

Appendix B:

Proposed Regional Recreation Park Policy

This Policy guidance document is adapted from a 1981 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Policy document that became effective 3/11/81 to guide the development and acquisition of Recreational State Parks in accordance with the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975. The original document Recreational State Park plan was never implemented.

This current policy document is intended to guide the development of Outstate Regional Recreation areas. Not to be confused with a separate entity; "Outstate Regional Park Districts," these Regional Recreational parks will form the a missing part of the outdoor system by accommodating recreational needs of outstate citizens, preserving open space, forming social and ecological connections between urban areas and preserved open space, creating buffers for sensitive habitat, and through provision of outdoor resources for overall benefit the public.

Adapted from: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Policy

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Subject: Recreational State Parks 0368B

MINNESOTA'S NEW Outstate Regional Recreation Parks

Preamble

The Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975 (Minnesota Statute 86A.01 to 86A.11) mandated the creation of an outdoor recreational system which would (1) preserve an accurate representation of Minnesota's natural and historical heritage for public understanding and enjoyment, and (2) provide an adequate supply of scenic, accessible, and usable lands and waters to accommodate the outdoor recreational needs of Minnesota's citizens.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources adopted a policy in 1981 (Recreational State Parks, Effective 3/11/81, Approved 11/25/81) to effectuate that mandate. That policy was abandoned, and Minnesotans have not been provided with an adequate inventory of parks to meet the need as observed by the legislature in 1975.

In keeping with the legislative mandate of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975, the 1981 policy has been revisited to establish goals, objectives, and policies for Outstate Regional Recreation Parks. It is the goal of the *Legislative Commission*

on Natural Resources (LCMR) to:

PROVIDE LANDS AND WATERS WHICH OFFER A BROAD SELECTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A NATURAL SETTING AND WHICH MAY BE USED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, TO SET ASIDE URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS WHICH COMPLEMENT THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EMBODY MINNESOTA'S HISTORICAL IDENTITY, AND TO CREATE AN INTERCONNECTED NETWORK OF GREEN SPACE THAT CONSERVES NATURAL ECOSYSTEM VALUES AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDES ASSOCIATED VALUES TO MINNESOTANS.

To facilitate meeting this goal, objectives and policies have been described for the following areas:

Classification

I. Classification Criteria

Management

- II. General Administration
- III. Resource Management
- IV. Development
- V. Interpretation and Education

Any differences in judgment in interpreting these policies or procedures or in making a decision about any particular management project or program which cannot be resolved by the manager of the Regional Recreation Park shall be referred to the *Regional Park District manager, if irresolvable at that level the disagreement shall be immediately referred to the Regional Park Council.*

CLASSIFICATION

1. CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

General Policy

It is the objective of the LCMR to ensure that proposed Outstate Regional Recreation Parks meet, or have the potential to meet, the following criteria:

- A. Possess natural resources, or artificial resources in a natural setting, with outstanding outdoor recreation

potential.

- B. Provide outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities that will attract visitors from beyond the local area.
- C. Contain resources which permit intensive recreational use by large numbers of people and be of a size sufficient to provide for effective management and protection of the natural and/or artificial outdoor recreational resources, so that they will be available for both present and future generations.
- D. Be located in areas where they appropriately accommodate the outdoor recreational needs of the state population.
- E. Preserve opportunities for agricultural utilization of land in areas of rapid urbanization in a manner that compliments the recreational potential of the district.
- F. Include urban areas of historical, aesthetic, or cultural significance for integration into the landscape to strengthen the local character.
- G. Be of sufficient quality to attract national and international interest, for tourism and as amenities to stimulate selection of the region for economic investment.
- H. Enhance the existing network of green infrastructure by creating recreational hubs with the capacity to link other natural assets.

Specific Policy

Each proposed or existing Outstate Regional Recreation Park be evaluated using the following procedures and/or criteria:

1. The unit should offer adequate topographic relief, water resources, soils, and vegetation to provide for sufficient buffers and a variety of recreational opportunities.
2. Recreational opportunities offered by the unit should be diverse enough to attract visitors with a variety of recreation goals from beyond the local area. Regional Recreation Parks may offer high-density use activities. Social interaction may play a significant part in

activities offered.

