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Wisconsin

NATURAL RESOURCES

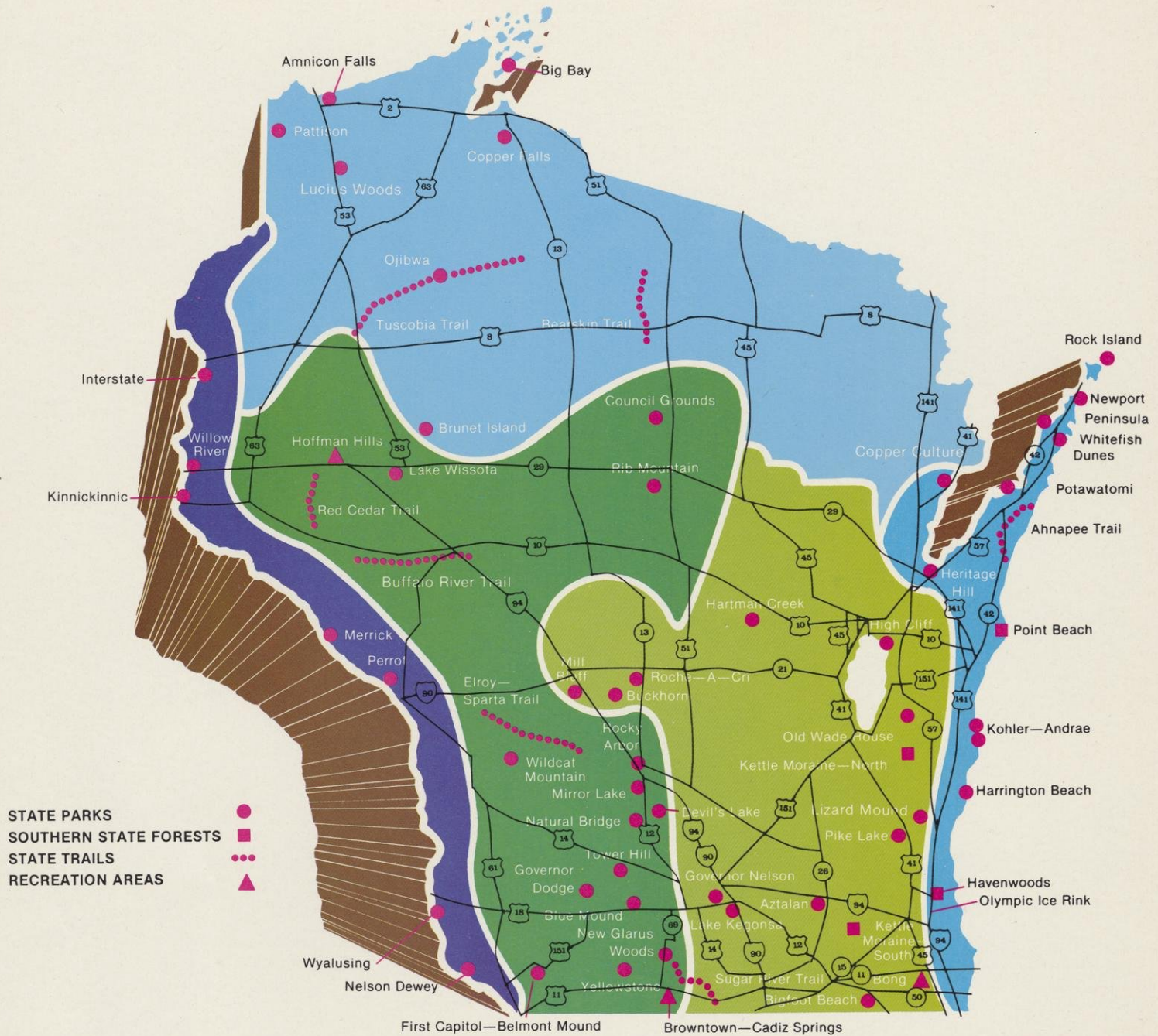
May-June 1984 Volume 8, Number 3

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Wisconsin
State Parks

Explore & Enjoy



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This publication was planned and organized by a special Parks Committee. Members were:

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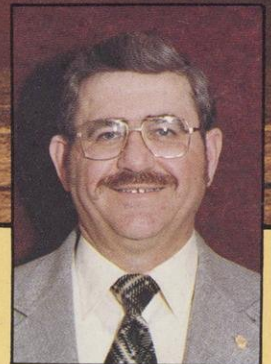
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Rhinelander

Laurie Osterndorf,
DNR Naturalist



Welcome!

DAVID L. WEIZENICKER, Director,
Bureau of Parks and Recreation,
Madison



Explore and enjoy!

Wisconsin has been at work since the turn of the century to set aside areas of outstanding scenic beauty and charm for present and future generations. These places exist for your personal use and enjoyment.

The Department of Natural Resources has the statutory obligation to select, acquire, develop and administer a "balanced system of state park areas."

After more than 80 years of visionary and progressive work by citizens, political leaders, conservationists and others, the state park system consists of over 60 operating parks with more than 70,000 acres of irreplaceable real estate. In addition, four recreational forests comprising 47,000 acres in the southern part of the state are part of the system.

Every park, be it recreational, historical, memorial, roadside or linear corridor, is managed for preservation, nature observation and study, outdoor education and recreation.

The idea is parks for people, people in parks, and a park within a one-hour drive of every Wisconsinite. The system offers a wide diversity of appeal and plenty of opportunity for family fun and relaxation. Its lakes, forests, views, trails, picnic areas and campgrounds give respite from everyday activities and pressures. Solitude, sunsets and people having fun are part of the allure.

Quite possibly, you are one of the many who come to Wisconsin's parks each year. If so, we welcome you back for more fun and relaxation; if not, we invite you to visit soon. While some parks are crowded at times, many are not. And since our philosophy is to retain most park lands in their natural condition, you are assured a place to enjoy their peace and quiet at your own leisure.

This book has been designed to enhance your use and appreciation of Wisconsin's state parks.

Write and let us know how you enjoyed them and what we can do to enhance your future enjoyment.

STATE PARK AND FOREST FORMATION

STATE
PARK AND
FOREST
INFORMATION

NAME OF STATE PARK	No. of Camping Units	CAMPING INFORMATION										RESER- VATIONS ACCEPTED	FACILITIES										TRAILS					GENERAL							
		Electric Outlets	Flush Toilets	Pit Toilets	Showers	Dumping Station	Indoor Group Camping	Outdoor — Group	Backpacking	Winter Camping	Family Camps		Indoor Group Camps	Outdoor Group Camps	Backpacking Camps	Handicapped — Picnic Area	Handicapped — Camp Area	Playgrounds	Concessions	Nature Center	Vistas and Overlooks	Lookout Towers	Nature Trails (miles)	Hiking (miles)	Horse (miles)	Snowmobile (miles)	Bicycling (miles)	Off-Road Motorcycle (miles)	Cross Country Skiing (miles)	Sticker Required Yr. Round	Picnicking	Swimming	Canoeing	Boating	Water Skiing
NAME OF STATE PARK																																			
AMNICON FALLS	40		•													•						1.0		1.0					•						
AZTALAN																							3.2						•		W				
BIG BAY	17		•				20				•	•								•		.3	4.0						•						
BIG FOOT BEACH	100			•	•										•	•	•						.5						•	•	•				
BLUE MOUND	78		•		•						•				•	•	•		•	•		1.9	1.5				8.5		R	P					
BRUNET ISLAND	69	24	•		•										•	•	•					.8	4.0				4.0		R	•	•	•			
BUCKHORN																							2.5						•	•	•	•	•		
COPPER CULTURE															•														•						
COPPER FALLS	56	13	•					25	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			1.3	6.2				5.0		•	•	•	•			
COUNCIL GROUNDS	55	17	•	•	•						•				•	•	•					.8	.8						•	R			•	•	
DEVILS LAKE	459	219	•	•	•	•	40	175			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		1.5	15.0				15.5		•	•	•	•	•	•	
FIRST CAPITOL-BELMONT MOUND*																					•		.3												
GOVERNOR DODGE	266	70	•	•	•	•		700	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					1.5	3.5	20	20.0		15.5		•	•	•	•	•	•	
GOVERNOR NELSON																																			
NO DEVELOPMENT TO DATE																																			
HARRINGTON BEACH															•							.8	1.0		2.0				•	R	•				
HARTMAN CREEK	100		•	•	•			150	•	•	•	•	•									1.0	15.6		4.0	1.0	9.0		•	R	•	•	•		
HERITAGE HILL																																			
HIGH CLIFF	54		•	•	•			80		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		.3	7.5		5.0		4.2		•	R	•		•	•	
INTERSTATE	85		•	•	•	•		60														1.1	8.0				10.0		•	R	•	•	•		
KINNICKINNIC			•																																
ACCESS FROM RIVER ONLY																																			
KOHLER-ANDRAE	105	49	•	•	•	•		40	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					2		1.0			2.0		•	•	•	•			
LAKE KEGONSA	80		•		•			100			•	•	•	•	•	•	•					6.8	2.7		1.3		7.0		•	•	•	•			
LAKE WISSOTA	81	16	•	•	•	•		80	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			1.0	9.5		4.7		11.5		•	R	•		•	•	
LIZARD MOUND															•							.8	.5												
LUCIUS WOODS			•	•						•													1.0							•	•	•	•	•	
MERRICK	76	25	•		•					•					•	•	•					.4							•	R	•	•	•	•	
MILL BLUFF	21		•												•	•	•		•				.3						•	R	•				
MIRROR LAKE	144	25	•	•	•	•		210	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						.5	13.5		9.0		3.5		•	•	•	•			
NATURAL BRIDGE																						1.1	2.5		.75				•						
NELSON DEWEY	31	16	•					20	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				.1	2.8						•		B	B			
NEW GLARUS WOODS	18		•					120			•	•	•	•	•	•						.4	1.2						•						
NEWPORT	16							•	•			•	•									2.0	28.5				23.0		•	•					
OJIBWA	6	6	•																						.4				•	•					
OLD WADE HOUSE																													•						
PATTISON	59	18	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					2.0	1.0		5.5		5.0		•	•	•	•			
PENINSULA	467	100	•	•	•	•		50	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			.3	17.0		17.0	9.0	19.0		•	•	•	•	•	•	
PERROT	97	37	•	•	•	•			•						•	•	•		•			.6	8.0					8.0		R	S	•	•	•	
PIKE LAKE	32		•												•	•	•					1.0	5.5				8.1		•	•	•	•			
POTAWATOMI	125	23	•						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			.4	9.0		7.3		10.4		•	•	•	•	•	•	
RIB MOUNTAIN	30		•																•	•		.6	2.5		1.3				R						
ROCHE A CRI	45		•		•										•	•	•		•				3.5						•						
ROCK ISLAND	40		•					30	•	•	•	•						•				1.0	9.5		9.5				•	•	•	•			
ROCKY ARBOR	89	18	•	•	•	•									•	•	•					1.0							•						
TOWER HILL	15		•												•	•	•		•			.5	1.5						R	•	•	•			
WHITEFISH DUNES																											4.5		•	•	•	•			
WILDCAT MOUNTAIN	37		•					75	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				1.3	2.8	12C			7.0		•	R	•				
WILLOW RIVER	72	19	•	•	•	•		150	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			.7	8.0				7.5		•	•	•	•	•		
WYALUSING	132	32	•	•	•	•	108	100			•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			2.1	14.0				3.5		•	R	S	•	•	•	
YELLOWSTONE	129	35	•	•	•	•		50	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					4.0		4.0					•	•	•	•	•	•	
NAME OF RECREATION AREA																																			
BONG			•		•			800	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			1.5	13.5	10	11.5		6.5	13.5		•	R	•	•	•	•
BROWNTOWN-CADIZ SPRINGS															•	•						.4	2.5						•	•	•	•			
HOFFMAN HILLS			•					75	•															8.0			8.0		•						
NAME OF STATE FOREST																																			
BLACK RIVER	101		•					100	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			2.4	50.5		46.0		14.0	25.0		•	•	•	•	•	•
BRULE RIVER	37		•																			1.7	26.0		26.0		6.7		•	•	•	•			
FLAMBEAU RIVER	60		•		•																	1.0	1.5		40.5		8.0		•	•	•	•			
GOVERNOR KNOWLES								36			•	•	•	•	•	•							45.0		26	26.0		7.0		•	•	•	•		
HAVENWOODS																						1.0	3.0					3.0							
KETTLE MORaine — N.	359	49	•	•	•	•	120	1000	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			3.5	61.5	39.5	58.0		25.0		•	•	•	•	•	•	
KETTLE MORaine — S.	283	49	•	•	•	•		100	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			2.7	74.5	27C	46.0			40.0		•	R	•			
N. HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEG.	902		•		•			100	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•			6.3	13.5		73.2		50.0		R	•	•	•	•	•	
POINT BEACH	137	42	•	•			18	50	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					1.0	10.0		3.0		10		•	•	•	•			
NAME OF STATE TRAIL																																			
AHNAPEE TRAIL																							15.0		15.0	15.0									
BEARSKIN TRAIL																							13.0		13.0	13.0			•						
BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL																											36.0								
ELROY-SPARTA TRAIL	30		•					30	•														32.0		32.0										

May/June-3

Have you noticed how time slows down at the cold end of the year? In summer, the months race each other to Labor Day. There's never enough time for everything you planned. But as the weather gets cold, the calendar seems to freeze up too. You may have time on your hands, and little to do. Until you look into Wisconsin's

Parks For All Seasons

DAVE CREHORE,
District Information Officer,
Green Bay

No, we haven't found a short cut from January to August. But at the state parks and forests, we do provide a variety of things to do 'round the calendar. Recently, we've emphasized the "off-season" between October and April.

Most of Wisconsin's state parks and forests are open all 12 months and many feature special win-



Photo by John Semo

ter attractions. For example, they contain 343 miles of cross country ski trails and 603 miles of snowmobile trails. Nine parks and three state forests offer winter camping — and a lot of hardy people take them up on it.

Two parks — Rib Mountain in Marathon County and Potawatomi in Door County — offer downhill skiing with lifts and tows. Most have hiking and nature trails for travel on foot or snowshoes, and many parks such as Devil's Lake, High Cliff and Hartman Creek and others offer opportunities for ice fishing. State forests are open to hunting during regular seasons, although you should watch for wildlife refuges and closed areas around campgrounds.

There is always plenty to see and photograph in the parks as well. Many have been set aside to protect a particular kind of landscape, natural community, or cultural feature, ranging from Lake Michigan dunes to Mississippi bluffs, from an ancient Indian village to the restored buildings of the earliest settlers.

At Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay, for example, historic structures from the area have been grouped on a hillside along the river. Off-season activities include a Harvest Festival in October, and "The Spirit of Christmas Past" in late November and early December when the buildings are decorated in traditional style. Crafts, musical groups and ethnic cooking are featured.

In addition to beauty and activity, there's something else you are likely to find at state parks in fall, winter and spring. Solitude. Peace and quiet. Except for the obviously busy areas like ski hills, the crowds are gone and it's easy to get off by yourself to take in the color of autumn, the snowy silence or the awakening of spring.

Use the parks at any season, and you'll be rewarded.

Historic Sites

Wisconsin has seven Historic Sites and each features a different aspect of Wisconsin's past. Visitors can experience the early mining lifestyle at Pendarvis in Mineral Point; home-steads of early ethnic groups at 576-acre Old World Wisconsin in the Kettle Moraine State Forest; and the rugged fur trading days both at Villa Louis museum in Prairie du Chien and at Madeline Island Museum in the Apostle Islands. For more information on these and the other state historic sites contact:

Circus World Museum,
426 Water Street,
Baraboo, WI 53913
Phone: 608-356-8341

Madeline Island Museum,
LaPointe, WI 54850
Phone: 715-747-2415

Old Wade House,
Highway 23,
Greenbush, WI 53026
Phone: 414-594-3271



Old World Wisconsin,
Route 2,
Box 18,
Eagle, WI 53119
Phone: 414-594-2116

Pendarvis,
114 Shake Rage Street,
Mineral Point, WI 53665
Phone: 608-987-2122

Stonefield Village,
Cassville, WI 53806
Phone: 608-725-5210

Villa Louise,
521 Villa Louis Road,
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Phone: 608-326-2721

History

DENNIS W. KONKOL,
Chief of Administrative Services, Madison

When discovered by Jean Nicolet in 1634, Wisconsin was a vast forest wilderness inhabited by Indians who depended mainly on hunting and fishing for their livelihood.

Missionaries and fur traders opened the first trade routes, but for 200 years established only missions and small scattered outposts. The discovery of lead in the southwestern part of the state in the 1820s and the end of the Blackhawk War in 1832 brought settlements, farms and a steady stream of immigrants, so steady that far-sighted citizens, even then began to worry about the loss of our natural heritage. In 1878, Wisconsin became one of the first states to establish a state park system. At that time the Legislature set aside, "The State Park," a tract of 50,000 acres in what was then Lincoln County. But in 1897, again by legislative action, the land was sold to lumber companies.

The idea revived two years later in 1899 when Governor Edward Scofield appointed a commission to investigate park possibilities on the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix River in Polk County. Minnesota appointed a similar commission to study its side. In 1900, action by both legislatures dedicated lands near Taylor Falls on both sides of the St. Croix River as Interstate State Park. Wisconsin has been in the state park business ever since and the number of parks has grown from one to 60 with another 11 on the drawing boards.

A State Park Board, created in 1907, contracted with John Nolen, a nationally known landscape architect to begin planning the system. His 1909 report recommended parks in four locations:

1. Devil's Lake (Devil's Lake State Park was established in 1911.)
2. Door County (Peninsula State Park was established in 1910.)
3. Grant County (Wyalusing State Park was established in 1917.)
4. And the Dells of the Wisconsin River (It never became a park, but is preserved as a major tourist attraction.)

The Nolen report also explained why we need state parks and its ideas are as appropriate today as they were in 1909:

1. "They (parks) would, in common with the forest reservations, the great economic value of which is now unquestioned, preserve and protect just so much more of the woodland of the state and stream flow dependent on it.
2. "They would provide the best method of preserving places of historical and scientific interest.
3. "They would secure a necessity of modern life before it is too late.
4. "State parks would give an economic return

A shoreline drive at Devil's Lake State Park in 1920.



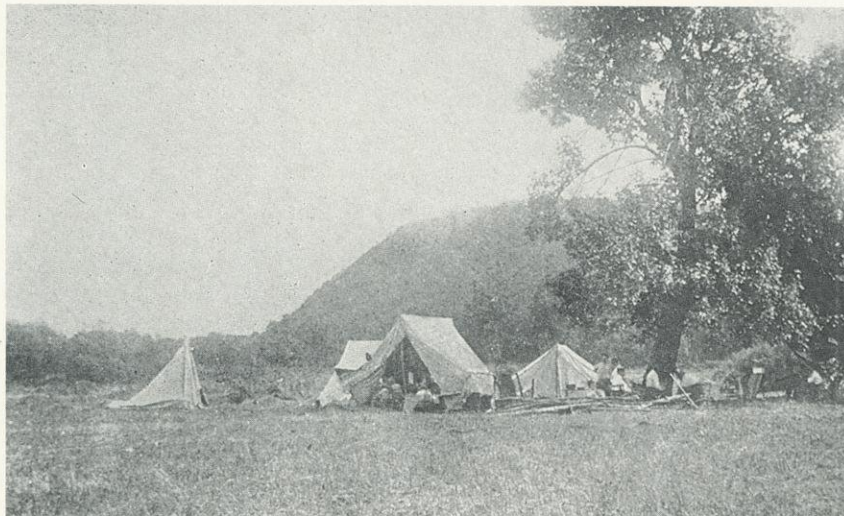
Important Dates

Year	Event	Comment
1848	Wisconsin becomes a state.	
1878	"The State Park" created.	Sold in 1897.
1900	Interstate Park established.	Now a unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve.
1907	First State Park Board.	
1909	John Nolen's Report.	The report emphasized the importance of state parks and suggested acquiring specific areas as parks.
1915	Various commissions and boards merged into one Conservation Commission composed of three full-time commissioners.	
1923	C. L. Harrington named Superintendent of Forests & Parks Division.	
1927	Legislature enacted "Conservation Act" and formed the Wisconsin Conservation Commission.	
1933	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established by the Federal Government.	Starting in 1934, CCC camps were at Nelson Dewey, Copper Falls, Peninsula, Devil's Lake, Pattison, Rib Mountain, Interstate, and Perrot State Parks.
1935	Works Progress Administration (WPA) begun.	WPA crews worked at Copper Falls, Wyalusing, Nelson Dewey, and Peninsula State Parks and at the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
1935	1-1/4-million state park visitors.	
1941	World War II — CCC and WPA programs end.	
1950	3.3-million state park visitors.	

1958	Roman Koenings succeeds C.L. Harrington as Superintendent of Forests & Parks.	
1958	Five-million state park visitors.	
1961	ORAP 100, Outdoor Recreation Action Program signed into law by Governor Nelson.	One cent tax on a pack of cigarettes to finance a state recreation program.
1962	Vehicle admission sticker requirement becomes law.	
1963	State park naturalist and conservation education program begins.	
1964	Don Mackie succeeds Roman Koenings as Superintendent of Forests & Parks.	
1964	The Forests & Parks Division of the Conservation Department reorganized as State Parks & Recreation Division.	
1965	Elroy-Sparta State Trail established.	Start of Wisconsin's state trail program on abandoned railroad grades.
1967	Department of Natural Resources created. Natural Resources Board replaces Conservation Commission.	
1968	Al Ehly succeeds Don Mackie as the Director of the Bureau of Parks & Recreation.	
1969	ORAP 200, the Outdoor Resources Action Program, signed into law by Governor Knowles.	A bonding program to finance water pollution abatement & recreation programs for 10 years.
1970	American Heritage Ensemble Program established at Peninsula State Park.	Stage productions relating to our national and state heritage.
1971	Milt Reinke succeeds Al Ehly as the Director of the Bureau of Parks & Recreation.	
1971	Ice Age National Scientific Reserve established.	Composed of nine units: Devil's Lake, Interstate, Mill Bluff, Cross Plains, Chippewa Moraine, Two Creeks, Campbellsport Drumlins, Horicon Marsh, & Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
1974	Campsite reservation program begins.	
1975	10-million state park visitors.	
1975	Don Mackie appointed Director of the Bureau of Parks & Recreation.	
1979	Senior Citizen's Recreation Card.	
1981	Dave Weizenicker succeeds Don Mackie as Director of the Bureau of Parks & Recreation.	
1983	First Wisconsin Conservation Corp (WCC).	Project initiated on the Military Ridge Trail just west of Madison.

Camping in 1909 at what is now Wyalusing State park.

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey



from tourists and visitors.

5. "State parks are the only means of preserving, protecting and appropriately improving places of uncommon and characteristic beauty.

6. "Finally, these parks would make, as no other agency can, adequate and permanent provisions for wholesome outdoor recreation and pleasure. Who questions, nowadays, that simple recreation in the open air amid beautiful natural surroundings contributes to physical and moral health, to a saner and happier life?

"The issue appears plain. Is Wisconsin going to look upon its bay and lake shores, its rivers and bluffs, its dells, its inland lakes, its forests, as natural resources to be conserved and some portion at least acquired and held for the benefit of all the people — both for the present and future generations? Is the state to display foresight and act in time in this important matter recognizing and providing for the increase of population and steadfastly relying upon the increase of wealth?"

In 1915, the Legislature combined the State Park Board, the Conservation Commission, Forestry Board, Park Board, Fish Commission and the State Game Warden into one department controlled by a new three member state Conservation Commission.

Over the next dozen years there were successive reorganizations. First the number of conservation commissioners was reduced to one with state parks, forests and nurseries placed in a Division of Forests and Parks. Next, in 1927, the Legislature passed the "Conservation Act" creating a Conservation Commission of six private citizens to set policy for a Conservation Department, including the Forests and Parks Division.

The Depression brought Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps to eight parks: Devil's Lake, Pattison, Peninsula, Nelson Dewey, Copper Falls, Rib Mountain, Perrot and Interstate. The camps were operated jointly by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the Wisconsin Conservation Department. CCC personnel worked on buildings, roads, trails, parking areas, water and sanitary facilities and picnic areas.

The Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) also worked on projects similar to those undertaken by the CCC.

CCC and WPA crews worked in the state parks until the beginning of World War II when the programs ceased. During the war years no new parks were established and park attendance decreased markedly.

After the war, interest in parks increased. The Legislature passed the "State Park Bill," giving the Conservation Commission authority to acquire areas suitable for state parks (rather than requiring that each park be established by an act of the Legislature). The form and substance of this legislation is much the same as laws governing today's state park system.

By 1948, Wisconsin's Centennial Year, there were 23 state parks.

The park system entered a new era in 1961 when the Legislature passed the Outdoor Recre-

ation Act Program (ORAP). This precedent-setting legislation authorized spending \$50-million over 10 years for an outdoor recreation and resource development program to be financed by a one cent per pack tax on cigarettes. Of the \$50-million, \$33-million was designated for state park and forest recreation areas. Fourteen new state parks were added to the system under the ORAP program.

The 1960s also saw creation of an admission fee which became a source of money for park operations. Also in the 60s, Parks and Recreation became a separate division in the old Conservation Department.

Wisconsin pioneered a new approach to recreation in 1965 with purchase of an abandoned railroad line between Elroy and Sparta in Monroe and Juneau Counties. The 32-mile route was the nation's first use of abandoned railroad grades as public trails for hiking, bicycling, skiing and snowmobiling. The department now has 280 miles of trails on 10 separate, abandoned railroad grades.

A 1967 law combined the Departments of Conservation and Resource Development to create the present Department of Natural Resources (DNR) which is directed by a seven member board.

The 60s culminated with voter approval of an advisory referendum endorsing a 10-year extension of the ORAP program. The state legislature then appropriated \$56-million for outdoor recreation as part of a new ORAP, financed both by bonds and general tax money. This ORAP combination was extremely important because it provided for ongoing acquisition and development of state park's as well as sufficient operating funds to keep user fees low. Currently, the state's commitment to ORAP runs through 1991.

The Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, established in 1971, is another national first. It is a cooperative venture of federal, state, and local governments to preserve and interpret the effects of the glaciers. The Reserve is part of the National Park System but administered by DNR. It consists of nine separate units that span the state from Lake Michigan on the east to the St. Croix River on the west. Each tells an important part of the Wisconsin glacial story. Four of the units are existing state parks or forests: the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Devil's Lake, Mill Bluff and Interstate Park. Lands for the five other ice age areas are currently being acquired.

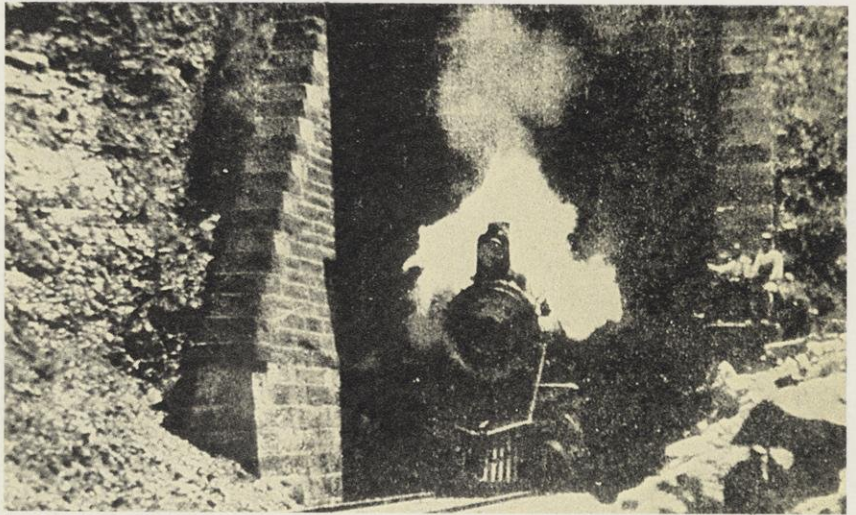
Wisconsin's citizens contributed to building the state park system. Their support will ensure continued existence of top-notch outdoor recreational opportunities alongside preservation of the state's outstanding natural resources.

One of Wisconsin's first residents, an Indian chief put it this way: "We hope you will use this land, but we cannot sell it. It belongs to others, to our fathers who entrusted it to us and to our children who will inherit it. We have its use for only a little while."

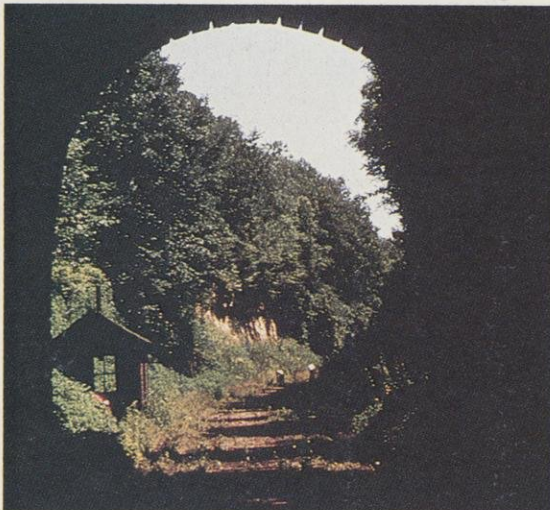
Use your parks and enjoy them. They'll be here for your children.



Interstate State Park in the early 1900s.



Iron horse steams out of the tunnel on the Elroy-Sparta line. Photo courtesy of Monroe County Historical Society



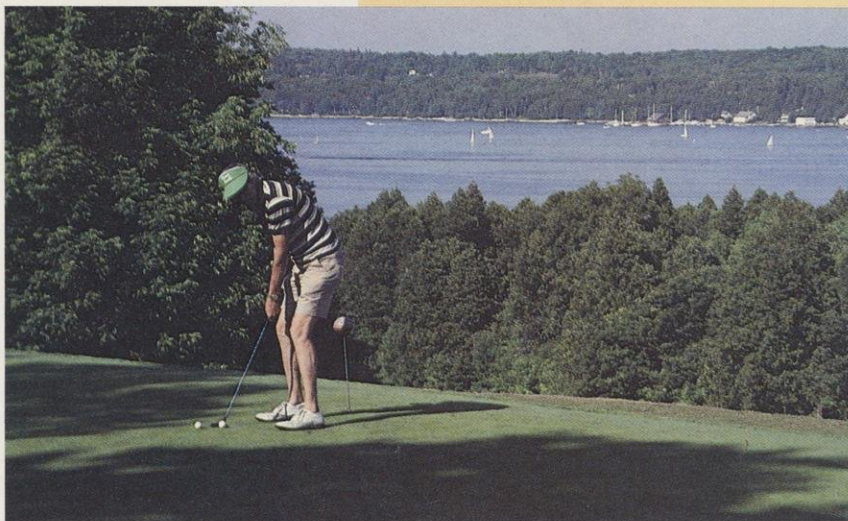
Looking out of the tunnel on the Elroy-Sparta State Trail near the Village of Norwalk. Photo by Karen Rogers

LAKE MICHIGAN

Sand beach at Newport State Park.
Photo by Harvey Stahl

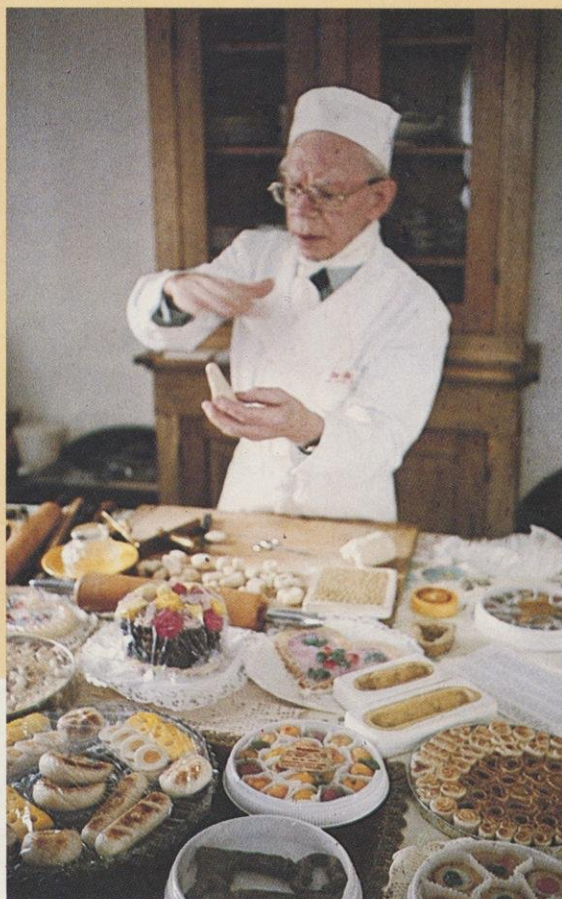


Golf course at Peninsula State Park.
Photo by Ellen Lambeth

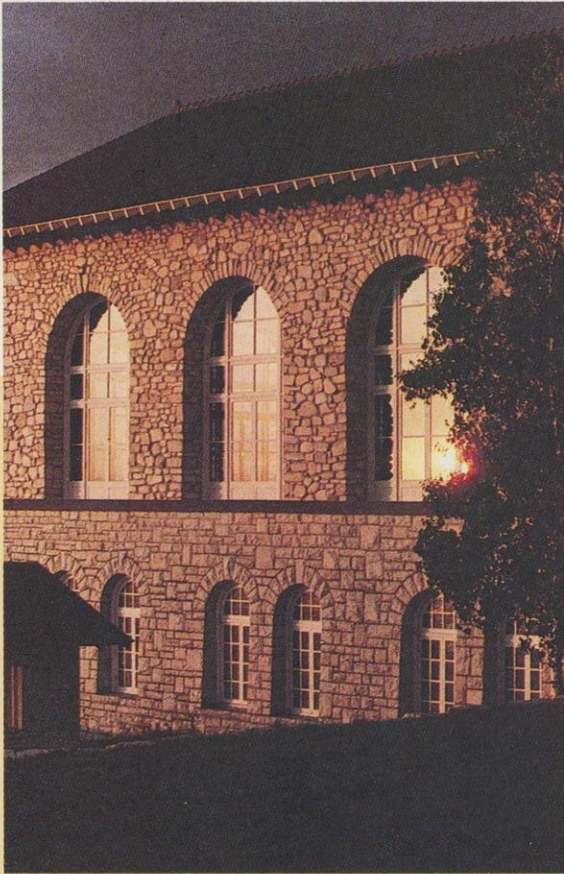


Shaggymane mushrooms.
Photo by Paul Peeters

Heritage Hill State Park ethnic celebration features German pastries.
Photo by Dan Rogers



Rock castle, Potawatomi State Park.
Photo by Leota Toms Kimpel



Rock Island State Park's
unique boathouse.
Photo by Jerry Smith

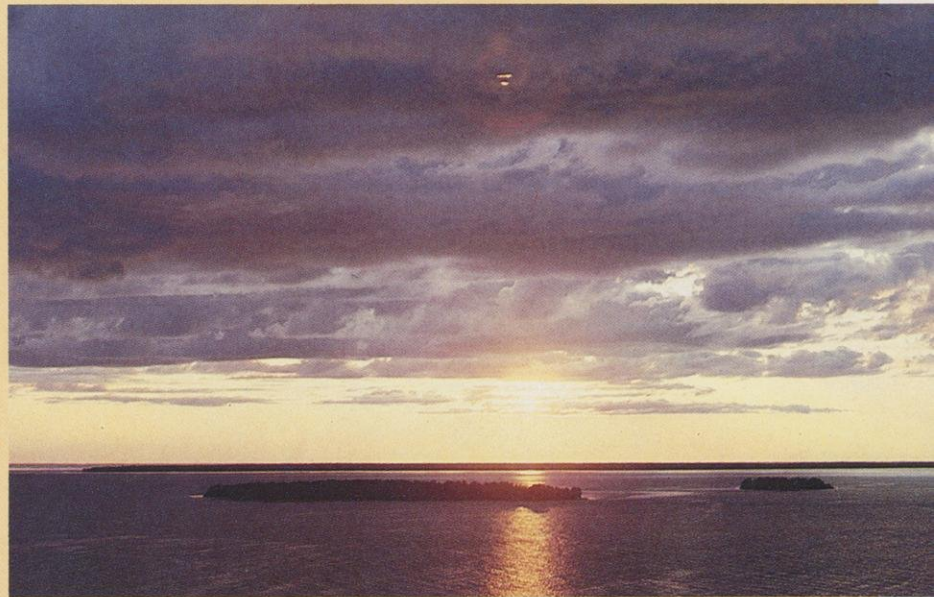


Whitefish Dunes.
Photo by Al Miller

*Parks are for people.
Parks are important for all people,
But-parks cannot be all things to all people.*

Dave Weizenicker, Director, DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Adventure, Little Strawberry ▶
and Chambers Islands
stretch into Green Bay off
Peninsula State Park.
Photo by Ellen Lambeth



Kohler-Andrae State Park.



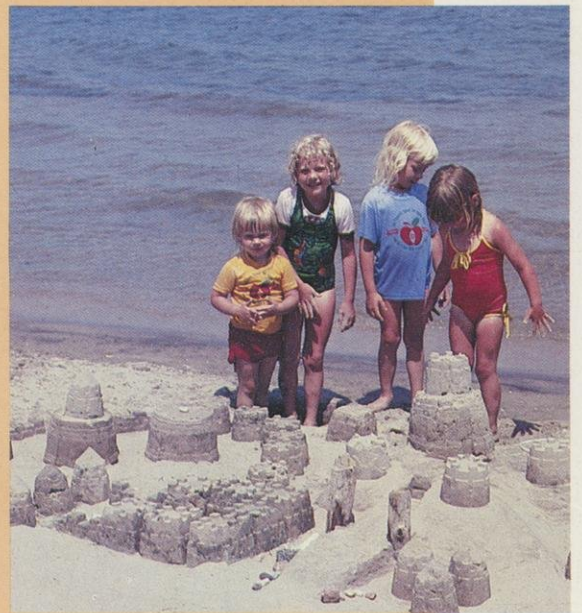
Violets at Potawatomi.





