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DATE: September 15, 1988

TO: Gene Hutchins, Manager Rice Lake State Park

FROM: Kathy Bolin WO

Resource Specialist

PHONE: (507)285-7432

SUBJECT: Rod Wagner Prairie

I'm not sure if Frank has talked to you about the two acre prairie or not. It is my understanding that he did not include it in the boundary change legislation because of the size.

As we discussed earlier, Frank also suggested enrolling it in the prairie bank program. It may provide more permanent protection if we could get it into the park or SNA status under the RIM critical habitat program. There's a "match" program that would give Rod some tax credit if he would donate the land. The assessed value of the land would then be matched by the legislature in giving real dollars towards prairie management or other critical habitat acquisition at the park, in the region or wherever Rod would so desire. (This is how we got Osmundson Prairie in Faribault County.)

Jerry Johnson should be able to provide you with more details or direction on how to proceed.

I can assist with the site evaluation and species lost if that is necessary. I would also be happy to visit Rod with you to further discuss the significance of the prairie.

Please keep me posted. Have you visited the prairie since it was burned this spring?

c: Don Jueneman Frank Knoke

KB08/s1



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding the Management of Rice Lake (74-1) in Dodge and Steele Counties.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT:

- The lake's management will be within the guidelines of the park plan and the lake management plan.
- Modifications to the outlet structure are the responsibility of the section of Wildlife. Plans for the modification will be reviewed by the park manager and the regional park manager before final approval.
- Stoplog removal of more than twelve (12) inches will be communicated to regional park manager six (6) months prior to implementation.
- Stoplog removal of less than twelve inches will be communicated to the regional park manager one (1) month prior to implementation.
- The lake management plan will be reviewed five (5) years after implementation to determine its effectiveness.
- A gauge to moniter water elevations will be established so that periodic readings can be obtained by Wildlife and Parks personnel.

JOHN M. IDSTROM AREA WILDLIFE MANAGER 285—18 STREET S. E. OWATONNA, MINN. 55060

AH 35-85

RECEIVED

MAE. 2 = 1985

Dept. of Natural Resources Div. of Parks & Remeation DEPARTMENT____DNR

Office Memorandum

TO

: Frank Knoke

Evironmental and Land Acquisition Specialist

DATE: 2 25 85

FROM : Rice Lake State Park

Gene Hutchins, Mgr

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FEB 2 1985

SUBJECT: Lake Designation - Addition of Ideas

1. Do we want a % of the Lake open? Example 80%, etc

2. Wilh the wildlife people drop it below normal level during the summer months? If so, what level? What do we want?

Thank You Gene Hutchins

M.H.

DEPARTMENT____DNR

Office Memorandum

TO : Frank Knoke St. Paul, Mn DATE: 2 6 85

FROM : Rice Lake

Gene Hutchins, Mgr \(\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \delta \end{array} \rightarrow \end{array} \rightarrow \end{array}

SUBJECT: I am enclosing a few ideas on the lake. Draw downs should be done, if at all possible during off season at the park. Water levels should promote wildlife and also parks normal recreational use of the Lake.

We have at Owatonna a good person in John Idstrom. He has always been alot of help. Also Gary Westby our C. O. out of Owatonna, Mn is really helpful. Please akk them for their views on the matter.

Thank You

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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- Public use of the lake will be in compliance with park policies and rules.
- Modifications to the outlet structure are the responsibility of the Section of Wildlife. The modification will be reviewed by the park manager and the regional park manager.
- Draw downs of more than six (6) inches will be communicated to regional park manager six (6) months prior to implementation.
- Draw downs of less than six (6) inches will be communicated to the regional park manager one (1) month prior to implementation.
- The lake management plan will be reviewed in five (5) years to determine its effectiveness.

For Discussion Purposes Only FEB - 10%5

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources

Office Memorandum

TO: John Idstrom, Kevin Lines

DATE: 2-8-85

FROM: Richard Carlson

PHONE: 296-3344

SUBJECT: Draft Agreement

for Rice Lake

Frank Knoke has drafted a memorandum of Understand between our Divisions evidently as noted in the Rice Lake Park Plan.

Please review for changes, format and suggestions.

RAC/bjm

cc: F. Knoke

RECEIVED

FEB 1 1 1985

Eapt. of Natural Resources of Parks & Recreation

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources/Waters
Region V/Rochester

Office Memorandum

то

Frank Knoke

Environmental & Land Acquisition Specialist

DATE:

Feb. 6, 1985

FROM :

Bill Huber Bu

Area Hydrologist, Rochester

PHONE:

SUBJECT:

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RICE LAKE (74-1) DODGE AND STEELE COUNTIES

Thank you for sending a copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Parks and Wildlife regarding the management of Rice Lake.

I understand that Wildlife will apply for the required protected waters permit for the modification of, and the operational plan for the outlet structure. A provision of the permit will be that a gage be established and that a record be maintained of water levels with a specified frequency. This would be the responsibility of the Section of Wildlife, however, I would think that Wildlife would want to make arrangements to have the Park Manager maintain the water level record. Perhaps you would like to address this in your Memorandum of Understanding.

jp

cc: John Idstrom

FEB 8 1985

Pept of Natural Resources
of Parks & Recreation

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SF-00006-03

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources - Wildlife

TO: Frank Knoke

DATE: February 5, 1985

Environmental & Land Acquisition Specialist

FROM: Kevin Lines

PHONE: (612) 464-5200

Lake Designation Coordinator

SUBJECT: Rice Lake, Dodge & Steele Counties

Draft Memorandum of Understanding

I have discussed this matter with John Idstrom, AWM. It is our feeling that the only changes necessary were with statement numbers 4 and 5 regarding the amount of drawdown. We both concurred that this should be 12 inches not 6 inches to adequately provide for future water manipulations.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this subject.

KL:ja

cc: John Idstrom

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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- Draw downs of more than six=(6) inches will be communicated to regional park manager six (6) months prior to implementation.
- Draw downs of less than six (6) inches will be communicated to the regional park manager one (1) month prior to implementation.
- 6. The lake management plan will be reviewed in five (5) years to determine its effectiveness.

For Discussion Purposes Only SF-00006-03

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT

NATURAL RESOURCES
Parks & Recreation

Office Memorandum

TO:

Dennis Thompson Planning

DATE:

January 31, 1985

FROM:

Frank Knoke 7

Environmental & Land Acquisition Specialist

PHONE:

296-6226

SUBJECT:

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RICE LAKE (74-1) DODGE AND STEELE COUNTIES

Attached is a draft Memorandum of Understanding. It is called for in the Rice Lake State Park Plan. Please review and let me know if there are any changes needed.

b2/018

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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- Draw downs of less than six (6) inches will be communicated to the regional park manager one (1) month prior to implementation.
- The lake management plan will be reviewed in five (5) years to determine its effectiveness.

- Area wildlife manager will prepare an annual report detailing management activities undertaken and progress observed in achieving management goals stated in the Wildlife Management Lake plan.

For Discussion Purposes Only

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- Draw downs of less than six (6) inches will be communicated to the regional park manager one (1) month prior to implementation.

- The lake management plan will be reviewed in 5 years to determain its ifectivenen.

DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES

Office Memorandum

TO : Don Davison, Director

Division of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 17, 1984

FROM

Karen Loechler Assistant Commissioner

for Planning and Special Services

PHONE: 296-9556

SUBJECT: Rice Lake State Park - Lake Designation

The management plan for Rice Lake State Park, completed in November, 1982 recommended the designation of Rice Lake as a wildlife management lake per the lake designation legislation passed in 1969 (M.S. 1984, Ch. 97, Sec. 48, Subd. 11). Work on the designation of Rice Lake has proceeded and, to-date, a management plan for the lake has been prepared by the area wildlife manager and a public hearing has been held (October 30, 1984) to discuss that plan. Submittal of the Rice Lake designation proposal to the Commissioner is expected within the next one to two months.

The management plan for Rice Lake State Park (see enclosure) recommended that a memorandum of agreement be signed by the Division of Parks & Recreation and the Division of Fish & Wildlife in order to ensure that the recreational opportunities the lake provides not be compromised by lake designation and management. Pages 52-53 of the park management plan (see enclosure) highlight items which the Division of Parks & Recreation should make certain are included in the memorandum of agreement.

Because the lake designation proposal for Rice Lake will soon be submitted to the Commissioner, it would seem that now is an appropriate time to pursue the memorandum of agreement with the Division of Fish & Wildlife. If any assistance is needed with the preparation of the memorandum, please contact Mike Miller of the Natural Resources Planning staff.

KL:MM:sm

Enc.

cc: Larry Shannon Vonny Hagen

Paul Swenson

I Maringon r man

Taken from the comprehensive management plan for Rice Lake State Park.

Wildlife Management
Objectives:

To manage Rice Lake for improved wildlife habitat provided that such management does not unduly restrict recreational activities

To enhance wildlife observation as a recreational experience for all park visitors

Action #1. Support the DNR, Section of Wildlife in designating Rice Lake as a wildlife management lake.

Over the past several decades, the problem of choosing the wisest management for Rice Lake has been discussed by fisheries personnel, wildlife managers, limnologists, and park/recreation administrators. Dredging the lake in an attempt to create a fishery is cost prohibitive. The only viable alternatives are to manage the lake for wildlife or to continue no management at all. Division of Fish and Wildlife surveys over the past 36 years indicate that Rice Lake is a fairly stable aquatic environment. With no management, the lake will continue to support minimal amounts of aquatic vegetation and have an abundance of algae, turbid water, and generally poor water quality. These conditions result in extremely poor wildlife habitat. However, with proper management, these conditions could be improved and Rice Lake could provide excellent wildlife habitat. Like hundreds of other large, shallow south central Minnesota lakes, Rice Lake historically provided an excellent area for

waterfowl production, hunting, and trapping (probably less so in recent history than in presettlement times). A number of factors have contributed to the deterioration of water quality in Rice Lake. The accumulation of silt deposits has increased over the years, and these deposits are rich in nutrients (both inherent and added as the result of run off). As the bottom sediments are stirred up by wave action, the nutrients are put in suspension making them more available to algae. The muddy, green-brown, turbid water is caused by a combination of suspended sediments and green algae. Since the introduction of rough fish in 1952, the turbidity and excessive nutrient load of the lake has undoubtedly increased (see Water Resources Section p.60 and Fisheries Section, p 65). The turbidity reduces the clarity of the water and hence reduces the amount of sunlight available to submergent vegetation. In addition, the original daming of the lake probably raised the lake level, increasing the amount of water that sunlight must pass through to reach submergent plants. Recognizing the need to revive deteriorated lakes such as Rice Lake, the 1969 legislature passed the Lake Designation Bill which was further modified in 1975. (The law now applies statewide, where it was previously restricted to management south of TH 12.)

The designation of a lake allows its management to be coordinated by the DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife. In order for a lake to be designated, a feasibility study and management plan must be written by the DNR Section of Wildlife. In addition, a public hearing is held to obtain public input on the recommended management plan. The general course of events leading to lake designation is as follows:

Feasibility Study

Coordinated by the area wildlife manager (include input of regional engineer and hydrologist)

Management Plan

Written by the area wildlife manager and reviewed by DNR regional and central office staff (in this case, the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Office of Planning will also review the plan).

Public Hearing

Newspaper and media coverage, public input and DNR input.

Designation

by DNR Commissioner's order

Project Initiation

Development project proposal submitted to the DNR central office by the area wildlife manager via the regional office.