3. Recreational opportunities offered by the unit should be of high quality, judged by the natural and cultural setting in which they will take place and the length of the activity experience desired by the users.
4. Recreational demand, carrying capacity, and resource capability shall be assessed to determine an appropriate size for the park and the type of recreational facilities to be provided in it.
5. When determining park designation, consideration shall be given to deficiencies in outdoor recreational opportunities within the region and local area.
Said Parks Should:
 - A. Be located adjacent to or within Regional Park Districts,
 - B. Where there is, or will be, a need based on population projections and the twenty-five acres of regional park land per thousand persons minimum as utilized in developing the Metropolitan Council's Regional Park System,
 - C. When possible be located proximate to regions that are experiencing development pressures that have the potential to eliminate existing outdoor recreation opportunities.
6. Agricultural reserves to support recreational opportunities and provide the agricultural landowner with new economic prospects, while employing sustainable land use and conservation practices.
7. Recreational opportunities may include, but are not limited to: hunting, fishing, skiing (water, downhill, cross-country), hiking, camping, bicycling, mountain biking, canoeing, boating, walking, nature viewing, etc.
8. Urban areas that highlight the landscape, historical and cultural character of the district, and enhances the uniqueness of the area by its value as an "individual place."

General Procedural Policy

- A. The Outstate Regional Recreation Parks shall be classified based on compliance with the Outstate Regional Recreation Park classification criteria stated above.
- B. Parks and other areas (state forests, county forests, tax forfeit, private land, DNR land, etc) found to possess the necessary characteristics for Outstate Regional Recreation Parks will be recommended to the Minnesota Legislature for designation.
- C. A historic site; scientific and natural area; wild, scenic, or recreational river; state trail; rest area; or water access site may be designated wholly or partially within the boundaries of an Outstate Regional Recreation Park when the designation is consistent with the purposes, goals, objectives, and policies of the respective units.

MANAGEMENT

The Regional Park Council shall develop, in consultation with the regional park district manager a comprehensive management plan for each park, detailing the way in which management policies will be implemented.

II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

General Policy

When evaluating the management plan, the Regional Park Council and the LCMR shall rely on the following administrative objectives:

- A. To conduct management techniques and carry out procedures in a manner that has minimum impact on current park users but which complies with the long-range objectives of the park as established in the unit management plan.
- B. To encourage appropriate use of Outstate Regional Recreation Parks by all segments of the public.
- C. To encourage and facilitate user access by energy-efficient forms of transportation to and within a park.

- D. To coordinate park development with nearby private enterprise for the mutual benefit of the public, the department, and the private sector.
- E. To utilize partnerships with the private sector in providing recreational opportunities within the park whenever economically feasible.
- E. To coordinate park development with the Regional Park District, existing and proposed nearby facilities, and resource management efforts in the general vicinity of the park.
- F. To allow for special events and projects in Outstate Regional Recreation Parks, providing they conform to the management objectives of the park.
- G. To establish land acquisition priorities on the basis of need for (1) perpetuation of existing recreational resources, (2) development of additional recreational facilities and/or (3) protection of the quality of the unit's natural setting.
- H. To regulate motor vehicles and motorized watercraft and to prohibit them when necessary to minimize conflict with other park users and to preserve the quality of the park environment.
- I. To enhance the interconnectedness of Minnesota's natural assets by creating physical connections between waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats and other natural areas; greenways, parks and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural and ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health and quality of life for Minnesota's communities and people. (From: The Conservation Fund and USDA Forest Service Green Infrastructure Working Group, 1999.)
- J. To maintain park resources for the benefit of current generations while reserving equal or greater benefit for future generations.
- K. Encourage gradual landscape change integrating the built

environment into the natural landscape by resisting inappropriate, intrusive built structures, excessive lighting and clutter associated with development.

