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STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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**DEVELOPMENT &
ACQUISITION
STATUS**

Jay Cooke
State Park

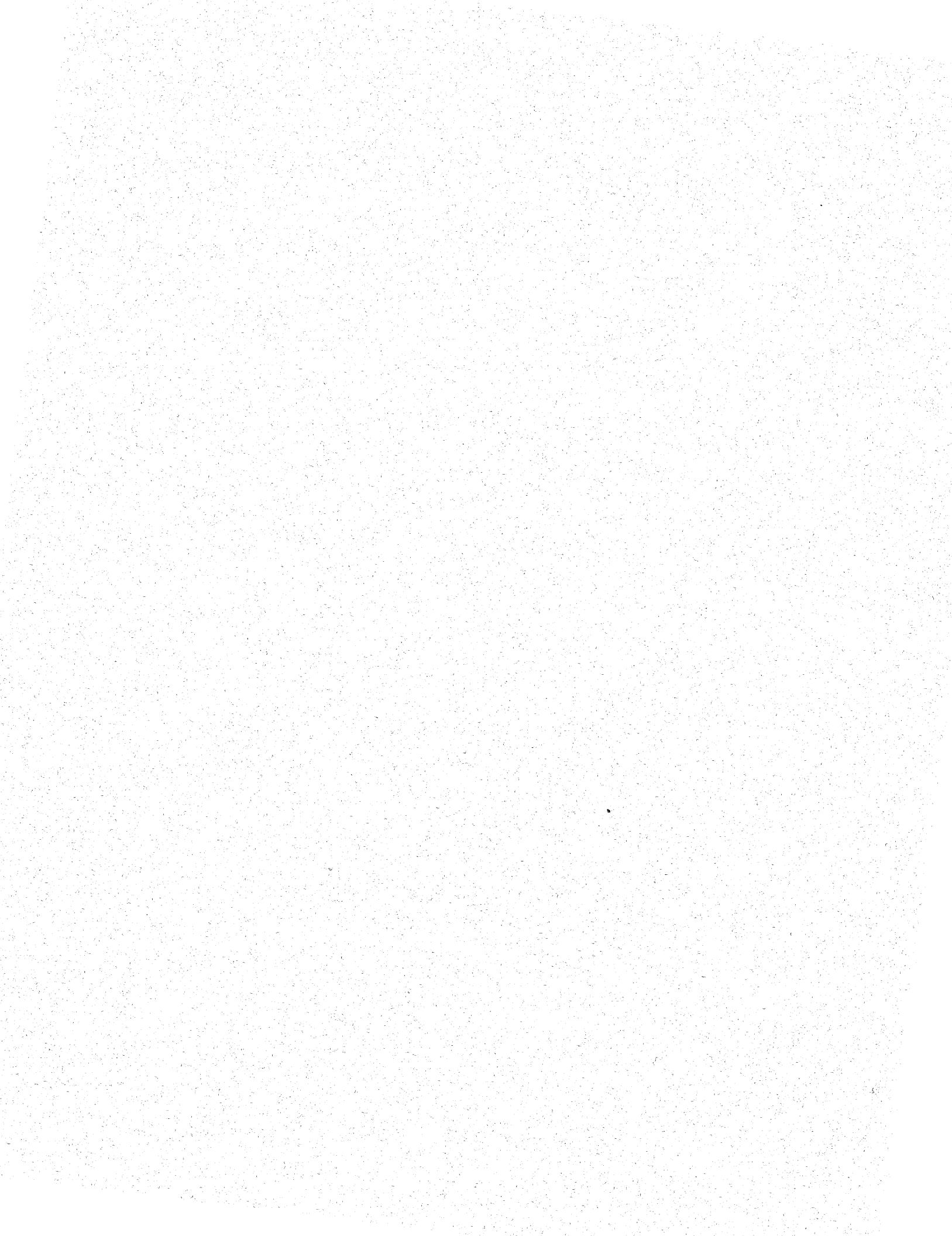


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MINNESOTA STATE PARK SYSTEM

The mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide a state park system that perpetuates Minnesota's scenic beauty and its natural and cultural resources, while being responsive to public needs and expectations, and providing a diversity of recreational opportunities.