Since 1969, sixteen lakes in south central Minnesota have been designated as wildlife management lakes. Because of various management factors, only 8 are currently in active management.

The recommended management for many designated lakes includes a temporary drawdown to aerate bottom soils, elimination of rough fish populations, and reestablishment of aquatic vegetation. After the first drawdown, water levels are fluctuated to allow for maximum sunlight penetration to submergent plants. Although a definite drawdown schedule cannot be estimated at this time, a preliminary analysis of Rice Lake suggests that the following water level manipulations would be most likely:

A major drawdown every 10 to 12 years similar to the 1976 drought which involved a 20 in. (51 cm) drop.

A fluctuation of 6 to 12 in. (15 to 30 cm) from the current water level during the years between the major drawdowns.

The major drawdown will probably have the greatest impact on the park and the immediate Rice Lake area. The major drawdown would be done in the early spring and last about nine months. With normal rainfall, the lake should return to its original level the following season. The water level will drop about 20 in. (51 cm) for one entire summer season. It is estimated that the waterline will recede 12 ft (3.7 m) from the main use area and 45 ft (13.7 m) in shallow areas across the lake. During this time, the water basin should be about 2/3 the original size and have an average depth of 16 in. (41 cm) and a

maximum depth of 3.5 ft (1.1 m). Although curtailed, canoeing (the major water-based activity at Rice Lake) should still be possible during the major drawdown.

The quality and diversity of recreational activities should increase as the result of lake management. Canoeing and sailing should be minimally impacted during the 10 to 12 years between major drawdowns. Although hunting is generally not associated with state parks, it will continue as long as there is private lakeshore ownership. Because waterfowl populations and emergent vegetation areas from which to hunt are expected to increase as a result of lake management, hunting will probably also increase. Wildlife population in general should increase as a more balanced, more productive, and healthier marsh ecosystem is established. This increase in wildlife populations will result in an increase in wildlife observation and interpretive opportunities in the park. Marsh areas are among the most productive ecosystems in existence, and in recent years they have been receiving increased recognition as one of the better settings for outdoor education programs. Although swimming beaches and wildlife areas have not been traditionally associated, the water quality improvement resulting from lake management should make a swimming beach more feasible than current conditions allow (see Action #lb in this section for further details).

Following the first major drawdown, the biology of the lake should change significantly. Some of the major aspects of this change are outlined below.

Water clarity

Because of fewer rough fish to disturb the bottom and excrete soluble nutrients, the water at Rice Lake should become less turbid. With fewer available nutrients in suspension, the algae growth should be drastically curtailed. The increase in rooted plants should also help keep turbidity to a minimum. As a result, the water in Rice Lake should be much clearer and much less muddy-green.

Thicker, more abundant submerged vegetation

The suspended nutrients that were once available to algae will remain in the bottom sediments and soils and will be available to aquatic plants. Water

levels will be fluctuated to keep sunlight penetration to these plants optimal. Sago pondweed (Potamogeton pectinatus) and coontail (Ceratophyllum demersum) are expected to be abundant. Many other species of submerged and floating aquatic plants (e.g. white water lily (Nymphaea tuberosa) are expected to be common. The submergent vegetation will provide an abundant supply of waterfowl food where very little exists today. A submergent vegetation study was done in 1949 which sampled 27 points throughout Rice Lake. The study was repeated in 1981 and it showed a drastic reduction in submergent vegetation growth.

Increased emergent vegetation

Over the past several decades, emergent vegetation at Rice Lake has slowly declined. The only exception to this was immediately following drought periods such as the one in 1976 when the water level was lowered naturally. Emergent vegetation around Rice Lake is very limited. There are several small areas of hardstem bullrush (Scirpus acutus). One area is off the point of the old beach, another is evident across the lake near the main inlet where a delta has formed from alluvial fill. The water depth here averages 2 ft (.6 m). There is another bullrush area across the lake near the marsh by the dam. Smaller, isolated patches are scattered just offshore in other areas. Narrow leaved cattail (Typha augustifolia) is apparent only in the marsh areas immediately adjacent to the lake near the dam and main inlet. All of these emergent vegetation species should become more abundant following the major drawdown. In addition, other shallower offshore areas should be covered with emergent vegetation. The main body of the lake and the shoreline in front of the main park use area (picnic ground, lakeshore trail) is expected to have minimal emergents. The water in this area is deeper and has a gravelly bottom so emergents should not grow in this area to block the view of the lake. Emergent vegetation will provide excellent waterfowl cover and muskrat habitat.

Increased population of zooplankton and crustaceans

Young of the year waterfowl that are raised in the Rice Lake vicinity will find this lake a valuable migration staging area because of the needs of their protein-rich diet.

Increased diversity and abundance of nesting and migrating waterfowl;
waterbinds, and shorebirds, and other binds. waterbirds

Rice Lake should be an attractive area for waterbirds because of an abundant food supply and cover. Waterfowl will perhaps benefit most. However a wide variety of wildlife will be attracted to the marsh ecosystem with the help of lake management.

DNR files in the Division of Waters, Section of Fisheries and Division of Parks and Recreation indicate that the management of Rice Lake has been an issue for several decades. The two main management concepts have been to manage the lake as a fishery or to manage the lake for wildlife. With the lake having minimal fishery potential, the most cost effective and productive managment would be for wildlife. Rice Lake was established as a state park in 1963. The Lake Designation Act was passed in 1969. Although the Section of Wildlife has recognized Rice Lake's potential as a wildlife lake, an attempt to designate the lake has never been made. The main obstacle holding up designation has been the question of whether or not a lake managed for wildlife would be compatible with a recreational state park. Because of the improved water quality, increased wildlife habitat, and outdoor education potential, designation appears to be the best alternative. The DNR, Division of Parks and Recreation and the DNR, Section of Wildlife must work cooperatively to make this effort a success. The DNR, Division of Parks and Recreation will support lake designation if the following criteria are: included in a memorandum of agreement.

- 1) The primary management goal of this unit will be for a recreational state park, not a wildlife managment area.
- 2) The lake will be managed in cooperation with the Division of Parks and Recreation so that recreational use of the lake by park visitors is a paramount concern.

The memorandum of agreement will be an integral part of the transcript to be reviewed by the commissioner as part of the designation process.

Rice Lake State Park is unique in that the lake which is the focal point of the park has tremendous wildlife potential, while at the same time the entire park should continue to serve the public as a recreational state park. If Rice Lake is designated for wildlife management, the following actions should be implemented. These actions are conditional subactions of Action #1. If the lake is not designated, Action #2 will be implemented.

Action #la. Modify the existing dam to allow drawdowns, water level manipulations, and rough fish control.

In order to implement the lake management plans, the fixed crest dam must be changed to a control structure dam. Stop log modification is probably the most efficient at this time. A "hanging" carp screen similar to the one in use at Bear Lake near Albert Lea should also be installed. Modifications to the dam may require a permit from the DNR, Division of Waters. DNR Dam Safety personnel should be consulted prior to any modification work.

Cost: Covered by DNR, Section of Wildlife

Action #1b. Improve the beach during the major drawdown.

The beach was closed in May, 1980 because of muddy-green waters and leeches. At the time of drawdown, the beach area should be cleared of boulders and debris. Although there is a good gravelly bottom in this area, a layer of beach sand and gravel should be added. Several inches of the bottom may have to be scraped off before the new gravel is added. This work may require a permit from the DNR, Division of Waters.

The gravel bottom, deeper water and human activity in the beach area should keep vegetation growth minimal. Should submergent plant growth become a problem, specialists from DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Section of Ecological Services should be consulted.

Because of the nature of the marsh ecosystem, plant debris may accumulate on the beach area more frequently than in non-marsh systems. This may require additional maintenance but it is important to keep the entire beach area free of dead vegetation, sticks, rocks, and debris because these materials attract both leeches and snails.

One problem the Rice Lake beach has traditionally had is leeches. The best way to control leeches is to maintain a clean beach. If leeches persist, however, a permit to apply copper sulfate should be obtained from the DNR, Section of Ecological Services. Copper sulfate should kill leeches or drive them from the area.

Copper sulfate treatment may also be needed to control snails which harbor the organism that causes swimmer's itch. Swimmer's itch is a temporary but annoying skin infection caused by an immature fluke that penetrates a bather's skin. The normal cycle of this parasite involves aquatic birds (often waterfowl), mammals, and snails. The adult fluke lives in aquatic birds or mammals. The fluke produces eggs which are passed fecally into the water. The eggs hatch and the free-swimming immature fluke penetrates snails. Here the parasite further develops. It leaves the snail and once again seeks aquatic birds or mammals to complete the cycle. At this time, however, the immature fluke may penetrate the skin of bathers causing swimmer's itch.

A number of preventative measures can be taken to alleviate the swimmer's itch problem. The beach area should be kept clean and free of debris that provides snail habitat.

The public should be informed of the potential swimmer's itch problem in the area. A sign should be posted on the beach to explain the situation and tell swimmers to dry off briskly after bathing. Because the parasite usually penetrates the skin as water droplets evaporate, infection can often be prevented by a brisk rubbing with a coarse towel as soon as the bather leaves the water.

Should swimmer's itch become apparent, copper sulfate can be applied to kill snails in the beach area. Copper sulfate has been effective in controling both leeches and snails in municipal, county, and state parks. If used only

in a localized area, copper sulfate treatment is compatible with wildlife lake designation management. A permit to use copper sulfate must be obtained from the DNR, Section of Ecological Services. Application can be made through the DNR, Region V (Rochester, MN).

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COST	1,000	500	500	2,000

Action #1c. Improve the boat launch area to facilitate use during the major drawdown.

Canoeing is the major water-based recreational activity at Rice Lake. The drawdown will cause the water to recede 15 to 20 ft (4.6 to 6.1 m) at the boat launch. If this makes launching a canoe or boat difficult, gravel should be added to the boat launch to facilitate launching. Other measures such as temporary ramps should be considered if adding gravel is not feasible, or if temporary ramps would be more cost effective. This work may require a permit from the DNR, Division of Waters.

Action #ld. Support the DNR, Section of Wildlife in establishing a portion (up to 1/3) of the lake as a waterfowl refuge not open to hunting.

Park Policy does not allow hunting within state parks unless there are extenuating circumstances (such as to control the numbers of a particular species). Because there is still private lakeshore property within the park, hunting is allowed on the lake. If all of the lakeshore property is ever acquired by the Division of Parks and Recreation, the lake would become a refuge and would not be open to hunting unless special action were taken by the DNR to allow for such activity.

Waterfowl hunting on Rice Lake will probably increase following lake management. Because Rice Lake is the largest natural body of water between Owatonna and the Mississippi River, thousands of waterfowl may be attracted to the newly revitalized lake. If a portion of the lake is closed to hunting, waterfowl will be more likely to use it as a migratory stop-over point.

Cost: No Development Cost

Action #le. Support the DNR, Section of Wildlife in allowing extended trapping seasons for muskrats, if necessary.

Because of the increase in emergent vegetation, the muskrat population will undoubtedly increase. If necessary, the muskrat trapping season may have to be extended in the Rice Lake area to maintain optimal stands of emergent vegetation.

Cost: No development cost

Action #lf. Develop a program of vegetation and wildlife management for the park that will complement wildlife lake management.

Most of the recommendations for wildlife and vegetation management will complement wildlife lake management. Resource managers should view the entire park as a functioning upland marsh community, and implement management proposals with this in mind.