Harrington Beach in winter.
Photo by William Moorman

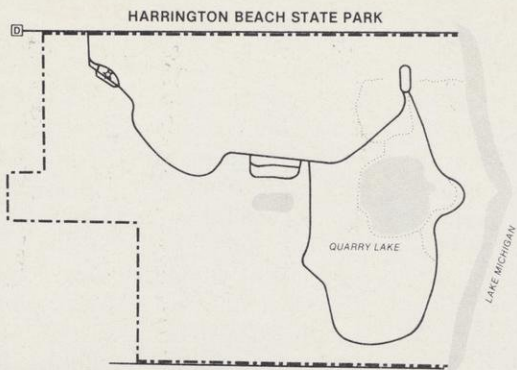
Quarry Lake hiking trail at
Harrington Beach.



Sandbuilders at Harrington
Beach.
Photo by Decker



The Harrington Beach
shuttle bus transports
visitors and eliminates
vehicular traffic.



Ahnapee

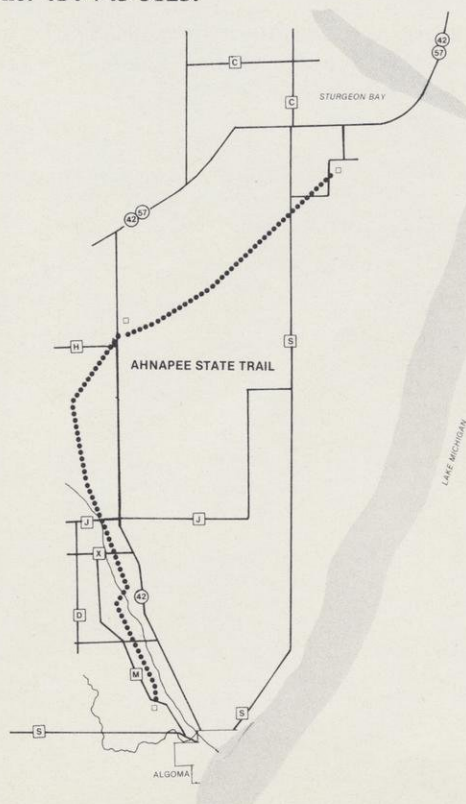
STATE TRAIL

ARNIE LINDAUER,
Superintendent

Ahnapee State Trail links the southern outskirts of Sturgeon Bay with the north end of Algoma. Another abandoned railroad grade that is part of the state trail system, it passes through the quiet villages of Maplewood and Forestville, stretching 15.3 miles among rich farmlands and dairy herds. At the southern end of the trail, a wooden bridge spans the Ahnapee River where waterfowl rest and feed. Trout and salmon also live here. Deer use the neighboring stands of cedar and pine. The Ahnapee is one segment of the 1,000-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Those of you in search of a quiet trip down a country lane should try the Ahnapee.

For more information write Potawatomi State Park, 3740 Park Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. Phone: 414-743-5123.



Harrington Beach

JOHN BERKEN,
Patrol Officer

STATE PARK

The background rhythm of Lake Michigan's waves is always present here and the park's different ecosystems — beach, forest, fields and quarry each has a seasonal cast of characters all its own. The month of May when the first buds appear is an ideal time to observe the migration of spring warblers. In late May visitors come to witness the park's new coat of green and rainbow of spring wildflowers.

In early June people on the beach begin work on their tans. Those brave enough to challenge the cold lake usually dance quickly back to shore.

Anglers fishing Quarry Lake can catch bluegills and an occasional bass.

Harrington Beach State Park has been designed to minimize the number of automobiles intruding upon the fragile lakeshore community. In summer a shuttle system operates on weekends and holidays to bring visitors into the use areas from the upper parking lot. The shuttle bus holds about 50 passengers and follows a 2½ mile route making four stops and distributing people throughout the park.

In late July and early August, Lake Michigan can warm up to a pleasant 68° when a brisk easterly wind blows. Swimmers, boaters, body surfers and rafters all show up to take advantage of the warmth. Sand sculptors, canal designers and castle builders revamp the shoreline.

Activities slow down by Labor Day and visitors come to see the bright bands of color that light the leaves.

Harrington Beach State Park is located along the shores of Lake Michigan about 10 miles north of Port Washington, Wisconsin. Motorists should take the Belgium-Lake Church exit off highway 143 and drive east about one mile on Ozaukee County highway D to the park entrance.

About 636 acres in size with about 200 acres of lakeshore woodland, the park has a mile of sandy beach on Lake Michigan. An abandoned limestone quarry on the property is filled with clear water and forms 26-acre Quarry Lake. Swimming is not allowed in Quarry Lake.

Harrington Beach State Park has four picnic areas, two shelters, hiking trails and a self-guided nature trail to explain local plants and animals. There are restrooms, changing rooms and parking for 250 cars.

The park is open from May 15 until November 1, 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m.

Inquiries can be directed to Harrington Beach State Park, Box 75A, Belgium, WI 53004. Phone: 414-285-3015.

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

Park maps by Jeanne Gomoll,
Charmaine Daniels,
Eugene Eaton,
Robert Lehrman,
Eric Weaver
and James McEvoy.

Havenwoods

STATE FOREST PRESERVE

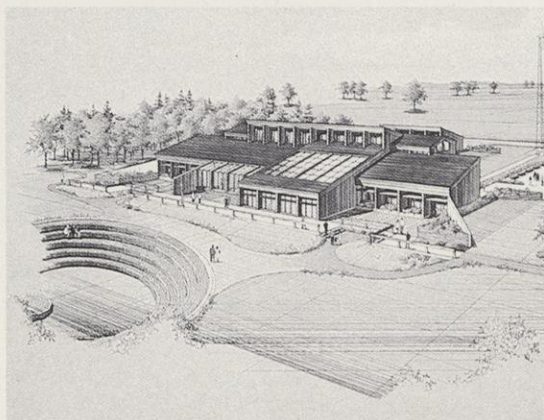
AL STENSTRUP,
Superintendent

The Havenwoods State Forest Preserve and Nature Center consists of 235 acres of open grassland and scattered trees located on Milwaukee's north side. Havenwoods is bounded by Silver Spring Drive on the south and Sherman Boulevard on the east. Entrance to the parking area is off Douglas Avenue (6200N) and Hopkins (4400W). The site is currently under development, but remains open all year from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The major focus at Havenwoods will be on urban environmental programs and nature-oriented recreation targeted to schools, youth groups, community organizations and families. Evening programs for adults and organizations interested in urban issues and natural resources will be developed.

Havenwoods is the most recent property to join the state forest system. The land was transferred from the City of Milwaukee to the Department of Natural Resources in 1979. This was the latest of many uses and transfers of ownership.

Neighborhood volunteers
built many trails.
Photo by Al Stenstrup



About the turn of the century Milwaukee County purchased the site from a farmer and built a House of Corrections. In 1945, the US Army acquired the property and used it as a disciplinary barracks for military prisoners. Later, Nike missile launching pads were constructed and when they became obsolete several other Army units moved in.

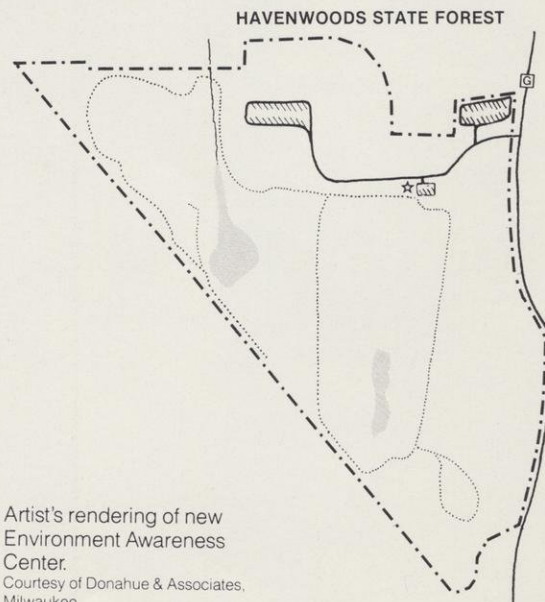
The whole complex of buildings was abandoned in the 1960s and demolished about 10 years later. From 1958 until 1970, 50 acres west of Lincoln Creek was used as a landfill by the county. In 1970, the Federal Government declared the land surplus and the City of Milwaukee became heir to it for park and recreation purposes. Nine years later it became Havenwoods State Forest Preserve.

A Citizen Advisory Committee with representatives from labor, business, neighborhood groups, schools, churches, parks and environmental organizations helped plan Havenwood's future use. It will feature an Environmental Awareness Center building to be constructed in 1984, wetland basins, educational and recreational trails, an environmental education resource center, a special events area and a children's playground.

More than three miles of nature, hiking and ski trails have already been completed. On-site educational programs are currently available to the public and organized hikes, field trips and evening programs are conducted. Special programs are available by reservation.

Volunteer activities are frequently scheduled including trail work, transplanting vegetation and seed collection. A volunteer organization, the Friends of Havenwoods, has been established to serve as a nucleus for the volunteer effort. Those interested in assisting should contact the Friends of Havenwoods, Box 09384, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209.

For schedules and information on activities write Havenwoods State Forest, Box 12436, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Phone: 414-562-9625.



Artist's rendering of new
Environment Awareness
Center.
Courtesy of Donahue & Associates,
Milwaukee

Heritage Hill

STATE PARK

DANIEL C. ROGERS,
Landscape Architect,
Green Bay and
BRIAN KAMNETZ,
Editorial Intern,
Madison

Heritage Hill is a living link with Wisconsin's pioneer days where historic buildings are preserved and early Green Bay and Wisconsin history recreated. Authentically costumed interpreters in the park play the roles of historic characters. Heritage Hill recreates the life and times of the Green Bay area from Jean Nicolet's dramatic landing at Red Banks in 1634 to the decline of the Victorian era around the end of the 19th Century. A variety of historic structures have been replicated there. They range from the state's oldest remaining home, the Roi-Portier-Tank Cottage built in 1776, to a Victorian gingerbread bandstand replicated on the village green.

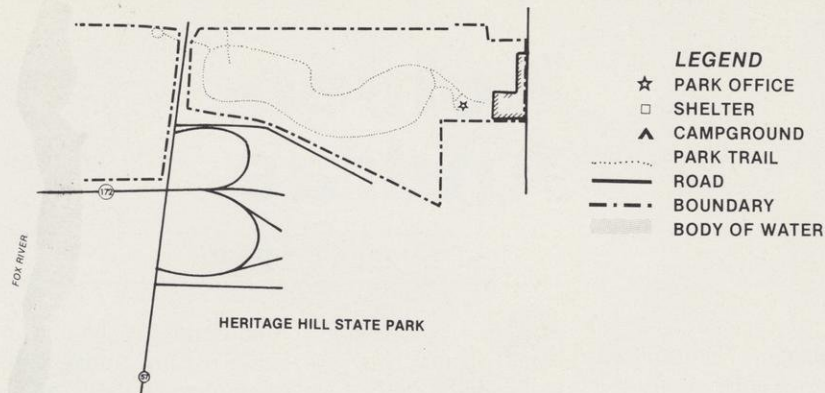
The park's 21 buildings are grouped into four historic theme areas that depict the region's Pioneer, Military, Small Town and Agricultural heritage. Park of the Pioneer life exhibit shows a replica of a French missionary bark chapel, an authentic fur trader's cabin and the first courthouse west of Detroit in which Judge James D. Doty presided in 1824. Military history comes to life in four early Fort Howard buildings. Two are originals. When built in 1816 the fort guarded the US claim to the old Northwest Territory. The site was formerly occupied by the French and then by the British prior to the War of 1812.

Included in the small town exhibit in addition to the Roi-Portier-Tank Cottage are an operating blacksmith shop, a building that once housed the first Federal Land Office west of Detroit and an exquisitely restored Moravian Church built in 1852. It is the oldest church in Green Bay and contains a working replica of the original pipe organ which played Moravian music on more than 500 pipes.

An exceptional example of Belgian farm architecture is currently being reassembled and restored at Heritage Hill as part of the agricultural display. When completed, the farmstead with five main buildings and appropriate out-buildings will re-create the agrarian life of the 1890s.

Visitors travel through the park in horsedrawn wagons and sleighs or on foot. Various gardens along the way show off flowers, vegetables and herbs grown by our ancestors.

An extensive schedule of special events and activities gives a taste of life in pioneer times. For



example, open air band and orchestra concerts feature 19th Century music. There is an old time Country Fair, an Independence Day celebration and a Civil War Encampment complete with realistic skirmishes between the Blue and the Grey. The Spirit of Christmas Past features a full range of Yuletide decorations and traditions. A calendar of all special events can be obtained by contacting the park office.

Heritage Hill is open daily during spring and summer and on selected weekdays and weekends at other times. A fee is required. Reservations for group tours may be made by contacting the park office.

For more information write Heritage Hill State Park, 2640 S. Webster Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54301. Phone: 414-497-4368.

Pioneer cooking at a
Heritage Hill County Fair.
Photo by Dan Rogers



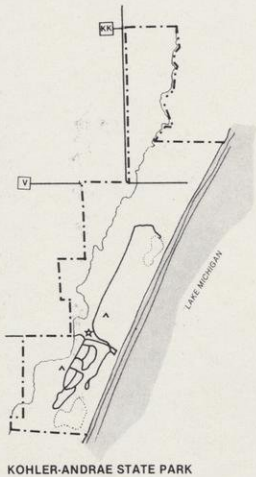
A Fort Howard Christmas.
Photo by Dan Rogers

Kohler-Andrae

JON R. COWAN,
Naturalist

STATE PARK

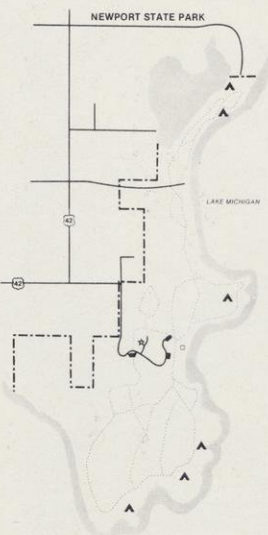
For more information,
write Kohler-Andrae
State Parks, Rt. 3,
Sheboygan, WI 53081.
Phone: 414-452-3457.



KOHLER-ANDRAE STATE PARK

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER



Sandy shores and rolling dunes are the major features here, therefore, it's not unusual to see a flock of youngsters exploring them on a "Dunes and Beachcombing" hike.

Their naturalist tells them that in mid-summer these dunes are hot and desert-like and that to survive, its plants and animals must adapt to the heat. The children stop to catch their breath and the naturalist spots the burrow of an "Earth-Wolf" or *Geolycosa* spider. They watch it creep down into its cylindrical tunnel to hide from predators and escape the fierce heat. The spider, they learn, will emerge when darkness falls to ambush unwary insects.

The group descends to the bottom of a sand "bowl" that forms a plain of moist sand and smooth cobbles. A sharp-eyed girl picks up a small chert fragment. Its sharpness contrasts with the water-worn smoothness of the other stones. Passing it from hand to eager hand, the young audience is enthralled to learn that many Indian artifacts have been found in the shifting dunes.

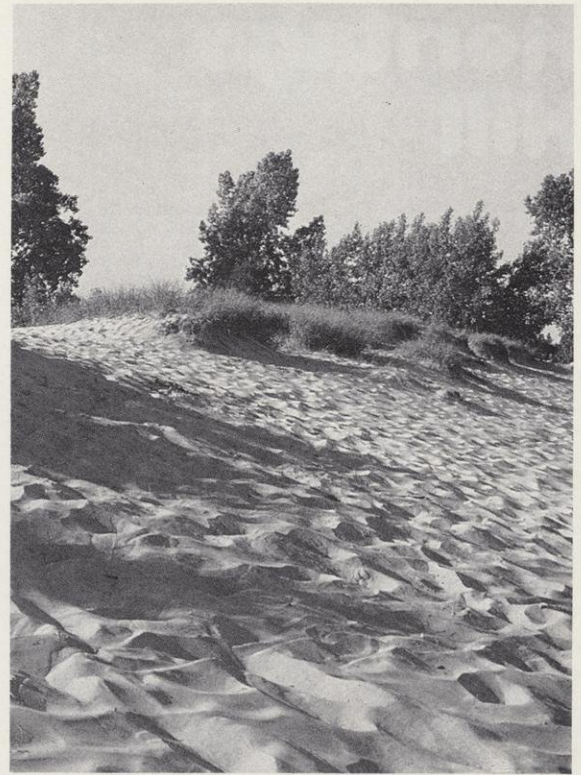
"Deer track," exclaims one of the older boys. The youngsters follow the ascending dune slope until the tracks are lost in the dry loose sand: one large pair and two dainty pair. The twin fawns were born last spring not far from the park's nature center.

Beachcombing along the cool Lake Michigan shore, the children wade in the shallow surf, picking up bright colored cobbles, noting their size, shape and texture. A nice example of fossil chain coral is found by a freckled seven-year-old. The naturalist tells her it is very ancient — much older than the dinosaurs! Their attention is captivated by swarms of ladybird beetles crowded on bits of driftwood scattered along shore. A flock of gulls takes off in a flurry of wings leaving a few feathers and many web-footed tracks in the sand.

A stiff east wind makes the water warm, and swimmers bob in the lake. Wind-surfers try their luck in the choppy water while sun-bathers gather warmth. A budding architect constructs an elaborate sand fortress, complete with moat and drawbridge.

Eventually, the young hikers arrive back at Sanderling Nature Center with their treasures of stones, gull feathers and sand-packed sneakers.

John Michael Kohler and Terry Andrae are two contiguous state parks administered as one unit. They cover 760 acres. There are 105 drive-in campsites, 52 of which are reservable. Open year-round, the parks offer many fine opportunities for nature study and other outdoor activity. Located just south of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the parks are easily accessible from Interstate 43.



Newport

STATE PARK

HENRY AHRNSBRACK,
Ellison Bay

Thirteen miles of Lake Michigan and Europe Lake shoreline whose beaches vary from beautiful white sand to boulder-strewn cobblestones are the park's prime attractions. The name comes from the pioneer village of Newport which once occupied the present beach-picnic area. A declining logging industry, coupled with an unrealized land speculation scheme caused the demise of the village.

The park is reserved for foot travel and has 28 miles of trail with topography that varies from level former farm fields to gently rolling hills. The overall range in elevation is only 50 feet with none of the slopes individually exceeding 15 feet.

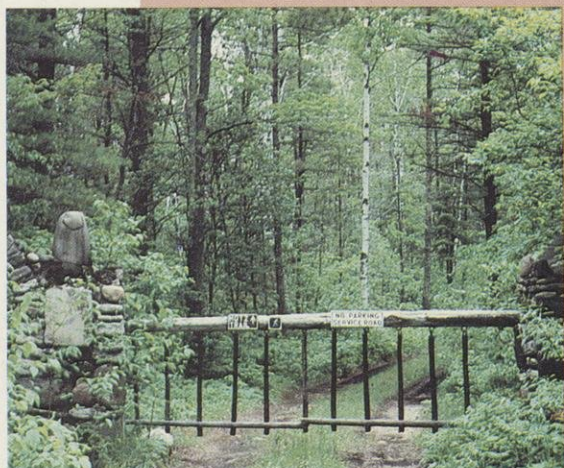
Newport is 90% wooded and has five general vegetation types — old farm fields reverting to meadow; lowland cedar, spruce and hemlock forest; upland beech, maple, birch, and oak forest; Lake Michigan sand dunes which provide habitat for rare plants; and a few pine plantations. The forest understory consists of small shrubs such as gray and red dogwood and numerous herbaceous plants. A remnant of the boreal forest has been set aside as the "Newport Conifer/Hardwoods Scientific Area." Scientific areas preserve the best remaining examples of plant and animal communities as they existed prior to settlement.

A lucky visitor might see porcupines, raccoon, deer, fox, coyote, rabbits, frogs, and some of the

The Lake Michigan beach
at Kohler-Andrae.



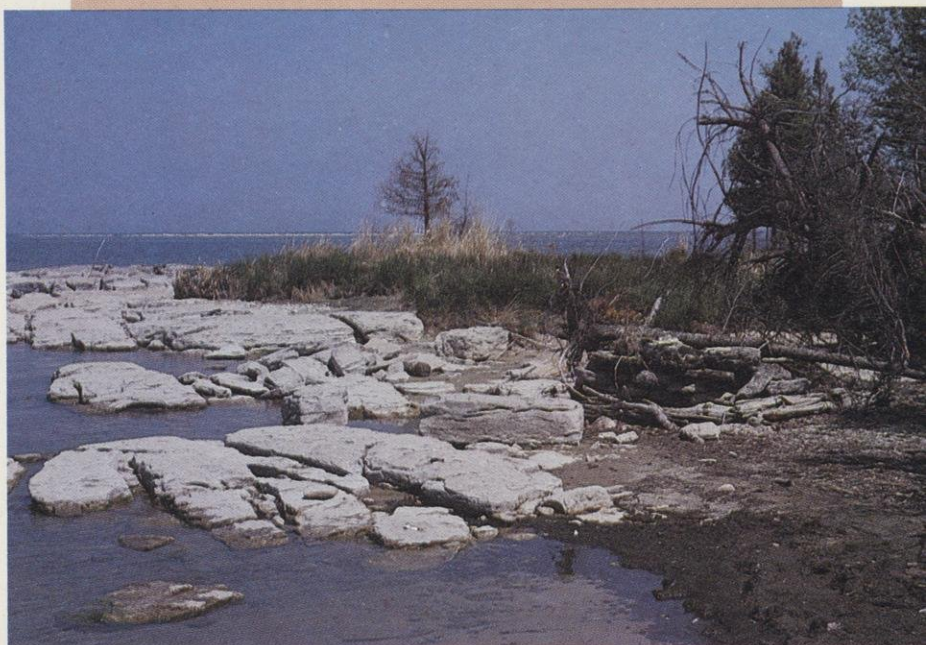
This rustic gate crosses
Hotz Trail at Newport.
Photo by Patrick Warner



As part of its wilderness
theme, Newport has only
backpack camping.
Photo by Patrick Warner



Newport shoreline.
Photo by Harvey Stahl



175 species of birds known to frequent the park.

Newport has a picnic area complete with well, tables, grills, and a shelter overlooking Lake Michigan. Ample parking is close by. Swimming on the excellent 3,000-foot sand beach is available for those so inclined. Changing booths are provided a short distance from the beach. No boat launching facilities are available.

In keeping with Newport's "semi wilderness" theme only backpack camping is provided. Sixteen sites are scattered throughout the park's 2,200 acres, anywhere from 1½ to 3½ miles from trailheads. Drinking water is available at the main picnic area. An open-air shelter is partially enclosed in winter to provide a warming house for cross-country skiers and other winter enthusiasts. Snowmobiling is prohibited. Motor vehicles are restricted to the park's half-mile entrance road.

People who enjoy observing nature close-up with little evidence of man's interference will appreciate Newport. The park is located in northern Door County five miles from the Village of Ellison Bay. To get there, go north and east on state highway 42 and Newport Road.

For more information write Newport State Park, 475 S. Newport Lane, Ellison Bay, WI 54210. Phone: 414-854-2500.



Bloodroot.
Photo by Ken Wardius



Yellow lady's slipper.



Columbine.
Photo by Ken Wardius



Eagle Lighthouse.



Spring beauties.
Photo by Ken Wardius

Peninsula

STATE PARK

*TOM BLACKWOOD,
Assistant Superintendent*

Door County, Wisconsin, that conspicuous "thumb" extending northeastward into the waters of Lake Michigan, has long been a favorite year-round destination for midwest vacationers. The reasons people come are as varied as the people themselves: art galleries, gift shops, sandy beaches, fish boils, theater, scenic roadways, lighthouses, shady walks, lively nightlife, bustling marinas and breathtaking views are all part of the Door County experience. Still, the county's number one attraction continues to be Peninsula State Park which has managed to preserve Door County's unique past even amidst the area's remarkable growth.

The park is a 3,763-acre forested haven that extends northward into the waters of Green Bay. Its expansive forests stand in stark contrast to the northern half of the county's rock strewn old fields, orchards and scattered stretches of hardwood forest and cedar swamp. The park gives the visitor a glimpse of the county's appearance before the onslaught of ax, plow and fire.

The primary vegetation is northern hardwood forest consisting of sugar maple, birch, oak, American beech, white pine, hemlock and balsam fir. White cedar is so common in the park it could vie with the yellow lady's-slipper orchid as Door County's symbol. Squirrel, raccoon, porcupine,

skunk, fox and deer are common in the park during any season. Bird watchers can add to their "life list" with pileated woodpeckers, ospreys and several varieties of hawks usually found far to the north in Canada. Colonies of gulls and cormorants can be seen on the Strawberry Islands, a short distance off the park's western shore.

Peninsula's natural features bring one million visitors to the park annually. Some come to use the 17 miles of hiking, 19 miles of skiing or 17 miles of snowmobile trails. Seventy-seven percent of the park is designated low use, natural area where solitude is easy to find. Those hoping to camp will, if they're lucky, be able to stay at one of the park's 467 scenic campsites distributed among four campgrounds. Reservations are almost essential during July, August and fall weekends. Social interaction can be found at Nicolet Beach, long a bustling meeting place for swimmers and boaters using the calm, cool waters of Nicolet Bay. Guarding the entrance to the bay is Horseshoe Island, a safe harbor and favorite gathering spot for boaters.

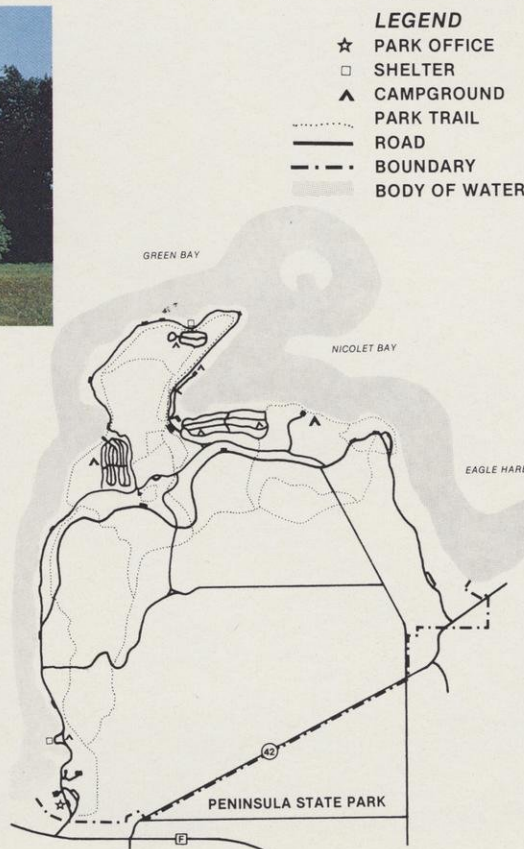
History buffs can tour Eagle Lighthouse (built in 1868), visit one of the park's three cemeteries or explore remnants of structures left by early settlers. History with a statewide perspective is dramatized through musical performances by the University of Wisconsin Extension's Heritage Ensemble during July and August in the park amphitheater. The area's natural history can be explored at White Cedar Nature Center, in a hike on the self-guided trail, or by participation in a naturalist tour or evening program.

The park has a challenging and scenic 18-hole golf course. A one-mile exercise course winds through the forest and a secluded tennis court is also available. Bicyclists can explore the most scenic sections of the park on the five-mile Sunset Trail, part of the park's nine-mile designated bikeway.

Visitors just "passing through" often take scenic drives on some of the park's 20 miles of shoreside and charming back roads. Spectacular views of the Lake Michigan shoreline and outlying islands can be seen from Eagle Tower and the many overlooks atop the park's extensive limestone escarpment. Visitors like to picnic under the pines or along quiet cobblestone beaches and stalk wildlife with a camera along the park's country lane back roads.

Each season at Peninsula Park has its own special blend of natural phenomena and preferred activities. Summer is a time to feel cool lake breezes, dodge the crowds, sleep under the stars, sit on the beach, get out in a sailboat, fish for bass from the Weborg dock or gather wild raspberries.

In fall, you can take a crisp walk, watch the first "northeaster" batter the shore, view bird migrations, brave cool nights and huddle around the campfire. In winter you can ski the far reaches of the park, track a fox in the snow, watch for birds retreating from Canada, pull trout through the ice, explore the park by snowmobile, or camp in solitude and marvel at the stark white beauty. Spring is a time to watch and listen to receding ice,





View from Sven's Bluff.

view hawk and warbler migrations, see the first wildflower and watch the change that comes when the county is again discovered by masses of summer visitors.

Peninsula State Park is located between the villages of Fish Creek and Ephraim. Of its 467 campsites, 73% are reservable and there are 100 electrical hookups. The park has flush toilets and showers, a trailer dumping station, two boat landings, a fishing and mooring pier and a sandy

beach with lifeguard. It is open year-round with camping reservations recommended from late June through Labor Day and on fall weekends.

To get to the park, take highway 57 north out of Green Bay to highway 42. Proceed northward to the park entrance in the village of Fish Creek.

For further information write Peninsula State Park, Box 218, Fish Creek, WI 54212. Phone: 414-868-3258.

The Ascent

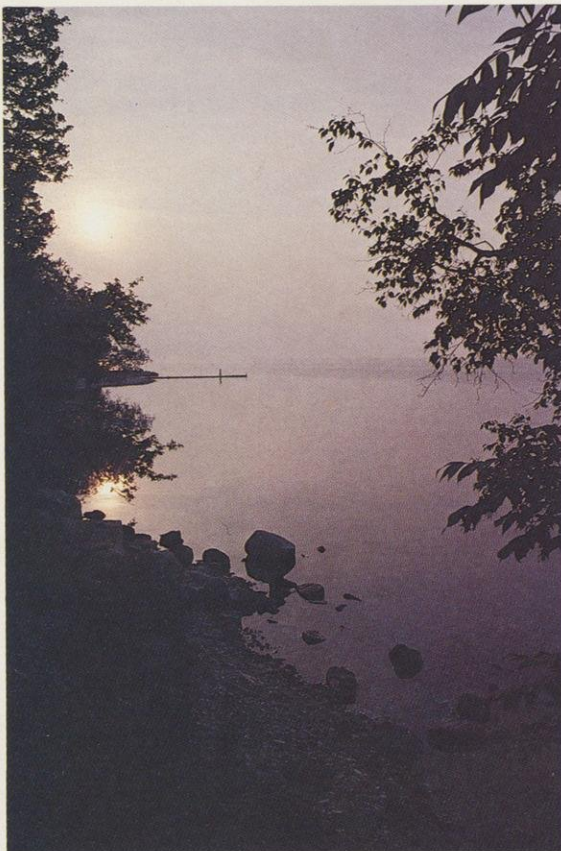
It's about 110 steps to one of the most spectacular views in Door County. From the top of the tower in Peninsula State Park, a lofty perch worthy of an eagle, one gets a great view of Ephraim, most of the islands of northern Green Bay, Peninsula State Park, Upper Michigan and even a small part of Lake Michigan.

There are as many ways to climb Eagle Tower as there are people making this pilgrimage. Some prefer to take it in one mad dash to the top. They arrive panting and spend most of their time at the top trying to catch their breath. Others walk to the top nonstop with much the same result. For the connoisseur who ascends the tower for the view, the best method seems to include a stop at each of the observation platforms which breaks the climb into manageable pieces.

In the middle of the ascent at tree-top level, sailboats on the bay, framed by the dead pine in front of the tower form a composition no photographer can pass up. At this level people begin to notice their less hardy comrades who stayed behind and are now enjoying the cold water from the hand pump across the road from the tower. Much shouting and waving in both directions accompanies this discovery.

The final assault on the top is undertaken with all the excitement and anticipation of a mountain climb. When the top is attained and "ohs" and "ahs" have been uttered, the sight of Wilson's Store across the bay causes many a gallant adventurer to gasp, "It's time for ice cream!"

*Bruce Mielke,
Door County Reminder*



Dawn.
Photo by Don Blegen



Ski trail at Point Beach.
Photo by Larry Ketchbaw



Shelter is a warming house for skiers at Point Beach.
Photo by Larry Ketchbaw

Sturgeon Bay at Potawatomi.
Photo by Leota Toms Kimpel



Point Beach

LARRY KETCHBAW,
Superintendent

STATE FOREST

From the first “cluck” of a wood frog to the hushed stillness of a new snowfall, Point Beach State Forest is an all season recreation area. It is located five miles northeast of Two Rivers on the western shore of Lake Michigan.

Geologically, the land here is comparatively new. It was only 3,000 years ago that post glacial Lake Nipissing receded enough to expose the first of the ridges and swales which give this area its unique character. Today, the six miles of sandy beach are studded with pebble “windows” which were carried in by the glaciers. Mixed with these are the fossils of sea animals which formed coral reefs in the warm seas that covered the area some 450 million years ago. The vari-colored quartz sands of the beach are scalloped with fine, black, magnetic sand. Wind and waves sift the contrasting colors into ever-changing patterns.

A point of land gives the forest its name. In 1836, Peter Rowley operated an Indian trading post near the forest headquarters. The point, which juts some seven miles into Lake Michigan, is still known as Rowley Point. The forest was a

popular gathering spot for Indians and several fine collections of artifacts have been found here. Rock chips, fireplace stones and other items still show up in dunes and wooded areas. Many of the local placenames like Mishicot, Nashotah and Manitowoc are of Indian origin.

By the middle 1800s, a flourishing shipping industry had developed on Lake Michigan. The ships were wooden hulled sailing vessels and the shallow waters off Rowley Point were the nemesis of many. About 30 of these old vessels foundered and broke up here after running aground during bad weather. Several pieces of these old wrecks can still be found along the beach — and the boiler of the steamer *Continental* is still visible just off shore. Rowley Point took its toll in lives and property before modern navigational aids made sailing the lakes less hazardous. There has been a Coast Guard lighthouse near the forest headquarters for 125 years. Its foghorn is now silent but its beacon is still a welcome sight to sailors.

Point Beach State Forest had a small beginning. In 1937 the federal government donated 70 acres to the state. Since then it has grown to 2,840 acres. The two major buildings, the headquarters and the lodge, were constructed in 1940-41 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The forest’s family campground is popular during summer and about half the sites can be reserved. Several have electrical and water hook-ups for recreational vehicles.

Summer recreation here is primarily water-

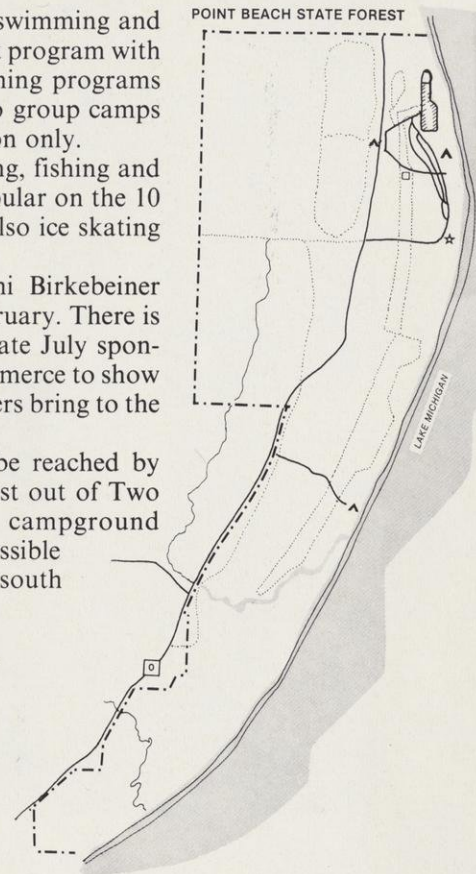
based — beachcombing, sunning, swimming and cooling off. There is a full naturalist program with a nature center, guided hikes, evening programs and a self-guided nature trail. Two group camps are available by advance reservation only.

In fall, emphasis shifts to hunting, fishing and hiking. Cross-country skiing is popular on the 10 miles of groomed trails. There is also ice skating and winter camping.

Special events include the Mini Birkebeiner cross-country ski race in early February. There is a Camper Appreciation Night in late July sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce to show appreciation for the business campers bring to the area.

Point Beach State Forest can be reached by taking County highway O northeast out of Two Rivers about five miles to the campground entrance road. Two Rivers is accessible via I-43 from either the north or south and from US 10 from the west.

For more information write **Point Beach State Forest, 9400 CTH “O” Two Rivers, WI 54241**
Phone: 414-794-7480



Potawatomi

STATE PARK

ARNIE LINDAUER,
Superintendent

Of the more than 70,000 acres of state park land in Wisconsin, Potawatomi claims 1,127 acres. Its flat to gently rolling terrain is bordered by steep slopes and rugged limestone cliffs along the Green Bay shore. Natural beauty is the park’s basic asset. Located in Door County 2½ miles northwest of the shipbuilding community of Sturgeon Bay, it features five rural farm vistas and a refreshing “return to nature” peacefulness.

Named after an Indian tribe that lived in the area, Potawatomi was at one time owned by the

Federal Government and originally intended as a naval base similar to the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. Fortunately, in 1928 the idea was abandoned and the land was sold to Wisconsin for \$1.25 an acre.

Today Potawatomi has 125 wooded campsites, 23 of which have electrical hookups. Half can be reserved. From July to mid-August reservations are a good idea.

A popular attraction is the 75-foot observation tower which raises viewers 225 feet above the water. On a clear day they can see Marinette, Wisconsin and Menominee, Michigan 16 miles across the bay as well as Chambers Island 20 miles to the northeast.

There are four large picnic areas and an enclosed shelter. All are located on Sturgeon Bay and although no lifeguard is present, swimming is allowed.