Specific Policy

In administering and managing Outstate Regional Recreation Parks to meet these objectives, the Regional Park Council, subject to the LCMR, policy will be that:

1. The Regional Park Council will ensure that essential major facilities are barrier-free.
2. The Regional Park Council will make a concerted effort to interest and encourage special populations to make use of available barrier-free recreational opportunities.
3. The Regional Park Council will attempt to provide park users with access to the major natural features and recreational opportunities of the park or adjacent public lands when doing so does not unduly affect the aesthetic and natural characteristics of the area. Access to adjacent public lands will be provided only when approved by the managing agency and when consistent with the management objectives for the area.
4. All efforts shall be made to promote public transportation and work with suppliers of public transportation, other agencies, and the public to encourage public transportation to parks.
5. The Regional Park Council will seek to develop suitable trails or routes connecting public transportation stops and Outstate Regional Recreation Parks.
 - a. Every effort will be made to develop suitable trails and routes connecting the Regional Recreation Parks to urban areas, other recreation facilities, population centers, etc.
 - b. The Regional Park Council shall design pedestrian modes of transit as the primary means of transportation within the park, and between the urban, agricultural and natural areas.
 - c. Every effort shall be made to make non-automobile

dependant transportation the primary means of transportation within the Park and the Park District.

6. Management plans will identify the most desirable and energy-efficient long-term transportation alternatives to or within a park and present a strategy for their implementation.
7. Outstate Regional Recreation Parks will provide goods, services, and facilities necessary and appropriate for the use of a park's resources. The Regional Park Council will develop specific guidelines regarding acceptable and appropriate items and services to provide within a park and will cooperate with private and other public facilities for mutual benefit.
8. Appropriate complementary or auxiliary services and facilities developed by the private sector on adjacent or nearby lands will be encouraged. Nearby developments which adversely impact or are inappropriate to the resources of the park will be discouraged through ongoing coordination with the private sector and local units of government.

Examples: production of game birds on neighboring farms for use in hunting, nearby Community Supported Agricultural programs may provide goods for use by the park food service, guide service, instruction services, timber harvesting, equipment rental, lodging, etc.

9. A recreational event, pageant, celebration, festival, or other similar activity may be allowed by permit, providing it meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. It is an appropriate cultural or social event or appropriate recreational activity for the area
 - b. The event can be staged without undue impact on the park's recreational resources and natural setting, or on other park visitors
 - c. The benefits of the event outweigh the additional expense to the state of allowing the event
10. Services or concessions connected with a special event may

be allowed, by permit, if related to or necessary for the event.

11. Scientific and educational research projects which have been determined by the Regional Park Council or LCMR to contribute to knowledge of a park's resources and environment may be allowed, by permit, provided that the studies will not interfere with other public uses and will not have a significant impact on a park's resources. The Regional Park Council will review all research proposals, with review emphasis on anticipated findings and proposed research methodology. If necessary, bonding of researchers will be used to guarantee cleanup following completion of projects.
12. Motorized watercraft use may be restricted if it conflicts with recreational activities or management goals or impairs water quality.
13. Motor vehicles, including trail bikes and all-terrain vehicles, shall be prohibited except where expressly prohibited.
14. Preference for development may be given to parks which are near major population centers, are accessible by public transportation, have traditionally high user volumes, or have particularly unique resource values, but only when doing so does not conflict with other objectives and policies.

III. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

General Policy

The Regional Park Council will rely on the following administrative objectives to ensure maintenance of a park's natural resource character in order to enhance the park's ecological, aesthetic, recreational, interpretive, and educational values.

- A. To direct resource management programs consisting of, but not limited to, wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries, toward establishing and maintaining native species and natural ecological balance. Re-establishment of presettlement biotic communities will be preferable.

- B. To direct wildlife management programs toward establishing and controlling wildlife population by natural means while maximizing game species for harvest by hunting.
- C. To direct vegetation management programs toward increasing the ability of the area to accommodate intensive use by large numbers of people, aiding education and interpretation, and enhancing the aesthetic qualities of the park.
- D. To direct fish management programs toward establishing and maintaining native aquatic species or desirable non-native species for recreational use.
- E. To prohibit surface and subsurface mineral extraction for commercial purposes.
- F. To direct water resource management within a Outstate Regional Recreation Parks toward providing recreational opportunities while protecting and conserving the park's water resources.
- G. To maintain urban and agricultural areas of a unique nature in their historic identity as a cultural, historic and aesthetic resource.