Cost: No development cost (covered by staff operations budget)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the State Planning Agency and the Department of Natural Resources Regarding Amendments to Master Plans for Units of the Outdoor Recreation System.

Wild and scenic rivers plans are exempt from this memorandum of understanding (MOU) because they are covered by an existing MOU and require Chapter 15//// hearings.

INTRODUCTION

This agreement between the State Planning Agency (SPA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) defines responsibilities and procedures of each agency for amending master plans for units of the state outdoor recreation system. This agreement applies to all master plans required under the Outdoor Recreation Act (ORA) of 1975, M.S. 86A, including those commonly referred to as management plans.

Master plans are generally developed for a 10-year period. Plan amendments or a change in conditions can render a plan obsolete before 10 years have passed. DNR will determine when a plan is no longer relevant and needs to be completely revised. If a new plan is necessary, it will be developed according to the process specified in M.S. 86A.09.

DEFINITION OF AMENDMENT

An amendment is considered as any revision or addition to a master plan that has received final review by SPA and adoption by DNR. Amendments can be either major or minor. A major amendment is a change in the approved management plan's goals or objectives or the purpose, intent or use of a management unit. A minor amendment is any change in the approved plan not affecting the goals or objectives of the management unit or its purpose, intent or use.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Therefore, DNR and SPA agree that:

- 1. DNR will be responsible for identifying the need for amending plans and for developing the proposed amendment.
- 2. The DNR will determine whether the proposed change constitutes a major or minor amendment.
- DNR will submit all minor amendments to SPA in writing to ensure an up-to-date file of plan modifications. Public meetings are not required.
- 4. DNR will describe and justify the proposed major amendments, assess their impacts on the overall plan, as well as the management unit, and show them to be consistent with ORA. A public meeting will be held in the vicinity of the ORA unit by the managing agency. The preparation

Memorandum of Understanding
between the
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
and the
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

This Memorandum of Understanding is between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter called the Department, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, hereinafter called the Service.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Department and the Service have the common objective of helping to bring about the conservation, and wise use of our natural resources. This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as the foundation for an enduring cooperative working arrangement between these agencies.

The Department is authorized by various statutes to carry on a broad program of natural resources management including the conservation of Minnesota's forests, wildlife, fisheries, waters, minerals, and state lands.

The Service is authorized under the terms of various statutes to carry out a broad program of assistance to farmers, ranchers, and landowners, including soil and water conservation, watershed protection, flood prevention, farm forestry, rural areas development, research, education, technical assistance, cost sharing and credit. This program may include cooperation with and assistance to conservation districts and their cooperators.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PREMISES AND MUTUAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED HEREIN, IT IS AGREED THAT:

THE DEPARTMENT WILL:

- Cooperate with the Service, through mutually agreed upon participation, in the planning and implementation of Service programs involving the conservation of Minnesota's natural resources.
- 2) Provide advice and assistance in the development of Service goals, objectives and rules for which impact on, or affect the natural resource programs of the Department.
- 3) Encourage, and require where practical and feasible, the use of sound soil and water conservation practices on state owned and/or administered lands under the jurisdiction of the Department.

THE SERVICE WILL:

- Cooperate with the Department, through mutually agreed upon participation, in Department programs which can be benefitted through Service involvement.
- Provide advice and assistance in the development of Department goals, objectives and rules which relate to, or impact on, Service programs.

3) Encourage and promote the inclusion of mutually agreed upon practices to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, forest, and water resources in the development and implementation of Service programs.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT:

- 1) Assistance supplied by either party will be furnished in accordance with the agency's applicable authorities, policies, work schedules, priorities, technical standards, and other considerations.
- Neither party shall be bound by any obligation in this agreement or any supplement or other appropriate arrangements that involve the expenditure of funds in excess of the amounts made available to it or for a period in excess of that authorized by law.
- Assistance requiring significant expenditure of funds, service, or facilities will be made available through supplements to this agreement. Each supplement will detail the cooperative arrangements in a manner consistent with the administrative policies of both parties.
- 4) This Memorandum may be modified or terminated at any time by the mutual consent of the parties hereto or may be terminated by either party alone by giving sixty (60) days notice in writing to the other.
- Any Memorandum of Understanding (Supplemental) or other appropriate arrangement now in effect between the Service and any Division of the Department shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be subject to all of the provisions hereof.
- The programs conducted will be in compliance with all requirements respecting nondiscrimination as contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 C.F.R. Sec. 15.1-15.13) which provide that no person shall be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
- 7) This Memorandum will become effective on the date of the last signature hereto.

Signature nereto.			
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STATE OF MINNESOTA	SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
BY	BY		
TITLE	TITLE		
DATE	DATE		
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND EXECUTION BY			
TITLE			
DATE			

RICE LAKE STATE PARK

LW27-00771

Addendum to the Environmental Assessment submitted with LW27-00729.

I. <u>Description of the Proposed Action</u> - Rice Lake State Park was created by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1963.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources intends to provide additional recreational opportunities at Rice Lake State Park through the remodeling of existing park buildings to make them accessible to the handicapped.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as the Federal administering agency of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, proposes to participate with the State of Minnesota in the remodeling of park buildings at Rice Lake State Park.

The remodeling will be done on the picnic sanitation building and the campground sanitation building. The task will most likely be accomplished during the winter months when park visitors are at a minimum. Current estimated cost for this proposal is \$3,000.00.

- II. <u>Description of the Environment</u> Description of the environment is as described in the environmental assessment submitted with project LW27-00729.
- HII. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action This proposal will have no environmental impact on the site or surrounding area because most of the work will be completed within the existing buildings.

 Ramps may be installed at the sanitation building entrances to facilitate the handicapped.

AUG 17 '77

BOR

IV. Mitigating Measures Included in the Proposed Action - Due to the nature of this project no mitigating measures are necessary.

V. Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot be avoided should the Proposal be Implemented - No adverse environmental effects will accrue as a result of this proposal. However, the usage of the sanitation buildings may increase slightly. The buildings were originally placed in areas where soil compaction would have minimal 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 the environment in relationship to maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity is considered not in terms of years, but rather in terms of what must be sacrificed to gain certain benefits.

GAINS

Improved accessibility for 1.
 the handicapped and other
 park visitors and the infusion
 of money into the economy
 due to construction and opera tion of the park facility.

LOSSES

Expenditure of approximately \$3,000.00 of public funds for the proposed development.

- VII. <u>Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources</u> 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 realistic because the handicapped would not be able to use this facility as readily as they could if the proposal were implemented.

ADDENDUM

RICE LAKE STATE PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LW-27-00729

- I. It is proposed to remodel the picnic sanitation building and remodel the campground sanitation building making it handicapped accessible.
 - The current estimated cost for this proposal is \$3,000.
- III. It will be necessary to close the buildings to the public when the work is being done.
- IV. Work will only be done on one building at a time and a sign will direct park users to the other building. The work will be done during times of low park use to avoid inconveniencing many park users.
- VIII. There is no reasonable alternative to these projects short of closing them to the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RICE LAKE STATE PARK

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Purpose of the Action - Rice Lake State Park was created by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1963.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources intends to provide additional recreational opportunities at Rice Lake State Park through the acquisition and development of private lands within the park's authorized boundaries.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as the Federal administering agency of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, proposes to participate with the State of Minnesota in the acquisition of the land at Rice Lake State Park.

B. Location and Magnitude of the Project - Rice Lake State Park is located in southeastern Minnesota (Steele and Dodge counties), approximately 25 miles west of Rochester (location maps in Appendix), off of Interstate Highway #35.

The total authorized land area of the state park is about 1,056 acres. Approximately 65.53 percent, 692 acres, of the park land is currently publicly owned. It is proposed that the remaining 364 acres be acquired with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The current estimated cost for acquiring the land (13 parcels) and relocating 3 owners is \$224,700 plus relocation costs.

C. Timing of the Project - Within the Minnesota State Park System there are approximately 53,000 acres of land in private ownership. The

Division of Parks and Recreation embarked upon a major acquisition program with the objective of acquiring most of these lands during the six year period of 1976-1982.

Appropriations are made on a biennial basis and it is estimated that more than \$43 million will be needed to accomplish this objective.

During the current biennium (1976-77) \$9.5 million is available to initiate this program and acquire approximately 12,100 acres of land.

Although the Division of Parks and Recreation establishes its priorities for acquisition, completion of these priorities is dependent upon locating willing sellers.

If the private parcels of land within Rice Lake State Park were all acquired today, 2 year-round residential relocations and 9 relocations of farm operations would be required. One seasonal relocation is needed. Immediate, total acquisition of private lands is impossible. First, the Division does not have the power of eminent domain and must therefore rely on willing sellers. Second, the estimated cost of \$244,700 for the project would be prohibitive within current appropriation limitations and other statewide acquisition priorities.

The first priority acquisition within the park for this biennium (1976-77) is six parcels of land comprising about 225 acres with relocation of 2 owners. The approximate cost for these parcels is \$180,200 plus relocation costs. One of these parcels is presently optioned by the State from a willing seller.

The secondary priority acquisition for this biennium consists of seven parcels of land totaling about 139 acres with 1 relocation. The approximate cost for these parcels is \$44,500 plus an allowance for relocations. Land owners are presently being contacted to see if they

are willing sellers desiring an appraisal of their property.

The State will purchase any of the 13 parcels as they come up for sale and as the money is available.

- D. Facilities to be Developed Rice Lake State Park has received a limited amount of rehabilitation monies for remodeling of park buildings. A picnic shelter and a maintenance shop are needed but no money has been allocated for this development. No other development is planned for the near future.
- E. Recreation Needs to be Served by the Proposal Calendar Year Attendance
 Data Sheets for Rice Lake State Park indicate steady growth in total
 park visitors since the park was established in 1963. Visitation from
 1965 to 1975 is presented in Table I.

TABLE I
CALENDAR YEAR ATTENDANCE DATA

Year	Organized	Tourist	Day	Total
	Youth Camps	Camps	<u>Visitors</u>	Visitors
1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974	15 42 52 67 3,241 260 116 373 843	90 189 478 1,357 2,072 2,821 2,694 3,905 3,694 6,785	1,640 3,030 7,362 9,820 15,272 23,271 27,494 14,697 22,273 25,167 36,405	1,640 3,120 7,566 10,340 16,681 25,410 33,556 17,651 26,294 29,234 44,033

The number of total visitors was 44,033 in 1975 and looks like it will continue to increase until it reaches a plateau. The park, offering an opportunity for water recreation on one of the few remaining undeveloped natural lakes in this part of the state, attracts a large percentage of its total visitors as day users. The proximity of the park to Inter-

state #35 and U.S. Highway #14 is responsible for bringing many visitors to the park. An increase in traffic on these thoroughfares as well as the park's proximity to the Twin Cities and Rochester may cause a significant increase in park attendance.

Steele and Dodge Counties are part of the ten-county Planning Region 10 of the Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan reveals a need for more land-and water-based recreational opportunities. SCORP estimates that the following deficiencies of facilities will prevail in 1975, 1980 and 1990:

	1975	1980	1990
Picnic Tables	-1,366 - 488	-1,653	-2,247
Campsites Hiking Trails	- 221 miles	-1,086	-1,541
Snowmobiling Trails	- 818 miles	3 503	0.71.1
Swimming (thousand square feet)	-1, 525	-1,791	-2,344

Other deficiencies exist within the region but will have to be met by county or local governments rather than state or federal governments.