The park’s nine miles of hiking trails span a wide variety of terrain and vegetation. Trees include red oak, red and white pine, sugar maple, basswood, white birch, ironwood, aspen, white cedar and beech. There are also many wild-flowers. A half-mile “Ancient Shores” nature trail follows the edge of glacial lakes Algonquin and Nipissing which cut shorelines still visible 20 and 60 feet above the present level of Green Bay.

Niagara dolomite is the basic rock at Potawatomi and makes up the Niagara escarpment which is the backbone of the entire Door peninsula. The

exposed steep edge of the escarpment arcs more than 900 miles through Michigan and Canada all the way to New York where it supports the plunging waters of Niagara Falls.

Throughout the park there are big granite boulders brought from Canada by glacial ice. These dark colored, large crystallized “glacial erratics” are best seen among the cobblestones of the park’s shoreline.

Of the 200 species of birds seen here, 50 nest in or near Potawatomi. Most campers will attest to the presence of “thieving raccoons” and “friendly skunks” but there are also deer, fox, porcupine, squirrels, chipmunks, and rabbits.

Fishing is a year-round attraction and anglers report good catches of Chinook salmon, brown trout, perch, bass, walleye and northern pike. Fishing through the ice is also good. A boat ramp in the park gives access to Sturgeon Bay.

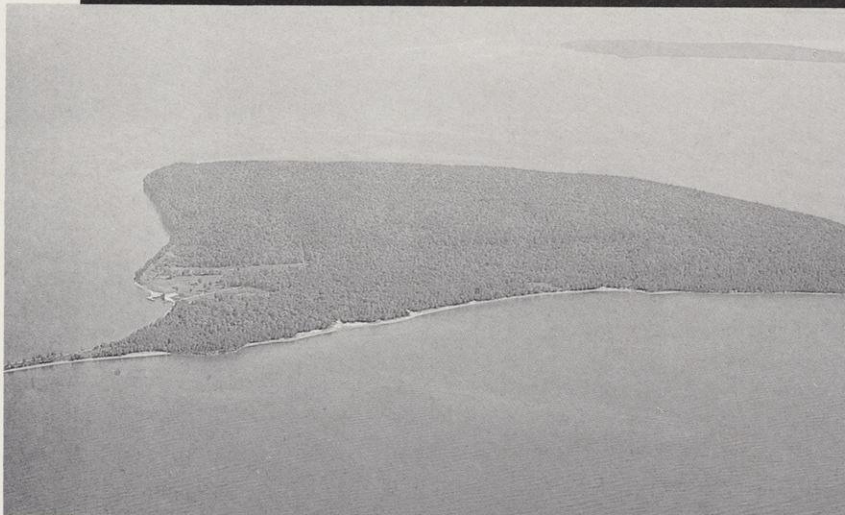
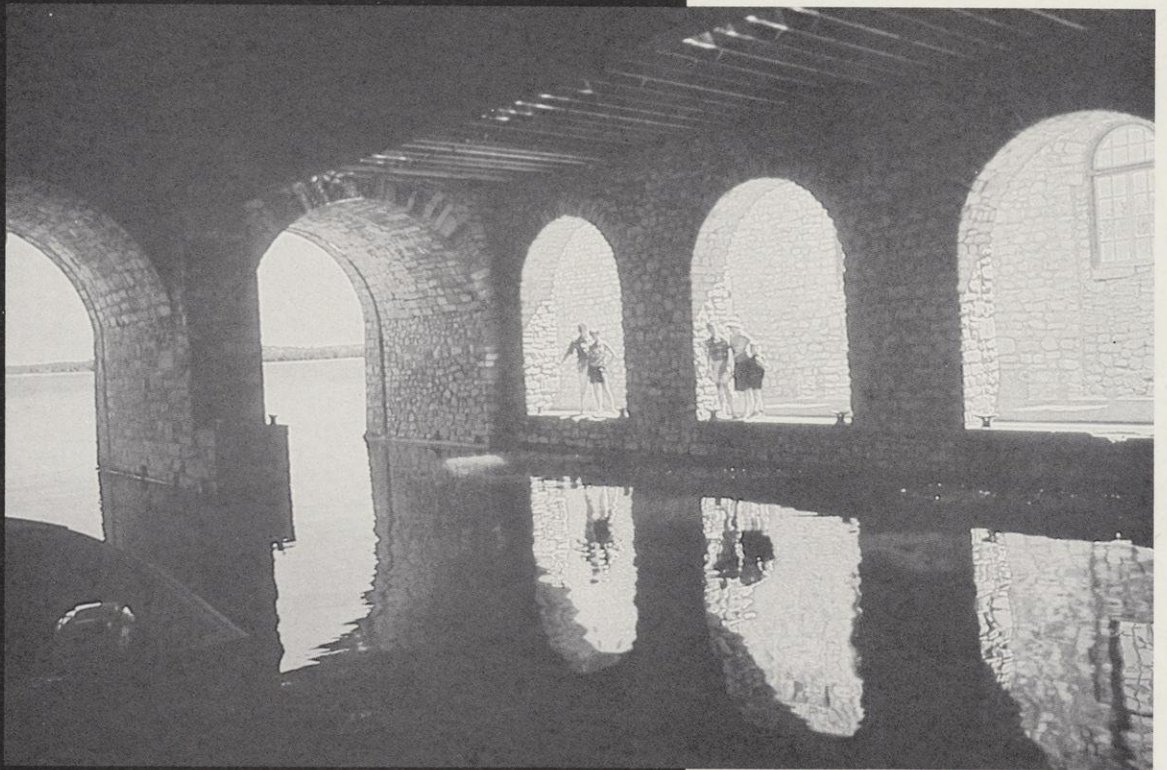
Wintertime at Potawatomi brings cross-country skiing on the park’s 10 miles of trails. Door County’s only downhill slope is at Potawatomi. Operated by a local non-profit group, the hill has a towrope, chair lift and snow making machines. A snowmobile trail runs through the park and connects with a countywide trail system. There is also winter camping.

For more information write **Potawatomi State Park, 3740 Park Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.**
Phone: 414-743-5123.

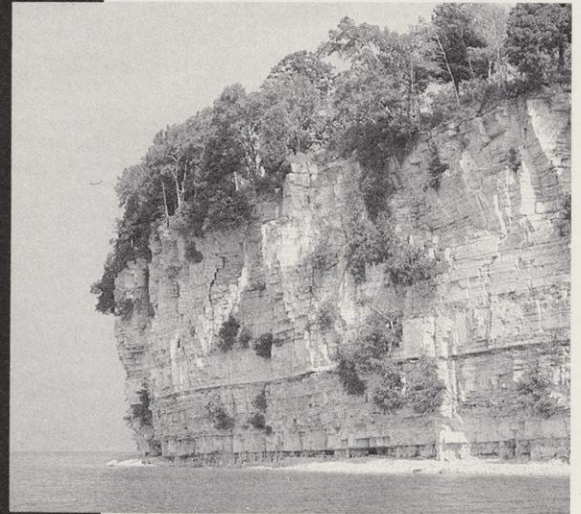


An oreboat passes Potawatomi enroute through Sturgeon Bay.
Photo by Leota Toms Kimpel

Interior of the
boathouse at
Rock Island.

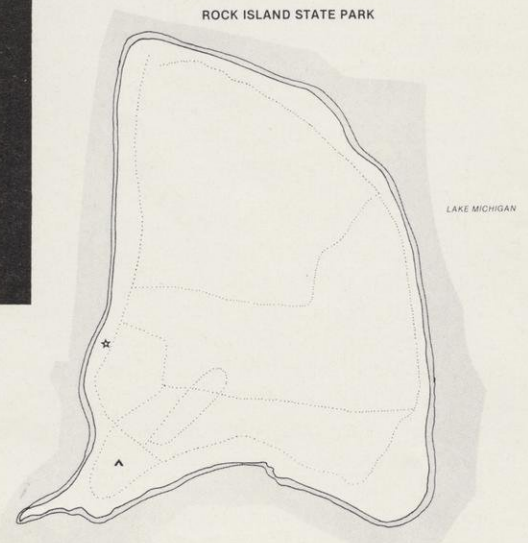


Rock Island.
Photo by Dean Tvedt



Wave action created the
Rock Island cliffs.
Photo by Tom Jessen

The Rock Island ferry.
Photo by Tom Jessen



Rock Island

STATE PARK

TOM JESSEN,
Superintendent

This park is located on the southernmost island of the Grand Traverse archipelago which stretches from Door County to Upper Michigan's Garden Peninsula. Archaeological digs by Lawrence College have found Indian artifacts here dating back 2,500 years. The earliest historic Indians were the Potawatomis. Hurons, Pitums, Ottawas and Chippewas also occupied the island. Excavations have uncovered evidence that in mid-September 1679, La Salle visited Rock Island aboard the *Griffon*, the first sailing ship on the Great Lakes. Also aboard was Father Louis Hennepin who wrote a description of this "Island of the Potawatomis" in his memoirs.

Rock Island was a trading post for the French and English until the War of 1812. In 1836, a lighthouse was built on the high bluff facing north. It brought the first white settlers. Later fishermen came and the island's population grew to about 200, but then declined. In 1890 the last fishermen and their families left for new homes on Washington Island.

In 1910, a wealthy Icelandic immigrant and inventor, H.J. Thordarson, bought most of Rock Island and over a period of 10 years erected the stone buildings that are now the focal point of the park. Among the structures is a large Viking Hall built above a boat dock. In 1945 Thordarson died. Twenty years later the 905-acre island was purchased by the state. Today, it is a primitive park, open to camping from May 1st to December 1st. There are 40 campsites and reservations can be made for the period from May 1 to September 30. The park is unique in that no motorized vehicles, other than necessary park equipment, are allowed.

Rock Island can be reached via ferry from Gills Rock, Wisconsin and from Washington Island. Visitors using their own boats should exercise caution because wind and waves come up very rapidly here. **For further information send a self addressed envelope to: Rock Island State Park, Washington Island, WI 54246. Phone: 414-847-2235 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

Whitefish Dunes

STATE PARK

JANET E. DUNLEAVY and
GARETH W. DUNLEAVY,
Sturgeon Bay

Lake Michigan toasts the New Year at Whitefish Dunes State Park with clinking dunes of ice that sometimes extend as much as 30 feet into the lake. Scattered across these winter dunes are rough-hewn crystal eggs filled with red and white grains of sand. Snow at the park increases daily, until the hardwood and evergreen trails are ready for cross-country skiers. Tracks of rabbits, deer, field mice, voles and weasels cross the trails. January and February bring sunny, bright weather that neither beginning nor veteran skiers can resist. Those unfortunate enough to fall on the trail always try to pull snow in from the side to patch the hole they made. By March, sun penetrates the snow crust and melts its icy base. The trees bud out and winter ends.

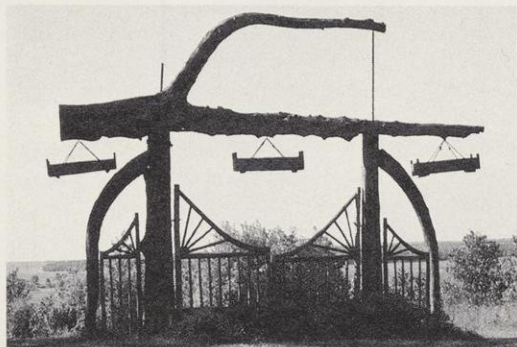
Spring is fickle at Whitefish Dunes. The snow melts. It snows again and winter returns. Melts. Snows and finally melts. Free of ice at last, the creek rushes to the lake. A white-throated sparrow sings. Red-winged blackbirds and kingfishers return. Black-and-white warblers, nuthatches, marsh hawks and catbirds follow. Spring fishing starts. Trillium, a favorite spring snack of the whitetail deer, blossoms. Wild strawberries flower near Old Baldy, the park's largest dune. Wild cherry trees blush with promise and then (usually the last week in May) bloom oyster-white. Wild apple follows in pink.

Pretty soon the beach is full of barefoot joggers, swimmers, frisbie-throwers and picnickers. It's suddenly summer at Whitefish Dunes State Park.

Along the shore are tall white pines that escaped the logger's axe three-quarters of a century ago. Inland from them are oaks and maples. Along the edges tangy thimbleberries get ripe at the end of summer just before the blackberries.

Fall's show at Whitefish Dunes is the most flamboyant. Mirrored in the creek, scarlet maples and buckhorn sumac, yellow thimbleberry, red-maroon blackberry and spotted yellow aspen fade gradually until early November when only the solitary greenness of cedar remains. Overhead hundreds of Canada geese hold their traditional V formations as they head southwest.

By November, trees are bare, the sky is gray, and early morning sheets of ice begin appearing in the marsh. Daylight fades sharply between four-thirty and five in the afternoon. Along the deserted beach the lake is striped with alternating bands of slate and silver; the shoreline shows



This gate is a Rock Island landmark. Photo by Tom Jessen

where last week's fierce waves chopped into the grassy ledge above the sand. Shattered turtle eggshells appear in the sand bank. Did they hatch or were they plundered?

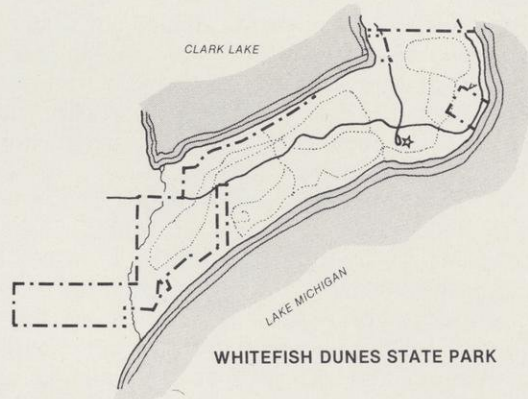
Snow falls again. Soon it's Christmas and the cycle begins anew.

Whitefish Dunes State Park has more than 10 miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails. All trails start at and return to the trailhead near the parking lot. If you park in the lot, you'll need an admission sticker. You can get the sticker at park headquarters or at the public contact station. And if you bring a pet, also bring a leash. Only wild animals are allowed to run loose in the park.

There are four different trails ranging from 1.8 to 4.2 miles long. One trail has a restroom at the half-way point. The trailhead also has a heatroom for skiers.

For more information write Whitefish Dunes State Park, Rt. 3, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. Phone: 414-823-2400.

- LEGEND**
- ★ PARK OFFICE
 - SHELTER
 - ▲ CAMPGROUND
 - PARK TRAIL
 - ROAD
 - - - BOUNDARY
 - BODY OF WATER



Winter works magic at Whitefish Dunes.
Photo by Al Miller



Wisconsin Olympic Ice Rink

ILSE ERHARDT,
Member,
Board of Directors,
Ice Rink Operating Corporation

The Olympic Ice Rink in Milwaukee is one of only two 400-meter refrigerated rinks in North America. Mostly a training facility, it is the main reason the US Olympic Speedskating Team has won more medals in the last four Winter Games than all other US winter sports teams combined. Eric Heiden of Madison, Wisconsin trained here and credits his record-setting five-medal performance in the 1980 games to the availability of the Milwaukee rink for practice.

Built in 1966 at a cost of \$800,000, the ice rink became a state park in 1976 when it was transferred to DNR from State Fair Park. Its facilities there include a combination warming house and changing area, and bleachers.

In the past, operation of the rink was financed through admission charges plus funds from DNR. However, when increased expenses and state funding cutbacks forced DNR to withdraw financial support, an operating corporation was formed to manage the rink. Funds now come from the Wisconsin Olympic Ice Rink Foundation, admission fees, rink rentals and public and private donations.

The rink is open daily to skaters and their coaches. It provides training time for the novice as well as World and Olympic-class competitors. The rink gives beginners some rare opportunities to mix with and learn from those more accomplished and proficient.

Three world championship meets have been held here and it is also the site of final time trials that pick US Olympic speedskating teams.

The rink is open to the public on several week-day evenings and on weekends. Special events here, such as "Kids On Ice" financed by Rexnord, Inc., have put over 14,000 Milwaukee-area school children on skates, many for the first time.

Admission price for adults is \$1.25, and \$1.00 for juniors (age 16 and under). Skates can be rented for 50¢, and a skate sharpening service is available. Group rates are offered to organizations.

The daily schedule of the Olympic Ice Rink can be obtained by phoning 414-476-3030 from September through March.

For more specific information write Wisconsin Olympic Ice Rink Operating Corporation, P.O. Box 15105, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Phone 414-476-3068.



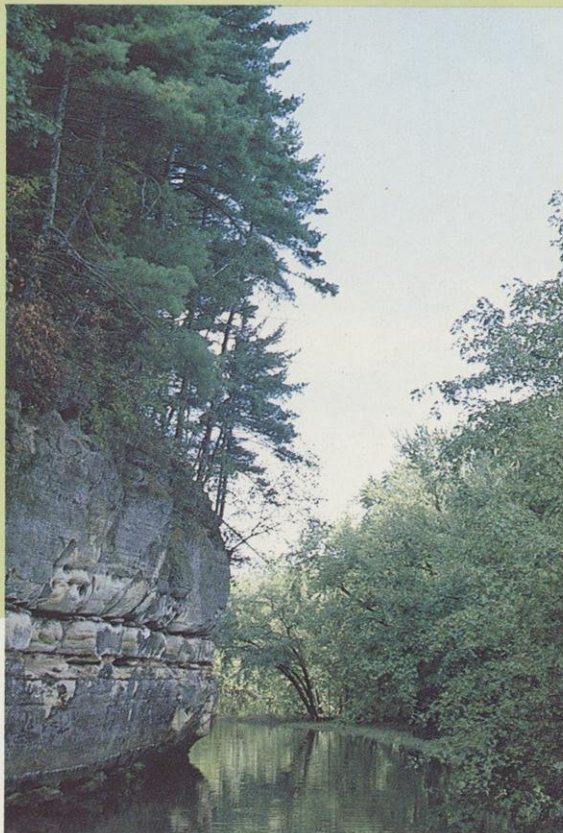
Champion Eric Heiden
circles the Olympic Ice
Rink.



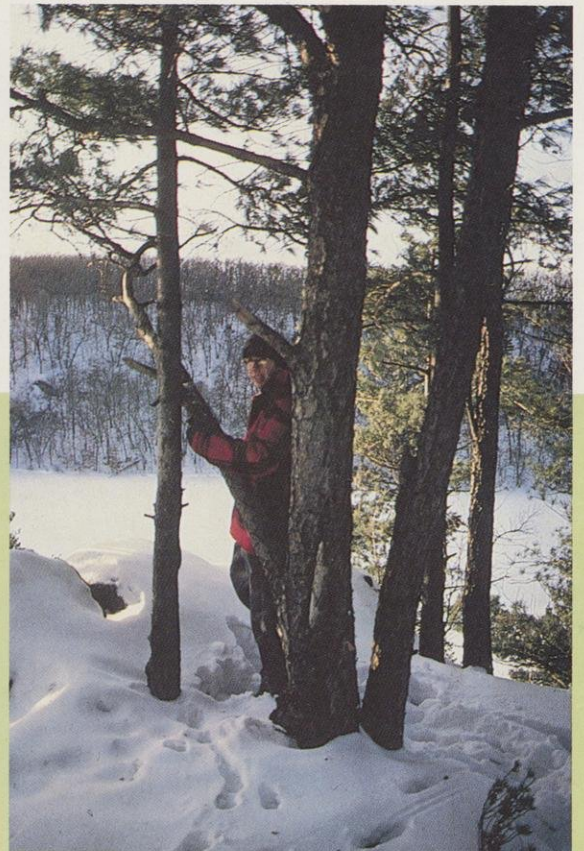
Chair lift at Rib Mountain.



Outing at First Capitol State Park.
Photo by David Cline



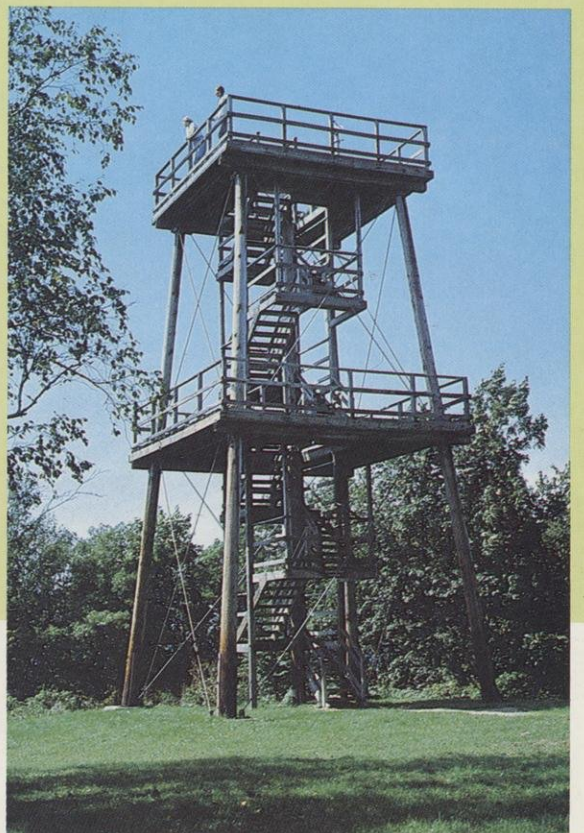
Mill Creek leads to the Wisconsin River from Tower Hill State Park.
Photo by Dennis Weibel



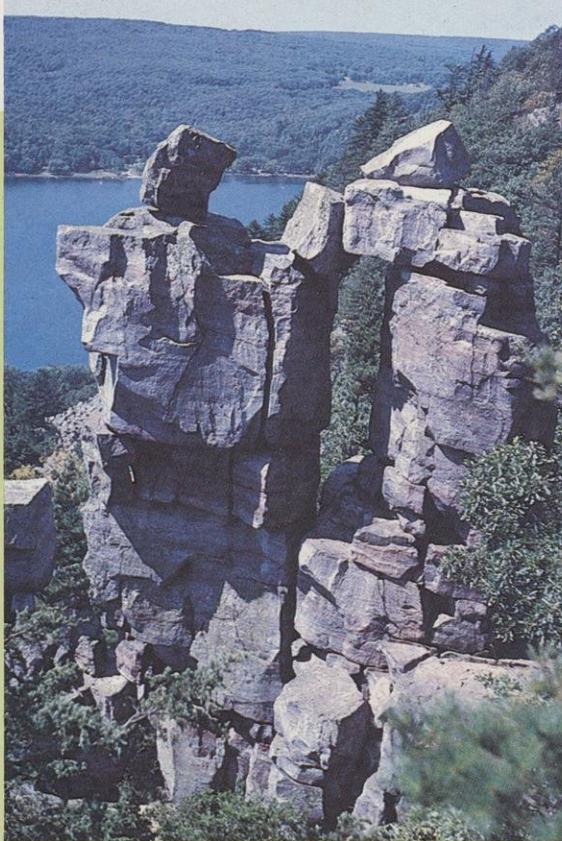
Winter at Cox Hollow Lake in Governor Dodge Park.
Photo by Kurt Scholz

 **Wisconsin State Parks**
Explore & Enjoy

Observation tower, Blue Mound.

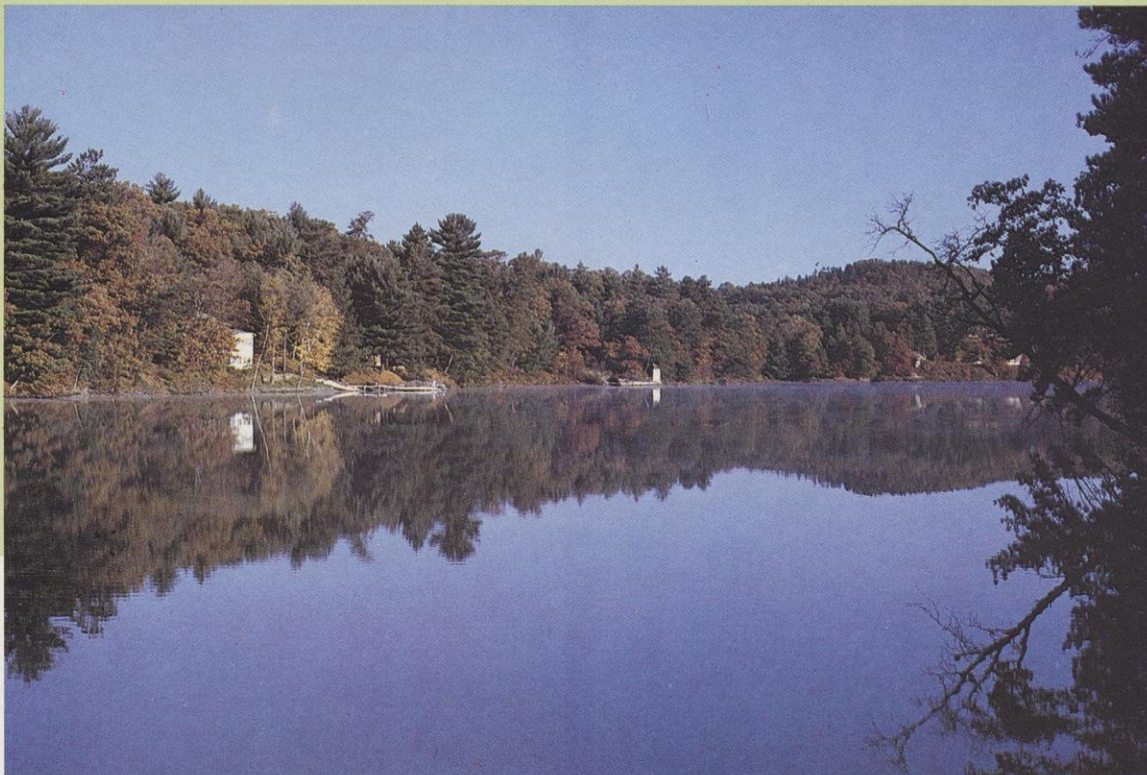


WESTERN UPLANDS

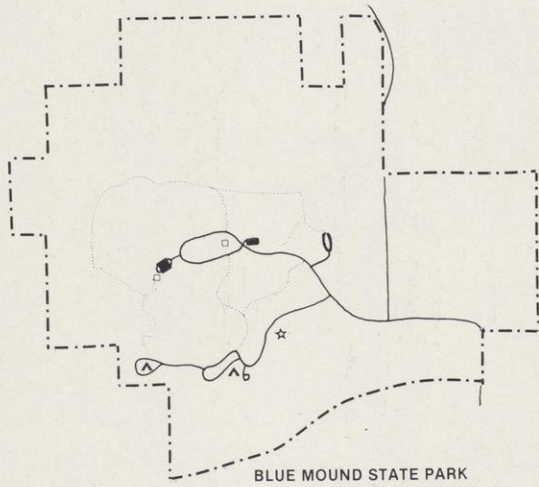


Devil's Lake.
Photo by Dean Tvedt

Fawn at Lake Wissota.
Photo by Norm Pazderski



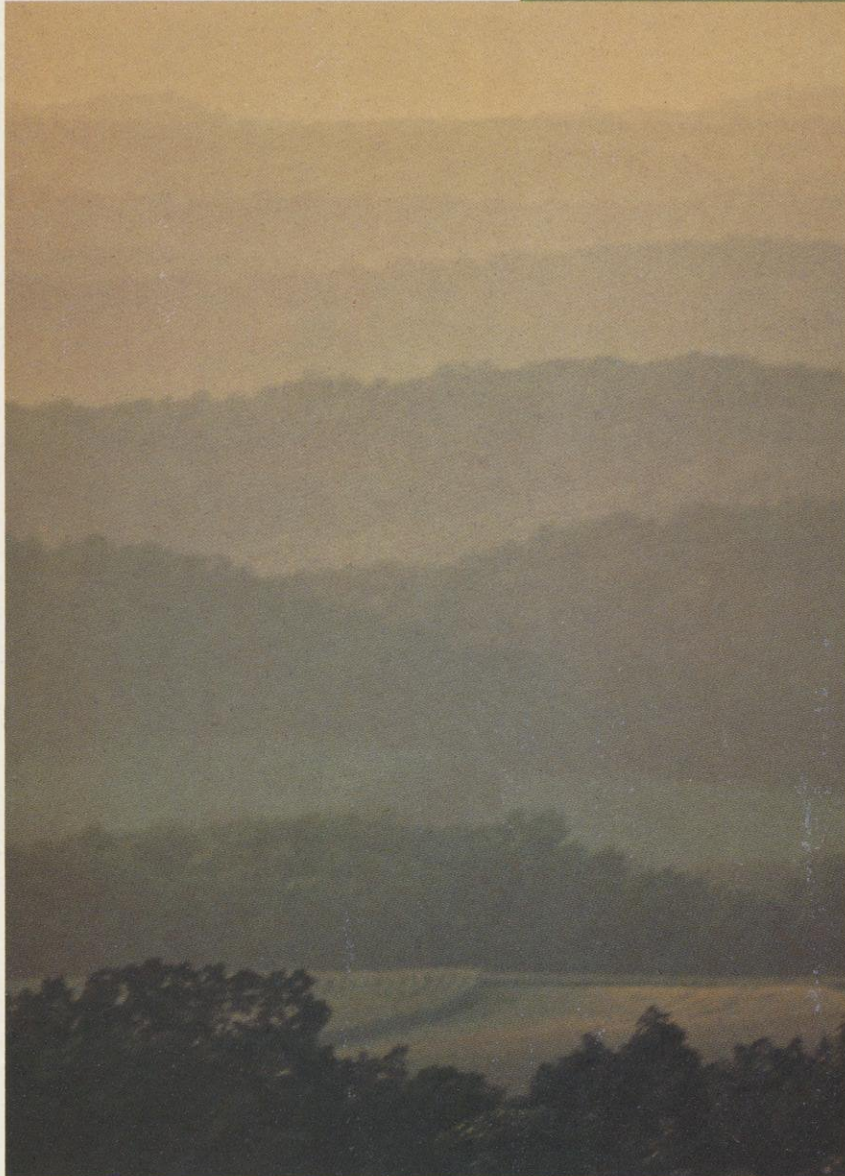
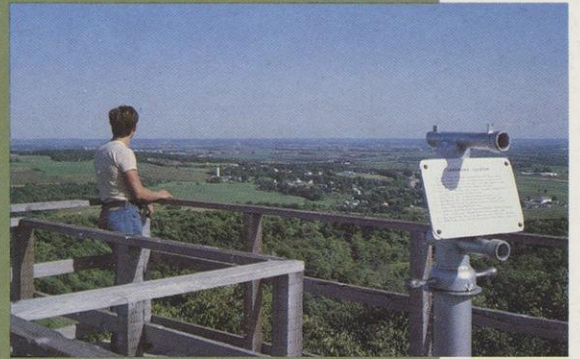
Mirror Lake.



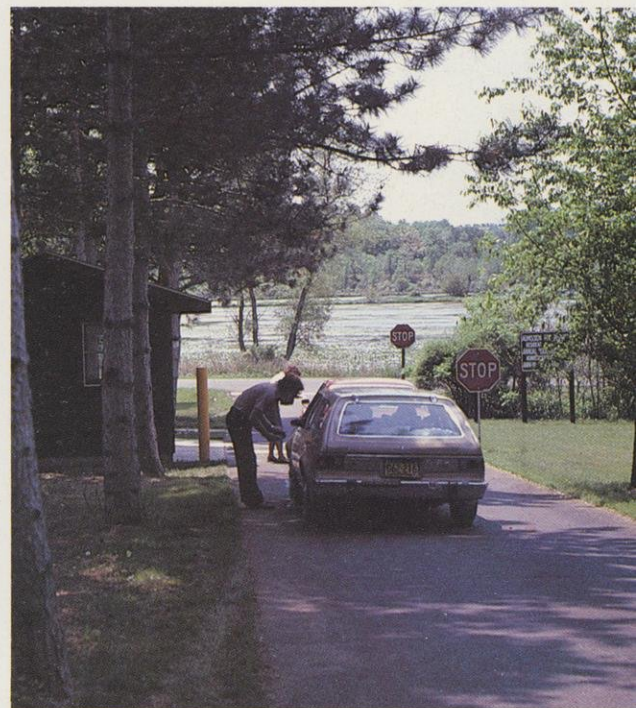
The only swimming pool in a state park is located at Blue Mound.

Blue Mound overlook.

Sunset at Blue Mound.
Photo by Dean Tvedt



Entrance to
Browntown-Cadiz Springs.



Blue Mound

STATE PARK

NORBERT KARR,
Superintendent

Blue Mound is the highest point in southern Wisconsin, 1,716 feet above sea level. When viewed from a distance of several miles, the mound appears bluish-gray, hence the name.

The park was established in 1959 and covers almost two square miles. It has a picnic area with restrooms, children's play equipment and a large mowed open field for baseball, football, soccer, kite-flying and similar activities. There are two open shelter buildings, one with electricity that may be reserved for group gatherings.

Unique to Wisconsin state parks is Blue Mound's big outdoor swimming pool, open daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Depths range from three to 11 feet. There are one and three meter diving boards, a wading pool for children, and a bathhouse with changing rooms, showers and lockers.

Blue Mound has 78 family campsites with firewood and basic camper supplies available. Reservations are accepted for 50% of the sites from May 1 through September 30.

Forty foot observation towers at the east and west ends of the picnic area offer panoramic views of the surrounding country. Many other vistas are easily accessible at ground level.

Deer and numerous smaller mammals are often seen and more than 100 different species of birds have been observed in the park. Several miles of hiking and nature trails allow visitors to explore less developed areas. A naturalist program with guided hikes and evening programs is offered each Saturday during the summer.

Although the campground is closed November through March, the rest of the park is open year-round. There is cross-country skiing on seven miles of marked trails during winter. Trails suitable for both novice and advanced skiers wind through deep forests and open fields.

Blue Mound State Park is located about 25 miles west of Madison off highway 18-151.

For more information write Blue Mound State Park, Box 98, Blue Mounds, WI 53517. Phone: 608-437-5711.

Browntown-Cadiz Springs

STATE RECREATION AREA

REYNOLD ZELLER,
Superintendent

The topography of southwestern Wisconsin's driftless area is different from the rest of the state. Here instead of the characteristic bogs, marshes and lakes there are rolling hills and spring fed valley streams. In Green County, impounding one of these streams formed two small lakes and the recreational demand that developed around them led to establishment in 1980 of the Browntown-Cadiz Springs Recreation Area.

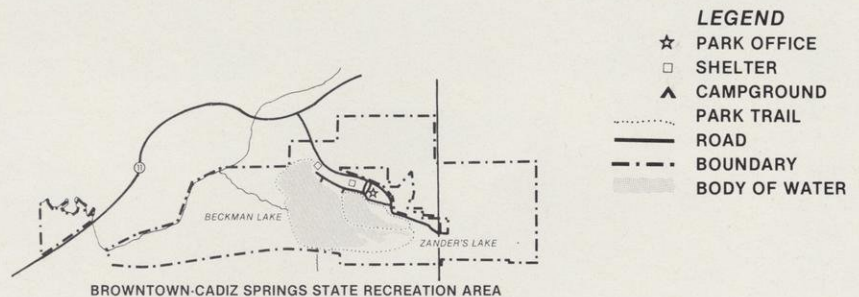
Today, the two lakes, Beckman and Zanders attract anglers, swimmers, picnickers and hikers. Zanders is stocked with rainbow and brown trout. Beckman contains northern pike. And both lakes have fine populations of largemouth bass and panfish.

Beckman Lake has swimming at its fine sandy beach and both lakes have canoeing and sailing. Because the combined surface area of the two lakes is only 95 acres motorboats are not permitted.

Browntown-Cadiz Springs has a full complement of day-use facilities. Parking is convenient and picnic areas all have a lake view with shelters, tables, grills, water and restrooms. There is no camping.

The 629 acres which surround the park include a mile-and-a-half hiking trail around Beckman Lake and a 30-station interpretive nature trail at Zanders Lake; however, there are no designated trails through the wildlife area. Terrain varies from upland fields and forests to lowland streams and swamps and provides an array of vegetation and wildlife that will challenge the experienced naturalist and delight the novice.

For more information write Browntown-Cadiz Springs, Pleasant View Annex, N3150 Highway 81, Box 256, Monroe, WI 53566. Phone 608-325-2922 summer and 608-325-4844 winter.





Rock-hopping on the Wisconsin River, Council Grounds.
Photo by Rick Prange



Fishing attracts many visitors to Council Grounds.
Photo by Rich Prange

Council Grounds

STATE PARK

PEG R. SYBELDON,
Lifeguard

Council Grounds State Park near Merrill is living history, punctuated by second-generation white pine, gentle hills and stone outcroppings along the Wisconsin River.

There is evidence that a native village was established here about 600 AD in what is now the east picnic area. According to ethnologists, the people who occupied it were Woodland Indians, a peaceful and nomadic group who lived efficiently from the land as farmers. They raised corn, beans and squash. Their houses were simple, made of wood framing, bark and mats that were often moved with the band.

The French fur trade in the Upper Great Lakes in the 1600s changed Indian lives throughout the region. Because of it, the Upper Lakes Chippewa settled northern Wisconsin as far south as Wood County. In the mid-1600s this brought Chippewas to Council Grounds. They established a village in approximately the same area as that occupied by earlier Woodland Indians. These Chippewa were also nomadic, summering in villages of 25 to 30 people. Extended families separated in the fall to gather wild rice and then spread out even further in winter so the land could support them with hunted game. In spring, they regrouped to make maple sugar and in summer the entire village gathered again on the banks of the Wisconsin River to raise their crops.

Starting in 1829, the area that now comprises Wisconsin was acquired from various tribes by 11 treaties of cession. The land that includes Council Grounds was negotiated at St. Peter, Minnesota in 1837. The rest of Wisconsin's land cessions were completed by 1848.