The Division of Parks and Recreation manages 64 state parks across Minnesota. The state park system is vital to Minnesota's tourism, an industry that is becoming the backbone of many economies in greater Minnesota. Our most unique and valuable cultural and natural resources are found within state park boundaries. It is the Division of Parks & Recreation's responsibility to acquire, protect and interpret these unique resources.

Prior to the 1989 legislative session, funding constraints and increasing visitor use seriously eroded the Division of Parks and Recreation's ability to provide quality recreational experiences and services. Since then the Governor and state legislators have responded to the need for increased funding for the operations budget. However, financing the maintenance of existing facilities and new development in the face of increasing visitor use remains a problem. This will be addressed during the 1990 legislative session when a capital bonding bill is considered.

The state park system has the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) largest physical plant with over 2,800 major facilities requiring major rehabilitation. The Division of Parks & Recreation has identified more than \$55 million in capital budget needs. These projects include land acquisition, resource management, major rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities and a few new facilities. Legislative funding requests to meet this need will be spread throughout future bienniums.

A recent study conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society identifies 515 historic structures located in the state park system. These structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of these structures are of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Work Progress Administration (WPA) vintage. These CCC/WPA structures were constructed in the 1930's. These facilities are over 50 years old and many are in need of major rehabilitation which includes the electrical, sewage, and water systems associated with these buildings.

Many years of intensive use is also a consideration when looking at the current condition of campgrounds, picnic areas, group camps and trail systems. Lack of development and rehabilitation of these and other state park facilities will reduce park use. A reduction in state park use will adversely impact the economic development of adjacent communities and Minnesota's effort to improve tourism.

As capital development funds have become available we have completed the highest priority projects. As additional needs are identified, they are reviewed and placed on the statewide priority list for future completion.

In 1991 Itasca, Minnesota's oldest state park , will be 100 years old. For 100 years Minnesota has had a park system to be proud of. The present challenge is to manage the park resources and recreational development to ensure that Minnesotan's will be proud of their state park system for another hundred years.

AN OVERVIEW OF JAY COOKE STATE PARK

Jay Cooke State Park is located on the border of St. Louis and Carlton Counties in northeastern Minnesota just east of Carlton and 13 miles west of Duluth. The statutory boundary encompasses 8812.81 acres. Of these 820.86 acres are privately owned. State Highway #210 bisects the park and provides primary access.

The rugged landforms of Jay Cooke State Park are representative of the North Shore landscape region. This region is characterized by 500 to 1000 foot cliffs dissected by steep stream valleys. The landscape remained free of glacial till when the last glacier receded from the area some 10,000 years ago. The resulting terrain contains many areas of exposed bedrock.

Hundreds of millions of years ago vast shallow seas covered much of North America, including northeastern Minnesota. Sediments that accumulated on the bottom of these seas were compressed to form slate beds which serve as the bedrock underlying much of the park. Underground movements caused the slate beds to fold and fracture creating the sloping formations we see today.

Some time after the original movement, volcanoes forced masses of molten rock through fractures in the slate beds. After cooling, these intrusions formed black flows which dip gently toward the Lake Superior Basin. The St. Louis River has eroded a large gorge through the upper sedimentary layers into the underlying beds of slate and volcanic intrusions. The spectacular cascades and waterfalls of the St. Louis River were formed when streams cut through volcanic rock of varying resistance. Near the center of the park, the slate outcrops end abruptly, and the river flows in a broad gorge lined with red clay banks. This red clay was deposited by Glacial Lake Duluth, an ancient lake that once flooded the St. Louis River Valley.

The Jay Cooke area was the scene of a flourishing fur trade that began between Dakota Indians and the French in the mid 1600's. Later Chippewa Indians drove the Dakota from the region and established fur trade with both the French and the British. By about 1820 newly arrived American fur traders forced the French and British traders from the area. The Americans continued trading with the Chippewa until about 1860 when the fur trade ended in the region.