SCORP recommends that most deficiencies be accommodated on private and local lands. However, the aforementioned deficiencies may be reduced somewhat through the proposed acquisition and subsequent development of state park lands.

The priorities for action identified in SCORP which are applicable to this park include the following:

- Provide additional non-motorized trails to meet needs.
- Provide additional snowmobile trail mileage when need can be demonstrated and ecological conditions permit.
- Provide increased camping and picnicking facilities.
- Identify and program the natural history interpretation potentials of the region.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- Zone between the original great hardwood forest and the vast prairie lands of Minnesota. Its terrain is typical of that found in southern Minnesota; gently rolling land surrounding a relatively shallow Lake. The park is located on a branch of the Zumbro River. It is believed that the land north of the lake may, at one time, have been an island formed by the river and Maple Creek. Alternating areas of hardwood woods and grassy open lands originally covered the area. Presently, the land is a combination of woods land, old field and agricultural land.
- B. Soils The soils in the park are characteristic of a nearly level to rolling area. They belong to the Waukegan-Dakota soil association characteristically dark colored and well drained. Waukegan soils are formed from a silt loam material over-lying leached outwash gravel at 32 to 48 inches below the surface. Dakota soils are formed from medium textured material overlying sandy leached outwash. These soils, especially the Dakota, are at times somewhat droughty because of the underlying gravel or sand. These soils are good for general farming of corn, oats, soybeans and legume hay or pasture. Limitations for recreational uses such as intensive play areas, extensive play areas, paths and trails, recreational buildings and campsites are only slight. There is very little hazard of erosion with this soil group.
- C. Minerals There are no known mineral resources of economic significance within Rice Lake State Park. Deposits of lead and zinc have a fair potential for occurrence in this area with a fair geologic reliability.
- D. <u>Water Resources</u> The only significant water resource within the park is Rice Lake. This lake is fed by several springs and the drainage of ditches and tile lines serving the low-lying land in the area. It has

two outlets; one in the east end of the lake which drains east into the South Middle Fork of the Zumbro and one in the northwest corner which drains east into the Straight River via Maple Creek.

This meandered lake with its 5.5 miles of reedy shoreline, is recommended as a waterfowl management lake. Hardy plant species such as cattails and bulrushes thrive in these waters of high silt content and low fertility. It has been reported that where the present silt bottom is from 2 to 10 feet deep there use to be a sandy bottom.

Rice Lake is essentially free from pollution but the aquatic plant growth and the fish population have been affected by a water-level problem and an erosion control problem.

Run-off from the surrounding agricultural lands has deposited a layer of silt on the bottom of the lake and has lowered the oxygen content, eliminating good game fish that once existed. Winterkill is a problem here. However, some big northerns survive in the deeper spring holes and there are good supplies of sunfish and bullheads. Carp still exist but efforts are being made to control them since they feed on the once plentiful waterfowl food plants.

Aquatic vegetation is also affected by a water-level control problem.

A control dam, allowing controlled "drawdowns", controls and improves the balance of emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation. The high turbidity of the lake, partially caused by the carp's feeding habits, has had negative effects on aquatic vegetation.

E. Weter Quality - A sufficient quantity of water is available within the park to serve present and future recreational needs. The quality of the available water is adequate for human consumption but is a little

unpleasant due to the iron in it.

F. Flora - Rice Lake State Park lies on the edge of the transition zone between the original great hardwood forest and vast prairie lands of Minnesota.

No inventory of plant species has been taken for this park. The trees found here are generally oaks, basswood, cottonwood, sugar maple, elm, and green ash. The understory vegetation is expected to be that typical of a northern hardwood forest, with the exception of pastured areas. The pastured areas generally have only a grass understory.

Old fields, formerly cultivated fields or other disturbed areas, are now characterized by bluegrass, weeds, bromegrass, etc. Much of the area is in various stages of reversion, being taken over by herbs and woody growth (i.e. boxelder, Chinese elm, sumac, aspen and oak).

Fauna - No inventory of park fauna has been completed. The birds,
mammals, amphibians and reptiles found here are expected to be those
normally associated with the northern hardwood forest. Lists of species
commonly associated with old fields and hardwood forests can be found
in the appendix.

A bird sanctuary on the northeastern corner of the lake provides the bird watcher the pleasure of viewing a great variety of birds. Shore-birds are attracted to the lake's reedy shores and the patches of vegetation in the shallows. In the spring and fall large groups of waterfowl are seen on the lake during migratory flights. The waterfowl are attracted by the lake's somewhat limited food supply, which use to include wild rice.

H. Climate and Air Quality - Southeastern Minnesota has a humid continental type climate with large variations in temperature occurring during the

course of a year. Mean July temperatures are 84°F maximum and 60°F minimum. Mean January temperatures are 24°F maximum and 4°F minimum. Mean annual precipitation is 30 inches, 20 to 30 percent of which falls as snow. The extreme seasonal variation of climate provides opportunities for year-round outdoor recreational activities. The warm days and cool nights in the summer are ideal for camping, swimming, hiking etc. Snowfall in the winter is sufficient for snowshoeing, skiing, and snowmobiling.

No statistics for air quality are available for the project area.

Auto emissions from traffic along Highway #14 and Interstate #35 add pollutants to the air and are the most significant source of air pollution in the immediate area.

Historical and Archaeological Resources - The Minnesota Historical

Preservation Officer has determined that there is only one site of
historical significance within the park boundaries. This is a prehistoric Indian village and mounds located in a corn field, on private
land. (See letter from Historical Society in Appendix.) There are no
other known sites within the park. However, if any artifacts are discovered by park employees or contractors, all work will be halted until
the area has been surveyed and the state historical officer gives the
ok to continue work.

Historically, there are many interesting sidelights to the early times of the Rice Lake area. East of the present park is located "Claremont Street". The first settlers here, from Claremont, New Hampshire, preempted long narrow claims so that they could live close together along the connecting road or street. North of the park boundaries a stage-coach route followed the "Ridge Road" in the mid-1800's. There was a promising young village of Rice Lake on this road, but the railroads

came and other newer towns lured away all that was or could have been there to other places. Claremont was one of these. Its name was taken from the street. In 1874, a large windmill was built to harness the prairie winds to grind flour. The old mill burned down in 1891. The mill owners to the east of the park had to have water and so pursued the Zumbro River to its source. Here at Rice Lake they constructed dams and dikes to channel all possible water their way. They occasionally ran out of water and had to shut down. Finally they succumbed to the larger economic forces of bigness and centralization.

J. Transportation and Utilities - Rice Lake State Park is served by Interstate #35, U.S. Highway #14 and County State Aid Highway #19. The average daily traffic volume is 228 cars/day on the county road, 2,600 cars/day on U.S. Highway #14 and 8,000 cars/day on Interstate #35. These roads are adequate to serve the present passenger needs.

Passenger service by train is not available to the state park area.

Bus service is provided to Owatonna and other nearby towns. Commercial air service into Rochester, 25 miles east of the park, is available.

The utilities servicing the use areas of the park do not impair the natural features of the park. Electrical distribution lines have been placed underground and provide electricity to the campground and picnic area. Water is also distributed to these two areas via underground lines. A septic tank and drain field sewage system is used at the nature center and ranger's residence. The sanitation buildings in the campground and picnic areas use a holding tank system which is pumped out when it fills.

K. <u>Socio-Economic Factors</u> - The Minnesota State Planning agency's population projections shown below indicate a very slight increase in population by the year 2000 in both Dodge and Steele Counties and a moderate

increase in Region 10's population by 2000.

	Region 10	Steele County	Dodge County
1970	383,400	26,900	13,000
1975	396,900	28,100	13,200
1980	410,200	29,000	13,200
1985	427,300	30,300	13,400
1990	441,500	31,200	13,600
1995	460,300	31,900	13,400

The following employment and income data was found in "Minnesota Socio-Economic Characteristics," Minnesota State Planning Agency, 1972.

Aggregate Average Family Income

Region 10	State	Steele County	Dodge County
\$10,166	\$11,097	\$10,083	\$8,619

Employment by Industry

Region 10	State	Steele County	Dodge County
12.8% 21% 18.6% 21.5%	7.4% 20.3% 21.1% 18.9%	14.5% 27% 16.8% 14.2%	26.1% 16.2% 16.8% 15.0% 25.9%
	10 12.8% 21% 18.6%	10 State 12.8% 7.4% 21% 20.3% 18.6% 21.1% 21.5% 18.9%	10 State County 12.8% 7.4% 14.5% 21% 20.3% 27% 18.6% 21.1% 16.8% 21.5% 18.9% 14.2%

The amount of tourist generated income for Steele County is only moderately significant and for Dodge County it is very insignificant. In overall tourist-travel expenditures, as percent of the state total, Steele County ranked 33rd out of 87 (.41%) and Dodge County ranked 84th (.03%). Steele County ranked 50th out of 87 (1.6%) for percent of gross sales attributed to tourist-travel expenditures, ranking 35th for tourist-travel expenditures per county resident (\$143.13). Dodge County ranked 84th out of 87 for both percent of gross sales attributed to tourist-travel expenditures (.5%) and tourist-travel expenditures per county resident (\$21.73).

L. Land Use and Development Trends

1. Agricultural - Approximately 362 acres, all but 2 acres of the proposed acquisition, is currently used for agricultural purposes. The field crops are predominantly corn and soybean-200 acres of corn, 100 acres of soybeans, and 62 idle acres. The estimated value of agricultural production in 1975 for the 9 farms, average size of 40 acres, was \$52,463. The productivity near the park is slightly above the state averages based on data from the Minnesota Crop Reporting Service.

Steele		Dodge	State	
Corn	77.7 bu/acre	70.1 bu/acre	70 bu/acre	
Soybeans	26.2 bu/acre	20.9 bu/acre	26 bu/acre	

Income of Crops, Based on October 7, 1976 Prices

Corn	Soybeans	\$/acre	Value
362 acres	760	189.19	68,487
200 acres	362 acres 100 acres	142.25	52,942 52,463*

- * Rate of crop production in project area.
- 2. Residential Only three households are located in the project area.
 Two are year-round residences and one is seasonal. Two owners farm the land that they live on.
- 3. <u>Commercial/Industrial</u> There are no commercial or industrial concerns within the park boundary. A small country store is located about one mile from the park. Other services are available in nearby Claremont and Owatonna.

Located in the northeasternmost corner of the park, on private land is a nondenominational church. The church and the nearby cemetary occupy 2 acres of land. Built in 1857, and in operation since, it

has been inoperative for only one of those years. The church was originally built by Rice Lake Methodists to serve the once existing village of Rice Lake. In recent years there has been some controversy over what to do with it. There was an attempt made to sell it, there was discussion about moving it either to state park land or to the village of Claremont, and there was opposition from local people who wanted to see the church remain at its original location. Recently, the church was bought by a local volunteer group. It has been designated as an Historical Marker Site and is being restored.

The future land use for this part of the state is expected to remain agricultural with some residential or industrial development pressure from Owatonna to the west.

M. Existing Recreational Develoment - As previously stated, 692 acres, 65 percent, of the state park is currently in public ownership for recreational purposes. At present, camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming and fishing facilities have been developed.

A modern campground with a capacity of 42 camping units is serviced by one sanitation building with pit toilets and running water. Several water pumps are located throughout the campground. A trailer dump station is available. Electricity is available. The park also has facilities for primitive group camping.