This paved the way for the logging industry. However, the 425 acres that are now Council Grounds remained in the public domain until 1880 when it was purchased from the US Land Office by Thomas B. Scott, a businessman and early Wood County politician. Two years later, Scott sold 504 acres, including Council Grounds, to the Jenny Boom Company, which later became the Merrill Boom Company. This firm operated and maintained dams, piers and booms on the Wisconsin River to transport and separate logs en route downriver to Merrill mills and others further south. It went broke in 1913 and the Milwaukee Land Company of Iowa bought the firm's 1,115 acres and continued logging operations until 1923. Logging ended when the land was sold to the Wisconsin Valley Electric Company.

In 1924, the City of Merrill purchased the

Council Grounds State Park site and named it Wildwood Park. Fourteen years later Merrill turned the property over to the state for one dollar. By 1964 facilities included a 19-unit campground, several picnic areas, a shelter building, boat landing and a one-mile hiking trail. Since then the campground has been relocated and expanded to 55 sites and two bathrooms with running water and flush toilets. One bathroom has hot water and showers. Seventeen campsites have electricity and 26 can be reserved between May 1 and September 30. Camping starts in early May and ends in mid-October.

What was the original campground is now a unique drive-up picnic area. Altogether there are 13 acres of picnic area and a shelter building with two stone fireplaces.

The 217-foot beach has changing stalls and lifeguards.

There are two miles of hiking trail, a one-mile, self-guided nature trail and a 10-stop, physical fitness trail.

Twenty-one acres of second growth white pine which seeded itself after hardwoods were logged at the turn of the century have been set aside as the Krueger Pines Scientific Area.

The name "Council Grounds" is a reminder of the park's history commemorating the annual councils of the Chippewa village held here 300 years ago. Today, a walk to the Wisconsin River might pass a berry patch that fed those Indians. An angler might still catch the panfish—walleye, bass, northern and muskie the Chippewa caught. When the water is low, remains of the dams and piers used by the Merrill Boom Company can still be seen along the bank.

The park is within a day's drive of the Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Duluth-Superior metropolitan areas.

For more information write Council Grounds State Park, 1110 East 10th Street, Merrill, WI 54452. Phone: 715-536-4502.

Devil's Lake

STATE PARK

KEN LANGE,
Naturalist

Arthur Ziemer had an idea. In 1894, at the age of 23, he formed the "Palisade Park Company" and began selling lots on the west bluff overlooking Devil's Lake. An observation tower and several cottages were built, but then in 1895 tragedy struck — Ziemer died of typhoid fever, apparently from drinking contaminated water. The word spread and with few exceptions people stayed away from what had been advertised as the "most prominent summer resort in the northwest."

If typhoid had not struck, the resort would likely have been successful and there would be no Devil's Lake State Park.

In the 1890s, Devil's Lake had already been a resort area for 30 years. Nine passenger trains went through every day. Located on the main line of the Northwestern Railroad between Chicago and Minneapolis, Devil's Lake had long since become a household name.

Train excursions brought thousands of people. The largest number on record came in 1894 when 34 coaches were made into three trains whose passengers lined the north shore of the lake for a distance of a half-mile.

Because of its unique scenic and geologic attributes, a move to make Devil's Lake a state park was inevitable. The national sentiment for protecting natural resources, so prevalent at that time was strong in Wisconsin and by 1906 local Baraboo and other residents were pushing for a park. In 1910 they were successful. The Legislature appropriated \$100,000 per biennium to the State Park Board and the new 1,100-acre state park opened in June of 1911. Today it consists of 7,800 acres.

Evidence of prehistoric inhabitants at Devil's Lake can be found in the park's effigy mounds which are still in good shape. There are three types: those in the form of animals; those with a linear shape like a ridge; and those in the shape of cones or half circles. All are marked and a self-guiding brochure that gives more information is available at the park.

In historic times, Winnebago Indians had a summer fishing village along the north shore of Devil's Lake. In winter others camped on the southeast shore near the bird mound. Native Americans camped there at least until 1900.

The lake with its rocky bluffs has inspired a number of Winnebago legends. One describes a great meteor that penetrated far into the earth throwing up rocks on all sides. Heat waves radi-



ated from the hole for several days. Then it rained. When it was safe for people to approach, they found a great gap in the earth and at the bottom a beautiful body of water.

While the big attraction at Devil's Lake State Park is the scenery, the big story is the geology. More than 100 colleges and universities take geologic and geographic field trips here. The sheer cliffs of Devil's Lake are only a small part of a much larger ring of quartzite rock called the Baraboo Bluffs which extend from Cascade Mountain on the east to the village of Rock Springs on the west. Geologists say the Baraboo Bluffs were formed 1.5 billion years ago, making them one of the most ancient rock outcrops in North America.

Quartzite is a rock composed of sand grains so tightly cemented that the porosity of the parent sandstone has been eliminated. If you are a rock-climber, this means that quartzite is a rock you can depend upon to hold in place and not crack or crumble. Its presence makes this the best rock climbing area in the midwest. For anyone interested, the major reference is a 198-page book, "Climber's Guide to Devil's Lake." This is a dangerous sport and only those with expert knowledge or guidance should participate.

Geologists are in general agreement on how Devil's Lake was created. A powerful Wisconsin River cut a gap through the north half of the Baraboo Bluffs and another, the Devil's Lake Gap, through the south part. The river flowed through these two gaps until its course was changed by the Wisconsin Glacier. The glacier impounded the river, backing it up to form a large, temporary lake in what is now central Wisconsin. It also plugged the Devil's Lake Gap with rocks and dirt to enclose a basin in which spring-fed Devil's Lake formed. After the glacier melted, the Wisconsin River developed its present course around the eastern end of the Baraboo Bluffs.

This new channel brought the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers within 1.4 miles of one another, creating the legendary Fox-Wisconsin portage.

Devil's Lake State Park is one of nine units of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. The terminal moraine, which snakes its way through the park and the Baraboo Bluffs, plus the associated Devil's Lake features have been called the finest example of this landform between the Great Plains and the Atlantic Ocean.

The lake itself covers 360 acres and is approximately 45 feet deep. Because the drainage basin is insoluble quartzite, very few minerals wash into the lake and it remains a soft water anomaly for southern Wisconsin.

Scuba diving is a popular activity, with up to 150 divers present some weekends.

Vegetation is mainly oak woods with a red maple understory. Also present are sugar maple, aspen, brushy thickets, scattered old white pines, conifer plantations and dry prairie remnant.

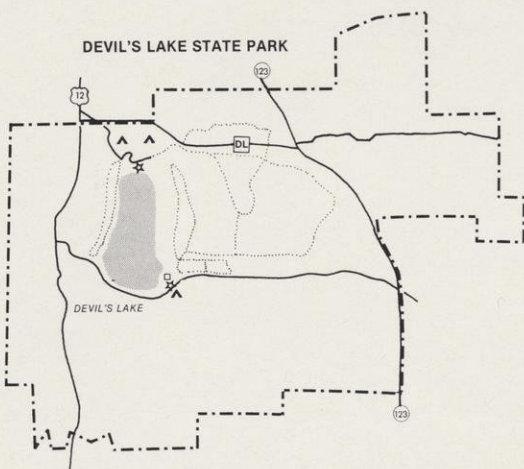
About 90 species of birds, close to half the total in Wisconsin, nest here. There are warblers, sparrows, thrushes, owls and hawks. Devil's Lake State Park and the Baraboo Bluffs are a major concentration area for the turkey vulture in Wisconsin.

A Nature Center serves as an introduction to the park. Visitors stop there for orientation and background information, then, with a naturalist or self-guided brochure hike the trails.

Suggested hikes near the lake are the West Bluff and Tumbled Rocks trails, a loop of three miles; the east bluff and east bluff woods trails, a loop of 2.6 miles; and steepest of all, the south end of the east bluff via Balanced Rock and Devil's Doorway, a round trip of about a-mile-and-a-half.

A favorite spot is Steinke Basin, an extinct lake along the margin of the melting glacier. The ridge on the skyline to the north is the glacial moraine,

- LEGEND**
- ★ PARK OFFICE
 - SHELTER
 - ▲ CAMPGROUND
 - PARK TRAIL
 - ROAD
 - - - BOUNDARY
 - BODY OF WATER



the boundary between "new land" and "old land" to the south. A 2½-mile loop lets visitors explore Steinke Basin. Also interesting is the Johnson Moraine loop, 2.9 miles, partly wooded and partly open, which leads onto the glacial ridge. The Ice Age loop is a four mile journey on the east bluff, mostly through woods. All three trails are reached from the Steinke Basin parking lot along county highway DL.

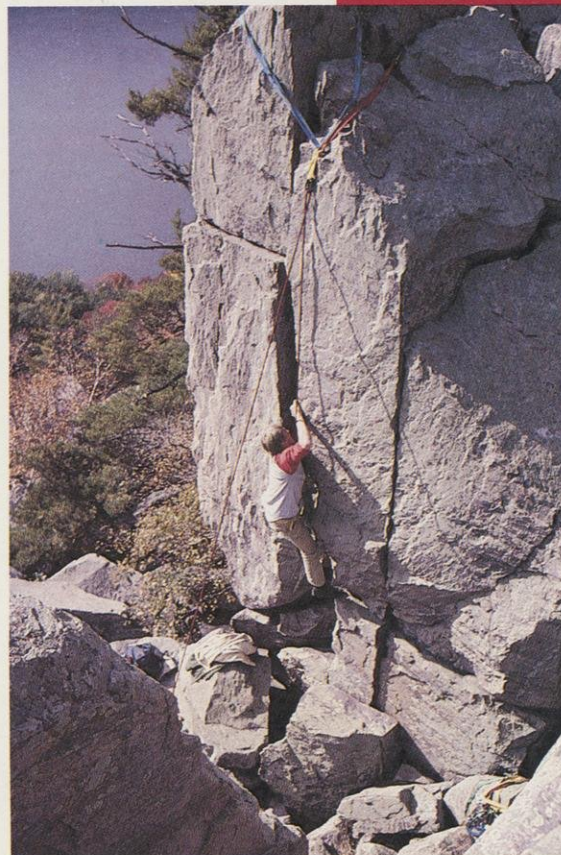
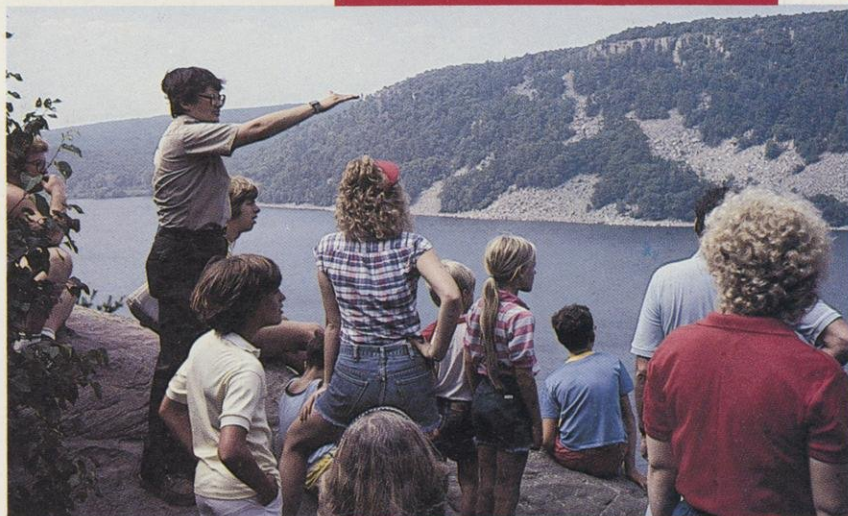
Some final information: There are a full range of facilities, including those for the handicapped. Up to 75% of the 454 campsites can be reserved. There are 15 miles of hiking trails, 15.5 miles of cross-country ski trails and six self-guided tours.

The park is open all year. A nature center is open from spring into fall and by appointment in winter. A naturalist is on duty all year. The park is approximately 40 airline-miles from Madison, 100 from Milwaukee and 150 from Chicago. Take Interstate 90-94 and exit on either US 12 or Wisconsin 33 to Baraboo, then take Wisconsin 123 to the park.

For more information write Devil's Lake State Park, Rt. 4, Box 36, Baraboo, WI 53913. Phone: 608-356-8301 or 6618.

Naturalist leads a nature hike.
Photo by Ken Lange

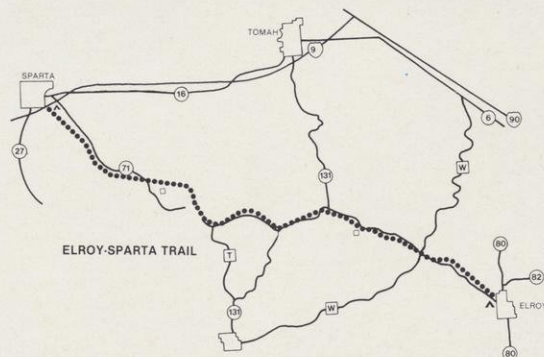
Devil's Lake wind surfer.
Photo by Ken Lange



Rock climbers.
Photo by Dennis Yockers



Tunnel Number One.



For more information write Elroy-Sparta State Trail, Box 98, Ontario, WI 54651. Phone: 608-337-4774, or Elroy-Sparta National Trail, Inc., Box 153, Kendall, WI 54638. Phone: 608-463-7109.

Elroy-Sparta

KAREN ROGERS,
Naturalist

STATE TRAIL

Most people never get a chance to walk through a railroad tunnel. This 32-mile trail has three of them, built in 1873 by the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad because the hills around here were too steep for the locomotives. Walking through them is variously described as cool, refreshing, eerie, dark, dank, scary, full of echoes, unique and fun.

The hills the tunnels penetrate separate watersheds of the Baraboo, Kickapoo and La Crosse Rivers. Tunnels One and Two are about one-third of a mile long. Tunnel Three is three-fourths of a mile and took approximately three years to construct. Water from overhead springs drips through the rock faults in Tunnel Three. One particular fault has a flow so large a wooden trough is attached to the ceiling to catch the water. This creates a miniature waterfall. To keep the tracks from washing out, a large stone-lined aqueduct was built that diverts storm runoff away from the Tunnel Three entrance. It runs parallel to the trail.

Summit Rest Area on the southeast end of Tunnel Three has toilets, water, picnic tables and a small building labeled "Tunnel Watchman's Shack." Inside is a display describing the building and some of the trail's historical highlights.

Summit is the highest point between Elroy and Sparta. At one time there was a small settlement here with a railroad depot, post office and eight homes.

Along the trail are the villages of Norwalk, Wilton and Kendall. All have facilities for camping, rest areas and restaurants. The Wilton Lions Club cooks a special pancake breakfast for trail users every Sunday morning from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

A restored railroad depot at Kendall is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the trail's main headquarters and concession. It's run cooperatively by villages along the route and provides visitors with information on services and activities in the area.

The Elroy-Sparta Trail attracts not only bicyclists and hikers, but also many snowmobilers in winter. For snowmobiles, the trail is diverted around the three tunnels whose huge doors are closed November 15 and reopened in April.

Landscapes along the trail vary from dry, sandy country near Sparta to rolling hills around Norwalk, Wilton and Kendall and wetlands in the vicinity of Elroy. The entire area is agricultural, mostly dairy farms.

Facilities along the trail include six rest areas with toilets and water and two rustic walk-in campgrounds at Elroy and Sparta.

Identify these
Wisconsin State Parks!

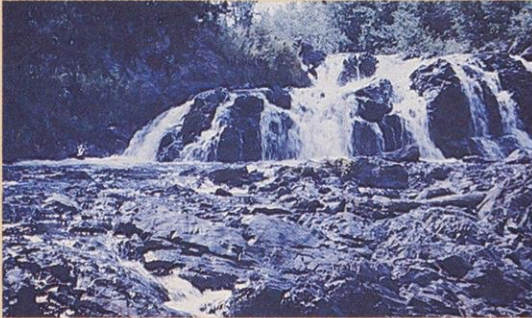
Tear this out to find the hints and
another puzzle.



1
STATE PARK



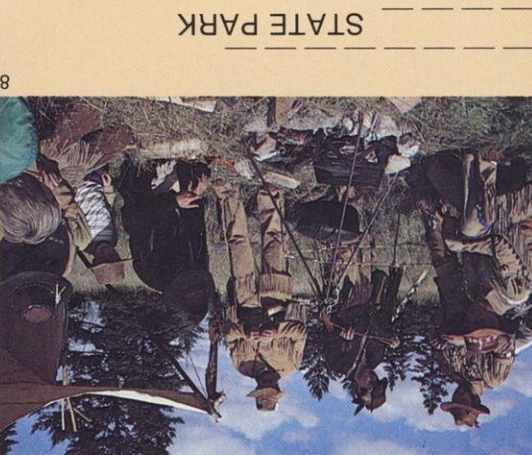
2
STATE FOREST



3
STATE PARK



4
STATE PARK



5
STATE PARK



6
STATE PARK



7
STATE PARK



8



Photo Courtesy of:
Gerald Stepanek
Photographic Arts
755 W. Fifth Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Wisconsin State Parks
Explore & Enjoy

Hints

- 1. This is the only golfcourse in a Wisconsin State Park. Do you know where it is?
- 2. Known as a "kame," this conical hill was formed by gravel pouring through a hole in glacial ice. Where might you see a kame?
- 3. Only three state parks feature large waterfalls. Can you guess which park this one is in?
- 4. This park features a lake nestled in scenic quartzite bluffs. Do you know which park it is?
- 5. These rocky "Buttes" once stood as islands in a vast glacial lake. What park is this?
- 6. At this park you can see potholes such as this one. They were carved into the bed-rock by whirling rocks caught in eddies of raging glacial meltwaters. What park is this?
- 7. Which park can only be reached by boat?
- 8. Many historic buildings were brought together at this one site. Volunteer interpreters play the roles of historic figures. Where is it?

Answers

ANSWERS TO PARK PICTURES:

- 1) PENINSULA,
- 2) KETTLE MORAINÉ,
- 3) COPPER FALLS,
- 4) DEVIL'S LAKE,
- 5) MILL BLUFF,
- 6) INTERSTATE,
- 7) ROCK ISLAND,
- 8) HERITAGE HILL

Park Puzzle

FIND THE EIGHT PARKS

AND 27 PARK ACTIVITIES

ENJOYSKESICREXER
RYEHCTAWDRIBTZL
OEDNMILLBLUFFNV
CRLUIEFUHRIGVK
KCLATAEFSSLGOLF
IILAXSREIMNWLWB
SNGILCUOLSMIWSA
LCTEMUTNMCHLNJC
AIDESBALBEYEIEK
NPORRANIGALCSTP
DEVILSLAKETTIBA
AKAYAKTSXEHTTBC
NPESDICAMPOUEEK
ALKJRQUBTYCNNCK
FAIEROLPXEBOATH
TYHSLLAFREPPCNC

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| CAMP | SCUBA |
| HIKE | BIRDWATCH |
| SWIM | STUDY |
| SKI | EXERCISE |
| PICNIC | GOLF |
| BACKPACK | CLIMB |
| SAIL | HUNT |
| BICYCLE | RELAX |
| CANOE | SLED |
| FISH | KAYAK |
| BOAT | PLAY |
| NATURE WALK | EXPLORE |
| SUNBATHE | ENJOY |
| FILM | |

Parks are for people.
Parks are important
for all people,
But-parks cannot be all
things to all people.

Dave Weizenicker,
Director,
DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Park Funding

ROD NELSON,
Chief of Parks Operations,
Madison

A review of state park funding could hardly overlook the year 1961. It was then that the first Outdoor Recreation Act passed, establishing a 10-year acquisition and development program financed through a tax on cigarettes. In the same year, for the first time an admission fee was authorized to fund operations, which meant that users began to pay for services and facilities, offered in the parks.

Expansion in the 1960s was equivalent to the previous 40 years. New parks such as Governor Dodge, Mirror Lake, Willow River and more than a dozen others were added to the system. Worn-out and over-used facilities in older parks were replaced or upgraded.

However, by 1968 it became obvious that funding in the original 10-year plan would not meet rapidly expanding user demands. With direction from a citizen's task force and a public referendum, a new \$200-million bonding program known as ORAP-200 was enacted. It provided \$144-million for pollution control and \$56-million for recreation.

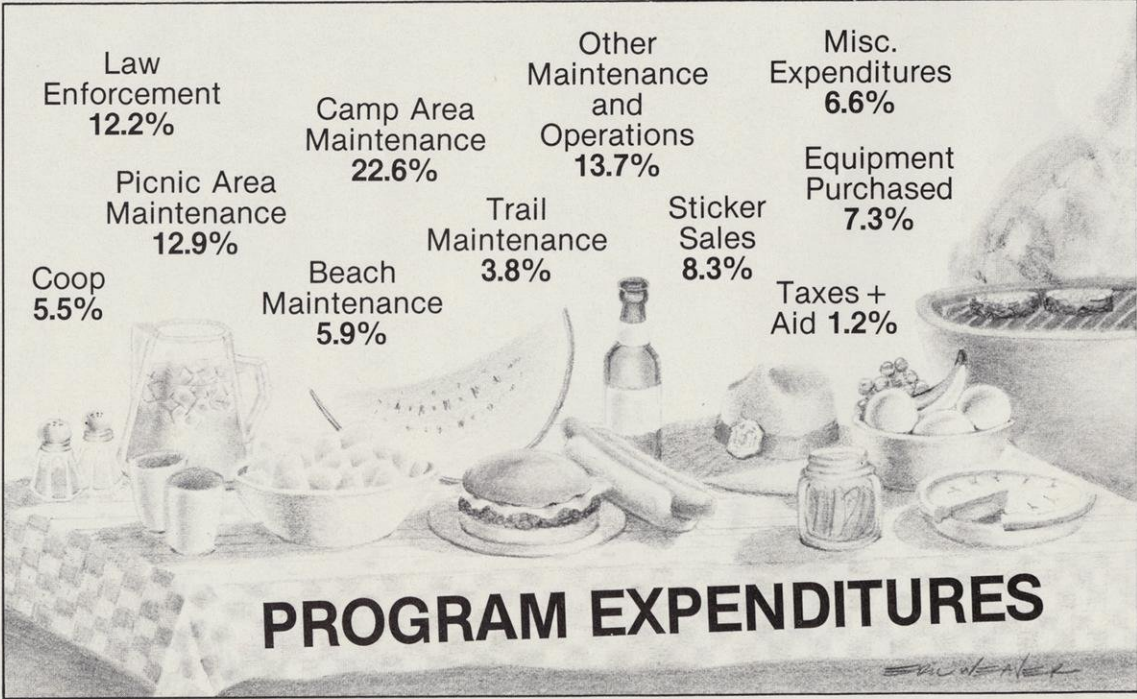
The emphasis in both ORAP programs has been on land acquisition and development. Once properties have been purchased, basic facilities have been installed to make parks usable. In addition, many old facilities, some dating back to

CCC and WPA days have been replaced. To this day, ORAP continues to pay for land acquisition and development in parks, while the southern recreational forests obtain money for these purposes from the forestry mill tax.

Although funding formulas have fluctuated through the years, they always recognized the original philosophy that the user supports part of operational costs through fees. The formula for the 1980s works out to about 50% of operational costs from user fees and 50% from the general taxpayer. A mix of federal dollars from the US Park Service to pay part of the operating cost of the National Scientific Reserve adjusted this formula to some degree, but the basic mix remains stable.

Demand for new programs, ranging from ski trails to backpack campsites and other low revenue-producing activities place an added burden on all the other users who provide the money to run them. To reduce this burden and at the same time provide better service, a per person fee for these programs is under consideration. A per-person fee is already in effect on bike trails.

Other plans for the future are necessarily conservative. Expansion will continue at a slower rate than in the 1960s and '70s as properties and programs are very selectively added to meet recreational need. Efficiency will be the byword in operations. Many services will be provided at reduced cost through contracts with the private sector. Volunteers and citizen support groups will become even more important. Even though operations will be leaner financially, services will continue at a high level and growth in park visitation is expected to continue right through the 1990s.



Volunteers

EDGAR W. TRECKER, JR.,
Parks Supervisor, Milwaukee

Want to clean a bluebird house, maintain a native prairie, lead a nature hike, patrol a cross country ski trail, plan a park? How about staff a nature center, brush a bridle trail, photograph wildflowers, or teach a class in nature study? Is business management your special talent? Would you like to be director of a corporation which operates a grocery store, or a golf pro shop, or rents bicycles? These are some of the many jobs in the Wisconsin state park system now being performed by volunteers.

Volunteerism is as old as the park system. Since establishment of Interstate in 1900, park superintendents and groups such as scouts, school classes and other organizations have worked together on litter pickup, trail maintenance, tree planting and much else. In 1981, the Natural Resources Board passed a resolution directing the department to use volunteers even more. The Board recognized that volunteers can dramatically increase the level of service to the public with a minimum increase in cost. While volunteers are collectively important to the department's mission, they get a great deal of personal satisfaction in being able to use and develop special talents and interests. Their involvement evinces a certain pride of ownership in the state park system that comes across in everything they do.

The recent increase in park volunteers has brought many with special skills. At several properties where cross-country ski trails attract large numbers of visitors, members of the National Ski Patrol's Nordic Division patrol the trail to assist skiers. On the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest the Lakeland Chapter of Muskies, Inc. provides tables, grills and garbage cleanup on sites used by fishermen for shore lunches. On the same property volunteers have groomed cross-country ski trails. At Council Grounds a volunteer sold park stickers and registered campers one summer. All across the state, clubs of bikers, cross-country skiers and horseback riders help with the design, construction and maintenance of trails to serve their activities. Trout fishermen help with stream improvement work. Some properties sponsor hunter safety courses with volunteer instructors.

A growing area of volunteer involvement is the naturalist program. Volunteer taxidermists mount specimens for park exhibits. Artists do exhibit backgrounds and other illustrative work. Photographers donate their skill to increase the

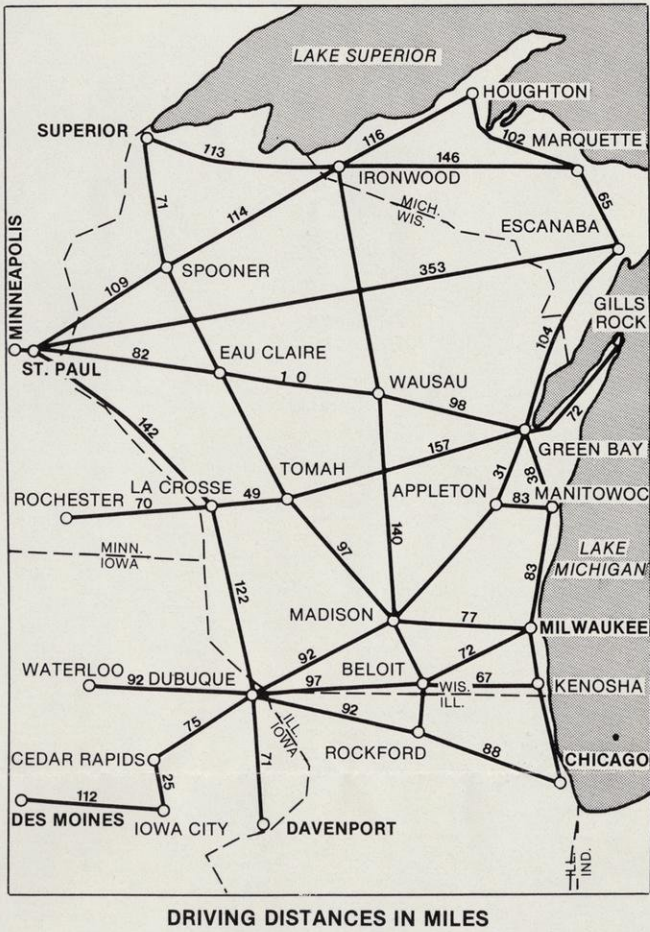
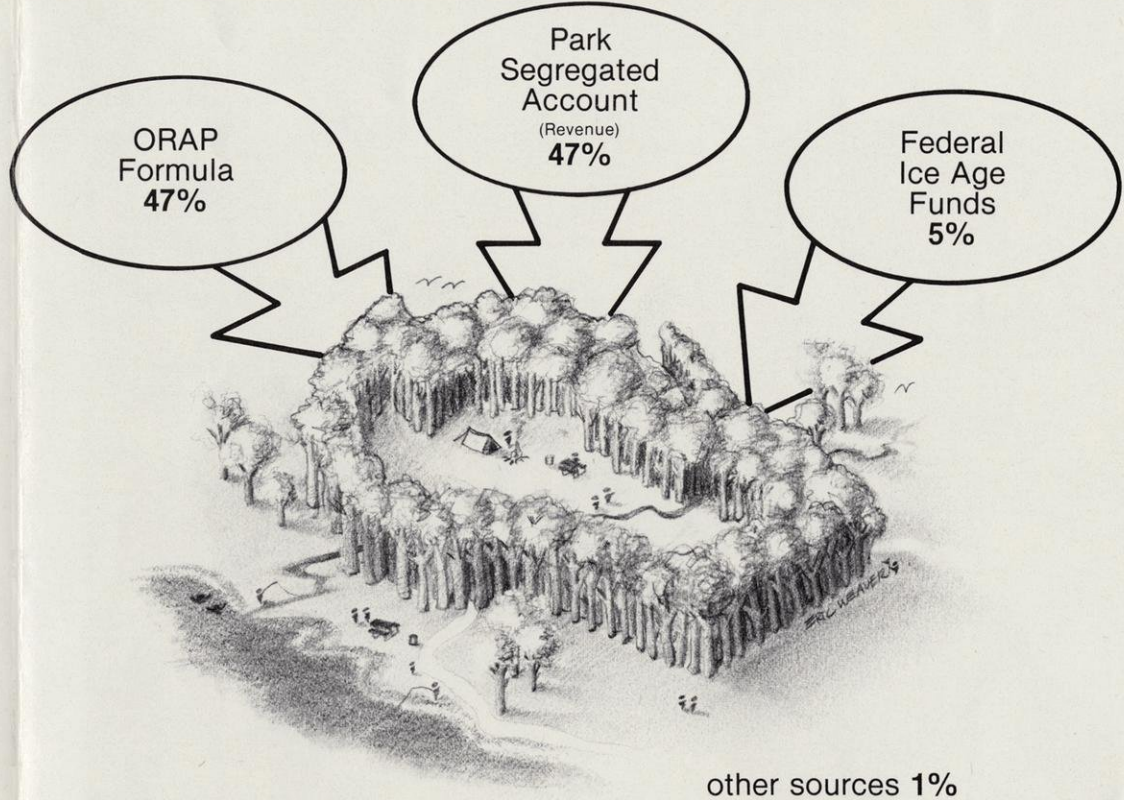
parks' slide collections. Writers contribute articles to park newspapers and other publications. Individuals with some expertise in biology lead nature hikes or give classes in environmental education. At Kohler/Andrae State Park, the local Audubon Society chapter staffed the nature center every weekend one fall when funding for a summer naturalist ran out. On the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, some groups maintain bluebird habitats and clean out nesting boxes; others clear encroaching brush from remnant prairie areas. On the Northern Unit, volunteers staff the reception desk at the visitor center.

Portions of, and even whole parks were gifts from citizens. In 1922, the Wausau Kiwanis Club purchased the top of Rib Mountain and presented it to the state as a park. The club is still active. It spearheaded a fund drive in 1958 for an observation tower and donated \$5,000 for a handicapped-accessible observation deck in 1983. In 1926, the Izaak Walton League purchased 847 acres around Mauthe Lake where citizens were encouraging the state to establish a recreation and forestry area. In 1936, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission acquired the tract and started the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Pattison, J. Michael Kohler, Hoffman Hills and Terry Andrae state parks are all generous contributions of land from these families.

The superintendents of several state parks have appointed citizen advisory committees from neighboring communities to assist in preparing park master plans. In a few instances, such committees furnish advice on continuing operations. The Friends of Perrot in western Wisconsin and the Friends of Havenwoods in Milwaukee are the vanguard of what may become an expanding corps of local support groups which assist by raising funds and sponsoring special programs in state parks and similar properties. Cooperating natural history associations at a number of parks sell publications and other interpretive materials in support of the naturalist program.

In a number of instances, nonprofit corporations directly owned by local volunteers operate a business in a park. This concept began in 1950 when a group of Baraboo businessmen formed the Devil's Lake Concession Corporation to operate the grocery stores and other concessions in Devil's Lake State Park. At Rib Mountain a private operator runs the ski facilities through the Marathon County Civic Corporation, a subsidi-

OPERATIONS BUDGET



ary of the Wausau Chamber of Commerce. The ski hill at Potawatomi State Park is also operated by a local group. Nonprofit corporations serve visitors at the Elroy-Sparta and Sugar River State Trails by operating information centers and renting bicycles. A similar Peninsula Golf Association operates the golf course at Peninsula State Park. These commercial enterprises — all directed by highly motivated local citizens — operate under agreements with DNR. Over the years they have earned hundreds of thousands of dollars for improvement of the parks where they are located.

Some units of the state park system are managed almost entirely by volunteer groups. The Solon Springs Civic Club operates Lucius Woods State Park under an agreement with DNR. At

West Allis-Milwaukee, home of the US speed skating teams, the Wisconsin Olympic Ice Rink Foundation raises funds while an operating corporation runs the Olympic Ice Rink. Arrangements there are patterned after those at Heritage Hill State Park where the Heritage Hill State Park Corporation hires a superintendent to manage a complex of historic Wisconsin buildings. Most of the staff are volunteers and fees collected are plowed back into the park for improvements.

The variety of volunteer arrangements at state parks seems almost unlimited and the welcome mat is always out for any new idea. If you want to volunteer, contact the superintendent at the park you're interested in. Chances are you'll work out a warm relationship.

Wisconsin Indian Head Country, Inc.
442 Beach Road
P.O. Box 156
Altoona, WI 54720
Toll Free: Wis: 1-(800) 472-6654
Neighbor states: 1-(800) 826-6966/6967

Wisconsin Northwoods Council, Inc.
Rhineland-Oneida County Airport Terminal
Highway 8, West
P.O. Box 1167
Rhineland, WI 54501
(715) 369-2330

Central Wisconsin River Country, Inc.
P.O. Box 308
Friendship, WI 53934
(608) 339-3382

East Wisconsin Waters, Inc.
Green Bay Visitors & Convention Bureau
1901 South Oneida Street
P.O. Box 3273
Green Bay, WI 54303
(414) 494-9507

Hidden Valleys
Riverside Park
P.O. Box 2527
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 782-2467

Southern Gateway
P.O. Box 451
Elm Grove, WI 53122
(414) 273-0090

Greater Milwaukee Convention & Visitors Bureau
756 North Milwaukee Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 273-3950



First Capitol's Council House was the meeting place of the first Wisconsin territorial government.
Photo by David Cline

First Capitol

DAVID CLINE,
Superintendent
CECILIA CLEARY,
Fiscal Clerk

STATE PARK

A bell-shaped mound on the prairie in northwestern Lafayette County was the site of the first Capitol of the vast Wisconsin Territory of 1836. It was selected because of its central location amid the relatively dense population of the lead mining region and its proximity to Mineral Point and Platteville.

Here, in 1836, John Atchison the "proprietor" of Belmont erected four identical buildings; the Council House for the two branches of the Territorial Legislature, a building intended to house the Supreme Court, a Governor's residence and a boarding house for legislators. Lumber for all four buildings was pre-cut in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and transported down the Ohio River by boat, then overland by oxen. A blacksmith shop, tavern, grocery store, variety store and a few residences made up the balance of the village of Belmont.

To this frontier village came the men who shaped the territory and prepared Wisconsin for statehood: Henry Dodge, the first Territorial Governor and his secretary, 39 legislators, two newspaper printers and a variety of lobbyists, most of them promoting some other site for the Capitol. Among them was James Duane Doty, the second Territorial Governor, a Madison booster who was finally successful even though Madison existed only as a "paper" town on the maps of 1836.

The fortunes of old Belmont faded rapidly after 1838 when the Territorial Government shifted to Madison. The Supreme Court building was moved across the road where it served for a

while as a residence for Charles Dunn, Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court and an attorney in the area long after Wisconsin was admitted to statehood. It was later used as a barn. The Capitol building was likewise moved across the road and converted into a barn!

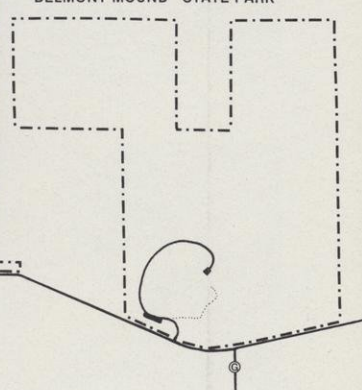
A move to preserve the rapidly deteriorating first Capitol began in 1907. Since then, through efforts by the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs and appropriations by the Legislature, buildings have been restored and moved back to their former sites. First Capitol became a state park in 1924.

Today's visitors can see the Supreme Court and Council House (First Capitol) side-by-side as planned in the early 1800s. The interior of the Council House has been carefully recreated from old records detailing original furnishings. Exhibits in the Supreme Court building depict lead mining, agriculture and home life in southwestern Wisconsin in 1836. Tours are conducted during summer.

The park is located three miles north of Belmont, Wisconsin on county highway G. Belmont Mound is a scenic picnic area offering grills, picnic tables, water, toilets and play areas. There is also an observation tower at the top of the mound.

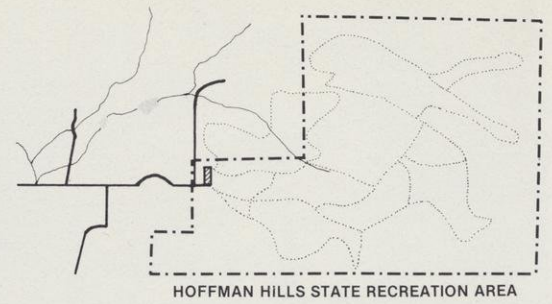
Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Park Superintendent at Yellowstone Lake State Park, Rt. 2, Box 48B, Blanchardville, Wisconsin, 53516. Phone: 608-523-4427.