Specific Policy

In administering and managing Outstate Regional Recreation Parks to meet these objectives, policy will be that:

1. Where economically feasible, native wildlife and vegetation may be reintroduced, provided that this does not disrupt the desired ecological balance of the park, and that the species, with proper management, does not pose a serious threat to the safety of park visitors, park resources, or to persons or property outside of the park boundaries.
2. Hunting and trapping may be used as a means of controlling wildlife population after the safety of park visitors and management effectiveness has been addressed.
3. A park shall be inventoried for state and federal rare,

threatened, or endangered species and communities. Management decisions and activities will be directed towards enhancing or preserving these resources.

4. Agricultural food plots or other artificial feeding programs will be provided when there are no other reasonable alternatives for the protection of park resources, adjacent lands, and/or the perpetuation of a wildlife population. Where possible, wildlife will be observable in a pleasing natural setting.
5. Handling of all fires will be in compliance with the park fire plan. Prescribed burns as a vegetation management tool may be used. A specific burn plan will be developed, in cooperation with the relevant governmental agencies or private organizations, for each prescribed burn.
6. Harvesting of timber will be allowed only for achieving the vegetation management objectives of the park, resource protection, or when necessary for the health and safety of park visitors.
7. The Regional Park Council and other appropriate private or public entities shall work cooperatively to achieve the vegetative management objectives of the park.
 - a. Cooperative vegetative management agreements shall be developed for implementing each approved park management plan.
 - b. Commercial methods will be used for vegetation management when natural methods are not ecologically or economically practical.
8. Agricultural use of land within the park will be allowed where it supports the recreational opportunities of the park. Such agricultural areas shall be operated under Food Alliance Certification.
9. Chemical pesticides shall not be used within Outstate Regional Recreation Parks, except where approved by the Regional Park Council under established state statutes, for the following reasons:
 - a. When natural means have proven ineffective

- b. For control of insect outbreaks that threaten the ecological system of the park, or that constitute a direct threat to other lands
 - c. For perpetuation of unique or scientifically valuable specimens or communities
 - d. For maintenance of shade trees in developed areas
 - e. For reasons of public health and welfare
 - f. For reasons of users' enjoyment, provided that the ecological system will not be threatened
 - g. For implementation of a park's natural resource management programs
10. All natural resource management will strive to replicate natural appearance and community structure in details such as form, line, and texture, while maintaining the recreation value of the area.
11. Fish management programs may be directed toward maximizing the recreational use of the resource.
- a. Where feasible such management programs will abide by heritage fishing principles (*GeIndano* etc..)
 - b. Principles will include: technology limitations (no motors, depth finders, electronic imaging devices, etc.), strict catch limits, single-hook barbless artificial bait.
12. Fishing will be allowed. It may be prohibited in certain waters or at certain times when necessary to protect spawning grounds or when the fish and other aquatic life have greater value to the public for scientific study, interpretation, or environmental education.
13. Extraction of sand, gravel, and fill may take place only for routine park operation, and maintenance, or minor park development, and then only if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The pit is contained in a designated area away from public use areas
 - b. The operation does not impair the integrity of the park or disturb original vegetation
 - c. Reclamation takes place as soon as practicable
14. Areas within the park which meet scientific and natural area criteria or historic preservation criteria shall be recommended for designation. Archaeological sites will be addressed in the management plan to assure their perpetuation and proper management.
 15. Research on resource management may be conducted within Regional Recreation Parks. Efforts will be made to document research practices and results of research projects, to gather these materials, and to make them available.
 16. A water impoundment may provide the primary element of a park's resources or value.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

General Policy

The Regional Park Council will rely on the following administrative objectives relative to development to ensure maintenance of a park's resources and recreational opportunities:

- A. To locate and design development in such a way as to:
 1. Promote the use and enjoyment of the natural environment with minimum disruption to the natural setting
 2. Provide a variety of facilities to enhance users' recreational experiences
 3. Separate activities so that an individual user's recreational experience is enhanced, while allowing for higher-density use and social interaction within each activity

4. Separate large-group use from individual or small-group use and/or control use in such a way that large groups do not dominate use areas of the park.
- B. To ensure that development in an Outstate Regional Recreation Park results in no significant deterioration of the park's air or water quality and no significant increase in noise levels.
 - C. To allow for management areas to be delineated in order to guide management and development programs. A development area may be outlined in park plans as a method for focusing and limiting future development in appropriate areas of the park. Development will be limited to twenty percent of the park.
 - D. To design and locate facilities in a manner that will be compatible with the aesthetic qualities of the park.
 - E. To establish an architectural design theme and appropriate color combination for each park.
 - F. To site, design, and construct buildings in a manner which emphasizes energy efficiency and energy conservation.
 - G. Development of agricultural and urban areas within the park will protect and enhance the landscape character and quality, which means:
 - a. Development shall maintain the historical character of landscape by recognizing locally significant features and patterns such as, field boundaries or construction types and materials.
 - b. Preserve historical farming practices where feasible, or produce agricultural goods that the surrounding community and park can utilize.
 - c. Pedestrian connectivity between the urban areas and the natural areas of the park so that visitors and residents may get to their recreational activity by foot from the urban area.
 - H. To give prime consideration in facility design, location,

and construction to user health and safety. In particular, all potential natural hazards will be considered.

- I. To conduct general planning of park utilities during the management planning process.
- J. To strive for LEED certification of all relevant buildings and structures.

Specific Policy

In developing Outstate Regional Recreation Parks to meet these objectives, policy will be that:

Park Roads

- 1. Unless infeasible, only one public entrance road shall be provided for each park. The need for additional, non-public access roads for emergency purposes shall be evaluated during the development of the management plan.
 - a. It is preferable that the entrance road be as close as possible to an urban area or well-traveled area as possible.
 - b. The entrance road will highlight the recreational opportunities that the park offers by encouraging the private sector to establish business presence to serve visitor's interests along the road.
 - c. Where feasible the entrance road should terminate at the interpretive center for the park, and from that termination point visitors should be able to park their vehicles and walk, or be transported to their destinations throughout the park.
- 2. When a new entrance road is needed, it will be designed to introduce visitors to representative/recreational features of the park.
- 3. Internal park roads or "drives" shall, in general, be kept to a minimum. New internal road development, when necessary, shall be directed towards minimizing: conflict with non-motorized park use; intrusion upon the park's natural/historic character; and diminishment of the

natural, cultural, aesthetic, or recreational values of the park or the purposes for which it has been established.

4. Roads will be constructed with minimum clearing, ditching, and grading in order to fit them into the landscape.
5. In designing road corridors, considerable preference shall be given to pedestrians and to other modes of transportation such as bicycles or horses.

Visitor Contact and Orientation

6. A visitor contact facility along the entrance road between the entry point and all other park facilities shall be developed for the purposes of visitor access, control, and orientation.
 - a. The entrance road should gradually introduce visitors to the character of the park.
 - b. Design features that encourage visitors to get out of their vehicles and approach the visitor/interpretive center by foot should be employed.
 - c. Those features should also encourage visitors to explore the local private sector shops and businesses.

Utilities and Transportation Corridors

7. Park utilities shall be located in existing utility and transportation corridors whenever possible and adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. Local distribution lines will be placed underground
 - b. When existing technology does not allow utility lines and related structures to be buried, they shall be located and screened to minimize their impact on park resources and the recreational experiences of park users
 - c. Other managing agencies' plans for vegetation management under utility lines will be reviewed by the Division of Parks and Recreation

8. Other new utility corridors and transportation corridors across Regional Recreation Park lands shall be prohibited. Existing corridors shall be phased out when feasible.
9. Efforts will be made to work cooperatively with agencies managing utility and transportation corridors to minimize the impact of these corridors on the park.