A boat ramp and parking lot provide access to the lake for fishing. The parking lot is also used by snowmobilers, hikers, and skiers who make use of the 8 miles of existing trails.

A picnic area is located near the lake, under the shade of the dense growth of hardwood trees.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Impact on the Physical Environment - A major impact of the proposed acquisition will be a change in land use from residential/agricultural to public recreation. The lands to be acquired will be allowed to revert back to their natural character. Special management techniques will be needed to protect and preserve the forested land and to restore the agricultural land and old fields to their endemic species. This will help control erosion and siltation, will have the effect of increasing the habitat favorable for the animals commonly associated with the area, therefore increasing the wildlife population, and will improve the park's aesthetic quality.

The structures acquired on the property purchased, 3 residential buildings, a church and the buildings found on 9 farms, will be converted and utilized for park purposes where possible; otherwise they will be sold and removed from the area. Sites in which buildings are removed will be returned to natural conditions through plantings and seeding.

Water quality of Rice Lake should be greatly improved after total acquisition has been completed. The lake would then be totally encompassed by public land and therefore would no longer be affected by agricultural run-off and excessive siltation. This would result in an improved environment for aquatic vegetation and fishes.

Little impact on air quality will occur from this project. Increases in the number of visitors to the park will cause deterioration in the quality of the air only because of increased auto emissions; however, this impact is not expected to pose a problem.

B. Impact on Historical and Archaeological Sites - The Minnesota Historical

Preservation Officer has determined that the proposed project will

have no effect on the known historical site within the park. (See letter in Appendix.) Since the area has not been systematically and intensively surveyed, new sites may be found in the future. An agreement is in effect with the Historical Society that the Department will notify the Society of any artifacts or sites discovered subsequent to acquisition. The site will not be disturbed until it has been determined, by the Minnesota Historical Preservation Officer, how significant the site is and what should be done with the area.

New sites will be protected from possible vandalism or destruction.

Sites which may be discovered through future recreational development might be partially harmed or destroyed by construction. However, land acquisition, in itself, will not result in any destruction to sites.

C. Impact on Transportation and Utilities - No impact on roads servicing the project area is expected. These roads are adequate to handle any increases in future traffic caused by action of this proposal. A need for significant lengths of new roads is not anticipated. However, a minimum amount of new reaches of road may be needed to provide access to any new development.

All telephone and electrical lines serving residences will be removed as acquisition of land eliminates their need. Utility lines to serve any new facilities within the park, will be placed underground, except where to do so causes excessive damage to the natural ecological associations of the area. When placed above ground, utility lines and appurtenant structures will be carefully planned and located to minimize their impact on park resources and the natural aesthetic quality of the area. Whenever possible, utilities will be included in the transportation corridors.

D. Impact on Tax Base - Since acquisition will take place over an extended period of time, it is difficult to make an accurate estimation of the total overall tax loss. The total 1976 taxes paid on the 364 acres of private land was \$2,644.05 and were distributed as follows:

Taxing Unit	Total Taxes	Tax Loss	% Tax Loss
Steele County Havanna Township School District #761	\$1,989,969.00	\$ 396.78	.02
	219,123.19	171.03	.08
	3,592,310.07	1,503.52	.05
Dodge County	979,865.90	115.44	.01
Claremont Township	18,156.63	103.29	.56
School District #201	216,235.77	353.99	.16
GRAND TOTALS	\$7,015,660.56	\$2,644.05	.03

The total overall tax loss of \$2,644.05 is very insignificant, .03 percent. The tax loss to individual taxing units is also very insignificant. The greatest loss, only .56 percent, is to Claremont Township in Dodge County.

It is expected that the surrounding area will become more desireable for development of residential dwellings because of the proximity to a dedicated area of open space. Experience shows that the preservation of open space not only preserves but generally enhances residential values. This increases the property tax yield, which is the major source of revenue for local governments.

E. Impact on the Economy - The park's attraction is expected to have some bearing on the county's economy. Exactly how and to what extent is not known.

The loss of agricultural income will be approximately \$52,463 from crop production. This loss will be somewhat offset by an expected increase in income derived from recreation. The present benefit from recreation at Rice Lake State Park is \$83,546.70 annually, based on 1975 attendance rates.

Campers 6,785 x \$3.90/day* x 1.3 days** = \$34,399.95 Day Users 36,405 x \$1.35/day*** = 49,146.75 TOTAL = \$83,546.70

- * Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota
- ** Data from Park Camping Permits
- *** Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources, September 19, 1973
- F. Social Impact The proposed acquisition will result in the relocation of 3 residences and 9 farm operations. The owners are not forced to sell to the State. They may sell to anyone. If they sell to the State, it is doubtful whether those people suffer any hardship at all since they are eligible for relocation and replacement housing assistance under Public Law 91-646.

The acquisition and subsequent development of the state park will provide new recreational opportunities for the residents near the park. In exchange for these opportunities they may have to suffer some minor inconveniences. Noise and dust disturbances from construction activities should be temporary and of a limited scope since development should be minimal. Noise from the park visitors should not be significant due to the passive and quiet nature of the activities proposed for the area and the relatively limited number of people using the park at the same time. The increase in traffic is not expected to be significant enough to create disturbances to nearby residents, over and above the disturbances created by the existing traffic volume on local roads.

Very little vandalism of private property from park visitors should be expected since the area surrounding the park is sparsely developed.

Trespassing may occur, inadvertantly or purposely, however, this is not expected to cause much conflict.

IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

Land owners, willing sellers in nearly all cases, are eligible for relocation assistance under Public Law 91.646, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act. This generally covers any economic hardship caused by the relocation of a home or business. In limited cases, the State will offer retired landowners a life tenure on up to ten acres of land surrounding his buildings, for residential purposes. Relocation costs are avoided by allowing the owner and spouse the privilege to live out their lives in their home at no cost.

Most of the mitigative efforts will be aimed at easing the transition from agriculture to recreation since nearly 100% of the proposed acquisition is agricultural land. It is advantageous for the State to allow a lease arrangement with the farm owners. The lease is usually made for a period of only one or two years following purchase of the land. This allows the lessee to plant the same crop that was planted the year in which the land is acquired, but he must dispense with the use of any chemical herbicides that year. Immediately following harvest of the crop, the land must be thoroughly disked, dragged and seeded with June grass, perennial rye and fescues. The following year, the lessee has the right to harvest a hay crop. This arrangement avoids the furrowed texture of the land surface often left from row crops and converts croplands to grasslands efficiently and quickly. It also allows the owner time to reduce his farming equipment should he desire not to continue in agriculture. The lessee is not required to pay any monetary consideration in lieu of his services and costs rendered in reestablishing the grasslands.

If the owner has planted a crop on the land which will not be harvested

prior to filing of the deed to the State, provisions are made for the owner to harvest that crop at no additional expense to him.

Future development will be carried out in such a manner as to assure that the integrity of the natural resources will be maintained and protected to the fullest extent possible. Tree plantings will be used to speed up revegetation of former croplands. Soil erosion will be lessened by plantings of vegetation on areas disturbed by development. Soil limitations will be taken into account in the site location and design of new developments. The intent of the management and development program is to maintain the area in as aesthetically pleasing a condition as possible. The change in land use, removal of unneeded buildings and the removal or burial of utility lines will add to the area's aesthetic quality.

Because of lack of intensive site surveys, site testing and excavation, new historical/archaeological sites may be discovered. All park personnel and private contractors engaged in construction for the state park system are required to watch for archaeological materials. If any artifacts are unearthed, work is to halt and the findings are to be reported to the state archaeologist immediately. Work will not commence again until confirmation is received from the Minnesota State Preservation Officer. The Historical Society will determine specific action to be taken to protect valuable archaeological material. This may involve relocating the proposed construction to a new site, removal of the archaeological materials or continued construction in the case of non-valuable or insignificant discovery.

The tax loss to the local taxing units will occur gradually. The loss, less than .03 percent overall, will be partially mitigated to the county

and townships by a reduction in services such as fire and police protection within the park. These duties will be assumed by the park manager and his staff. Outside assistance will be required only in extreme circumstances. The tax loss to the school district will be mitigated by increased state school aid.

- ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED
 - Loss of agricultural land to recreational use.
 - Loss of residential land to recreational use and the resultant 3 relocations.
 - Loss of commercial land to recreational use.
 - Loss of \$2,644.05 of tax revenue to local taxing units.

The transfer of lands from private to public ownership by itself would have no adverse effects on the environment but subsequent development would. Short-term erosion problems and removal of vegetation would be the most noticeable effects. Soil compaction will occur in high use areas.

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

> Short term uses of the environment in relationship to maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity is considered not in terms of years, but rather in terms of what must be sacrificed to gain certain benefits.

GAINS

1. Preservation in perpetuity of Loss of 300 acres of cropland, about \$1,056 acres of open space 62 acres of brush land, 2 acres to provide a variety of outdoor of church-owned land and 3 recreational opportunities to 44,000 visitors annually.

LOSSES

residences.

GAINS

- Reforestation or reversion to a natural condition of acres currently in row crops or idle.
- Improved wildlife habitat and subsequent increase in number of wildlife species.
- Control of erosion and reduction of siltation resulting in improved water quality.
- 5. Infusion of money into local economy due to construction and operation of the park facility.

LOSSES

Relocation of 3 families.

Expenditures of \$224,700 of public funds for acquisition of private lands.

Loss of \$2,644.05 of tax revenue to local taxing units; .02 percent loss to Steele County, .01 percent loss to Dodge County, .08 percent loss to Havanna Township, .56 percent loss to Claremont Township, .05 percent loss to School District #701, and .16 percent loss to School District #201.

VII. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

The acquisition and development of the project area would result in the permanent conversion of present private land uses into park and recreation uses in perpetuity for Minnesota residents for which the park was originally established by legislative action.

A secondary commitment to recreation and open space is required by participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, (as amended) states that approval of the Secretary of the Interior must be granted before a change in use of any fund associated lands can be made. LSCF monies are received on a cost sharing basis for acquisition and development of Minnesota park areas.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

The park was established by law in 1963. At present, 692 acres have been acquired within the statutory boundaries of the park. Both state and federal money has been spent in acquiring the land and developing the public use facilities within the park. With these facts in mind, no alternative site for the park can be considered.

A. No Action - No action would eliminate any possibility of acquiring lands which are still relatively undeveloped and obtainable. It would not remedy the need for additional outdoor recreational facilities in the area as pointed out in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan of 1968 (refer to I.E.).

Continued private ownership would mean retention of an additional 364 acres on the tax rolls. However, the possibility of private lands being put to incompatible uses which would effect the park's use and its enjoyment by the public would exist. The full values and use of some of the parcels already acquired would be lost. The ability of the park to accommodate additional park users would be eliminated, reducing the park's potential economic impact.

No action would do nothing for improving the natural environment of the park area. Improvement of the habitat for wildlife and improvement of the quality of Rice Lake would not occur.

- B. Acquisition with no Development This alternative involves the acquisition of the remaining private lands within the park boundaries with no further recreational development. The existing facilities are adequate to serve the number of users at this time. However, as park attendance increases, overcrowding of the existing facilities may occur. Without regulation, the newly acquired land could suffer environmental deterioration through indiscriminate use.
- C. Project of a Smaller Scope This alternative is feasible because of the large area of land within the park boundaries still in private ownership.

It would be advantageous to the State if a five-acre farm site in the northwesternmost corner of the park be deleted from the boundaries.