FIRST CAPITOL
BELMONT MOUND STATE PARK



LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- ... PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER



Hilly terrain attracts
cross-country skiers to
Hoffman Hills.
Photo by Mike Warden

Horse trails at Governor
Dodge are popular.
Photo by Richard Purin



Cox Hollow Lake at
Governor Dodge.
Photo by Dennis Weibel



Fall color at Governor
Dodge.
Photo by Kurt Scholz



Hoffman Hills

NEAL KEPHART,
Superintendent

STATE RECREATION AREA

In 1980 Richard Hoffman, a retired Milwaukee department store executive, donated 280 acres near Menomonie in northeast Dunn County to the State of Wisconsin. This was the start of the Hoffman Hills Recreation Area. Since then, purchases have added about 100 acres.

The site is relatively undeveloped and includes a series of hiking and cross country ski trails that wind along hardwood ridges, climb up and down aspen and birch slopes and pass through pine plantations. Most of the eight miles of trails were cleared by ski clubs, scout groups, or other local

service organizations. DNR crews using heavy equipment moved the larger trees and constructed the trail bed.

Hoffman Hills has two group outdoor camps equipped with a well and rustic toilets for use by organized youth groups. It will serve as an outdoor classroom for students from grade school through the university. A 40-acre study area has been set aside and will be left in its natural state where no timber cutting or development will take place.

There is a picnic area and parking lot. Open year-round, the area can be reached by taking Dunn County highway E northward from state highway 29 to Cedar Valley Road. Signs on Cedar Valley Road point the way.

For more information write the Superintendent, Hoffman Hills Recreation Area, Menomonie DNR Office, Rt. 6, Box 1, Menomonie, WI 54751. Phone: 715-232-2631

Governor Dodge

DENNIS WEIBEL,
Naturalist

STATE PARK

Governor Dodge State Park lies in the heart of Wisconsin's Driftless Area — a land of steep hills, sandstone bluffs and deep valleys. Much of the Midwest once looked the same until the glaciers peeled off hilltops and filled in valleys. But due to a geological quirk of fate, the ice sheets bypassed southwestern Wisconsin and left an island of hills and valleys amid surrounding plains.

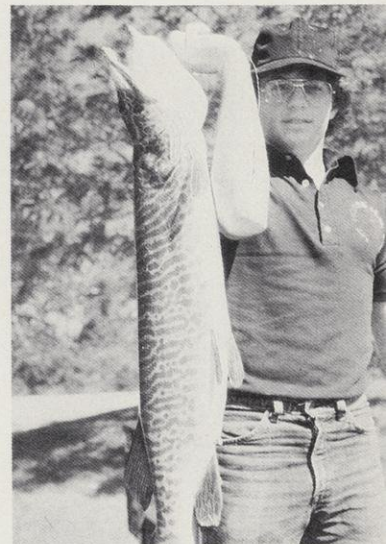
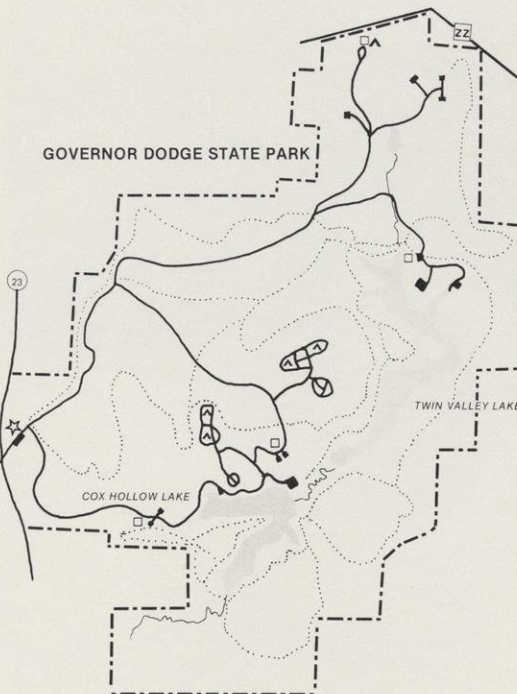
More than 5,000 acres of this unique island make up Governor Dodge State Park. The first campers arrived here more than 8,000 years ago seeking refuge from Wisconsin's harsh winters at the base of the park's sandstone bluffs where archaeologists have uncovered hundreds of their spearpoints and arrowheads. People have been using this place ever since.

They come to stroll through rich, green woods, to ride horses over rolling hills, to picnic under sandstone bluffs that once sheltered Indians, or to visit Stephens' Falls and explore the cave on the "old Thomas place."

Numerous trails at Governor Dodge meander through oak-hickory woods, or wildflower-speckled meadows and pine-covered ridges. Some of them lead to rocky outlooks with unforgettable views.

Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Lakes, both man-made, are focal points for many park activities. Each has a sand beach and modern bathhouse. Both are used for canoeing. Beautiful picnic areas dot the shoreline and anglers can catch both panfish and muskies.

A photographer's paradise, Governor Dodge



Thirty-six inch muskies can be caught at Twin Valley Lake in Governor Dodge Park.
Photo by Richard Purin

can light a film with carpets of spring wildflowers, hillsides of brilliant, autumn color and giant pileated woodpeckers drilling in a pine tree. All wildlife characteristic of the driftless area live in the park.

Governor Dodge is open year-round and in winter there is excellent cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing and ice skating.

Reservations can be made for weekend camping in summer.

You can reach Governor Dodge by traveling three miles north of Dodgeville on highway 23. The park is located 45 miles west of Madison.

For more information write Governor Dodge State Park, Rt. 1, Box 42, Dodgeville, WI 53533. Phone: 608-935-2315.

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

Lake Wissota

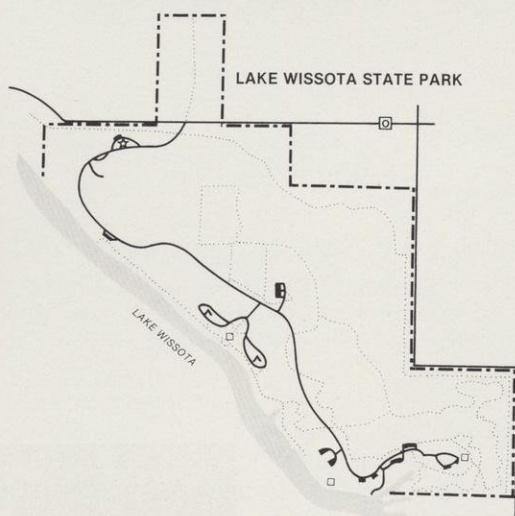
STATE PARK

*NORM PAZDERSKI,
Superintendent*

Established in 1961, this park consists of 1,062 acres on a man-made lake five miles northeast of Chippewa Falls. Lake Wissota was created in 1918 when the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company erected a 59-foot dam flooding the Chippewa River Valley and submerging the mouth of the Yellow River. The lake covers 6,300 acres and its deepest spot goes down 72 feet.



Lake Wissota boat landing.
Photo by Norm Pazderski



Park theater.
Photo by Norm Pazderski



The park rests atop an outwash plain deposited by the melting Wisconsin glacier 10,000 years ago. Vegetation consists of prairie, pine forest, mixed hardwoods and marshland.

The lake and rivers attract many anglers after walleyes, muskies and bass. Panfish, northerns, catfish and sturgeon are also caught. There is a permanent fishing pier accessible to the handicapped. Fish cribs on the lake bottom in front of the pier help attract walleyes and bass.

Recreational boating, canoeing, waterskiing and swimming are popular. There is a 300-foot beach with a lifeguard on duty during the summer. The family campground has 81 well-spaced, wooded campsites designed for privacy with electricity available at 16 sites. There are flush toilets, showers and a dumping station. The large playground and shelter house are available for organized gatherings. A boat mooring area is located near the shelter.

Two group camps for tents-only can accommodate up to 40 units each. One has a shelter with electricity. Reservations are accepted and encouraged for both the family and group sites.

Picnic areas skirt the beach and include a large shelter for group use. Another picnic ground near the park entrance overlooks Lake Wissota and has an access trail to the water for shoreline fishermen.

Eleven miles of scenic trail edge Lake Wissota's shoreline and wind through woodland, prairie and marsh. An overlook at Beaver Meadow Nature Trail allows those unable to hike the entire distance to see some of the wildlife and the environment of the beaver pond.

There is a three-quarter mile physical fitness course with 13 exercise stations.

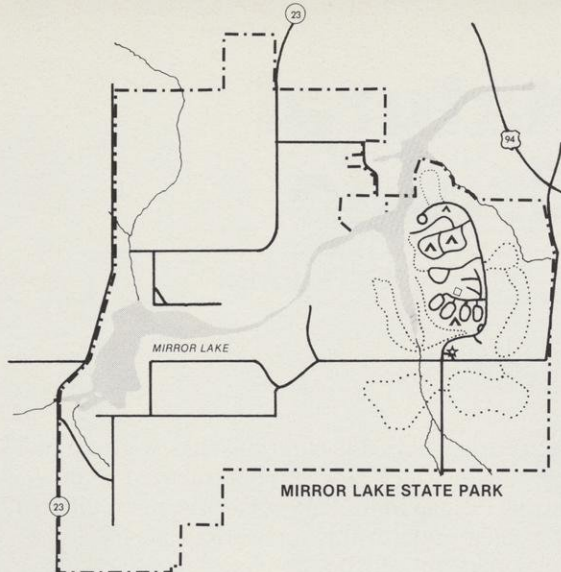
Interpretive programs at the park's amphitheater during summer and guided nature hikes into the varied environments offer an opportunity to become familiar with local fauna and flora. More than 200 species of birds have been sighted with the greatest variety and number seen during migration from late March to late May, and late August to early October. Species checklists are available at the park office.

Deer, badger, fox, skunk, woodchuck, mink, otter, muskrat and beaver are often glimpsed. The low wetland and prairie areas are favorite places for amateur botanists and wildflower enthusiasts.

In winter, visitors don cold-weather gear to find a new dimension at Lake Wissota Park. Hardy campers use the family campground which is open all season. Many go ice fishing.

Cross-country skiers can strike off on 13 miles of groomed and tracked trails. Snowshoeing also is permitted everywhere except on the groomed trails. The park's 4½ miles of snowmobile trails connect with the county's elaborate trail system which covers more than 150 miles.

For further information write Lake Wissota State Park, Rt. 8, Box 360, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Phone: 715-382-4574.



Mirror Lake

STATE PARK

NANCY G. CUBA,
Lake Delton

It all began in 1860, when Horace LaBar built a wooden dam across Dell Creek forming what was then called LaBar's Pond. His stone mill produced 200 barrels of flour weekly for shipment to Chicago.

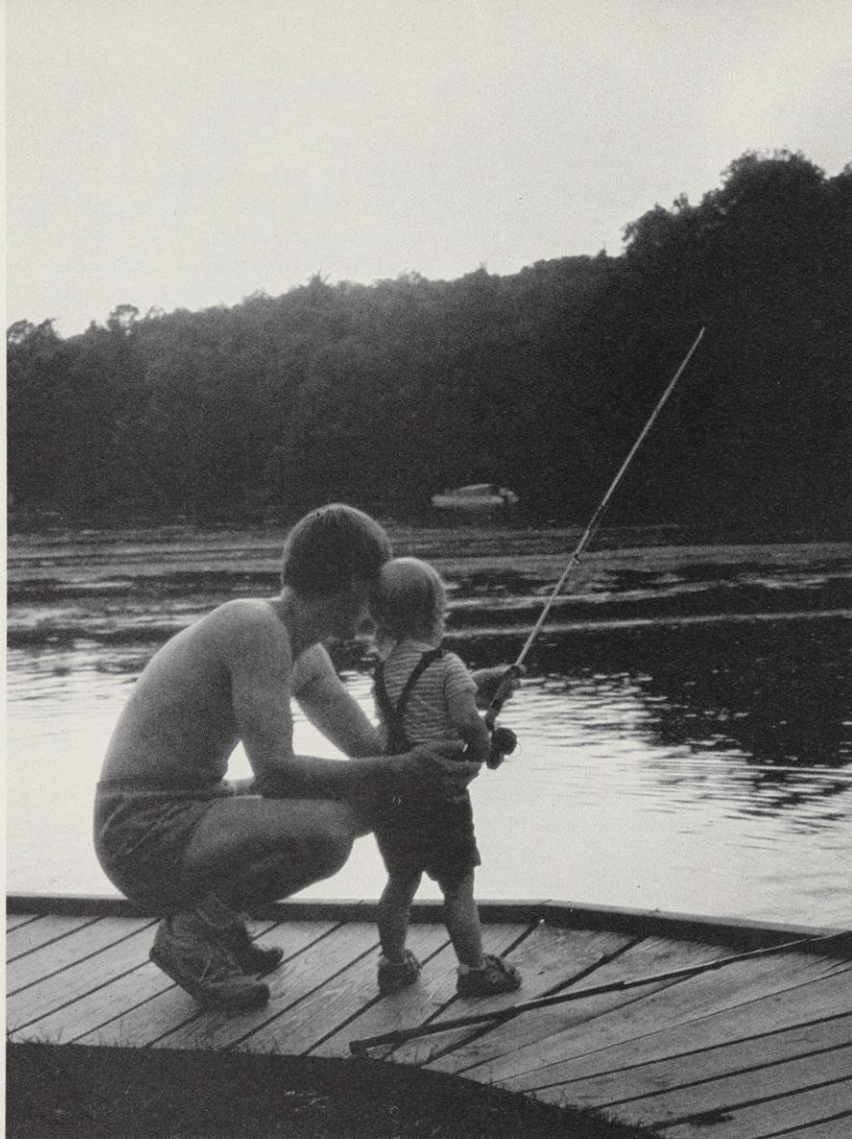
After several ownership changes, the dam below Moon Light Bridge on then federal highway 12 was purchased in 1893 by August Timme and his three sons. Self-rising pancake flour and whole-wheat flour ground by their four-ton stones (driven by wooden gears imported from France) brought fame to the Timme mill. In 1906, after the dam washed out taking the bridge too, it had to be rebuilt. Finally, in 1925 a new concrete dam was erected just below the wooden one. On Valentine's night, 1957, a fire destroyed the Timme mill and the business.

The dam then became the property of the Mirror Lake-Ishnala Corporation, a group connected with Ishnala Supper Club on Mirror Lake. Areas around the lake were platted and subdivision began.

But in 1961, the Outdoor Recreation Act authorized a park at Mirror Lake to include 2,000 acres and five-and-one-half miles of frontage. In 1966 the new park opened and the area was saved from further subdivision.

Another threat arose in 1970, when a DNR inspector found the dam unsafe. It had to be repaired or removed. After five years of negotiation, a special tax district was formed with lake-front property owners and the state jointly sharing repair costs. Dam ownership was subsequently transferred to Sauk County.

Today, more than 200,000 people visit the park annually. January brings cross-country skiers to its three-and-one-half miles of trail. Another nine



Mirror Lake is a good fishing hole.

miles are open to snowmobilers. For ice fishermen the annual Pickerel Slough Fisharee sponsored by the Lake Delton Sportsmen's Club, is a highlight. Crappies, perch, northerns and 20-inch bass are caught. A favorite contest for kids is "Who Can Stand on His Head the Longest?"

Avid ice-anglers are still venturing out onto Blue Water Bay when the first canoes travel the ice-free main channel. Upstream there is a narrow waterway that leads to "Upper Mirror Lake." This broad, shallow area, where Dell Creek feeds into the lake, is a favorite stopping place for migratory waterfowl. Spring visitors include ducks, grebes, coots and the great blue heron. Young "bachelor" beaver migrate downstream looking for suitable places to establish new colonies.

Memorial Day is the beginning of the busy season. Park users find the campgrounds filled most evenings; those who are turned away often camp elsewhere (Rocky Arbor State Park is only eight miles away) and return to Mirror Lake for day use. They hike the nine-and-three-quarter miles of regular trails and the quarter mile self-guided nature trail with its 20 labeled stops. They swim at the 200 foot sandy beach and fish from shore, especially from the boardwalk at the boat launch. They picnic, watch pileated woodpeckers and Bal-

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

timore orioles, and photograph both pink and yellow lady's-slippers.

But those who enjoy the lake most are those who bring or rent a small boat or canoe. They get to all the "hot spots" and land the biggest bass. They travel downstream, under the interstate 90-94 bridge, to visit the dam and return upstream to swim, or watch the cliff swallows. They discover hundred foot white pines, eastern hemlock, six-foot ferns and Laborador tea. There are deer and mink, wild rice, and mallards with fluffy broods of ducklings.

Fall is one of the best times on the lake. The wild berries ripen, and the marshes are black with flocks of red-winged blackbirds.

Mirror Lake State Park comprises 2,035 acres in Sauk County. It can be easily reached by leaving interstate 90-94 at Exit 92, taking highway 12 east about one-half mile, and then going right on Fern Dell Road about one-and-one-half miles. The campground opens April 1, and is often filled. Reservations are needed to be sure of a site on weekends, or a site with an electric hookup. A group campground is also available. Camping ends October 31 but the park is open year-round for day use. **Further information is available by writing Mirror Lake State Park, Rt. 1, Box 283, Baraboo, WI 53913. Phone: 608-254-2333.**

Natural Bridge

STATE PARK

KEN LANGE,
Naturalist

Several hundred generations ago, a group of Native Americans camped in what is now Natural Bridge State Park. Over the ages, different people came to this rockshelter, stayed for a while, then moved on. Archaeologists' excavations and geologists' studies indicate that people were here 11,000 years ago when the Wisconsin Glacier, only 12 miles away, was melting along its farthest line of advance. This is one of the oldest authenticated sites of human habitation in the Upper Midwest.

Time passed and the rockshelter people were replaced by other cultures. In the 1890s, deposits containing the remains of 3,000 years of human habitation were removed to make more headroom beneath a rock overhang so that a bar could be built to serve a dance hall. The most recent dirt layer there contains such material as broken bottles and bottle caps.

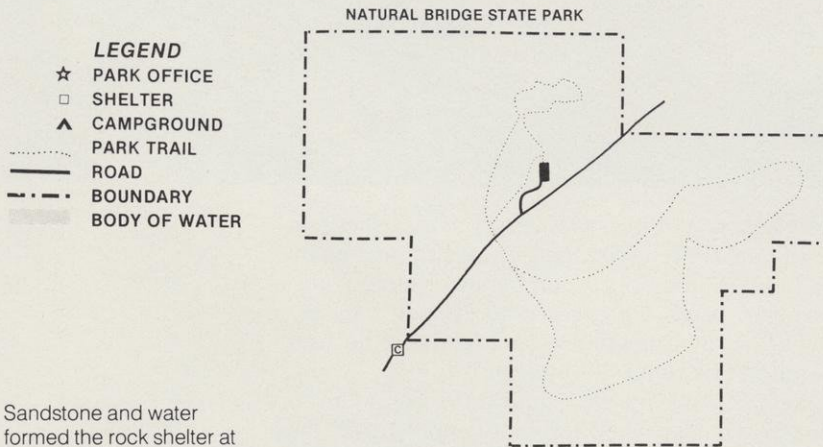
The rockshelter nestles below a natural bridge of sandstone. This natural arch, with an opening 25 feet high and 35 feet wide, is one of the few wind-carved formations in Wisconsin missed by the glaciers.

"A wonderful and beautiful production" — that's what the 1880 Sauk County History called the natural bridge. But at the turn of the century, when people from Spring Green High School visited the bridge, they found it covered with carved names.

The area is mainly oak woods, with patches of dry prairie and open fields. Wildflowers bloom throughout the growing season. Approaching the bridge, you might see a family of woodchucks among the ledges. Bird watchers can spot turkey vultures, pileated woodpeckers and other uncommon species.

The park, established in 1973, covers 530 acres including a 60-acre scientific area. A self-guided nature trail on the uses of plants by Native Americans winds past the bridge and rockshelter and a two-mile hiking trail is located in adjacent woods. There is a parking lot and picnic area for day use only. There is no camping.

Natural Bridge State Park, open from spring into fall, is located in Sauk County in the southwestern corner of the Baraboo Bluffs. Visitors can take US 12 south from Baraboo or west and north from Sauk City to county highway C, then go 10 miles west to the park. **For more information write Natural Bridge State Park, c/o Devil's Lake State Park, Rt. 4, Box 36, Baraboo, WI 53913. Phone: 608-356-8301.**



Sandstone and water formed the rock shelter at Natural Bridge.



New Glarus Woods

STATE PARK

REYNOLD ZELLER,
Superintendent

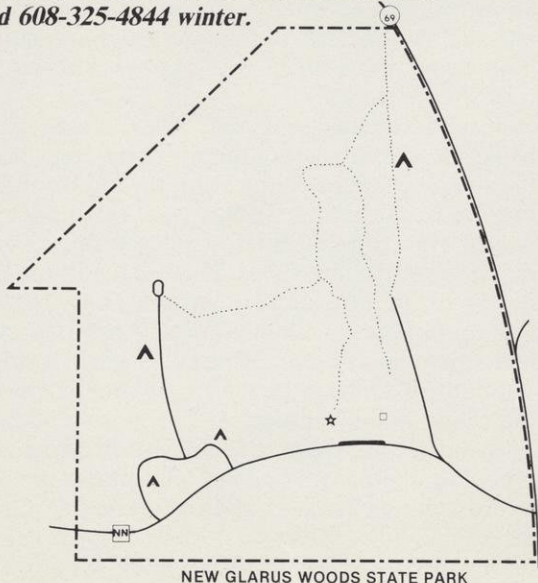
Established in 1934, New Glarus Woods roadside park is situated along the famous "Old Lead Road," originally a Winnebago Indian trail. In the 1820s, the trail was an ox-team route for hauling lead from mines in Exeter and New Glarus Townships to Milwaukee and the Great Lakes.

During the Black Hawk War, troops pursued Indians northeast over the lead trail, and among the soldiers were Jefferson Davis, Zachary Taylor and W.S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton. What is now New Glarus Woods was then a dense forest, said to be as large in area as the famous Black Forest in Germany. Old stories recall the site as the "loneliest and wildest" part of the entire route from Mineral Point to Milwaukee, "where fierce timber wolves would pursue both driver and oxen."

Swiss colonists traveled this route to settle New Glarus during the 1840s. The unique cultural atmosphere established by the 108 original settlers still characterizes New Glarus today.

Annually, traditional Swiss bonds are renewed through weekend festivals and performances of the "Wilhelm Tell Drama." The Swiss Village Museum is a favorite attraction.

Facilities at the park include the Basswood Nature Trail, 18 family campsites, 14 primitive bicycle sites, a 120-person group tent area, 1.25 miles of hiking trail and a 30-station self-guided interpretive nature trail. **For more information write New Glarus Woods State Park, Pleasant View Annex, N3150 Highway 81, Box 256, Monroe, WI 53566. 608-325-2922 summer and 608-325-4844 winter.**



New Glarus Woods in autumn.

Jack-in-the-pulpit.





This railroad trestle across the Chippewa River is part of the Red Cedar Trail.
Photo by Michael L. Ries

A rest stop on the Red Cedar River.
Photo by Al Santala



Red Cedar

STATE TRAIL

NEAL KEPHART,
Superintendent

In 1973 a right-of-way here was abandoned by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, and established as the Red Cedar State Trail. The trail extends 14.5 miles from the City of Menomonie southward to the Chippewa River. It begins at a former rail freight depot on the west edge of Menomonie in Dunn County. At one time the largest white pine milling corporation in the world called Knapp, Stout, & Company, was located here. The firm flourished until the early 1900s and is one of the reasons the railroad was built.

The trail has been surfaced with limestone screenings and compacted to form a firm surface for bicycle riding and hiking. While there is a slight grade along the length of the trail, it goes almost unnoticed to the biker. Bridges have been planked and railed to provide safe crossing.

A special feature lets users canoe down the Red Cedar River paralleling the trail and then return by bicycle on the trail. Several points of interest can be viewed along the way.

At mile three out of Menomonie is the small

community of Irvington named after George Irvine who operated a sawmill there from 1854 until 1882. A parking area for trail users is located adjacent to the trail on the north side of highway D.

Several miles south of Irvington is a rock landmark called the Pinnacle. Legend has it that a company of French soldiers cached some equipment and a treasure of gold somewhere on the west bank of the Red Cedar near this landmark when they were forced into a hasty retreat by a menacing band of Indians.

At mile 4½, there is a small parking area near River Road. The river here has long been a popular spot for fishing, especially for smallmouth bass.

A short way from the parking area, the trail spans Varney Creek where Andrew Tainter established a lumber camp to log the local pine woods.

Near Downsville at mile five, the river is known to be a favorite haunt for bald eagles. In late summer and fall osprey are also fairly common flying above the Red Cedar or perched in trees on the bank.

Just above Downsville near mile 6½ great sand banks line the east side of the river marking where the stream changed course from the old bed near the trail to a new route farther east. Downsville is named after Burrage B. Downs, who ran a sawmill there in the late 1800s. There is a parking lot nearby for Red Cedar Trail visitors. Downsville's Empire-in-Pine museum which chronicles the lumbering days of Dunn County is worth a stop.

South of Downsville near mile nine is where the childhood adventures of Caroline "Caddie" Woodlawn took place. Carol Ryrle Brink retold her grandmother's (Caddie) adventures in an award-winning book, "Caddie Woodlawn." Caddie's home still stands on a portion of the original farm which was designated as Caddie Woodlawn

Memorial Park in 1970. This park is along state highway 35 south of Downsville.

Just across a small bridge at mile 10 is an area where four stone quarries once operated. In the 1880s this high quality sandstone was used by both builders and sculptors. St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City and the Mabel Tainter Memorial Building in Menomonie were built with this beautiful stone. Several large booms and some old buildings can still be seen near the trail. Notice the high watermark sign on the buildings.

Farther on, near a small rest area and picnic table is Ulmers Quarry. Several large cut stone boulders can be seen here where the Red Cedar begins to flow through a fairly narrow canyon with steep sandstone walls. This continues until the trail crosses county highway Y near the old community of Dunnville (across the Red Cedar River and up the hill).

Dunnville was designated the county seat of Dunn County in 1854. Originally called Colburn's Landing, Dunnville was the county seat only four years. In 1858, the courthouse was destroyed by fire and the lower section of Dunn County was split off to become Pepin County.

An inn called the Tainter House in early Dunnville provided overnight lodging for visitors in the days when river steamers stopped here. This building also served as headquarters for the giant Knapp, Stout & Company's river operations.

South of county highway Y is the broad floodplain that makes up the Chippewa River bottoms. Here the railroad bed had to be built up with huge quantities of stone — much of it excavated from the quarries to the north. Huge timbers, laid end-to-end under the surface, helped provide strength to support the heavy trains. Large granite chunks hauled in from an unknown location can also be seen along this stretch.

The land on either side of the trail through this bottomland is now part of the Dunnville Wildlife Area, managed by DNR. At the end of the trail is the largest bridge, 800 feet long across the Chippewa River. The Red Cedar meets the Chippewa a mile downstream from here.

A quarter mile beyond the trail's end, the railroad bed junctions with the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific line connecting Eau Claire and Durand. Much of the land here is owned by Northern States Power Company and was to be the site of the proposed Tyrone nuclear generating plant.

The Red Cedar State Trail is open year-round for nonmotorized use except horses. The lower 2.5 miles from county highway Y south is open to snowmobiles in winter.

The trail is also extremely popular for cross-country skiing because of its accessibility and winter scenery. It is especially suited to novice skiers because of the slight grade.

For more information write Red Cedar State Trail, Rt. 6, Box 1, Menomonie, WI 54751. Phone: 715-232-2631 or write Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 246, Menomonie, WI 54751. Phone: 715-235-9087.



Nighttime on the downhill slopes at Rib Mountain.
Photo by Kirk Kolpitcke

Rib Mountain

KEN LEMONS,
Superintendent
TOM KEOUGH,
Public Contact Specialist

STATE PARK

The backbone of Rib Mountain is mostly quartzite, a very hard metamorphic rock. It was formed from sandstone, with quartz crystals cementing the individual grains of sand together, a process that occurred under water and under great pressure over a long period of time. There is evidence that the rock formations now at the top of Rib Mountain were at one time submerged below a great inland sea. Then, with a great upheaval by tremendous pressures within the earth, Rib Mountain was formed along with other prominent hills in the area. These protruding geologic formations are what the Indians referred to as "ribs" — thus the name Rib Mountain State Park. Geologists have determined that this mountain is more than a billion years old and one of the oldest rock formations on earth.

Because of its prominence and the great contrast in relief with surrounding flat lands, for many years it was thought to be the highest point in the state. Recent measurements, however, rank Rib Mountain third. Tim's Hill is 12 feet higher and Pearson Hill is two feet higher. Both are located in northwest Wisconsin.

Rib Mountain became a state park in 1929 after the Kiwanis Club of Wausau purchased the first 160 acres and donated the land to the state. A portion of the existing ski chalet, the stone toilet building, trails, trail shelters and the water system were all built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



The south hiking trail on Rib Mountain.
Photo by Tom Keough

The CCC also worked on the north side of the mountain, developing ski slopes.

For many years, the state ran the ski area as a part of normal operations, but since 1964 a private concessioner has operated the hill under contract to a community civic organization and DNR. This has meant new chair lifts, new slopes, new and better grooming equipment and an efficient snow-making capability. Skiing is now possible from about December 10th through March.

Because of its height about 650 feet above the plain, Rib Mountain serves as an electronic communications hub for the entire region. Communication towers and ski lifts are almost as much a part of the scene as the natural vegetation.

Rib Mountain is a medium-sized park of 860 acres. Its main attractions in summer are the wooded scenic bluffs and the spectacular view, especially from the park's observation tower. There is also a well-maintained network of hiking and nature trails and the chance to observe deer, woodchucks and various other small animals and birds at close range.

The park is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor day. It has a campground of 30 sites.

Located just west of the City of Wausau, a visitor can easily find the park by exiting state highway 51 at county trunk N and following the signs. **For more information write Rib Mountain State Park, 5301 Rib Mountain Dr., Wausau, WI 54401. Phone: 715-359-4522.**



Picnic among the pines at Rocky Arbor.
Photo by Jerry Trumm

Rocky Arbor

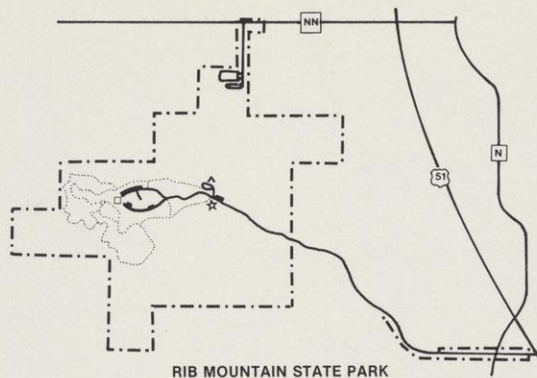
JEFF STROBEL,
Baraboo

STATE PARK

It hardly seems likely. Rocky Arbor State Park is tucked in the woods, between highways 12 and Interstate 90-94 only two miles from Lake Delton and Wisconsin Dells. Just down the road is the tourist bustle of the Dells, but at Rocky Arbor, the only sign is the sound of traffic filtered through the trees. Both highways actually pass through the 225-acre park which spans the Sauk-Juneau County line.

Among the park's natural attractions are a pleasant nature trail and scenic sandstone bluffs. The only waterway is a small creek that winds through a wetland.

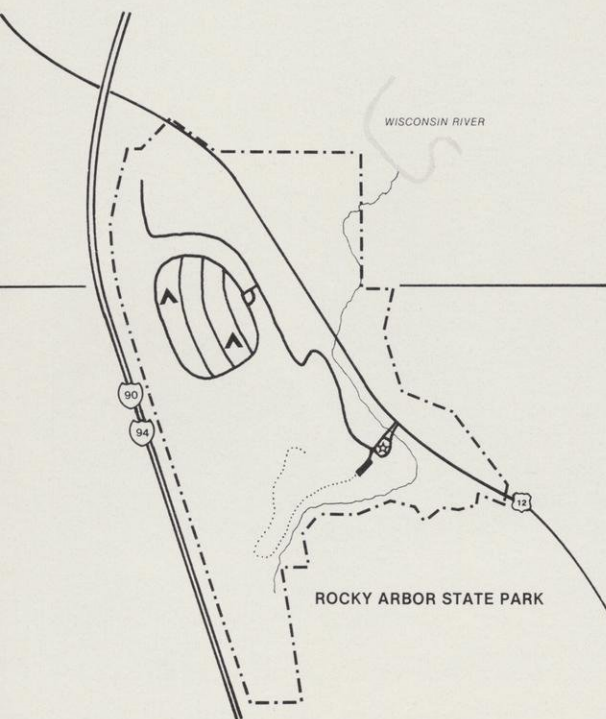
Many visitors here use the park as a base camp for travels to the Dells or other local attractions. Rocky Arbor also harbors overflow campers in its 89 wooded sites when Devil's Lake and Mirror Lake State Parks fill up on summer weekends. It typically fills with campers on Friday afternoons but weekday use is not very intensive and campsites are usually available. Unlike other parks in the area, all campsites at Rocky Arbor are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations are accepted.



RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER



ROCKY ARBOR STATE PARK

The park is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend.

Some visitors stop at Rocky Arbor just to walk the mile-long nature trail which features scenic sandstone cliffs and warm and cool-climate plant communities. Northern species inhabit a shaded gorge below the bluffs. On top of the bluffs grow dry oak hardwoods typical of southern Wisconsin. The bluffs were created long ago by the scouring action of the Wisconsin River which is now more than a mile away. Rock climbing is not allowed here because of the sandstone's fragile nature.

For more information write or call Rocky Arbor State Park, c/o Mirror Lake State Park, Rt. 1, Box 283, Baraboo, WI 53913. Phone: 608-254-2333.



Tunnel entrance to the bottom of the shaft where lead shot was manufactured at Tower Hill.

Tower Hill

STATE PARK

DENNIS WEIBEL,
Naturalist

This park was named for the shot tower where millions of pounds of lead were manufactured into ammunition for use throughout Wisconsin Territory and the upper Midwest in the early 19th century.

Original construction began in 1831 on a sandstone cliff overlooking the Wisconsin River. Two men dug a vertical shaft through 120 feet of sandstone, using only ordinary mining tools — picks and crowbars. They then dug a 90 foot horizontal tunnel to connect with the shaft. Lead came from the nearby mines.

DNR and the State Historical Society have reconstructed the smelter house and wooden shot tower that originally crowned the sandstone shaft. Here, visitors can see a five-minute film that shows the old-time lead shot manufacturing process. Also on view are exhibits and artifacts from the years 1833 to 1857 when the tower operated.

After the tower was built, a village named Helena grew up around it. By 1835 the village boasted a lumberyard, store, copper shop, blacksmith shop, warehouse, post office and numerous family houses. It was so prosperous in the 1830s, it was seriously considered as a site for Wisconsin's first state capitol. Today all that remains of Helena are a few limestone foundations and old

streets that lie hidden beneath the sumac, oak and asters in the park.

Campsites and facilities at Tower Hill are primitive. There are no electrical outlets nor shower facilities.

The park provides easy access to the Wisconsin River and canoers often use it as a stopover and campsite.

This 77-acre historical park is open from May through October, and is located about two miles south of Spring Green on US highway 23.

For more information write Tower Hill State Park, Rt. 3, Spring Green, WI, 53588. Phone: 608-588-2116.

Wildcat Mountain

STATE PARK

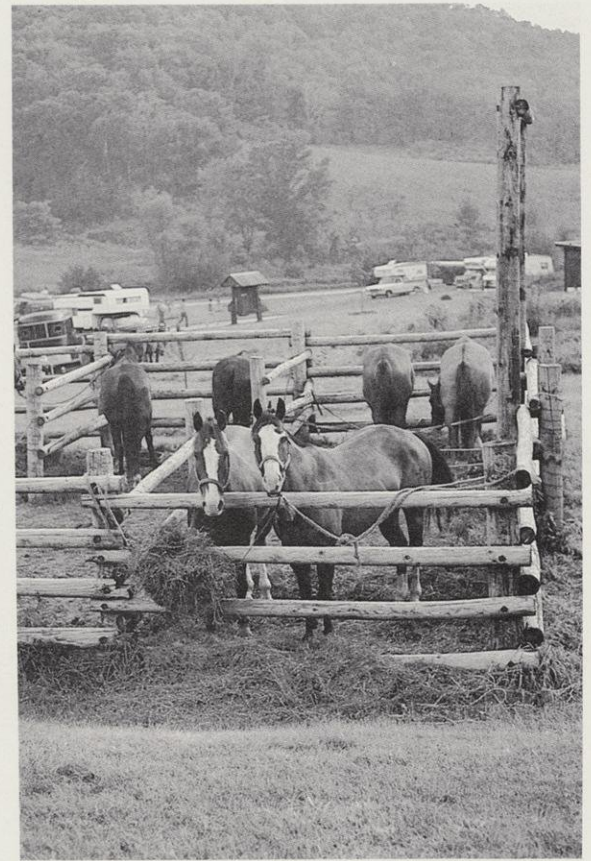
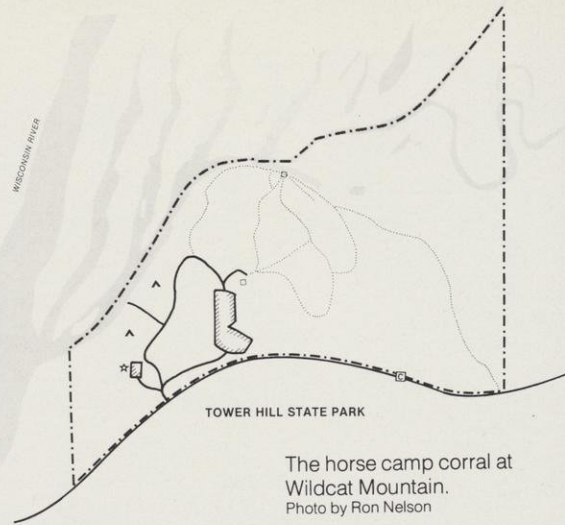
KAREN ROGERS,
Naturalist

The horse trail campground at Wildcat Mountain State Park is nestled at the end of Taylor Hollow Road with hills rising all around it. A weekend campout here is something memorable. Campers sit around the fire and swap stories about horse trading, or make plans for the next day's ride while whippoorwills call and the horses munch hay.