Many years later, the railroads reached northern Minnesota bringing substantial numbers of settlers northward. Although much of the surrounding land was cleared, the area which is now the park was too rugged to clear for farming.

Jay Cooke State Park was established in 1915 when the St. Louis River Power Company donated 2,350 acres of land to be used as a state park. This company, now called Minnesota Power, continues to own land along the St. Louis River and operates a hydroelectric power plant within the park. The park's location at the head of St. Louis Bay marks the beginning of the North Shore Recreational Corridor. The rugged qualities that give Jay Cooke its scenic beauty also make it a haven for wildlife and visitors.

Deer, black bear, timberwolf and coyote are among the largest of 46 animal species found in the park. The bald eagle, northern goshawk, pileated woodpecker and great-blue heron are just a few of the 173 bird species known to use the park as residents or seasonal migrants.

The combination of close proximity to I-35 and its scenic quality make this park one of the most popular in the state system. Popular summer activities include trout fishing, backpacking, hiking, canoeing, and bird watching. Winter favorites include cross-country skiing, winter camping, and snowmobiling.

EXISTING FACILITIES

The following is an inventory of the existing physical plant of Jay Cooke State Park.

Acres in Statutory Boundary - 8,812.81

Acres of state land - 7,991.95

Campsites

Drive in - 80

Back Pack - 4

Showers

Modern toilets

Campsites with electricity - 21

Primitave Group Camps - 2

Miles of Trails

Hiking - 50

Horse - 10

Bicycle - 5

Cross Country Ski - 32

Snowmobile - 12

Playgrounds - 1

Miles of Road

Gravel - 4

Open and Enclosed Picnic Shelter

Number of Picnic Tables - 70

Trailer Dump Station - 1

Number of Buildings

Over 100 sq.ft. - 9

Under 100 sq.ft. - 8

Miles of Posted Boundary - 34

Visitor Center

Park Utilities

Number of Sewage Lift Stations - 1

Number of Septic Tanks - 5

Number of Wells - 5

Number of Individual

Water Distribution Systems - 5

PROBLEMS FACING JAY COOKE STATE PARK

There are many public recreational facilities in Jay Cooke State Park to maintain. Many are in need of replacement or major rehabilitation. Most were constructed in the 1930's, and are now in need of rehabilitation. Many new facilities are needed to meet growing recreational demands.

The parks natural and cultural resources are also in need of protection and management to perpetuate Jay Cooke's resources. In the past, facilities were developed in prehistoric and historic use areas. These areas must be protected and interpreted. The mature pines located in use areas are aging and dying, and measures to stimulate regeneration shuld be undertaken to insure vegetation in the future. Hundreds of trees have been removed from the campground and picnic areas because of old age, disease and insect damage. These trees need to be replaced to maintain appropriate aesthetic qualities.

In addition to vegetation management needs, many of the buildings and support facilities need rehabilitation. The original water system was installed by the CCC's in the early 1930's. The system is rapidly deteriorating and cannot accommodate increased year-round visitor demands. In addition, the swinging bridge, picnic shelters, and overlook built by the CCC's are delapidated and in need of rehabilitation.

Important improvements have been completed at Jay Cooke State Park in recent years. However, the goals identified in the ten year old management plan have not been achieved.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN JAY COOKE STATE PARK

Major development projects over the past few years have included:

1. Rehabilitation of campground toilet/shower building.
2. Major rehabilitation of River Inn parking area.

JAY COOKE STATE PARK CAPITAL NEEDS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Tree Planting \$25,000

Project includes regeneration of overstory vegetation. This will assure wooded campgrounds and other use areas for the future.

Subtotal \$25,000

MAJOR REHABILITATION

Rehabilitate CCC/WPA Buildings \$90,000

Project includes tuck pointing stone and utility upgrading at these historic structures.

Suspension Bridge Repair \$20,000

Repair stone piers and cable support structure as determined by recent engineering study.