By deleting this parcel the cost of the project would drop considerably. There are several new buildings of very good quality that would be expensive for the State to buy and the park will not benefit by this acquisition.

Another probable deletion is one-acre of land and a church in the northeasternmost corner of the park and a one-acre cemetery located in the same area. Institutions such as these are an administrative hassle and are expensive to maintain.

D. Project of a Larger Scope - There is only one parcel of land that has been recommended to be added to the park boundaries. This is an eighty-acre tract located southeast of the park, between the park boundaries and the Steele-Dodge County border. The existing boundary goes right through the woods and is hard to mark. By acquiring this land, from a willing seller, the boundary will be conveniently expanded to the county road.

All proposals involving deletions or expansions of the park boundaries would require legislative approval.

APPENDIX



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Snelling Branch (Building 25), Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 • 612-726-1171

29 October 1976

Ms. Jane Harper Bureau of Planning Centennial Building St. Paul Minnesota

Dear Ms. Harper:

Our records show a prehistoric site, composed of mounds and village debris, to be located in the NW½, NE½ Section 12, on the west shore of the northeast arm of Rice Lake. The site is designated 21ST2. The site is a couple of acres in size, located in a cornfield and on the slope above the lake. A surface collection is at the University of Minnesota, Department of Anthropology, Accession # 727. The site is listed in the Minnesota Inventory of Historic and Preshistoric Places.

Acquisition of the land containing this site will have no effect on the site other than to assure its protection.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Skrief

Environmental Assessment Officer

CWS/fr

Birds

Double-crested cormorant Great blue heron Great egret Black-crowned night heron Ring necked duck Common golden-eye Wood duck Hooded merganser Common merganser Red-breasted merganser Turkey vulture Osprey Bald eagle Sharp-skinned hawk Coopers hawk Red-shouldered hawk Broad-winged hawk Merlin Ruffed grouse American woodcock Black-billed cuckoo Screech owl Great horned owl Barred owl Long-eared owl Northern parula Warblers Ovenbird Saw-whet owl Great gray owl Whip-poor-will Ruby-throated hummingbird Common flicker Red-bellied sapsucker Hairy woodpecker Great crested flycatcher Eastern phoebe Acadian flycatcher Least flycatcher Eastern wood peewee Blue jay Common raven Snow bunting

Common crow Black capped chickadee Tuffed titmouse White breasted nuthatch Brown creeper House wren Carolina wren Mockingbird American robin Wood thrush Eastern bluebird Blue-gray gnatcatcher Bohemian waxwing Cedar waxwing Yellow-throated vireo Solitary vireo Red-eyed vireo Yellow-breasted chat Scarlet tanager Cardinal Rosebreasted grosbeak Dark-eyed junco White-throated sparrow Common tern Franklin gull Great horned owl Short eared owl Snowy owl Common nighthawk Western kingbird Horned lark Tree swallow Ruby-crowned kinglet Eastern meadowlark Western meadowlark Red winged blackbird Brewer's blackbird Dickcissel American goldfinch Lark bunting Sparrows Lapland longspur

Reptiles and Amphibians

Wood turtle
Red sided garter snake
Eastern garter snake
Plains hognose snake
Blue racer
Western smooth green snake
Western chorus frog
Northern leopard frog

Bullsnake
Western fox snake
Jefferson salamander
Red backed salamander
American toad
Great plains toad
Pickeral frog
Wood frog

Chestnut Collared longspur

Mammals

Star nose mole Eastern mole Pygmy shrew Least shrew Short-tailed shrew White-tailed jackrabbit Snowshoe hare Ground squirrel Gray squirrel Chipmunks Flying squirrel Northern pocket gopher Plains pocket gopher Mice Meadow Vole Prairie Vole Redback Vole

Rock Vole Long-tailed weasel Least weasel Badger Gray fox Coyote ·White-tailed deer Spotted skunk Striped skunk Porcupine Black bear Raccoon Fisher Short-tailed weasel Red fox Timber wolf Canada lynz Bobcat


Flowers

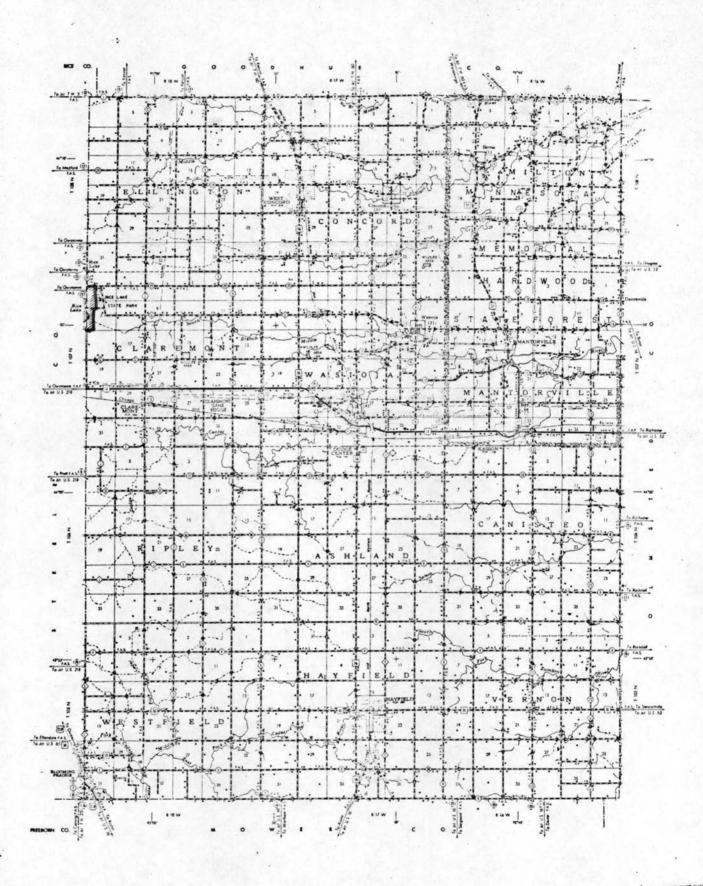
Wild rose Wild iris Jack-in-the-pulpit Large flowered bellwort Bloodroot Columbine
Dutchman's breeches
Marsh marigold
Liverwort
Common blue violet

Trees

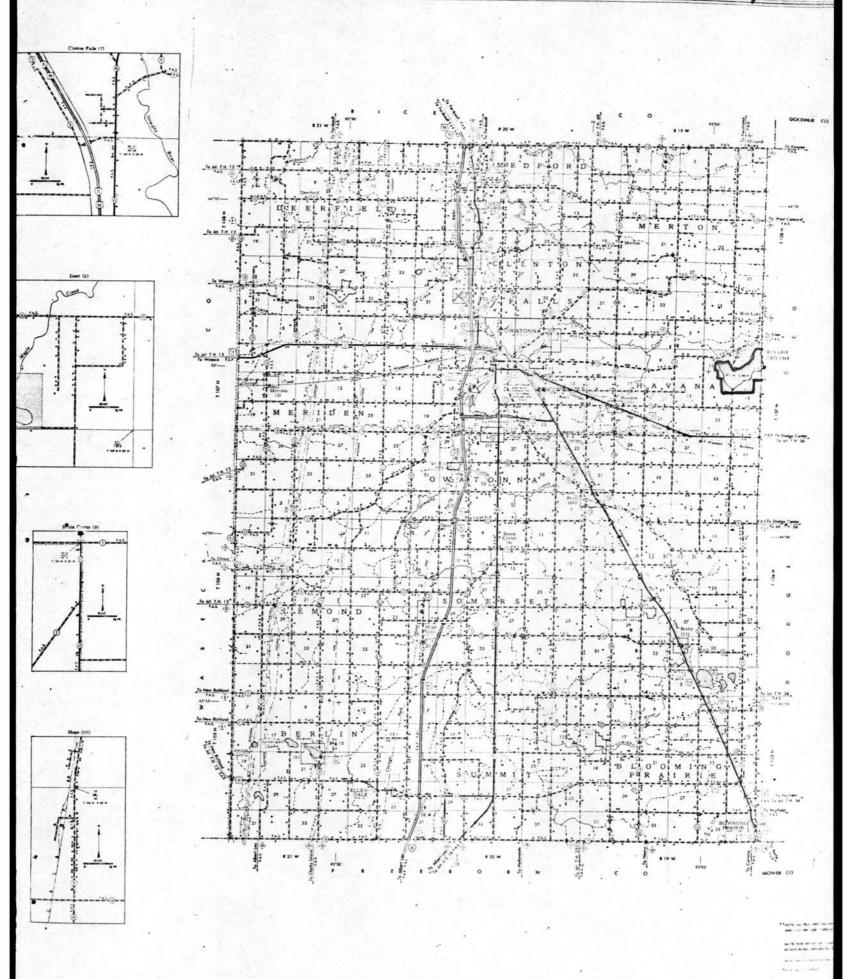
Basswood Eastern cottonwood Hackberry American elm White oak Butternut

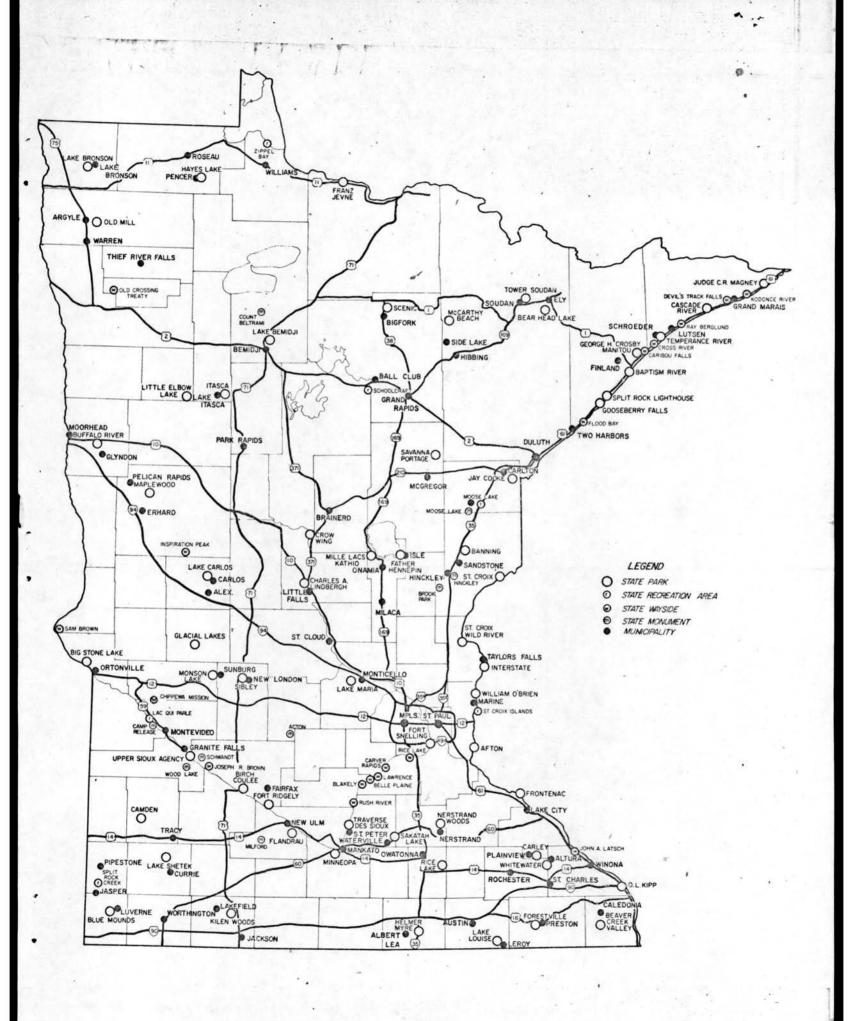
Ironwood
Black oak
Bur oak
Sugar maple
Hawthorne
Green ash