The parks 3,470 acres of unglaciated hills are a natural for horseback riding. Two connecting loops make up the 12-mile Wildcat Mountain Horse Trail. From the hilltops riders can see the bluffs and valleys of the park and beyond them the scattered farms. The trails wind around "hogbacks," up and down hills, through woods, open fields and old "dugways" left on buggy roads by early settlers.

Spring and fall are the most popular times for riding. The local horse club sponsors a Fall Colorama Ride every October and 75 to 100 horses and riders participate. The park does not rent horses.

Another activity which attracts large numbers of visitors to Wildcat Mountain is canoeing the scenic Kickapoo River. This quiet, slow-flowing stream has so many twists and turns, the Algonquin Indians named it "Kickapoo" which means "he who goes there, then here." Its changing aspect, high bluffs, low-hanging trees, wildlife and flowers bring quiet pleasure to all who float it. The 125-mile Kickapoo originates at Wilton and is canoeable from Ontario to Wauzeka where it empties into the Wisconsin River. Four canoe liveries with shuttle service are available for those who don't bring their own canoes.



The park has a picnic area and canoe launch located beneath one of the observation points which looms 400 feet overhead. Downstream is the Hemlock/Hardwoods Scientific Area on Mt. Pisgah which is accessible by the 1.3-mile self-guided Hemlock Nature Trail.

Wildcat Mountain has family and group camping as well as horse camping. Reservations are accepted for 15 of the 30 family campsites and all three group camps. There are three picnic areas and three hiking trails totaling four miles. Saturday evening nature programs are presented Memorial Day through Labor Day. Seven miles of ridge-top cross-country skiing is available in winter.

The park is located three miles east of the Village of Ontario on Highway 33. **For further information write Wildcat Mountain State Park, Box 98, Ontario, WI 54651. Phone: 608-337-4775.**

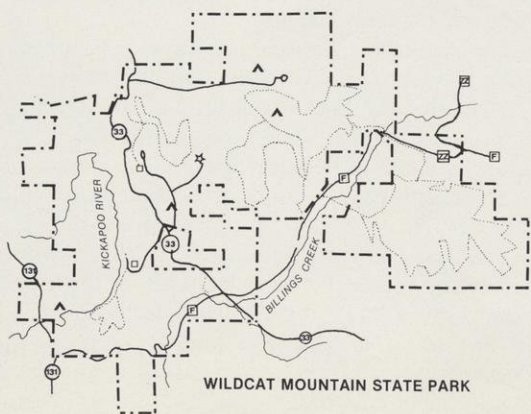
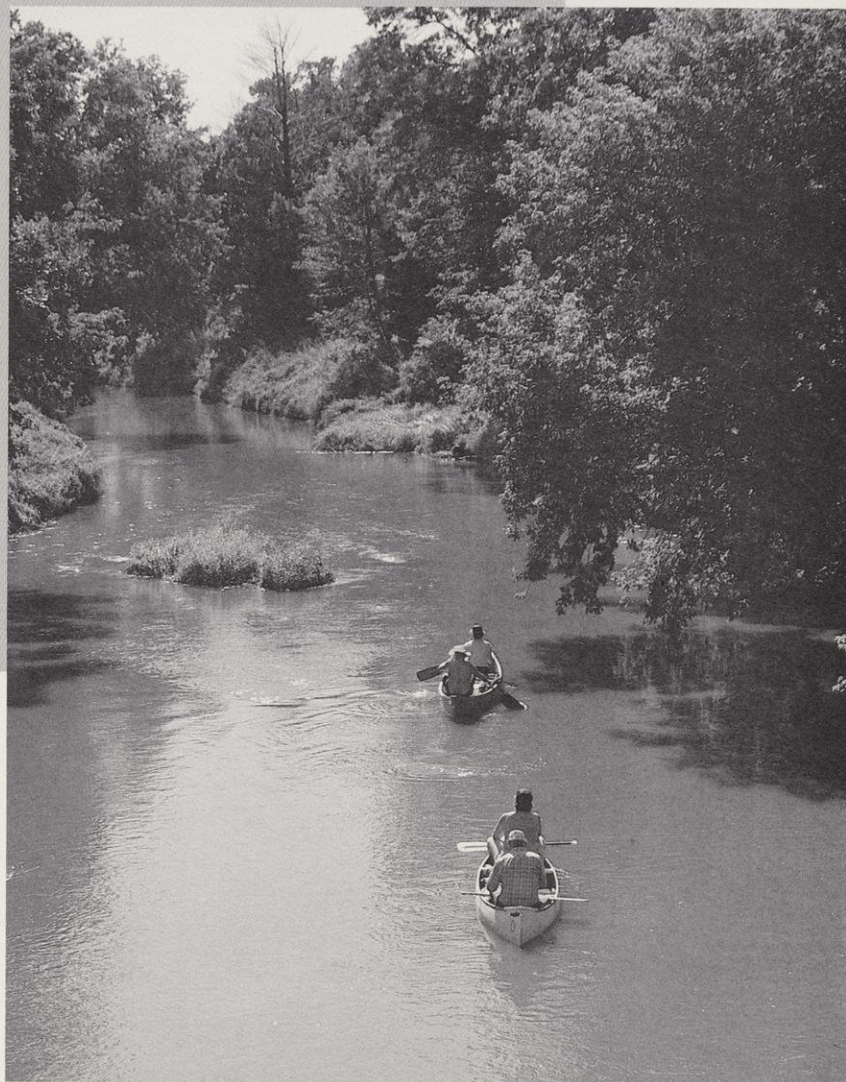


Wildcat Mountain
panorama.
Photo by Ron Nelson

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

Canoeing the Kickapoo.
Photo by Karen Rogers





The lake's ice fishing shantytown.
Photo by Gerald Mosely

Yellowstone Lake

STATE PARK

DAVID CLINE,
Superintendent
CECELIA CLEARY,
Fiscal Clerk

When Mother Nature's lake-makers, the glaciers, scoured Wisconsin thousands of years ago they skipped the southwestern corner of the state. To remedy the oversight, an extensive survey was made in 1947 to find a possible site for a man-made lake.

The survey picked 21 likely locations but detailed investigation singled out Yellowstone. It had several advantages: a constant, normal flow of water without excessive flooding; no physical improvements like highways or villages; a central location; and reasonable land values.

More surveys and tests were run to determine the best place to dam the Yellowstone River. Three scale models of the spillway, each with different designs were built. More than 100 test runs were made over these models before a suitable design was chosen.

It took four years to purchase the land and a year to build the 1,500-foot earthen dike, concrete dam and spillway. On June 14, 1954, seven years after the project began, the gates were closed and water began backing up to create Yellowstone Lake. The driftless southwest corner finally had a lake!

Stocked with bass, walleye and panfish the lake produced excellent fishing until 1963 when it became carp infested. Since then Yellowstone has been drawn down and restocked twice because of the carp — once in 1968 and again in 1983.

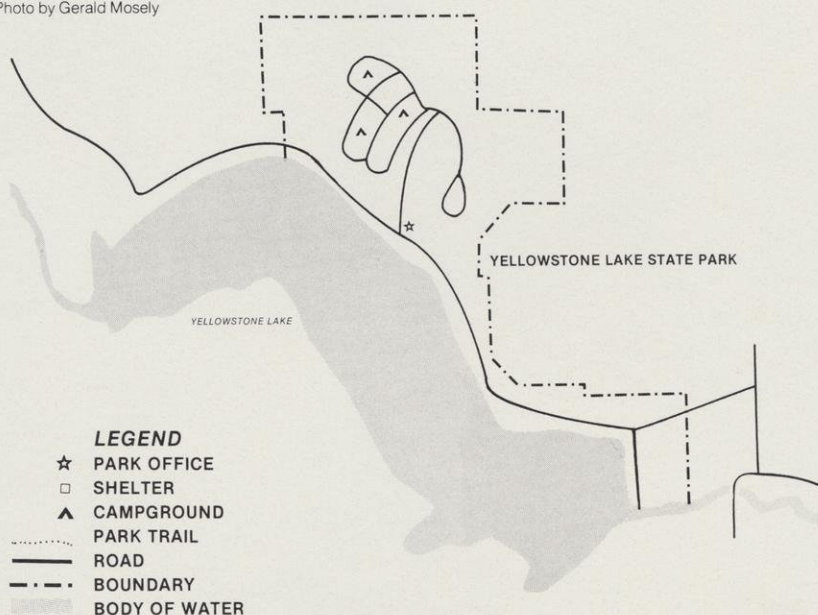
Fishing has been temporarily prohibited until July 1985 to allow the stocked fish time to mature and reproduce.

The 130-unit, family campground at Yellowstone is situated on a hill with a breathtaking view of southwestern Wisconsin. The lake is within easy walking distance. There are 36 electrical hookups. For people who want privacy, there are a few walk-in campsites.

The Yellowstone group campground can accommodate approximately 200 people.

In winter the lake turns into a tiny "village" with more than 100 ice fishing shanties on it. The park has a two-mile snowmobile trail connected to an additional 10 miles on other state land. There are no cross-country ski trails.

Yellowstone Lake is located in southwestern Wisconsin in the northeast corner of Lafayette County. It is off county highway F about equally distant from Darlington and Blanchardville. From Argyle, the lake is located off county highway N on Lake Road.





Summer fishing.
Photo by Gerald Mosely

Waterskiing.
Photo by Gerald Mosely



Swimming.
Photo by Gerald Mosely

The entire Yellowstone area, including the lake, marsh, woodlands, croplands and public use area covers 2,450 acres. Of this, 600 acres were designated a state park in 1970. The remainder except for the 450-acre lake is wildlife land used for hunting.

The park is open year-round and includes winter camping. Camping reservations are accepted for any time between May 1 and September 30.

The campground has water, pit toilets, a shower building and dumping station.

For more information write Yellowstone Lake State Park, Rt. 2, Box 48B, Blanchardville, WI 53516. Phone: 608-523-4427.



GLACIAL PLAINS & RIDGES

Sunset at Bong.
Photo by Daniel Weidert



Wild geranium in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
Photo by Roger Reif

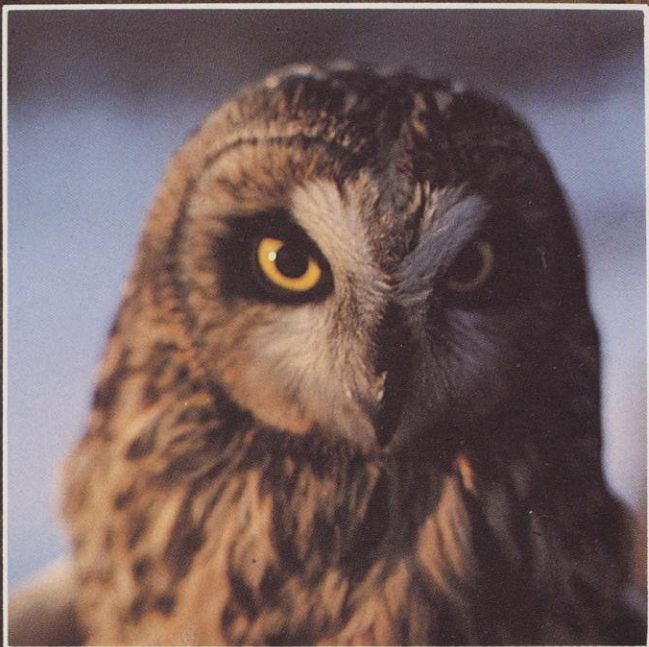
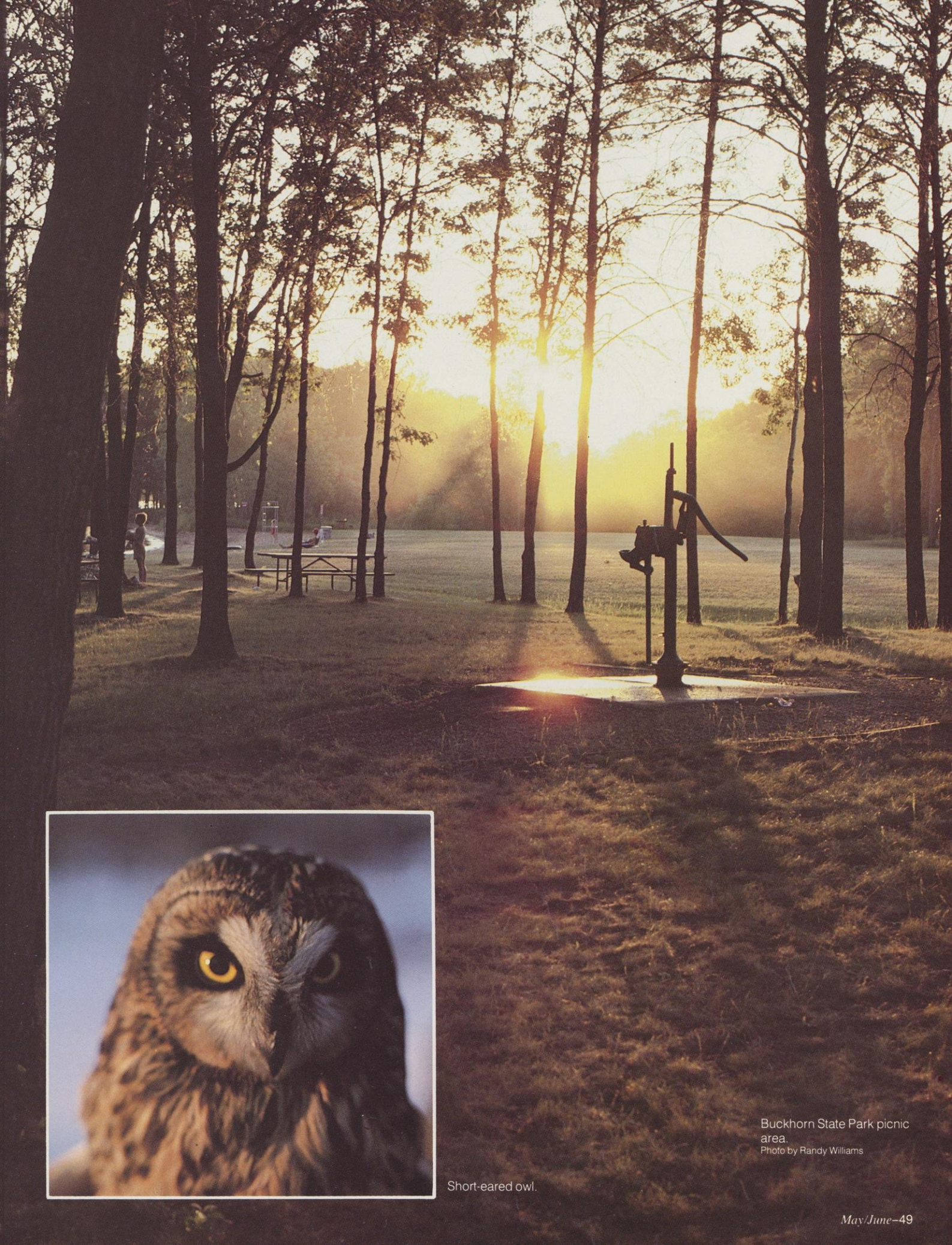


Commemorative statue of
Winnebago Chief Red Bird
at High Cliff State Park.
Photo by Dave Schnuell

Wisconsin
State Parks
Explore & Enjoy

Marathon run on the Sugar
River Trail.





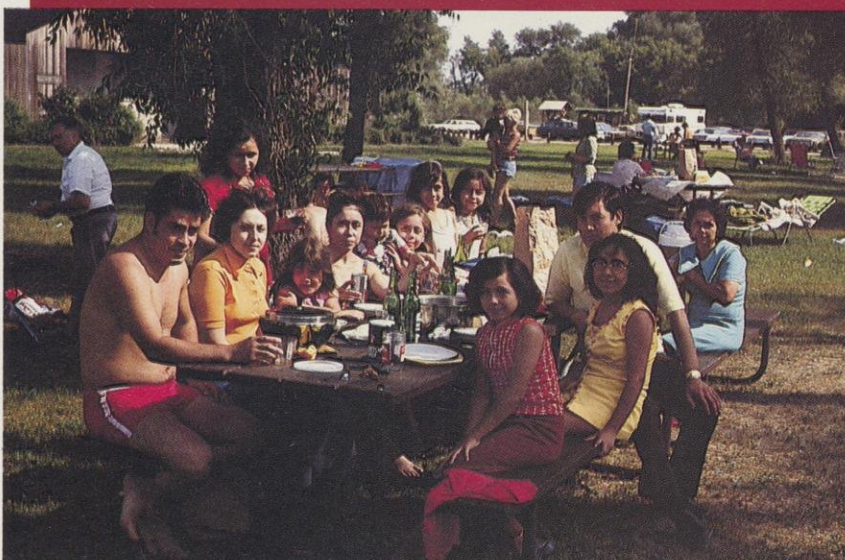
Buckhorn State Park picnic
area.
Photo by Randy Williams

Short-eared owl.

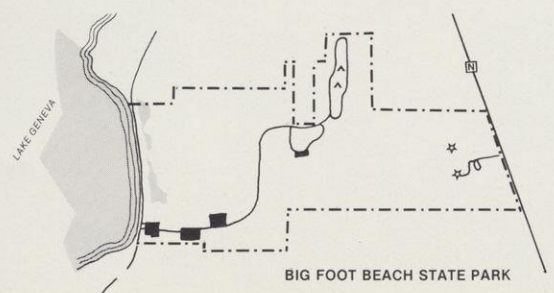
The pyramidal hill and part of the stockade at Aztalan.



Big Foot Beach.



Picnic at Big Foot Beach State Park.



Aztalan

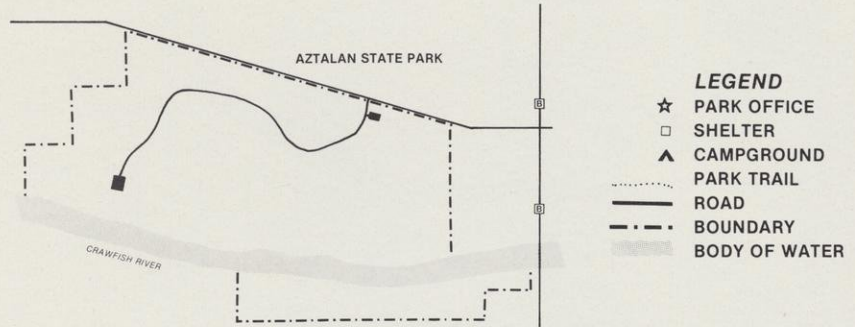
STATE PARK

ROBERT WEISS,
Superintendent,
and
ROBERT P. FAY,
Archaeologist,
Wisconsin Archaeological Survey

Aztalan State Park is a 172 acre day-use facility commemorating Wisconsin's largest and most famous archaeological site. It is located in the southeast part of the state about 50 miles from Milwaukee and 140 miles from Chicago, near the City of Lake Mills in Jefferson County.

The park showcases an ancient Middle-Mississippi village and ceremonial complex that once thrived in the area. Archaeologists theorize that the occupants of the site moved here from the large settlement known as Cahokia, near East St. Louis, Illinois. The site of Aztalan was occupied from about 1100 to 1300 A.D. The people who lived at Aztalan built large, flat-topped pyramidal mounds, and a stockade around their village. They hunted, fished, and farmed here on the west bank of the Crawfish River. Portions of the stockade and two mounds have been reconstructed in the park.

The site of Aztalan, so called because it was originally thought to be related to the Pyramid-building Aztecs of Mexico, was discovered in the fall of 1835. After the Black Hawk War, the land was sold to a farmer for \$22.00. In 1850, author, naturalist, and scientist Increase A. Lapham investigated the site. At that time most of it was



still undisturbed by the plow, and Lapham urged its preservation in his "Antiquities of Wisconsin," published in 1855. However, despite movements to save Aztalan, it was not until 1948, 93 years later, that it became a state park.

The park is mostly open prairie with 38 of its 172 acres an oak woods. Along the Crawfish River which divides the property are wet shrub communities that contain cottonwood, willow, sumac and bur oak trees. Fishing is generally poor although some northern pike, walleye and catfish are caught.

Park facilities include picnic and parking areas with grills and restrooms nearby as well as 3.25 miles of hiking trails, a group shelter and a well for water. There is no overnight camping. The park is open to vehicles from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from early April through November. State park vehicle admission stickers are not required. Since 1980, Aztalan State Park has been managed by the Town of Aztalan under an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

Questions should be directed to Robert Weiss at Lake Kegonsa State Park, 2405 Door Creek Rd., Stoughton, WI 53589. Phone: 608-873-9695.

Big Foot Beach

DAVE SHOUDER,
Superintendent

STATE PARK

Big Foot Beach is the only state park with its boundaries entirely inside a city — including approximately 1,900 feet of frontage on Lake Geneva. For years the lake has attracted thousands of visitors with its beauty and sparkling clear water. People find that in spring and summer a visit is rewarding, but fall is nothing short of spectacular as trees along shore come into full color.

In the late 40s, land for Big Foot Beach State Park was purchased from Fred Maytag, founder of the Maytag Corporation. The park name honors a Potawatomi Indian chief whose village was located near what is now the Village of Williams Bay, about eight miles west of the park.

Even though it's in town, the park harbors an amazing variety of wildlife: often seen are woodchuck, raccoon, skunk, muskrat, fox, deer and many birds including several species of ducks and geese during migrations.

Campsites and picnic areas are spacious.

Swimming is popular on the 900-foot guarded sand beach. Nearby is eight-acre Ceylon lagoon. Surrounded by a picnic area, the lagoon was built by Maytag's son as a miniature Lake Geneva. The 100 unit campground has pit toilets, running water and showers. Sixty-four of the sites accommodate trailers, but there are no electrical hook-ups. Reservations are accepted. There are 31 acres of picnic area and two modern bathhouses.

Big Foot Beach State Park is located on state highway 120 1½ miles south of the City of Lake Geneva. It is open from the third Monday of May through the end of October each year.

For additional information write Big Foot Beach State Park, Rt. 3, Box 12, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. Phone: 414-248-2528.

Bong

BRUCE CHEVIS,
Superintendent

STATE RECREATION AREA



Bong State Recreation Area accommodates diverse activities like:

Ultralight flying.
Photo by Debra Jaszewski

Dog training.
Photo by Bruce Chevis

Dirt biking.
Photo by Mike Ripp

Land sailing.
Photo by Bruce Chevis

It's not a bad fate for an almost air base. The wetlands are back at Bong and so are thousands of ducks, geese, shorebirds and songbirds. They return each year now. The birds have come back to stay because of wide open grassland and bountiful natural food. Both bird watchers and hunters find the avian abundance good. But it was not always so.

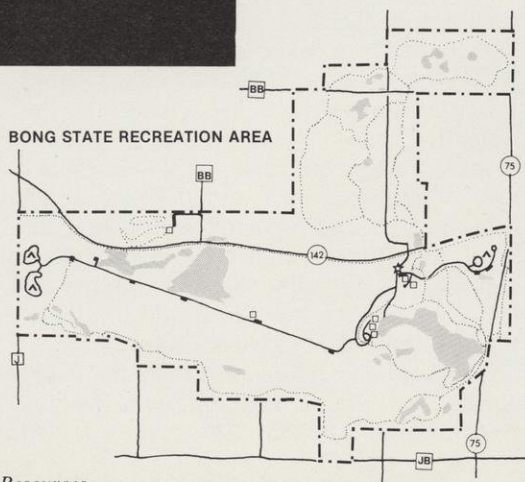
There was a time in the mid 1950s when construction here deprived wildlife of nearly all habitat. Back then, prodded by the cold war, the Air Force decided to build a jet fighter base here in western Kenosha County to protect Chicago and Milwaukee. It was fitting to name the base after Maj. Richard I. Bong, a native of Poplar, Wisconsin, and the Air Corps ace World War II pilot in the Pacific.

Land for the base came from 40 families who were forced to sell out. Many were descendants of original homesteaders. Somehow, midway through construction, the need for a fighter base in Kenosha County became obsolete. On October 2, 1959 the Air Force cancelled all contracts. That was only three days before an 18-inch deep layer of concrete was scheduled to be poured on the already-graveled 10,000 foot runway. The Air Force left after having spent \$29-million. Shortly afterward, the State of Wisconsin purchased 4,515 acres at Bong for \$658,000.

Ever since, this large piece of green space in an increasingly citified corner of the state has been an oasis for outdoor recreation. In 1974 it was designated a "recreation area" — the state's first. This differs from a state park or forest in that it offers additional activities not traditionally found in state parks. Such activities at Bong include hunting, dog training, model plane and rocket flying, hot air ballooning, land sailing, dirt trail biking, hang gliding and ultralight flying (powered hang gliders). Bong also offers traditional state park opportunities such as a full-time naturalist program, group camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

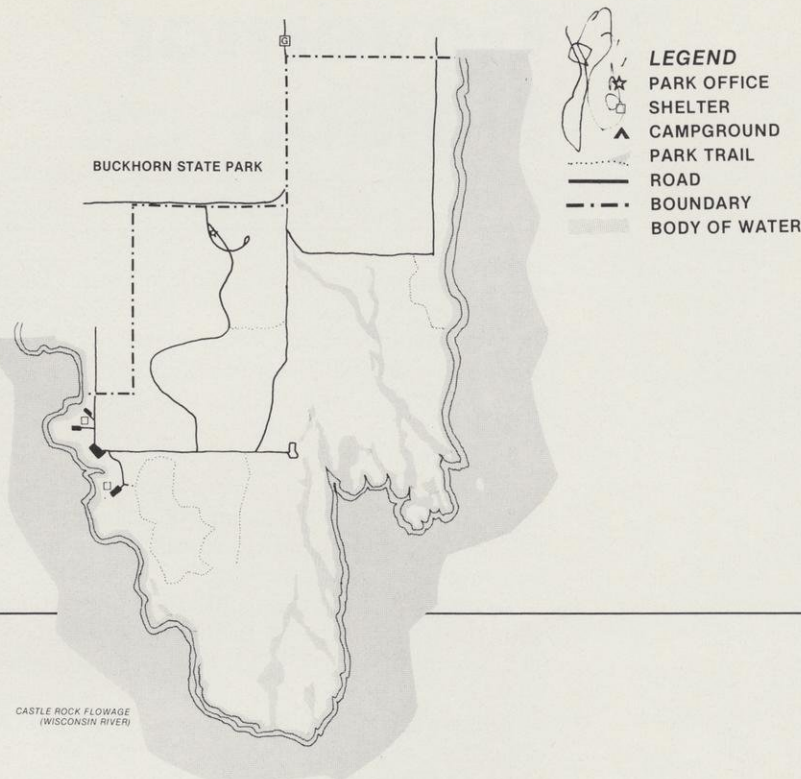
Does this mean that at Bong on a typical weekend in July, ultralights will be flying between model airplanes that are landing in the midst of dog trials interrupted by dirt bikers? No! All these "special uses" take place in a designated 1,000-acre zone encompassing the former runway. In addition to being kept away from other park activities, the special uses are also separated from each other physically within the zone and chronologically through the use of a scheduling calendar.

So on a typical July weekend at Bong, you can swim from a sand beach, picnic at one of four picnic areas, walk some of the 13 miles of hiking trails, or linger along one of the two self-guided nature trails. In a distant part of the property you can watch ultralights soar the winds or model airplanes fine-tune their craft for an international competition in France.



On a typical fall day in the special use zone you might enjoy a dog trial or see a duck hunter bag a bird.

The Bong State Recreation Area is located in western Kenosha County less than a one-hour drive from downtown Milwaukee. It is situated on state highway 142, 10 miles west of interstate 94, or six miles east of Burlington, Wisconsin. Reservations are accepted for the group campground, the picnic shelters, the 100-seat auditorium and for hunting permits. Bong is open year-round, seven days a week. **For more information, including a schedule of events and nature programs write Bong Recreation Area, Rt 1, Box 141B, Kanasville, WI 53139. Phone: 414-878-4416.**



Buckhorn

STATE PARK

DANIEL J. SCHULLER,
Assistant Superintendent

Castle Rock Flowage on the east side of Buckhorn Peninsula is big water, a realm of bass boats, water skiers and pontoon boats that leisurely cruise the shore. But the back bay on the west side is the world of the canoe, a quiet world, where every bend can bring a new discovery. The two are examples of the boundless abundance and variety of natural things in Buckhorn State Park. Canada geese, herons, wood ducks, muskrats, and mink all live here. And in the uplands among the sand blows, oaks, and jack pine, deer are everywhere.

In the early 1800s Buckhorn was Winnebago Indian country. They named this wilderness Necedah, "Land of Yellow Waters" and camped here on the west shore of the Wisconsin River among the big pines. Access by the white man was by boat or stagecoach from Grand Rapids—now Wisconsin Rapids. In 1848, Indians deeded this land to the government and three years later Thomas Weston and John Werner, Jr. established a sawmill here. Lumbering became a way of life at Necedah, Germantown and Werner. But most of the big white pines were cut down by 1877. Settlers moved in when lumberjacks moved on. The whole area filled with small farms.

Pasture was at a premium because of the marshes and farmers' cows grazed the woodlots, eliminating the brushy cover wildlife needs. However, starting in the late 1920s, farms near the Wisconsin and Yellow Rivers were sold to the Wisconsin River Power Company for its hydroelectric dams. Left unattended, the land began to follow natural

succession, creating the typical central Wisconsin cover of aspen, scrub oak and jack pine now prevalent. This brushy habitat increased deer and other wildlife populations. Upon completion of the dam in 1950, the Wisconsin and Yellow Rivers backed up to form Castle Rock Flowage. This created the peninsula and the many finger-like sloughs that are now Buckhorn. DNR purchased it from the Power Company in 1974.

Today this 2,500-acre park and wildlife area is being managed to make it once again "unbroken wilderness." The park has facilities for visitors but its bays, marshes and forests retain a unique wild character. It is a kind of sportsman's paradise where anglers catch walleye, bass and panfish, where archers bag trophy bucks and where small game and waterfowl abound. Buckhorn also offers beachcombing, mushroom picking, hiking, bird watching, swimming, waterskiing, picnicking and other outdoor experiences.

The park is open from April 1 to October 31 and is for day use only at this time. Facilities include picnic areas, a beach and bathhouse, a boat landing on the flowage and a canoe landing. A hiking trail and a nature trail will soon be completed. No camping is yet available but nearby private and county park campgrounds are available.

To get to Buckhorn, take exit 69 into Mauston off interstate 90-94, approximately 20 miles north of Wisconsin Dells. Go north on county highway Q then approximately four miles on G to the park's main entrance. If coming from the north, take G south eight miles from Necedah.

For more information write Buckhorn State Park, Box 725, Necedah, WI 54646. Phone: 608-565-2789.

Governor Nelson

ROBERT WEISS,
Superintendent

STATE PARK

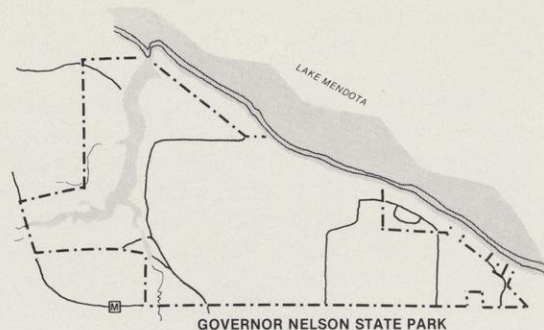
Governor Nelson State Park in central Dane County, one of the state's newest, is scheduled for opening in late 1985. It includes 2,600 feet of frontage on 10,000-acre Lake Mendota and a view of the Madison skyline and State Capitol building.

Planned for multi-season day use, activities anticipated include picnicking, swimming, fishing, ski touring, snowshoeing, bicycling, hiking, nature study and open field sports. There will be no camping or snowmobiling.

Access is via county trunk M. Major routes with ready access to M include state highways 113, and 30, US 51, 151, 12, 14, 18 and interstate 90-94.

The park has several effigy mounds, the most noticeable of which is panther-shaped and 282 feet long. There is also a bird mound and several conical mounds. Others have been disturbed by farming.

The park site is primarily rolling agricultural land with wetland and wooded shoreline. A 500-foot beach, bathhouse, access roads, parking, boat launch and picnic area are included in the



first phase of development. Also planned are prairie areas, hiking trails, a playground and other picnic grounds. Depending on money available, a former YMCA structure on the property may become a nature and environmental education center. A boathouse is currently being used by the American Red Cross for water safety instruction.

What with summer and winter fishing, swimming, pleasure boating, ice boating and other activities, year-round use should be substantial. Many thousand visitors are expected annually.

Inquiries about the new park can be directed to Governor Nelson State Park, c/o Lake Kegonsa State Park, 2405 Door Creek Rd., Stoughton, WI 53589, Phone: 608-873-9695.

Hartman Creek

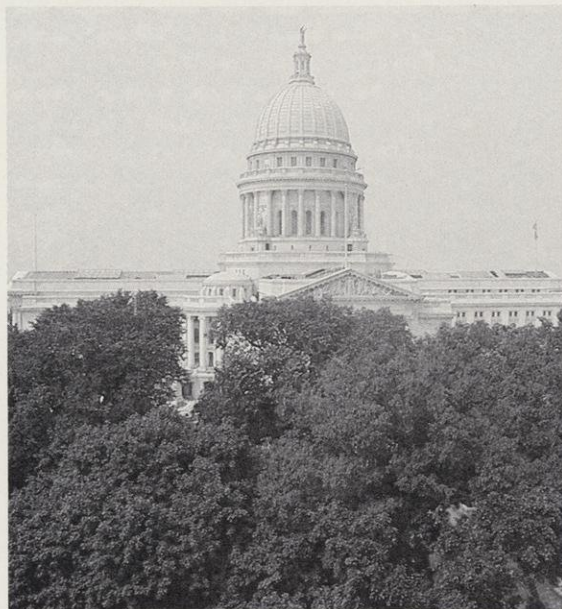
MIKE SCHEIWE,
Naturalist

STATE PARK

One night at the park the aurora borealis blossomed in the northern sky. They were sharp and clear, and in constant motion. The park's campgrounds — one in the orchard and the other in the pines — grew silent as people stopped everything to watch. There were sharp pencil lines in the sky and bright spots with colors shifting from white to green to blue. Most campers had never seen the aurora before and were utterly amazed at their beauty.

The show was one of the special surprise benefits of a campout at Hartman Creek. Not so much of a surprise is the fact that the park is clean, quiet and friendly, something so well known it's become the park motto. Here, campers who choose to can be alone, or if they wish can share a campfire with strangers and soon become friends. One aspect many parents appreciate is that the park is safe! It's big enough for everyone camping to seek out a private corner, but not big enough to get lost in. Parents can let kids go to the beach alone and not worry about cliffs to fall off or speeding cars.

The oak forest on the park's far west end is part of the terminal moraine of the Wisconsin glacier. It consists of potholes and gullies, and gives

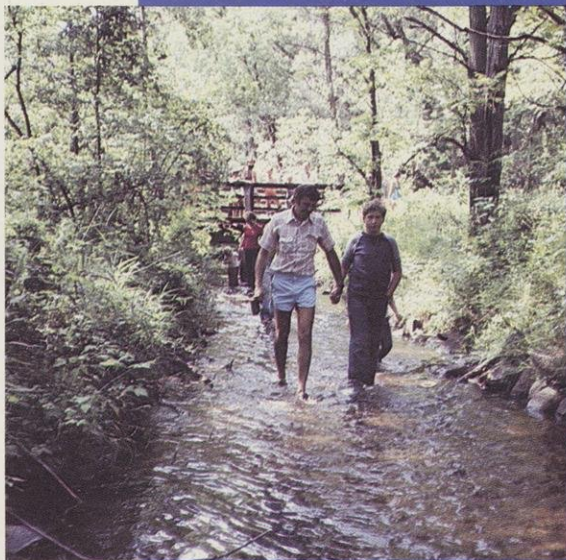


The State Capitol dominates the skyline across Lake Mendota from Governor Nelson State Park.
Wisconsin Division of Tourism photo

LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER





Hiking "in" Hartman Creek.
Photo by Mike Scheiwe



Hartman Creek in winter.
Photo by Sid Miller

An educational treat —
"tree cookies!"
Photo by Merlin Lang

rise to the springs that feed Allen Lake. There's a self-guiding nature trail here. The east end of the park is ground moraine, full of rocks and boulders. The park's vegetation is in the transition zone where oaks and prairies of the south meet northern hardwoods and pines.

Wisconsin's original 2-million acres of prairie has long since succumbed to the plow. Grain and hay now grow where big bluestem and rattlesnake master once did. The park, however, has many acres of old meadows that often resemble these prairies and an interesting mixture of plant life common to both northern and southern Wisconsin.

Exactly when the first inhabitants came to Hartman Creek after the retreat of the glacier is not clear, perhaps as long as 9,000 years ago. Evidence that they were here includes systems of trails, encampments, villages, burial and effigy mounds and countless artifacts. The Old Coach Bike Trail that travels through a portion of the park was once part of an important cross country Indian trail as well as a former stage coach line. In 1848 European colonists came to log and farm in the area. Indians were driven out and the great pine and oak forests cut down.