Dump Cleanup \$10,000

This project includes cleaning up old dump grounds left by previous owners of land purchased for the park.

Picnic Area Rehabilitation \$10,000

Project includes landscaping, improved drainage, new tables and fire grates.

Water System Rehabilitation \$200,000

Replace CCC system and deep bury water lines to provide year-round water to River Inn.

Subtotal \$330,000

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Class I Group Camp \$250,000

Construct a new class one group camp with modern sanitation facilities. Located close to the Duluth metro area. There is a big demand for group camping.

Visitor Center \$250,000

Project includes major rehabilitation and addition to River Inn to serve as a visitor center. This facility will provide winter trail warming, interpretive services and office/contact space.

Campground Shower Building \$150,000

New campground toilet/shower building to serve existing rustic campground sites.

Pave Connection to Munger Trail \$75,000

This connection would provide access from the park to the Munger bike trail.

Trail Improvements \$58,000

This project includes general rehabilitation of multi-use trails within the park. Improvements include erosion control, steps, railings, and gravel surfacing where needed.

Storage Building \$35,000

Construct new storage building to store state equipment and supplies.

Pave Campground Road \$20,000

Pave existing gravel road to eliminate constant maintenance and dust problems.

Pave Oldenberg Point Road \$20,000

Pave Oldenberg Point picnic area entrance road and parking lot. This will eliminate maintenance and dust problems.

Playground Equipment \$10,000

Install creative play lot near campground to provide recreation for young children.

Subtotal \$868,000

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS - \$1,223,000

LAND ACQUISITION

There are approximately 20,000 acres of private land within the boundaries of Minnesota State Parks.

Acquisition of these lands is an ongoing process that occurs as parcels become available for purchase and funds are available. Present acquisition costs are averaging about a \$1,000 per acre across the state. It would therefore cost about \$20,000,000 to acquire all the private land within state parks at present values.

The park map shows the location of private holdings within the park. These properties should be purchased before private development increases within the park's statutory boundary.

The following issues highlight problems associated with private property within state parks.

- * Private lands within state parks are being sought out by developers.
- * Subdivision for residential use will cause such lands to be too expensive to acquire in the future.
- * Land uses such as gravel extraction and extensive clear cut logging adversely impact state parks and adjoining public lands.
- * Some private lands limit public use of existing park facilities and lands because of their location.

These issues associated with privately owned lands within state parks threaten existing public investment and limit public use.

PRIVATE LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED IN JAY COOK STATE PARK

Parcel #	Acres
5	13.80
6b	40.00
6c	40.00
7b	.30
7c	4.60
7d	6.30
12	4.03
15	35.00
16	6.00
23	119.88
24	54.80
25	84.35
27	2.95
28	43.80
29	12.50
32	52.55

Total 520.86 acres.

PARK POTENTIAL

What efforts will the completion of resource management, rehabilitation and new development projects have on Jay Cooke State Park? These projects along with the acquisition of private lands within the park will assure the preservation of these unique resources and facilities for future generations. Active management will be required to maintain and regenerate existing forest stands. These will ensure that future visitors will be able to experience the diverse nature of Minnesota's forests.

Some improvements will not only increase park use but will greatly increase the quality of the visitors experience. Many of the rehabilitation projects will increase staff efficiency and cut the costs of maintaining facilities.

New facilities will improve customer service while giving the visitor a greater opportunity to learn about Minnesota's natural and cultural resources.

The acquisition of private lands within the park will assure that private and commercial development do not detract from the natural beauty of Jay Cooke State Park.

A stable funding source is essential for effective long term resource management and capital budget planning for the Minnesota State Park system and Jay Cooke State Park.

SUMMARY

Currently, statewide capital needs for development and acquisition are **\$55,000,000**. The mission of the Minnesota State Park System can be achieved by funding support to meet this need over the next several bienniums.

Jay Cooke State Park acquisition costs will be determined by appraisals.

Jay Cooke State Park development needs - **\$1,223,000**.

**Help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of
the Minnesota State Park System in 1991!**