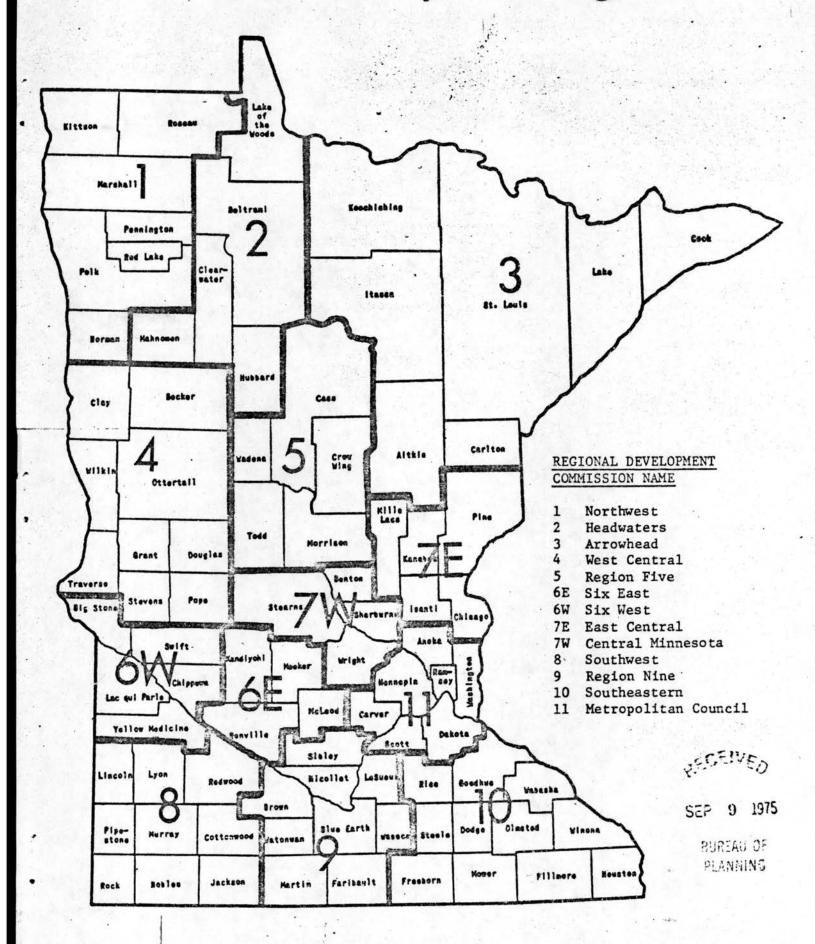


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Minnesota Development Regions



State Planning Agency Office of Local & Urban Affairs AGREEMENT

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

and

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Agreement, entered into this 27th day of December , 19 71, 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
- 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-annually 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 Minnesota 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.

IN WITHESS	WHEREOF,	the	respective	authorities	affix	their	seals	and	signatures
this	27th	15040-	day or	December 1	er	19	71	•	

Robert L. Hernst

Commissioner

.Dept. of Latural Resources

Russell W. Fridley

Director

Historical Society

Tract	Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost
FLUH	Norbert A. Von Ruden	55.43	\$ 24,000
E d'A	Valerian L. & Delores E. Hauer	34.68	20,000
F/6#	Douglas Spindler Adir planed	5.3aeres 64.87 34.57	85,000
19.4	Mary L. Duschek	3.75	1,200
₩12B	Mary L. Duschek	61.55	45,000
. 16	County of Steele	5 +	5,000
	TOTAL (No. of Parcels) 6	225.28	\$ 180,200

225.28 118.20 20.00 363.48

180,200 36,500 8,000 \$224700

Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost
Maroderick Wagner	20.00	\$ 8,000 .
	20.00	\$ 8,000
	· 1 part	

RICE LAKE

act Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost
5AFN4Elenn Ebonhoh	75.00	\$ 24,000
8 Cemetery Assn.	1.20	
9 Cemetery Church	1.00	
0 A # Palmer H. & Arthur H. Mussman	15.00	4,500
1 Marthur H. & Emma Mussman, etal	20.00	6,000
2 Proporto Mrause	6.00	7,000
6	118.20	\$ 36,500
	- to	

4 owners

PAREEL	COUNTY	700m	SCHOOL
Section 13			
arthur Mussman et. al. 20,27	30.02	9.89	95.5-1 76/4
4 5 20 ac - Lot 2 - Homestead			T= 135,42
y Palmer + arthur Mussman 15	27,89	7.18	88,71 HZ1A
E15ac of 20ac of bot 3			7-125,78
Homestead			
Section 14			
Roderick + Jacqueline Wagnes 200	34.8	11.4	110.8 47614
Swly, NEVy and SEly (20)			T=157
P Homestead			
Halerin + Delores Haver 31.60	82.07	27,02	261,21 7364
8 Lot 1- Nomestead (6.68)	The state of the s		T= 370,30
2071.33=	396,78	171.03	150352
DODGE-COUNTY	115,44	103,29	353,99
Section 7			
Ebenhoh + Sons Inc. 84.92	100.5	95,25	124,5 701
Lots 12+3 and (75)		,	T= 320,25
Swy swy - new homestead			
Oslo + Karen Krause 160	14.94	8.84	9,96 201
SEV4 - honestead (6)			T= 33,74

Panel	County	Tour	School
Section 1		, 550,10	5.5.1101
Mary Duschok 13.89	13.50	4.45	42.95 \$761A
Sub. 49 of lot 2 in 5w14	4		7= 60-90
F of 58/4- Imentead			
Lot I with of road 40.50	75,33	24.80	239.63 *761A
homestead			T= 339.76
E/2 NW/4/ SE/4/ 30	4.39	1.46	13.95 164
himesters (3.75)	- 150		T= 19.80
1 + 1 : 11			
Section 11 Douglas + Seorge Spinler 135, 87	35.03	(51,90	352,24 4761A
F Loto 2, 3, 4 - 1/2 Homestead (64.87)	33,03		T= 4/39,17
7000,5,7			7 77 11.7
Valerian + Delves Haver 103.08	29.34	9,72	93,6 7614
Lot 5 + 5w 1/4 of sw/4 (18ac)			T=132.66
# Homestead			
Section 12			TALE
norbest Von Ruden 55.43	54,80	18.05	174.35
F fot I non-homestead			T- 247,20
Mary Duschele	0.11	- · · ·	#7614
# 4ot 9 - homestead 8ac	9.61	3,16	30,57 T=413.34

Pascel	County	Town	School
Section 14			
	348.03	114.60	1107,19 7619
	,		J=1569.82
Homestead farm			
Valerian + Delcres Haver 31.60 ac	155,56	51,22	494.88t x 1A
Lot 1	4.92/ac	1.62/ac	T-701.66
Komestead - Garm			
DODGE COUNTY			
Odo + Karen Kraust 160 ac.	398,60	415,19	516.75
59/4 - Womestead	2,49/ac	2,61/ac	- 2/
Ebenhoh + Sono Inc. 439.69 ac			\$col
5 = 14 Nw/4 + = + = +2 5 w/4 + N/2 NE/4+			T=3,896.94
S1/2, NE14 - Homestead 30000			
Ebenhoh + Sons Inc. 20ac			
	108.54	113,88	T-363.14 =201
No homestead	1.27/ac		140.72
			1,66/ac

Dodge Cty - Mill sates County : 23,03 Varemont Township: 7.13 Sch. District: 201A: 20,77 40,46 29.89 20 201NH: 72.77 42.46 (31.36 90 201 NonA: 83,77 52.46 / 38.25% Region 10 135.38

7 farms

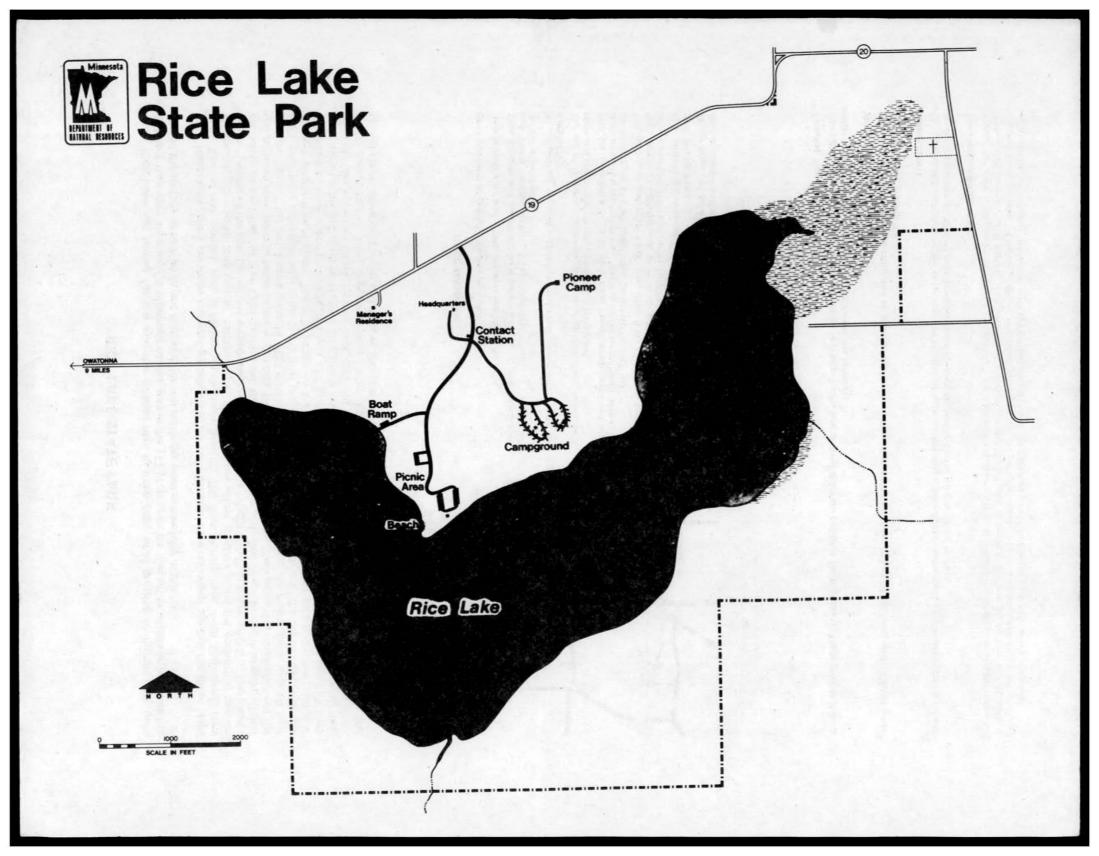
Section PARCEL	COUNTY	Town	School
Mary L. Duschek 13.89 ac.			#76/A
Sub. L 9 of Lot 2 in sw/4 of 58/4			
farm - homestead			T= 60.90
July Marie			
11 10. 1 M 0 H 7/ 20-			
William + Charlotte Harms 20ac.			E7610
Homestrad W/2 Now Hyss 1/4 + sublot & of L, 2			7-114.37 2420
in swhy ofsely (weepts of rd)			1-1145/
V			
Mary Duschek 40,50 ac.			A
Lot 1 south of Rd			7-339.76 F761A
Homestead			
(partial)			
Mary Duschek 20 ac.	23.38	7,70	74,41 × 761A
EV2 NW/45E by	1.17/ac	,39/ox	T=105.44 3,72/
Homestead			
Lection (
Douglas Spinles + Hearge J. 135,87ac	72,85	108.20	737,29 #761A
Loto 2, 3, 4	,54/ac	,89/ac	T=1482,14 5,43/a
Farm - 1/2 Nomesterd	700		1 11,000.
Juni o Nemesicas			
1 · no.			#761A
Louis Mesner 79ac			
Swith, Noty south of red			7-625,36
Nw114 of sw/4			
Nen-homestead			