In 1939 the state acquired 360 acres of the present park and began planting red and white pine and white spruce to stabilize the soil and reestablish part of the forest. The site was used as a fish hatchery until 1954. Dams were built to create the springfed spawning lakes that have become the focal points of today's campground.

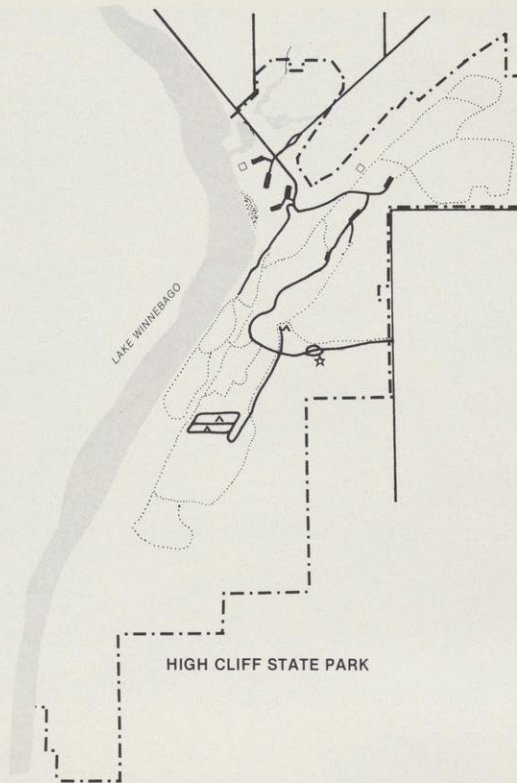
The park has 100 family campsites and a group camp. Reservations are accepted. There are 14



miles of trail for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Naturalist programs are presented in the amphitheatre complemented by a self-guiding nature trail and guided summer hikes. There is a swimming beach, and boating and canoeing on the five lakes. The 1,200-acre park is open year-round and offers winter camping. Hartman Creek is located south of highway 54 six miles west of Waupaca, adjacent to the Waupaca Chain O'Lakes. Highway 54 is reached via highways 51, 10 or 22. **For more information write Hartman Creek State Park, Rt. 1, Box 203, Waupaca, WI 54981. Phone: 715-258-2372.**

LEGEND

- ☆ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER



High Cliff

STATE PARK

PATRICIA J. DREIER,
Naturalist

High Cliff State Park, off state highway 55 on the northeast shore of 215-square mile Lake Winnebago, rests on the limestone cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment which parallel the eastern shore of the lake. The escarpment extends northeasterly to form the spine of scenic Door County.

A boat landing and marina gives boaters easy access to the lake while swimmers and sun-bathers enjoy the beaches. Anglers catch walleye, panfish, perch and bass.

Included in the park's 1,137 acres are private shaded campsites that can accommodate groups of all sizes from single families to large church or scout groups. Half the 54 family campsites can be reserved and the other half are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. All four group campsites are reservable. The park's sheltered picnic areas provide spacious facilities, especially welcome during summer showers.

A non-denominational chapel service is held every Saturday evening in a clearing at the edge of the woods.

On summer weekends the park's naturalist leads hikes and presents programs on nature and park history. The Saturday evening program features night explorations or campfire programs. The naturalist can answer questions about the park and its hiking trails, or help visitors discover nature on their own. Hiking trails at High Cliff range from those suitable for the handicapped to others for experienced hikers.

Spring hikers can discover colorful wildflowers or watch birds building nests. During summer, visitors can see deer, raccoon, fox, woodchuck, frogs, snakes and many other interesting animals. Fall brings beautiful foliage, and peaceful hikes. Winter activities include ice fishing on Lake Winnebago, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

History and geology buffs will want to visit the park's museum to learn about effigy mound builders, lime kiln and quarry operations and the glaciers.



View of Lake Winnebago
from High Cliff.
Photo by Dave Schnuell



Marina at High Cliff State
Park.
Photo by Dave Crehore

**For more information write High Cliff State
Park, N7475 High Cliff Road, Menasha, WI
54952. Phone: 414-989-1106.**

Early photo of the rock
mine at High Cliff.



Kettle Moraine

WALTER J. ADAMS,
Forest Superintendent

STATE FOREST - Northern Unit

Imprinted with classical glacial features, this unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest is an outstanding natural area close to southeastern Wisconsin urban centers. The 27,000-acre forest ranges for 25 miles across parts of Fond du Lac, Sheboygan and Washington counties.

Established in 1936, the forest is managed for multiple use — forest crops, scenery, outdoor recreation, hunting and stream flow stabilization.

The forest is endowed with a dozen lakes and varied cover and topography. Mauthe Lake and Long Lake are two major recreational areas with family camping, picnicking, swimming and boating. The Greenbush Group Camp in the northern part of the forest is popular for organized camping.

There are extensive hiking trails that cover many miles, a favorite activity, especially during fall. Some are part of the National Trail System where backpacking by permit is allowed at five shelter areas. In addition, the Zillmer, Butler Lake, Parnell and Greenbush loops provide ample opportunities for walks.

Horseback riders can use the Kettle Moraine Bridle Trail as well as the Crooked Lake and Forest Lake bridle loops. The New Prospect Horse-riders Campground serves riders on overnight campouts.

The Kettle Moraine also offers a potpourri of winter sports activities. The Zillmer and Greenbush Hiking/Ski Trails are groomed and track set for excellent cross-country skiing. And there are 58 miles of snowmobile trails.

Lakes and streams provide excellent year-round fishing. You can catch trout at Butler Lake, Watercress Creek and Lake Fifteen Creek. In fall, hunters come for small game, waterfowl and deer. Hunting is allowed on most of the forest, however, a check with headquarters should be made to pinpoint closed areas.

The Kettle Moraine State Forest is the largest and most varied of the nine units in the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve which was established to protect, preserve and interpret Wisconsin's glacial features. Forest naturalists are stationed at the Ice Age Center and conduct nature hikes, evening programs and tours. Self-guided nature trails are also located on the forest. Dominant glacial features on the state forest include:

- **Kettles** — depressions in the landscape formed by the melting of large blocks of ice that were buried in glacial drift. Both the Greenbush Kettle and Bear Lake are excellent examples.

- **Moraines** — unsorted glacial debris deposited at the ice margin. They mark the outermost limit of the glacier and where it halted in its slow retreat northward. The Ice Age Center is located



Greenbush Kettle in the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine.

Photo by Dennis Yockers

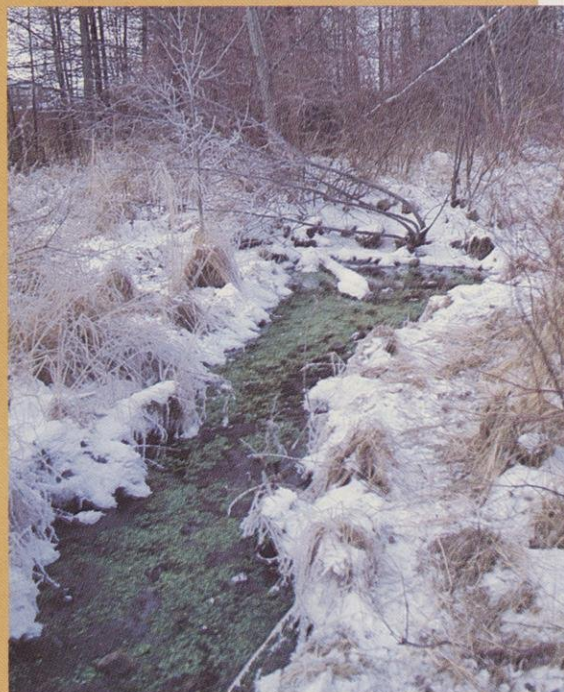
Spring flowers.

Photo by Roger Reif

Primitive backpack camp
site in the Northern Unit.
Photo by Phil Berkheimer



Butler Lake, Northern Unit.
Photo by William Volkert

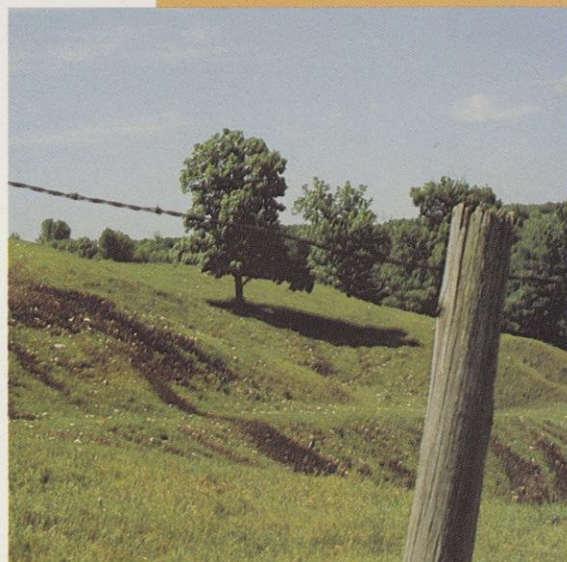


Milwaukee River, Northern
Unit.
Photo by Dennis Yockers

Marsh marigold.
Photo by William Volkert



Typical Kettle Moraine
landscape.
Photo by Roger Reif



atop the Green Bay Moraine and overlooks the Lake Michigan Moraine.

● **Kames** — cone-shaped hills that were formed as water fell through vertical shafts in the ice, carrying with it debris and depositing it beneath the ice. The debris was mounded up like sand falling through an hour glass. Dundee Mountain and Dundee Kame south of the mountain are world famous.

● **Eskers** — narrow ridges of sand and gravel formed by streams flowing through tunnels under the ice. The glacial hiking trail follows the Parnell Esker at Butler Lake.

● **Outwash Plain** — a rather flat expanse of sand and gravel deposited by glacial meltwaters beyond the ice margin. The Jersey Flats, south-east of the Ice Age Center, were formed by outwash.

Kettle Moraine

CAROL JESTER,
Mukwonago

STATE FOREST — Southern Unit

The Wisconsin Glacier moved south from Canada over the state 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. The ice was two miles thick at its origin tapering to hundreds of feet at the end. Two fingers of the glacier, the Lake Michigan Lobe on the east, and the Green Bay Lobe on the west, grated against each other for a 120-mile stretch. This action caused melting and the deposit of rock, sand and gravel between the lobes, forming a ridge or moraine about 300 feet above the surrounding land. Kettles or holes were formed by large hunks of ice in the moraine. This ice eventually melted and the earth above it caved in. The name of the forest, Kettle Moraine, is taken from these outstanding features.

Trees in the forest include oak, hickory, aspen, pine, spruce and others. There are wildflowers, marsh and prairie plants, 230 varieties of birds and many mammals. Deer, rabbits, squirrels, badgers, chipmunks and fox, hawks, turkey vultures, warblers, waterfowl, snakes, frogs and fish are commonplace.

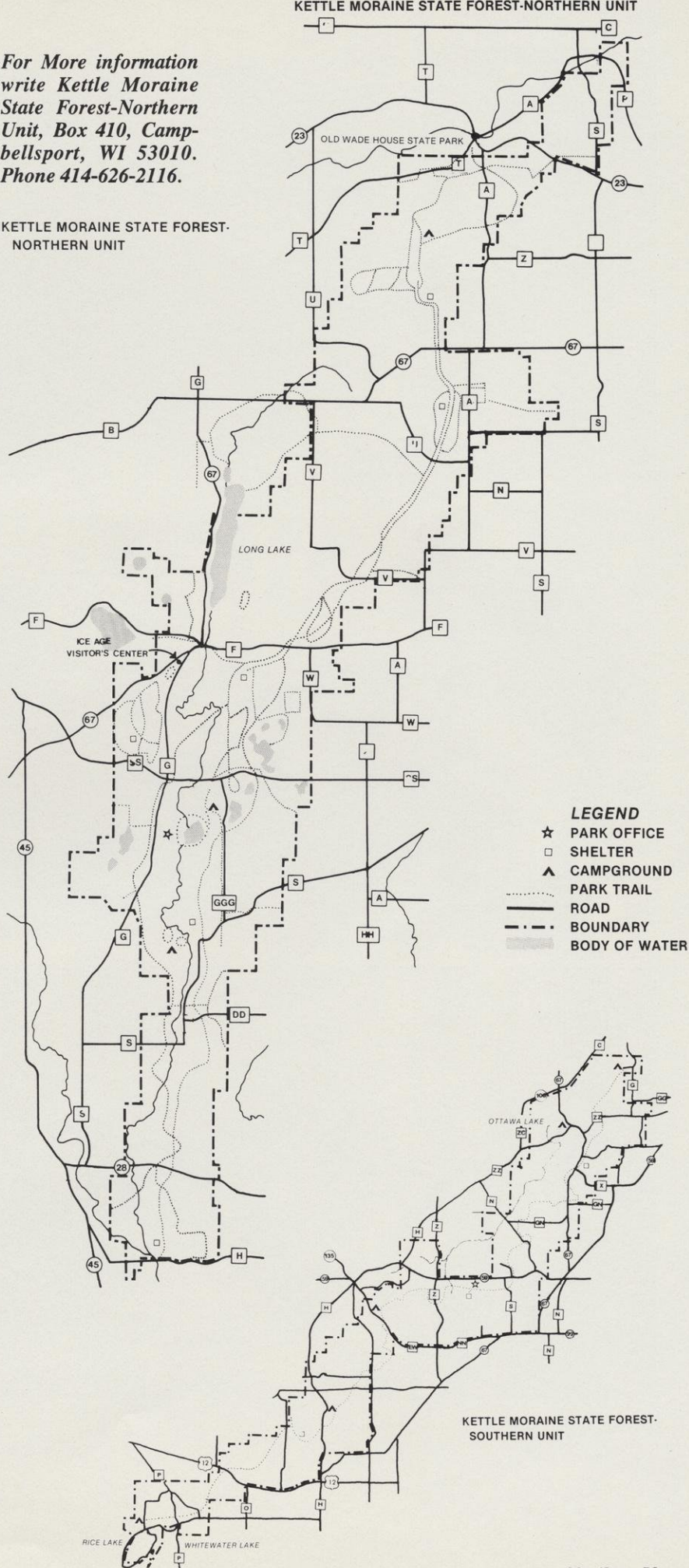
Arrowheads from Indian cultures in Wisconsin have been found here dating back to about 6,000 B.C. When white settlers came around 1830 the Potawatomi Indians were one of the most common tribes in the region. They had large villages at Mukwonago, Pewaukee, Waukesha, Lake Geneva and Lake Delavan.

Early settlers built log houses and barns, farmed with oxen, shot and ate prairie chickens and other wildlife, and traveled old Indian paths, some worn two feet deep in places.

The Kettle Moraine is now well established as a public recreation area. It has many miles of trails for hiking, jogging, running, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and snowmobiling. People can picnic, camp, fish, swim, go boating, hunt,

*For More information
write Kettle Moraine
State Forest-Northern
Unit, Box 410, Camp-
bellsport, WI 53010.
Phone 414-626-2116.*

KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST-
NORTHERN UNIT





practice target shooting, attend naturalist programs, visit the forest museum at the headquarters and tour Old World Wisconsin, a collection of early pioneer homes.

Presently the forest consists of 17,000 acres. Major facilities include four family campgrounds with a total of 163 sites: Whitewater Lake, La Grange, Ottawa Lake and Pinewoods. Reservations are available at the latter two sites. The Horsemen's Campground has 30 sites and is a special use area for horse campers only. The McMiller Shooting Range is open for target shooting from March through November, the only state-owned range in Wisconsin. There are two beaches and several boat launching sites.

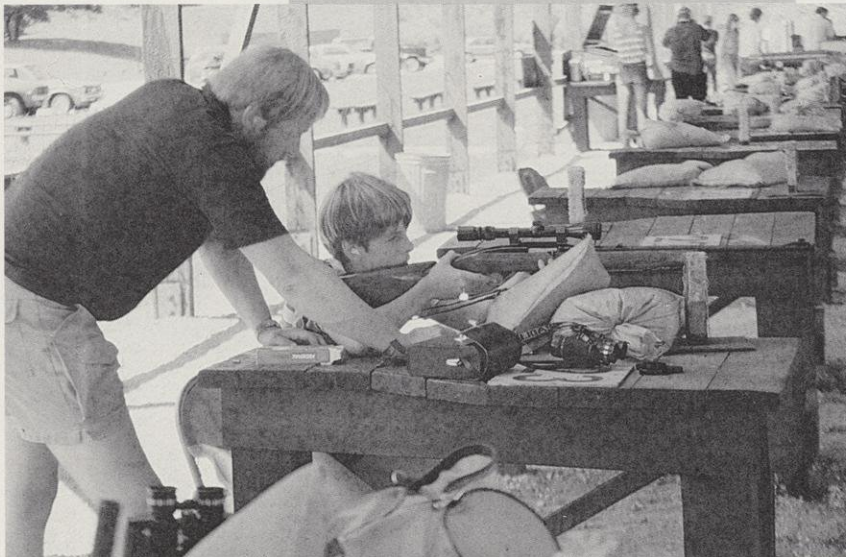
The Ice Age Hiking Trail has three backpack shelter sites along its 32-mile stretch here which are reservable year-round. The trail covers the entire length of the forest over moraines, marshes, kettles and trout streams.

Five additional loop trails are available for shorter day hikes. These areas include Scuppernong, McMiller, Emma Carlin, Nordic and John Muir trails. All except Emma Carlin are for cross country skiing in winter. The Carlin trail is set aside for winter hikers and snowshoers. The various horse trails become snowmobile trails in winter that connect with surrounding county and club trails.

The Milwaukee School System operates two educational facilities in the forest. They are the Oak Ridge Demonstration Farm where students learn about operations on a typical Wisconsin farm and the Palmyra Day Camp where students study the forest environment.

The forest is located in Waukesha, Walworth and Jefferson counties midway between Milwaukee and Janesville. It can be reached by highways 12, 67 and 59, with the headquarters located on highway 59 midway between Palmyra and Eagle.

***For more information write Kettle Moraine
State Forest-Southern Unit, S91 W39091
Hwy. 59, Eagle, WI 53119.
Phone 414-594-2135.***



Shooting range in the Kettle Moraine. Photo by Phil Berkeimer



Riding the Ottawa horse
trails in the Southern Unit.
Photo by Ron Kurowski

Lake Kegonsa

ROBERT WEISS,
Superintendent

STATE PARK

If you're looking for a state park on a large lake in southern Wisconsin with a peaceful, natural setting, Lake Kegonsa State Park may be it.

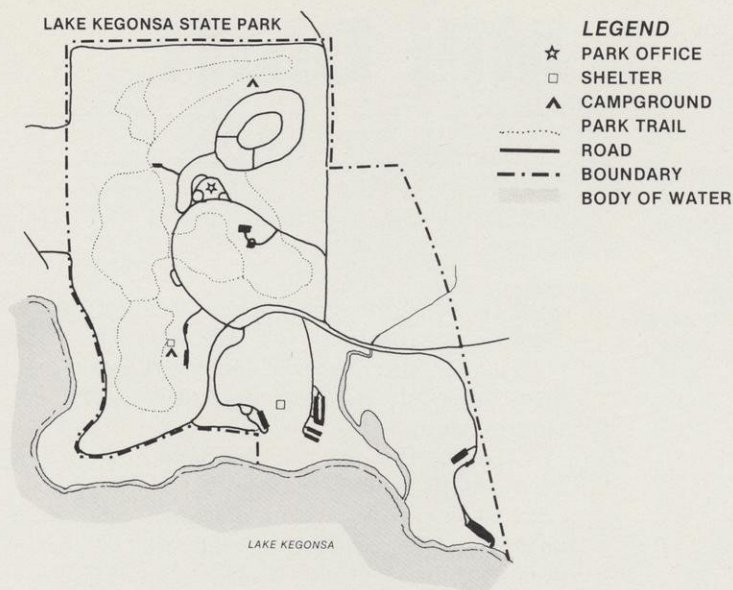
The park is about five miles north of Stoughton and is easily accessible by either interstate 90 or US highway 51.

Kegonsa means "Lake of many fishes" in the Winnebago Indian language and it is one of southern Wisconsin's most productive fishing holes. Crappie, bluegill, perch, catfish and walleye make up most of the catch. The 3,209-acre lake is also popular for motorboating and waterskiing. Quite fertile, it sometimes produces heavy algae blooms during summer.

The park has 80 beautiful primitive family campsites with no electric or water hookups. There is also a group campground that can accommodate up to 100 persons. Reservations can be made for groups but not for the family campsites.

Other facilities include a beach, boat launch, six picnic areas, dumping station, nature trail, shelters and playground equipment.

The 1.3 mile "White Oak Nature Trail" features many peculiar earthen structures of mysterious origin. Some Stoughton natives claim the mounds were used as military embankments dur-



ing the Blackhawk Indian Wars, while the Wisconsin State Historical Society believes they were built by the effigy mound builders. The park has more than 60 acres of restored prairies and is home to muskrat, deer, woodchuck, fox, raccoon, skunk, opossum and other animals.

Another noticeable feature of the park is its many large boulders. They were carried in by the glaciers which also formed the large marsh north and east of the park some 12,000 years ago.

The property is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. during summer. **For more information write Lake Kegonsa State Park, 2405 Door Creek Road, Stoughton, WI 53589. Phone: 608-873-9695.**

Boat launch at Lake Kegonsa.



Mill Bluff

STATE PARK

LEGEND

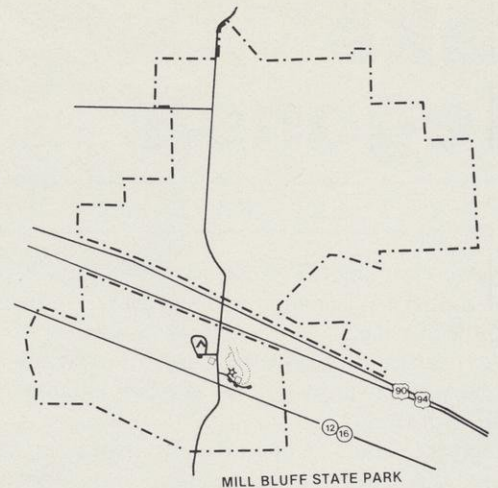
- ☆ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

KAREN ROGERS,
Naturalist

Bee Bluff, Ragged Rock, Round Bluff, Camels Bluff. If you were given a list of bluff names, you probably could very easily pick them out while standing atop Mill Bluff State Park overlook.

Topography in this neighborhood is flat except for the bluffs which rise abruptly from the plains. Like so much of Wisconsin's landscape, these unusual geologic features are the result of glaciation. When the glacier plugged the Wisconsin River in the Baraboo Hills, it created glacial Lake Wisconsin. This vast lake covered most of what are today Adams and Juneau counties and parts of adjacent counties. At that time, some of these bluffs, or "buttes," were islands; others were sub-

View from atop Mill Bluff.
Photo by Karen Rogers



merged. They range in height from 80 to more than 120 feet and are capped by a layer of resistant sandstone.

Petroglyphs (rock carvings) have been found on some bluff faces. Shaped like bird tracks about six to 12 inches long, the carvings are believed to date back to the Upper Mississippi Indian Culture.

Mill Bluff received its name from a sawmill which operated close to the bluff years ago. It is an official unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve.

The park is open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

There is a beach and swimming area, two picnic grounds, 21 rustic campsites and a short trail leading to the top of the bluff.

The park can be reached from highway 12 and 16 which runs parallel to interstate 90-94. Exits are located at Oakdale, five miles northwest of the park, or at Camp Douglas, two miles southeast.

For more information write Wildcat Mountain State Park, Attn. Mill Bluff, Box 98, Ontario, WI 54651. Phone: 608-337-4775 or 608-427-6692 (Memorial Day to Labor Day).

Old Wade House is a restored inn.



Old Wade House

AL PAPE,
Manager

STATE PARK

Old Wade House State Park preserves a 19th century New England town set in the Wisconsin wilderness.

In 1844, Sylvanus Wade, a Massachusetts blacksmith, selected a Sheboygan County site for a new town. He called it Greenbush after his ancestral home in Massachusetts. By 1851, it had become one of the most important and prosperous villages in the county. All went well until 1860, when the railroad bypassed the town by two miles. Land prices fell, and Greenbush became a town frozen in time.

Today's visitors to Old Wade House can see how life was during the Greenbush heyday, when traffic over a 40-mile long plank road brought loads of customers to the famous Wade House Inn. Wade and his son-in-law, Charles Robinson, built not only the 28-room inn but also a saw mill, blacksmith shop and several other important structures. Fascinating stories about life at a stage coach inn, Civil War recruitment, the railroad location dispute and scandals involving land sale promotions are retold today at Old Wade House.

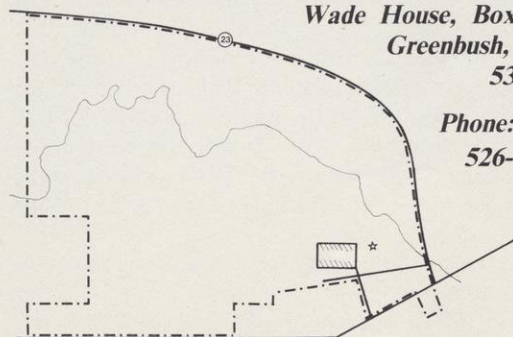
The inn, Robinson House and blacksmith shop were restored by the Kohler Foundation and donated to the state in 1953. Since then, nearly one million people have visited Old Wade House. The park is operated by the State Historical Society under a joint agreement with DNR and the Kohler Foundation.

Among the attractions are daily tours by costumed guides, along with monthly special events that include a Civil War enlistment weekend, Plank Road Day, Greenbush Harvest and a Yankee Christmas.

Also located on the 260-acre site is the Wesley W. Jung Carriage Museum. This nationally recognized collection of over 100 restored, horse-drawn vehicles was assembled for exhibit in 1968 by the State Historical Society. Carriage rides are available. The park also has a picnic area, modern restrooms and a gift shop. It is located midway between Fond du Lac and Sheboygan on state highway 23 in Greenbush and open from May 1 to October 31. **For more information write Old**

**Wade House, Box 34,
Greenbush, WI
53026.**

**Phone: 414-
526-3271.**



OLD WADE HOUSE STATE PARK

Pike Lake

STATE PARK

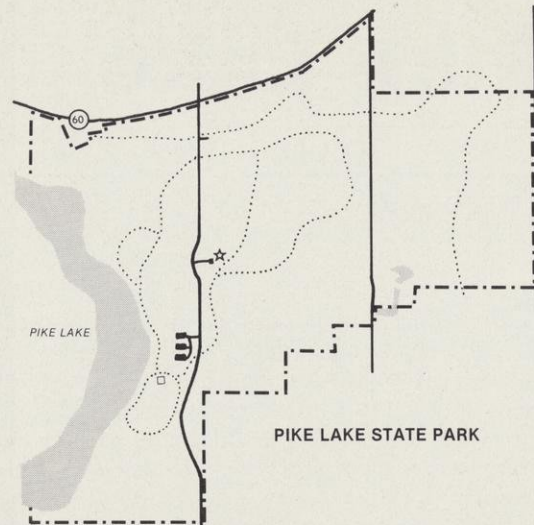
MARA KRIEPS,
Clerk

Pike Lake State Park offers outdoor activities all year. Located in the Kettle Moraine, the park is near Milwaukee and has become one of the most popular recreation areas in southeastern Wisconsin. Many people find fall, winter and spring, when there are fewer visitors, to be the nicest.

Cool, crisp autumn afternoons invite leisurely walks along the park's hiking trails where fall colors in the mixed hardwood forest are breathtaking! Mushroom hunting, berry picking and nut gathering are also popular during fall. Motorists using the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive find Pike Lake State Park a nice midway stop for lunch or a stretch.

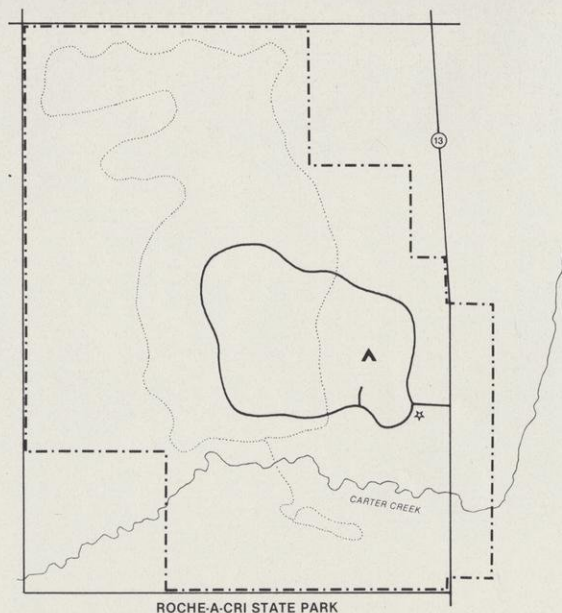
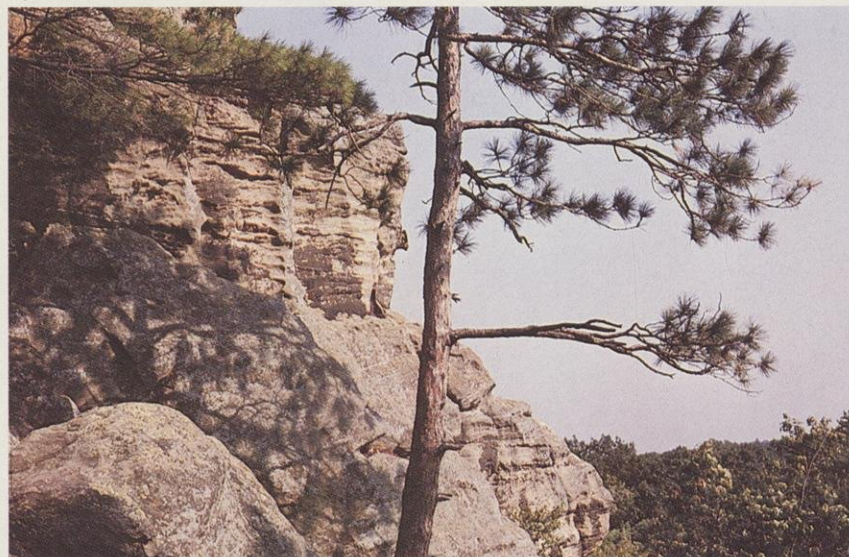
Playground at Pike Lake.





For more information write **Pike Lake State Park, 3340 Kettle Moraine Road, Rt. 2, Hartford, WI 53027. Phone: 414-644-5248.**

Roche A Cri rock face.
Photo by Carolyn Haglund



LEGEND
★ PARK OFFICE
□ SHELTER
▲ CAMPGROUND
— PARK TRAIL
— ROAD
--- BOUNDARY
■ BODY OF WATER

The Ice Age hiking trail passes through here, following the glacier for 1,000 miles, from Potawatomi State Park in Door County all the way around to Interstate Park in Polk County. Many of the glacial land forms can be observed along the Pike Lake Trail.

In winter, the park's cross-country ski trails offer several different degrees of difficulty. All are one-way loops from one to five miles long. Another popular winter activity is ice fishing on Pike Lake where walleye, northerns, perch and bluegills can be caught. There is also tobogganing and sledding on some of the hills. A shelter with a fireplace is located near the parking lot where a short snowmobile trail connects with local club trails.

As spring approaches, park activities switch to wildflower hikes, bird watching, kite flying and early picnics.

The busiest time of year comes with opening of the campground the first weekend in May. The park has 32 camping units with showers and a dumping station. The camping season runs through October and there are both open and wooded campsites.

Later, large numbers of people come to enjoy the cool water of the spring-fed lake, where they can swim, water ski or canoe.

Pike Lake State Park is located just south of state highway 60 between Hartford and Slinger, Wisconsin.

Roche A Cri

STATE PARK

JOAN E. HUMPHREY,
Free-lance Writer, Big Flats

Listen! A grey squirrel scampers off with an acorn. A pileated woodpecker scolds. Chickadees say their name. A bluejay protests. Breezes whisper through the pines and oaks . . . Roche A Cri State Park is telling you something: it's not very big — only 411 acres — but it's a park that still has plenty of outdoor pizzazz anyhow.

Roche A Cri is located just north of Adams-Friendship on highway 13 in Adams County.

Once the Winnebago hunted and trapped here and French fur traders used the mound to mark their way in the wilderness. The name, Roche a Cri, refers to the large rock out-cropping that towers 300 feet above the surrounding landscape. A Native American, the late Roger (Little Eagle) Tallmage, said this of the name's meaning: "First of all, the words are French, not Indian. Consequently, la Roche means the Rock and the dual words A Cri refers to the hole in the rock or more freely, a crevice.

"Sadly, due to the rigors of time, erosion of the soft sandstone, plus the many changes taking place in the flowage of the Wisconsin River, the

Sugar River

STATE TRAIL

REYNOLD ZELLER,
Superintendent

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad line, constructed here in the 1880s to serve agriculture and small industry, was abandoned on July 27, 1972. It then became the Sugar River Trail, a 23-mile hiking and biking facility in south central Wisconsin.

The trail connects the Swiss tourist town of New Glarus and three agricultural communities, Monticello, Albany and Brodhead. It passes by rolling farm land, rock outcrops, woodlands and lowlands while skirting the meandering Sugar River. Between its northern terminus at New Glarus and the southern end at Brodhead, the trail crosses the river and its tributaries 14 times.

Many prairie remnants exist along the right-of-way and in summer the colors of the forbs and native grasses change continually. Lowland cattails and reeds, white oak, black oak, cherry and hickory intermingle with prairie vegetation, willow, sumac, elderberry and other pioneer species. This diversified plant life makes for a spectacular autumn color display.

original rock seems to have long since disappeared but, such is nature's plan."

In 1981, the Roche a Cri Mound was added to the National Register of Historical Places. Petroglyphs (rock carvings) of crowfeet, arches, curved and straight lines once decorated the south side of the mound. Ever since 1831, people have cut dates and names into the rock and covered the ancient petroglyphs with graffiti. A fence now prevents further mutilation.

Walt Lueck, a DNR ranger who watched Roche a Cri grow from its infancy as a wayside into a state park, says, "It's a quiet park and many of its visitors have been returning to the area for years.

"I would suspect," he added, "the peacefulness and convenient location are its best drawing cards. It's an easy two or three hour drive from metropolitan areas like Madison, Milwaukee and northern Illinois."

Roche A Cri State Park has three hiking trails, a 45-unit campground, water, electricity and a dumping station. With the exception of Carter Creek which flows through the southern part for three-quarters of a mile, there is no large body of water. This makes the park especially attractive to families with small children.

Nearby are Big Roche a Cri, the White River, and the Mecan, all noted trout streams.

A permit is required to climb the mound.

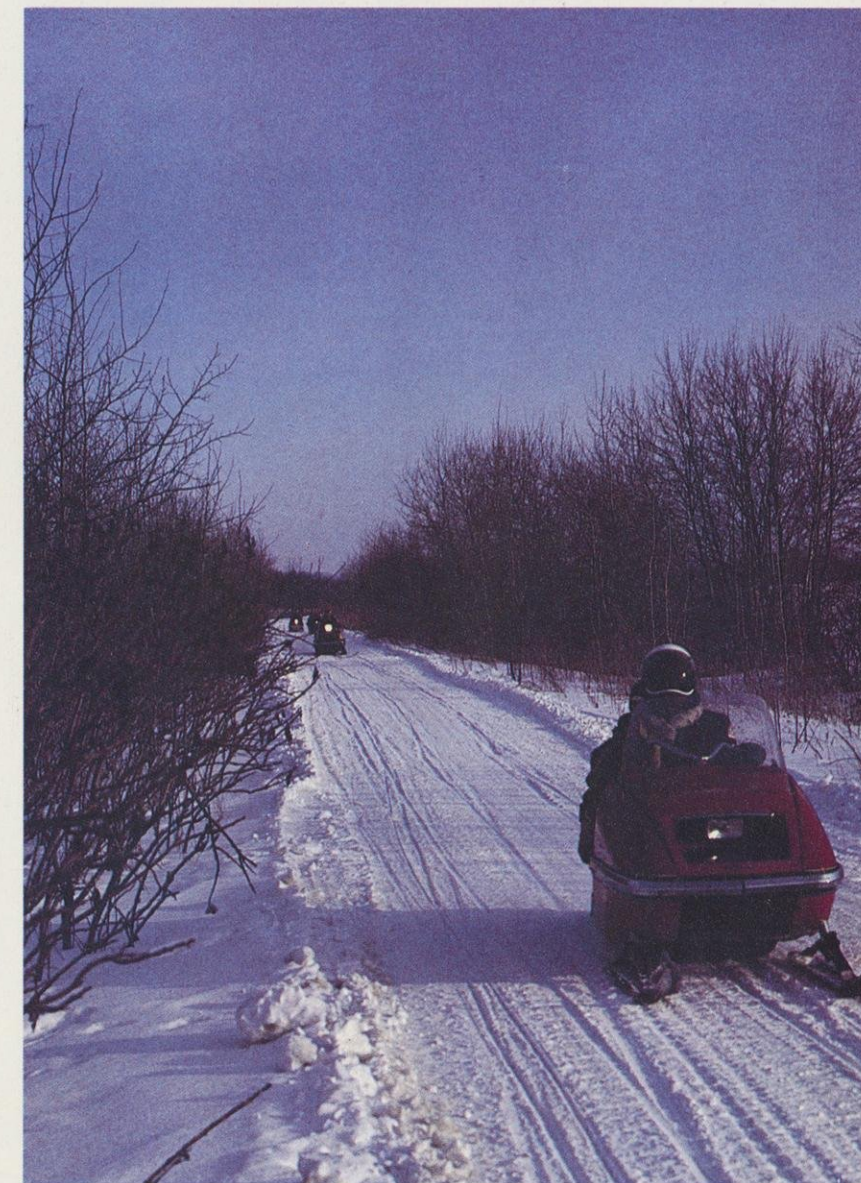
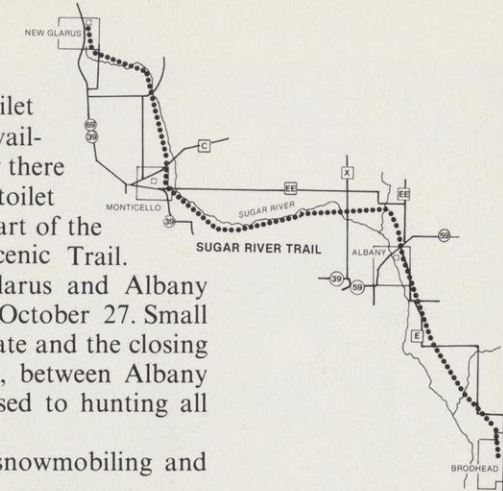
For more information write Ranger Station, Box 100, Friendship, WI 53934, Phone: 608-339-3385.