Day Use Areas

10. Picnic areas and associated facilities will be provided in Outstate Regional Recreation Parks. They may be designed to allow social and group interaction.
11. Picnic sites to accommodate larger groups may be developed within the development area as necessary and desirable, and in such a way as not to conflict with other park users.
12. Open areas with limited facilities may be maintained for spontaneous recreational activities as long as they do not detract from the park setting or affect other park users' experiences.
13. Swimming areas and associated facilities may be provided in the form of beaches or impoundments.
14. Impoundments or pools for swimming may be permitted if the design is in a natural form. A demonstrated need for such a facility must be present.
15. Facilities related to water access sites, such as docks, fishing piers, or fish cleaning houses, may be developed as needed to accommodate appropriate park uses.
16. Creative play equipment may be allowed, provided that only play equipment which is suitable to and enhances the natural setting is used. Traditional municipal playground equipment will not be provided.
17. Facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses, ski and sliding lifts, and organized play fields, are encouraged to be developed by the private sector near the district to diversify the recreational offerings.

Lodging

18. Lodging structures may be permitted if they are aesthetically pleasing in character and complement recreational activities of the park. A demand for such a facility must be demonstrated.

The private sector is encouraged to provide lodging within in close proximity that is developed in the character of the surrounding area.

Camping Areas

19. Outstate Regional Recreation Parks may include one or more of the following campground types, depending on user demand and park resources:
 - a. Semi-modern campgrounds may be developed to accommodate individual and family-sized groups. Each campsite shall include a picnic table, fire ring, tent site, and parking space, and may include electric outlets if there is a demonstrated need and they do not compete with the private sector. Semi-modern campgrounds shall be served by running water, showers, and appropriate toilet facilities. Some double sites may be provided. Visual separation of sites will be obtained by spacing (not less than 80 feet between sites) and/or by vegetation screening between sites.
 - b. Rustic campsites may be developed to accommodate individual and family-sized groups. Each campsite shall include a picnic table, a fire ring, a tent pad, and parking space. Areas containing rustic campsites shall be served by sanitary facilities and water supplied by hand pumps or pressurized systems. Visual separation of sites will be obtained by spacing (not less than 120 feet between sites) and/or by vegetation screening between sites.
 - c. Primitive campsites may be developed for land or water trail users and shall be located in less developed areas of the park. Campsites will be individual sites, well separated to provide for a private wilderness experience. Each campsite shall be served by a fire ring, appropriate tent site, and pit toilet. Water

supplied by hand pump may be provided. A pack-out litter philosophy will be enforced.

- d. Primitive group camps may be developed as necessary and desirable, and in such a way as not to conflict with other park uses. Facilities shall be limited to vault or pit toilets, picnic tables, tent sites, fire rings, water supplied by hand pump, and may include an open or enclosed shelter building. Primitive group campgrounds shall be flexibly designed and shall be simultaneously handle one or more groups of varying sizes.
- e. Modern group camps (those with barracks, dining halls, and related buildings) shall not be provided unless an intensive demand for such a facility exists. Modern group camps should not compete with the private sector.

Trails

- 20. Hiking, ski touring, and snowshoeing trails shall be developed as necessary and desirable, provided that they do not conflict with the natural or cultural resources or other environmental considerations.
- 21. Snowmobile and horseback riding trails may be permitted within an Outstate Regional Recreation Park provided that they can be designed to minimize conflict with other park users, natural and cultural resources and other environmental considerations.
- 22. Bicycle trails may be provided within Outstate Regional Recreation Park provided that they do not conflict with natural and cultural resources and other environmental considerations.
 - a. Off-road bicycle trails may be provided, so long as they do not conflict with natural and cultural resources and other environmental conditions.
- 23. When feasible, trails will be designed for year-around use and be capable of providing high-quality interpretive opportunities while fulfilling other trail functions.