Current,

SD, #201 (Postin in Stielo Cty) 91, 220. \$6 6,202.79 \$ 216,23**5**.77

Panel	Country	Town	School
Section 1			
Valerian + Delcres Haver 103.08ac	168.43	55.46	535,84 761A
Lot 5 + 5 w/14 5 w/14 34 68)			w 73.4 s
Wonestead farm			
State of Mn			
State of Mn Lot 21,22,23,24,46,47 in Lot 1			
Section 12 Norbert Van Ruden 55,43ac			# 761A
Lot 1 - Non homestead Jam			T=24220
Mary Duschela 8 ac			#761A
Lot 9 in plat		THE SEA	F= 43,34
Homestead Farm			
0			
Section 13 arthur Mussman et. al. 20,27ac			761A
S 20 ac. of Lot 2			T=135, 42
Homestead - farm			1,55,78
pour Juvier			
Palmer, arthur Mussman 15 ac.			*761A
E 15 A of 20ac of Lot 3			T= 125.78
Homestead			
			the state of the state of the

Steels County Havanna Township Cty: 22.67 22.1790 Town: 7.46 Sch 76/A 2120: 72.12 70,53 76/A >120: 74.12 761NA: .84.12 Total Taxes levied School District 761: 25,49 2549, 908, 48 \$ 3,593, 310,07 Navanna Tourship: 4219, 123.19 Steele County: 1, 989, 969,00 Dodge Cty \$ 979,865,90 Town (clarement) #18, 156.63 School 201 # 216, 235,77 (Dodge cry Parties)



RICE LAKE STATE PARK

Rice Lake was named for the wild rice growing here in times past, when growing conditions were quite different than they are now. Development of this area in the 117 years since the first white settlers arrived here has altered the ecology to such an extent that wild rice will no longer grow successfully in this lake.

Historically, there are many interesting sidelights to the early times and the coming-of-age that has taken place here. East of the present park is located "Claremont Street". The first settlers here, from Claremont, New Hampshire, pre-empted long narrow claims so that they could live closer together along the connecting road or "street". North of the park boundaries a stagecoach route followed the "Ridge Road" in the mid-1800's. There was a promising young village of Rice Lake on this road, but the railroads came and other newer towns lured away all that was or could have been to other places of promise. Claremont was one of these. Their name was borrowed from the country "street" for their prairie town. In 1874 they built a large windmill to harness the prairie winds to grind their flour, and many were their adventures in the brief severe storms which plagued them until the day in 1891 when the old mill finally burned down. The mill owners on the Zumbro River to the East of the park had other problems. They had to have water to stay in business and therefore pursued it to its source. Here at Rice Lake Park they constructed dams and dikes to channel all possible water their way. This deprived maple creek of any normal flow from the lake's western outlet. Nevertheless, they did occasionally run out of water and have to shut down. They finally succumbed to those larger economic forces set in motion by technical progress which led to bigness and centralization along with better and more economical transportation.

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.

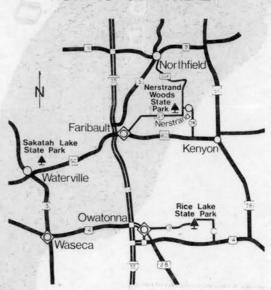
Pets are prohibited from all park areas except when restrained on a leash measuring six feet or less. Pets may not enter buildings. Horses are permitted only on trails specifically designated for such use.

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.

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

HOW TO GET THERE



Vehicle Permits Required. For Sale at Headquarters

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

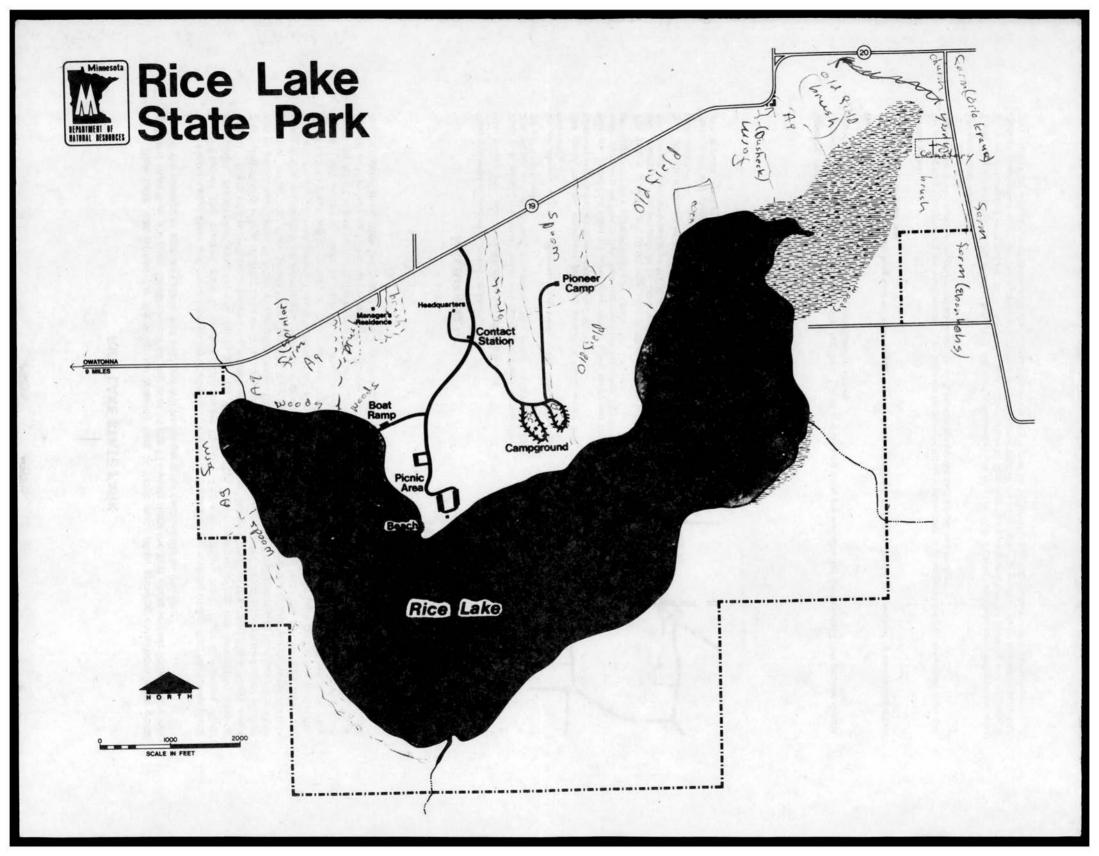
Where appropriate, boat launching and swimming facilities have been developed. Activities should be confined to designated areas. Fishing subject to state law,

Winter Sports

Ski touring and snowshoeing are encouraged in all state parks; snowmobiling is permitted in some parks only in designated areas and posted trails under conditions considered adequate for park protection by the park ranger or manager.

Environmental Education

Today, not only is our quality of life reduced but life itself is jeopardized. A new life style is called for, based upon enlightened ways of living in harmony with nature, with each other and with our world. One way to begin a new way of thinking and of living is through environmental education. Schools and other groups are encouraged to use state parks for environmental education activities; park visitors can acquaint themselves with the natural uniqueness of the park by participating in the park naturalist's programs.



RICE LAKE STATE PARK

Rice Lake was named for the wild rice growing here in times past, when growing conditions were quite different than they are now. Development of this area in the 117 years since the first white settlers arrived here has altered the ecology to such an extent that wild rice will no longer grow successfully in this lake.

Historically, there are many interesting sidelights to the early times and the coming-of-age that has taken place here. East of the present park is located "Claremont Street". The first settlers here, from Claremont, New Hampshire, pre-empted long narrow claims so that they could live closer together along the connecting road or "street". North of the park boundaries a stagecoach route followed the "Ridge Road" in the mid-1800's. There was a promising young village of Rice Lake on this road, but the railroads came and other newer towns lured away all that was or could have been to other places of promise. Claremont was one of these. Their name was borrowed from the country "street" for their prairie town. In 1874 they built a large windmill to harness the prairie winds to grind their flour, and many were their adventures in the brief severe storms which plagued them until the day in 1891 when the old mill finally burned down. The mill owners on the Zumbro River to the East of the park had other problems. They had to have water to stay in business and therefore pursued it to its source. Here at Rice Lake Park they constructed dams and dikes to channel all possible water their way. This deprived maple creek of any normal flow from the lake's western outlet. Nevertheless, they did occasionally run out of water and have to shut down. They finally succumbed to those larger economic forces set in motion by technical progress which led to bigness and centralization along with better and more economical transportation.

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.

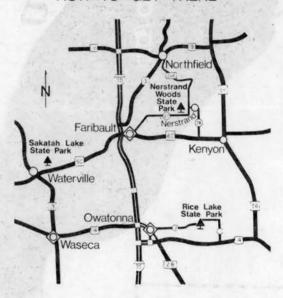
Pets are prohibited from all park areas except when restrained on a leash measuring six feet or less. Pets may not enter buildings. Horses are permitted only on trails specifically designated for such use.

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.

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

HOW TO GET THERE



Vehicle Permits Required. For Sale at Headquarters

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; snowmobiling is permitted in some parks only in designated areas and posted trails under conditions considered adequate for park protection by the park ranger or manager.

Environmental Education

Today, not only is our quality of life reduced but life itself is jeopardized. A new life style is called for, based upon enlightened ways of living in harmony with nature, with each other and with our world. One way to begin a new way of thinking and of living is through environmental education. Schools and other groups are encouraged to use state parks for environmental education activities; park visitors can acquaint themselves with the natural uniqueness of the park by participating in the park naturalist's programs.

			Dat Coat
Tract	Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost
Wı.	Norbert A. Von Ruden.	55.43	\$ 24,000
	Valerian L. & Delores E. Hauer		20,000
W 6	Douglas Spindler A Leing appreisal	64.87	85,000
^	Mary L. Duschek	3.75	1,200
No12B	Mary L. Duschek	61.55	45,000
W 16	County of Steele	5 +	5,000
	TOTAL (No. of Parcels) 6	225.28	\$ 180,200

Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost
Roderick Wagner	20.00	\$ 8,000
Toler A. Zangik	20.00	\$ 8,000

RICE LAKE

ract	Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost
15A	Glenn Ebonhoh	75.00	\$ 24,000
18	Cemetery Assn.	1.20	
19	Cemetery Church	1.00	- 2
20 W	Palmer H. & Arthur H. Mussman	15.00	4,500
21 W	Arthur H. & Emma Mussman, etal	20.00	6,000
22	Orlo Krause	6.00	7,000
6		118.20	\$ 36,500