24. Trail orientation/information shall be provided at major trail access points. Trail centers or shelters will be provided only where justified by need and will be incorporated with other buildings whenever possible. Pit toilets may be provided in conjunction with trails.
25. Reasonable efforts shall be made to form partnerships with the private sector for development and maintenance of trails.
26. Interpretive facilities may be provided in Outstate Regional Recreation Parks. Primary interpretive developments (e.g., interpretive centers and orientation/information stations) shall be conveniently located along major park corridors and combined with other facilities when possible to allow for efficient use of park staff and other resources. Interpretive centers requiring their own exclusive staffing will be limited to parks where a demonstrated need for such a facility exists. Site-specific interpretive developments (e.g., interpretive signs, outdoor displays, or self-guiding trails) may be provided for self-interpretation at the resource site.

V. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Interpreting the relationship of Minnesotans to their environment will be the guiding theme for Outstate Regional Recreation Park interpretive programs. The statewide objective will be to interpret the geology, biology, history, prehistory, and aesthetics of Minnesota, by landscape region. Priorities by region will be set according to a natural and cultural history interpretive analysis.

General Policy

The Regional Park Council will rely on the following objectives in developing interpretive programs for Outstate Regional Recreation Parks:

- A. To identify each park's prime resource stories and the park's role in interpreting the natural and cultural history of the landscape region.
- B. To provide programs of two general types: those based on

the park's role as a protector of the region's landscape, cultural, and historical assets and those based on presenting park visitors with an introduction to an aspect of a recreational activity.

- C. To provide visitors with park information and orientation.
- D. To provide programs which support park management objectives.

Specific Policy

In administering and managing Outstate Regional Recreation Parks to meet these objectives, the Regional Park Council's policy will be that:

1. The interpretive role of an Outstate Regional Recreation Park will be identified by an inventory and analysis of the resources within the park which portray the natural, historic, ecologic, and cultural components of the landscape region.
2. Each of a park's natural components will be prioritized for interpretation according to:
 - a. The degree to which it represents the characteristics of the landscape region
 - b. The recreational activities that such a landscape region provides
3. Interpretive programs will be based on the following precepts:
 - a. A park's role (as defined by the analysis set forth in policy 1) will be used as a framework to guide the program's scope, content, services, and activities
 - b. Programs will supply the essential information inter-relationship among selected natural and cultural features, the landscape region, and the broader fields of science or human history to which the features relate

- c. Programs will be formulated in a manner that appeals to the broadest possible spectrum of park visitors
 - d. Program information will be based on sound knowledge and research
 - e. Information shall be provided in a manner which stimulates the physical senses, kindles the imagination, sharpens awareness of beauty, encourages a sense of trusteeship and respect for the land, and helps people to more fully understand and appreciate the natural environment
 - f. Programs of a strictly recreational or informational nature will exemplify and create awareness of a park's recreational opportunities
 - g. Recreational or informational-type programs will deal with activities and subjects corresponding to the needs and desires of visitors and the local community. Programming will promote a greater understanding of the impact of humans on the resource
4. Park information and orientation will be made readily available to visitors. The content of such information should include, but not be limited to a description of:
- a. The Minnesota Outdoor Recreation System
 - b. Recreational and interpretive opportunities available in the park
 - c. The park's significant resources and outstanding features
 - d. Recreational and cultural opportunities or facilities in the surrounding region
 - e. Location and proper use of facilities
 - f. Rules and regulations governing park use
 - g. Resources, activities and services provided by the private sector within the park and surrounding Regional Park District

5. Information and programs will periodically include discussions of the Regional Park Council and the LCMR's responsibilities, goals, policy, and resource management programs, in order to engender better understanding by the public of the Regional Park Council, other Regional Recreation Parks, Regional Park Districts, the LCMR, and other relevant state and federal agencies.
6. The interpretive program will use appropriate, up-to-date techniques.
7. When possible, the Regional Park Council will cooperate with conservation and environmental educators and allow on-site use of park resources and existing facilities when such use is compatible with the park's goal, objectives, and resources, and when the program complements the goal and objectives of the park's interpretive program.
8. When possible, on-site assistance to educators in their environmental studies programs will be provided.