The trail headquarters is at New Glarus where parking, toilet facilities and concessions are available. In Monticello and Albany there are parking, picnic, water and toilet facilities. Some of the trail is part of the 1,000-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

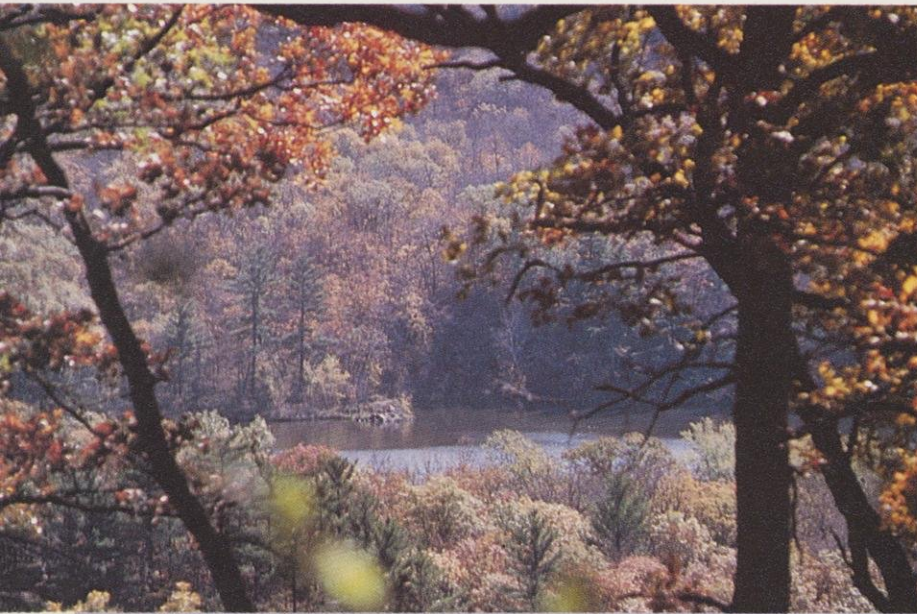
Bicycling between New Glarus and Albany closes on the Saturday nearest October 27. Small game hunting opens on that date and the closing is a safety measure. However, between Albany and Brodhead the trail is closed to hunting all year and open to bicycling.

In winter there is hiking, snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

For more information write Sugar River State Trail, Pleasant View Annex, N3150), Hwy 81, Monroe, WI 53566. Phone: 608-352-2922 summer and 608-325-4844 winter.



Snowmobile on the Sugar River Trail.

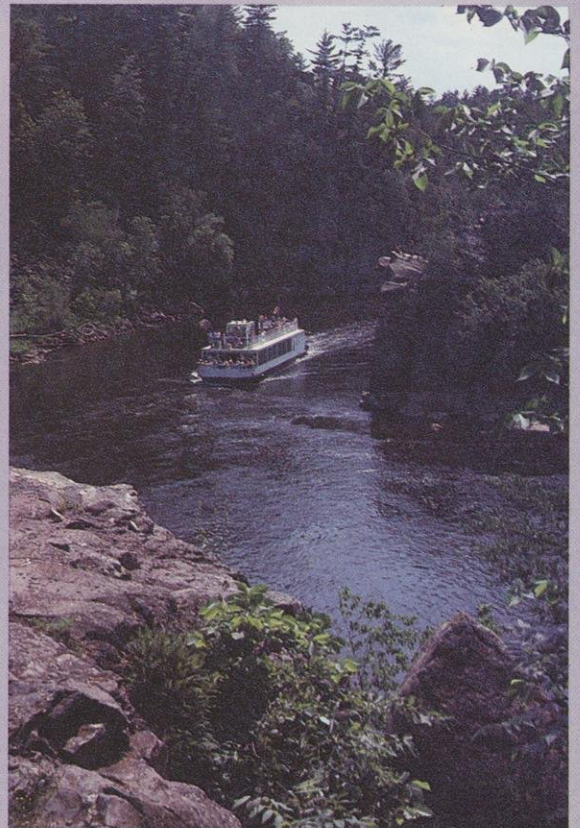


Lake of the Dalles,
Interstate State Park.
Photo by Dave Crawford

GREAT RIVER



The dam at Willow River. Photo by Mike Ray



Mississippi River boat
launch, Merrick State Park.
Photo by Al Santala

Devil's Elbow, Interstate
State Park.
Photo by William Moorman



Kinnickinnic is a state park
for boaters.
Photo by Michael L. Ries

*Parks are for people.
Parks are important for all people,
But-parks cannot be all things to all people.*

Dave Weizenicker, Director, DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation



Petroglyph at Perrot State
Park.
Photo by John Smith

Folsom Island at Interstate
Park.
Photo by Dave Crawford

Interstate

STATE PARK

LAURIE OSTERNDORF,
DNR Naturalist,

At dawn, a mist blankets the St. Croix River and the fog rolls leisurely onto the wooded bottomland. A doe and two fawns pick their way through the underbrush. From shore, a fisherman casts his lure. A bald eagle swoops to the river and struggles skyward, clutching a fish. A fresh breeze clears the air and the sun reveals steep cliffs, rocky summits and a green wooded horizon. This is Interstate Park.

Created in 1900, Interstate is Wisconsin's oldest state park. But its history goes back far beyond the turn of the century. Its fractured gray rocks go back to a time when the planet was young. Over one billion years ago, huge cracks split the earth near present day Lake Superior. Out of these fissures came thousands of cubic miles of molten lava that hardened to rock in the cold air. Over the past billion years this rock, called basalt, has cracked and fractured, creating strange formations. If you bring your imagination to Interstate, you can see the Old Man of the Dalles, Devil's Chair, Elephant's Head, the Maltese Cross, and other sculpture honed by time and weather from solid rock.

But natural forces did not stop there in shaping Interstate's landscape. When the last ice sheet melted, a huge lake of glacial meltwater formed where Lake Superior stands today. The water drained to the south with such force and volume that it bulldozed a new route for the St. Croix River. The powerful waters blasted out giant, fractured lava blocks and swept them away, creating the deep, steep-walled "Dalles" of the St. Croix.

For a view of another very unique Ice Age feature take a hike on Pothole Trail. The incredible turbulence of the meltwater, loaded with rocks and boulders, created strong spinning whirlpools. These "tornadoes" of water whirled with such force that the rocks literally drilled into the lava, forming the famous potholes. You can see potholes of all shapes and sizes, each giving mute testimony to the raging floods unleashed by the melting glacier. Because of its outstanding glacially formed features, Interstate is one of the nine units included in the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve.

Most visitors to Interstate stop at the Ice Age Interpretive Center, just inside the park entrance. The center features photographs, murals and other information about a world locked in the icy grip of the great continental glacier. A twenty-minute film, "Night of the Sun," is shown several times daily in the auditorium.

Each spring, garlands of colorful wildflowers light up Interstate's 1,325 acres. More than 200

species of birds, including the bald eagle, pass through the park on spring and fall migrations. Anglers come to the Lake O' the Dalles or the St. Croix River in quest of northern pike, small-mouth bass, crappies, walleyes, catfish and sturgeon.

During summer, the cool, spring-fed waters of the Lake O' the Dalles refresh swimmers and sun baskers. Old fashioned paddle-wheelers tour the river gorge and sound their horns to greet picnickers along the bank.

Hikers are attracted by the variety of scenery and terrain along Interstate's 10 miles of trail. They can climb to Summit Rock for a breathtaking view of the rocky Dalles of the St. Croix River while other trails wind through cool, deep valleys lined with natural fern. Some visitors join a park naturalist to explore often overlooked "back country" trails. There are also other interpretive programs which add depth to any visit.

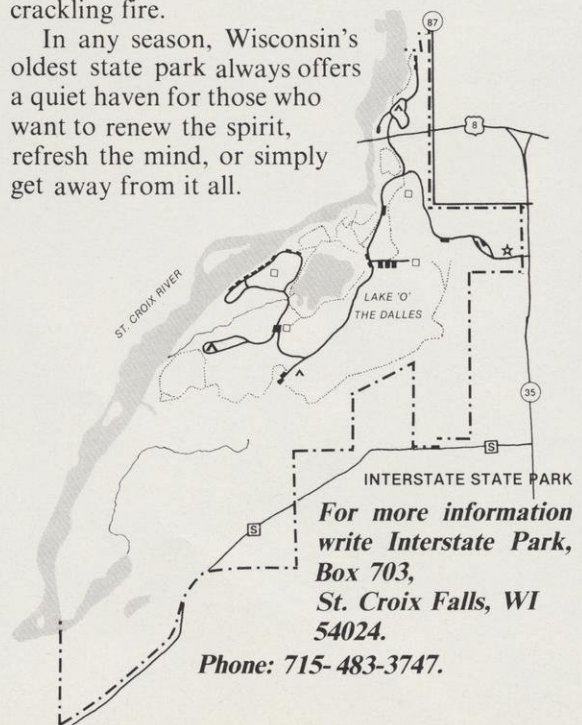
If you'd like a prolonged stay at Interstate, consider camping. Stretch your hammock in one of the South Campground's wooded sites, or play volleyball and frisbee in the field at North Camp. Interstate has 85 camping units and a 60 person group camp. After a campfire supper you can relax at an evening program by the park naturalist.

In 1968, Congress passed a law protecting the St. Croix as a National Scenic River and assured that it will always remain unspoiled. To enjoy it fully, bring your canoe or rent one nearby. The river's emerald-green scenery and massive, stony bluffs are unforgettable.

In fall, at Interstate the explosion of red, gold, orange and purple, sweet smells, crackling leaves and the crisp air are a feast for the senses.

When winter descends and snow crunches underfoot, you can take your choice of snowshoeing, sledding, ice fishing or cross country skiing. Interstate's ski trail is suitable for the whole family. Try a tour of Skyline or Bluff Trail, then glide over to the Interpretive Center and warm up at its crackling fire.

In any season, Wisconsin's oldest state park always offers a quiet haven for those who want to renew the spirit, refresh the mind, or simply get away from it all.



Kinnickinnic

STATE PARK

DARREL RICHER,
Superintendent

Any experienced camper will tell you that to camp in a state park, you load your gear into a vehicle and hit the road to your favorite park where you are assigned a site and park your rig. That's the way it's done. Right?

Today, Wisconsin state parks offer alternatives to that tradition. One is watercraft camping. Kinnickinnic State Park in west central Wisconsin was established in 1972 and is mainly devoted to boat-oriented recreation. A large sand delta at the confluence of the Kinnickinnic and St. Croix Rivers is the focus of activities.

The Lower St. Croix has long been recognized for its scenic qualities and in 1972 was officially designated as a Federal Scenic River. The stream is highly utilized by all types of recreational boaters. It contains nearly every major species of warm water game fish native to this region and offers excellent fishing for walleye and bass.

The Kinnickinnic by contrast, is a small cold water trout stream where fishing for German browns is outstanding. The Kinnickinnic valley is rather remote and provides a rare opportunity for solitude.

Merrick

STATE PARK

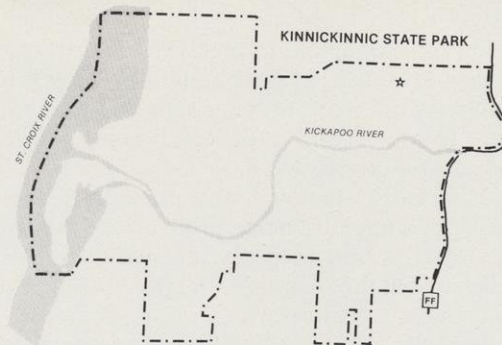
AMY SPRECHER,
Assistant Superintendent

Merrick State Park, located between stately 500-foot bluffs and the lazy Mississippi River, lies just a few miles north of Fountain City, Wisconsin.

Land for the park was donated to Wisconsin in 1932 by Minnesotan John A. Latsch who was fascinated by the old steamboat era and wanted the park named after a pilot from Winona named George Merrick.

Because of the river, early explorers like Father Louis Hennepin, Nicholas Perrot and Zebulon Pike are believed to have visited the park site and to have met local Indians. Today's visitors can walk in their footsteps along Indian Mound Trail at the water's edge.

Sandstone bluffs in this part of the state, called "hard heads," make up some of the most rugged topography in Wisconsin. Thousands of years of lateral erosion by the Mississippi River has separated the Minnesota and Wisconsin bluffs at this point by three miles. Merrick Park is located on



LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

The sand delta lets boaters leave their craft for an on-shore experience without trespassing on private property. There is nearly one mile of excellent sand beach with ample room for sun-bathing, picnicking, volleyball and other traditional beach activities. Visitors can swim and snorkel in the river or hike the upland woods and prairies.

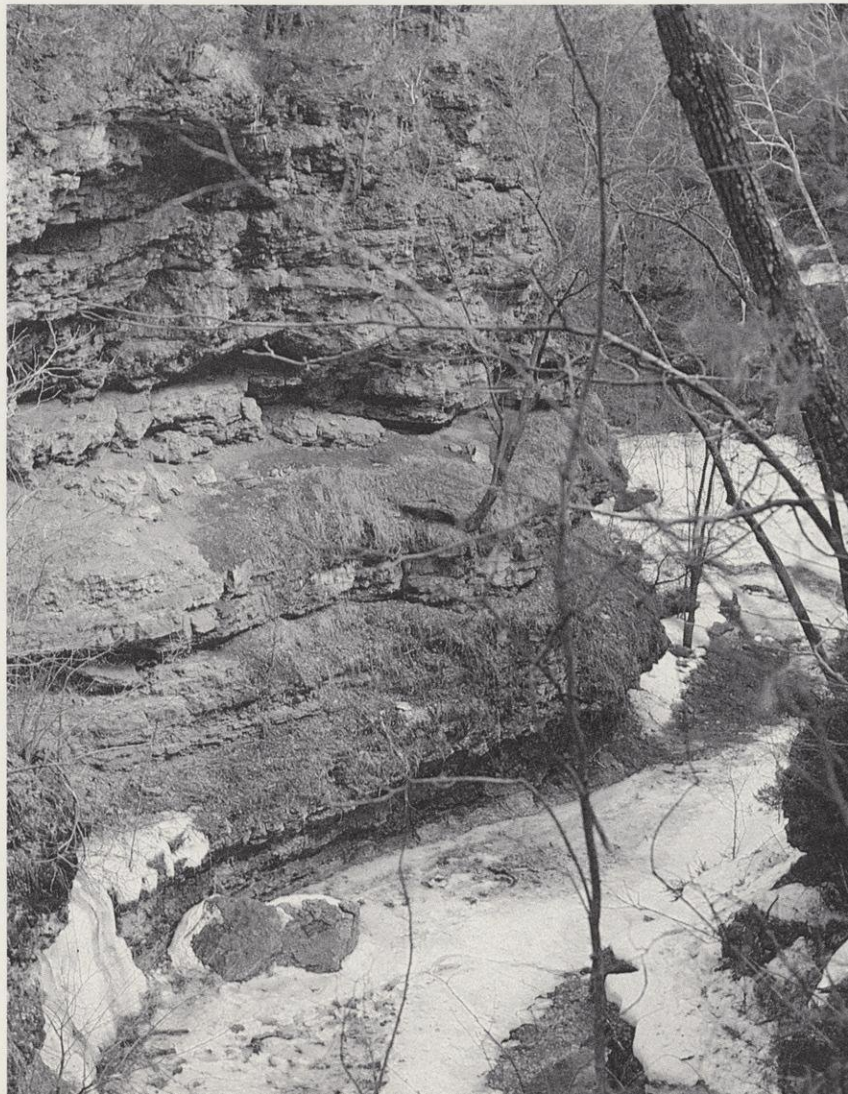
For those who want to stay more than one day, overnight boat mooring is available for a nominal fee. A permit can be obtained from park personnel. Most overnight boaters have large watercraft with on-board sleeping facilities but for those with smaller boats, tent sites are available.

For goods and services, Prescott is 6.5 miles down river and Hudson is 11 miles upstream.

The park is 1,067 acres in size and is open from mid-May to mid-October.

For more information write Kinnickinnic State Park, Rt. 3, Box 262, River Falls, WI 54022. Phone: 715-425-1129.

Devil's Bowl, Kinnickinnic State Park.



an ancient floodplain formed by the river.

The river's fragile backwater ecosystem changes from year to year. The marsh area is home for egrets and great blue herons, muskrats and playful otters.

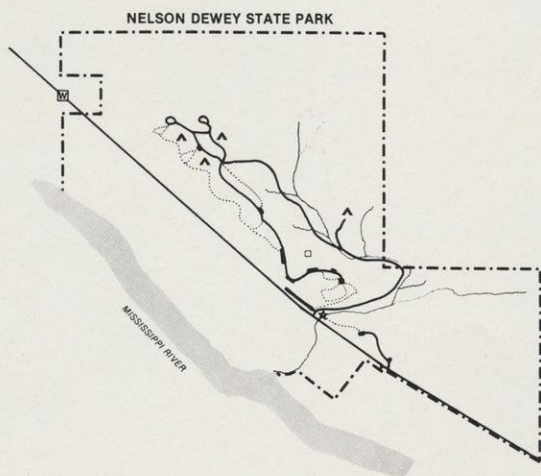
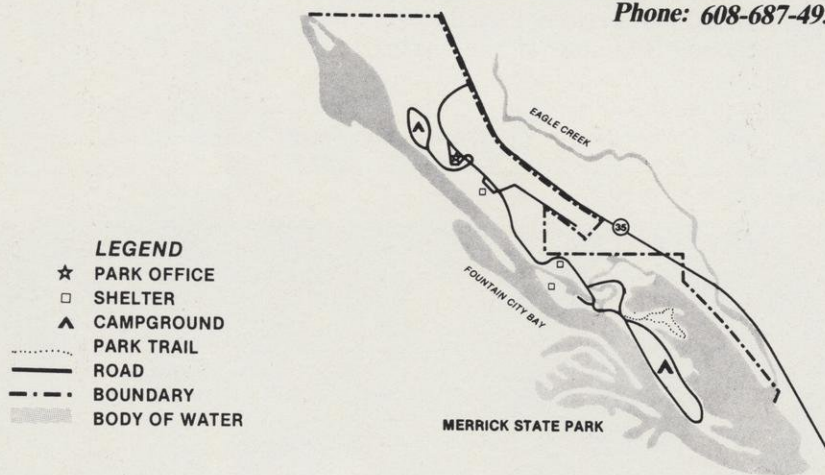
A haven for anglers both summer and winter, the Mississippi at Merrick produces catfish, wall-eyes, sunfish and crappies that weigh up to an unbelievable three pounds. A special fishing pier is available to visitors.

The park has a bathing beach, two boat landings and mooring facilities near riverside campsites, available to visitors traveling the river by boat.

Merrick State Park consists of 320 acres with 76 family campsites, plus picnicking and camping for the handicapped. There are 25 electric outlets, a dumping station, two boat landings, three shelters, a self-guided nature trail and playground equipment. The park is open year-round with camping from April 15 to October 15 and reservations available for 40 campsites.

For more information write Merrick State Park, Rt. 1, Box 182, Fountain City, WI 54629.

Phone: 608-687-4936.



Nelson Dewey

STATE PARK

JANE B. BERNHARDT,
Cassville

Stand near the rock wall at the summit of the park drive in autumn and you'll fall in love with Nelson Dewey State Park. The Mississippi River stretches lazily below and the Iowa bluffs across the river radiate brilliant color. It is a touching and beautiful view and must have been a favorite of Wisconsin's first governor, Nelson Dewey, for whom the park is named. Dewey lost his heart to the land here and, by a cruel twist of fate, also lost his dream.

The young lawyer from Connecticut began his career in Cassville in 1836 as clerk for a building company. He was quick to enter public life, served as first Register of Deeds in the county, then in the territorial legislature. Finally, when Wisconsin achieved statehood, he was elected first governor and served two terms.

But Dewey's love for the valley and bluffs along the Mississippi kept drawing him back. In 1860, he established a 2,000-acre plantation here which he called Stonefield. He built a large gothic-revival style mansion for his family and began a farming operation that included crops, cattle, horses, orchards and a vineyard for commercial wine production.

Mrs. Dewey, however, liked the busy atmosphere of the state Capitol better and found Stonefield lonely. With the excuse of keeping house for their daughter who was attending the University at Madison, she eventually left the estate.

Further sorrow engulfed Dewey when the financial panic of 1873 robbed him of most of his assets and a disastrous fire gutted his beautiful home, forcing him into bankruptcy. He moved into town and died there in 1889 — a poor man, abandoned by his family, forgotten by the public and stripped of the land he loved.

Fortunately, because of its historical importance, the Dewey home has been rebuilt. All the other buildings have also been preserved along with 756 acres of the original estate which now comprise the park. Visitors can inspect the house and walk the rough boardwalk of Stonefield Village, a facsimile of a late 19th century town, built by the State Historical Society.

One of the park's features is right along the road which weaves through a series of Hopewell Indian mounds. A clearing on the hilltop is rich with prairie flora, carpeted in spring with a profusion of birdsfoot violets. There are rabbits, squirrels, fox, raccoon and badgers. Deer can be spotted bounding up the slopes from the river bottoms or moving through the trees to browse.

Owls, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse and waterfowl are all close at hand. There are white egrets, great blue herons, snow geese and many song birds. In winter, majestic bald eagles come to fish the river below the dam.

A lovely walnut grove along the creek is reserved for group campers with 31 individual family campsites set among trees on the hilltop. Eighteen have electricity. There is also a group area that can accommodate approximately 20 units with no restriction on the type of unit allowed. Reservations are accepted on department forms the first working day after January 1 for any time between May 1 and September 30.

The park has four picnic areas with grills and one with a shelter building and fireplace. There is a self-guided nature trail and several miles of hiking trails. An overlook at the top of the hill offers an excellent view of the surrounding area and the Mississippi River. It is always fascinating to watch the parade of towboats and pleasure craft moving up and down the Mississippi River.

The park is open from mid-April to November 1 and is located two miles west of Cassville on county highway VV. **For more information write Nelson Dewey State Park, Cassville, WI 53806. Phone: 608-725-5374.**

Perrot

STATE PARK

AMY SPRECHER,
Assistant Superintendent

Perrot State Park is named after the French fur trader, Nicholas Perrot, who built a trading post here in 1665. It nestles among bluffs where the Trempealeau meets the Mississippi River just north of the hamlet of Trempealeau.

Before our ice age, the land was part of Minnesota but the glacier forced the Mississippi to change its course. Thanks to Minnesota resident John A. Latsch, the site became a Wisconsin park. Fishing there one day, Latsch was rudely asked to leave and solved his trespass problem by buying the land. In 1926, he donated it to Wisconsin.

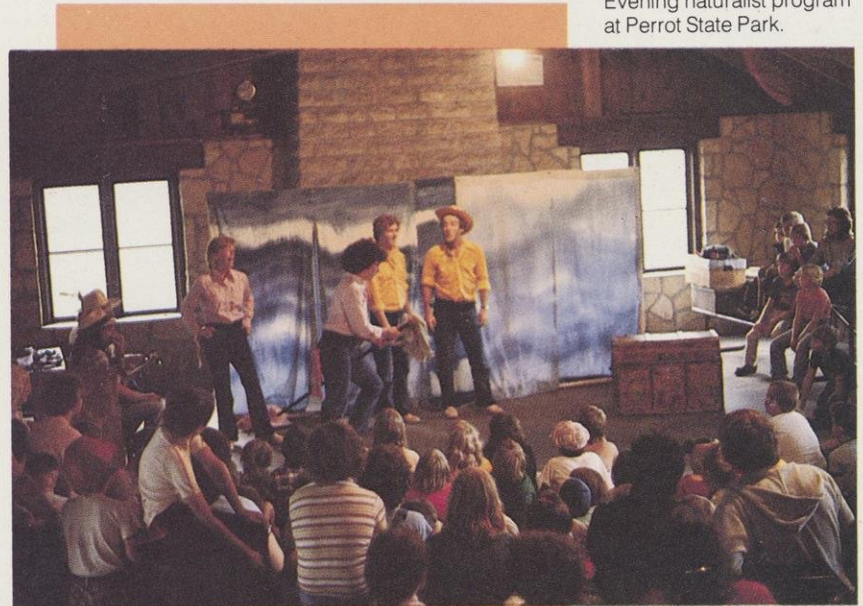
Many explorers used Trempealeau Mountain as a navigation landmark. The French name is "La Montagne Qui Trempe a l' Eau" (the mountain which walks in the water). Standing 425 feet above the river, it appears to guard the land below. The mountain was considered sacred by Native Americans.

Hopewellian, Archaic, Early Woodland and Effigy Mound Indians also left signs of their presence via burial and ceremonial mounds as well as carved petroglyphs. The petroglyphs were calendar instruments to help pinpoint the sun at equinox and solstice.

Sun sets behind
Trempealeau Mountain,
Perrot State Park.



Restored Nelson Dewey Home.



Evening naturalist program at Perrot State Park.



There are 11 acres of restored prairie at the park to remind visitors of blue stem grasses, flea-bane daisies, buffalo and prairie chickens.

A climb up the trail to 520-foot Brady's Bluff passes through several ecosystems. At the top is a hiker's shelter constructed by Civilian Conservation Corpsmen. From there you can see barges maneuver the tight turns of the channel en route to Louisiana or the Twin Cities. To the west is Winona, Minnesota, 12 miles upriver, evidence that the Mississippi flows east and west here.

In early spring when ice starts to break up, you might spot an eagle and in fall see flocks of ducks and geese splash into Trempealeau Bay. The park has a seasonal naturalist and weekend visitors may also be able to taste-test edible plants in a cooking class. There's even a sing-a-long.

Canoes and motorboats can poke around the backwaters. In winter there's cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Perrot park consists of 1,393 acres. It has a 97-unit campground with showers, including facilities for the handicapped, dumping station and 42 electrical hookups. Reservations can be made for 50 of the campsites. There are eight miles of hiking trails, seven miles of ski trails, a boat landing, self-guided nature trail, five picnic areas, two shelters, a nature center and playground equipment.

The park is open year-round with camping from April 15 to October 15. It can be reached by driving one mile north of Trempealeau via highway 93. **For more information write Perrot State Park, Rt. 1, Trempealeau, WI 54661. Phone: 608-534-6409.**



Trillium.

Prairie coneflowers.



Willow River

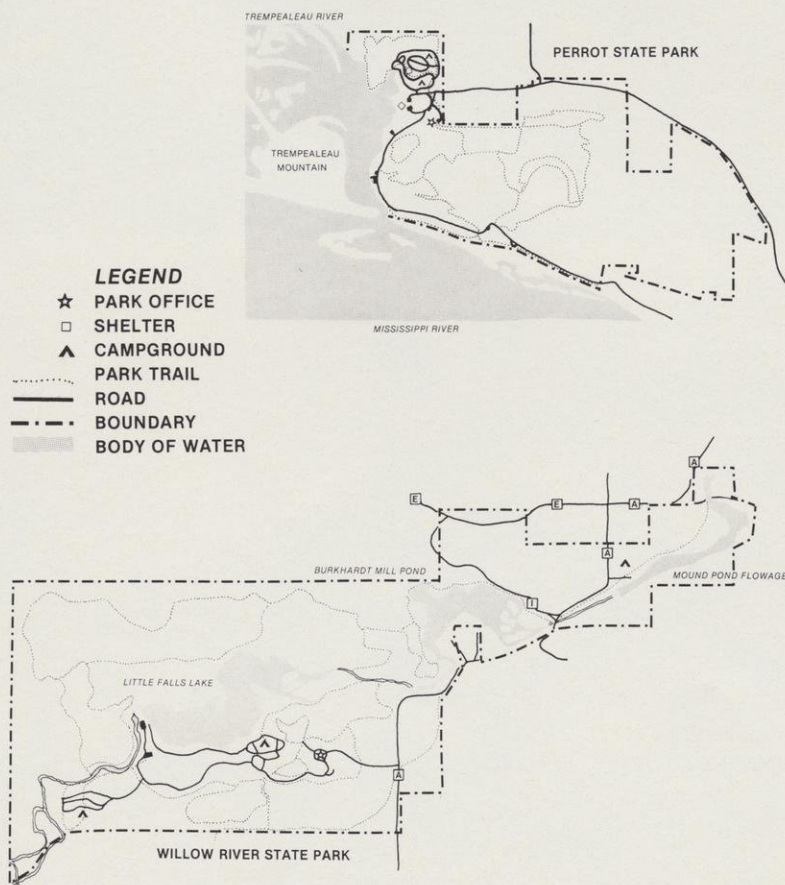
STATE PARK

SANDRA L. HUDSON,
Naturalist

County trunk A, which leads to Willow River State Park, used to be a trail for Native Americans traveling to burial mounds above the St. Croix River. It wound through prairie where buffalo, wolf, cougar and passenger pigeon lived. A pioneer wrote that "The grass was up to our horses' mouths; they would nip it as we rode."

Scattered threads of the prairie have been brought back to Willow River; big blue stem and little blue stem, panic grass, side oats gramma, blazing star, coneflower, goldenrod, prairie smoke, prairie bush clover and other plants.

Along the main entrance road, the large lumps and depressions visitors pass are a legacy of the Wisconsin glacier which rumbled and groaned through the park about 20,000 years ago. When the frozen grip loosened, giant blocks of ice melted to form lakes or waterless depressions called "swales." The huge mountains of sand and gravel it left formed the hills called "knobs." At





Winter at the Willow River dam.

that time the Willow River was a raging torrent that filled its valley, rim to rim, and carved a gorge 200 feet deep. At the bottom are layers of rock 500 to 600-million years old, where the fossilized remains of small creatures called trilobites and brachiopods can be found. They lived in the ancient coastal waters that once covered this area.

The gorge of the Willow River was a fashionable place to picnic in the late 1850s. Old photographs show ladies and gentlemen in their Sunday best alongside Willow River Falls.

Land grants to farm the Hudson prairie in 1849 ushered in the wheat boom. Dams were built soon after to sluice logs down the Willow, grind wheat and produce electricity, which by 1893 was being supplied to the nearby Village of Hudson. Electricity was produced here until the early 1970s. At that time Northern States Power Company donated three dams and 1,300 acres of land to the people of Wisconsin for a park. Today, hundreds of thousands of people each year use the flowages for canoeing, fishing and swimming.

More than 200 bird species have been identified at Willow River State Park. Among them is the whippoorwill. In June in the campground at precisely 9:20 p.m. (not a moment sooner or later), a whippoorwill begins an evening performance. This solo inspires others to join in and soon the campground is filled with whippoorwill songs. Sometimes the concert lasts until 4:00 a.m.

In winter, the park becomes the domain of the deer, chickadee, cardinal, red fox, bald eagle, crow and cross-country skier.

The park's eight miles of carefully groomed trails make a whole new winter world visible to the observant — tiny tracks of a deer mouse, traces of the life-and-death struggle of a snowshoe hare and fox, or the place where a ruffed grouse exploded from the snow. Those who think of winter as only black and white are surprised at its subtle colors and varied hues here. The trails lead to breath-taking vistas and quiet, hidden beauty.

Willow River State Park is open year-round and consists of 2,754 acres with three dams, three lakes and a trout stream. There are 72 campsites, 19 of which have electricity. Thirty can be reserved. A rustic group camp is also available. There is a nature center, seasonal naturalist program, beach and picnic area. Little Falls Lake furnishes canoeing, sailing and other non-motorized boating.

To get to Willow River State Park, take the marked exit off interstate 94. Follow the signs to state highway 12, to county road U to county road A. Nearby towns include Hudson, River Falls, New Richmond and the Village of Burkhardt. St. Paul and Minneapolis are 30 miles west.

For more information write Willow River State Park, Rt. 2, Hudson, WI 54016. Phone: 715-386-5931.

Red-bellied snake.



Woodchuck.



Confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers at Wyalusing State Park.
Photo by Don Blegen



Lookout Point.



Fossil hunting.
Photo by Paul Kosir

Wyalusing

STATE PARK

PAUL KOSIR,
Naturalist

The four best times to visit Wyalusing are when the bluffs and the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers at their junction here are most beautiful — in spring, summer, fall and winter.

In April, the park landscape sheds the white of winter and replaces it with a white blanket of Dutchman's breeches, dotted with the deep rose-purple of shooting star.

The cool air of Sand Cave and Pictured Rock Cave are winter's last hold on Wyalusing. The cave's frozen waterfalls last until May, then succumb to melt water and sun, revealing again the reds and yellows of colorful sandstone.

In May, birdwatchers are outnumbered only by the birds. As often as not, the UW-Madison one-day ornithology field trip reaches its goal of 100 species of birds . . . and a breakfast of morel mushrooms.

As June approaches, the park naturalist comes on duty for the summer and conducts nature hikes on parts of the 14 miles of trail. Sometimes hikers spot scarlet tanagers "showering" in a tiny waterfall or wild turkeys leading a dozen little ones. They might see deer drinking from a spring-fed stream.

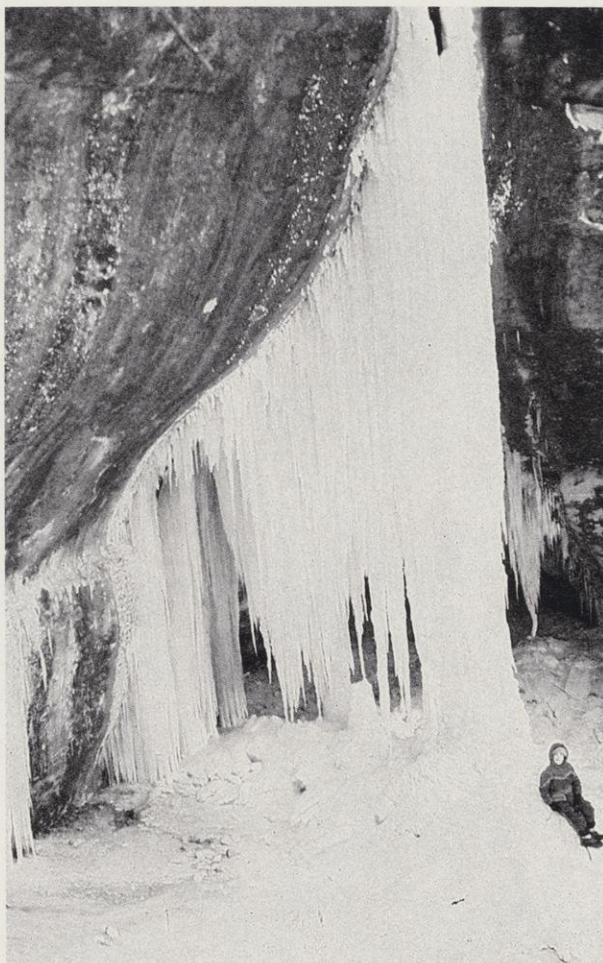
On certain summer mornings big puffy clouds fill the valley and it's as though the visitor is on a mountain top. The clouds magically disappear as the sun strengthens, revealing the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers more than 500 feet below the park's Wisconsin Ridge Campground.

Anglers and canoeists share the backwaters with the great blue herons. Campers are up so high above the river they can look down at a soaring red-shouldered hawk.

In October, the park is alive with color — yellow, red, orange and pink leaves in the riverbottom — scarlet and crimson autumn grass on the prairies, accented by yellow and purple blazing stars, goldenrods and asters.

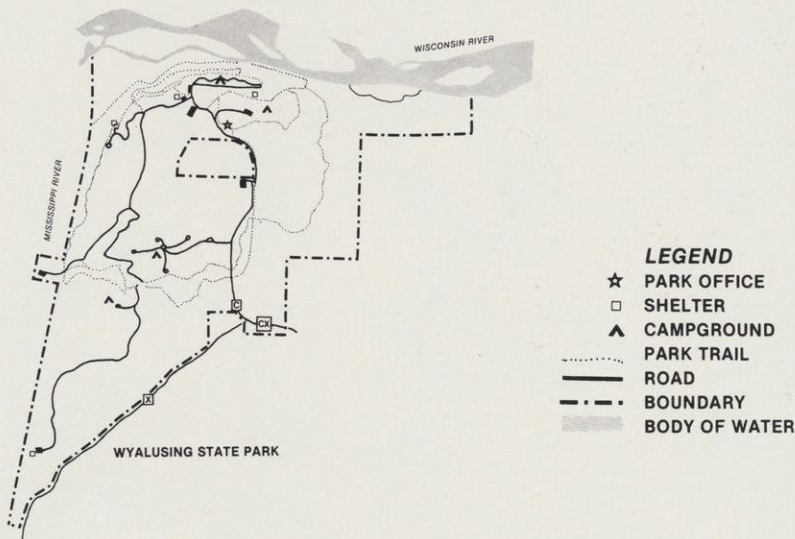
In winter, cross-country skiers on the Mississippi Ridge Trail can watch young bald eagles fly upside down and right themselves on their way down the river to open water.

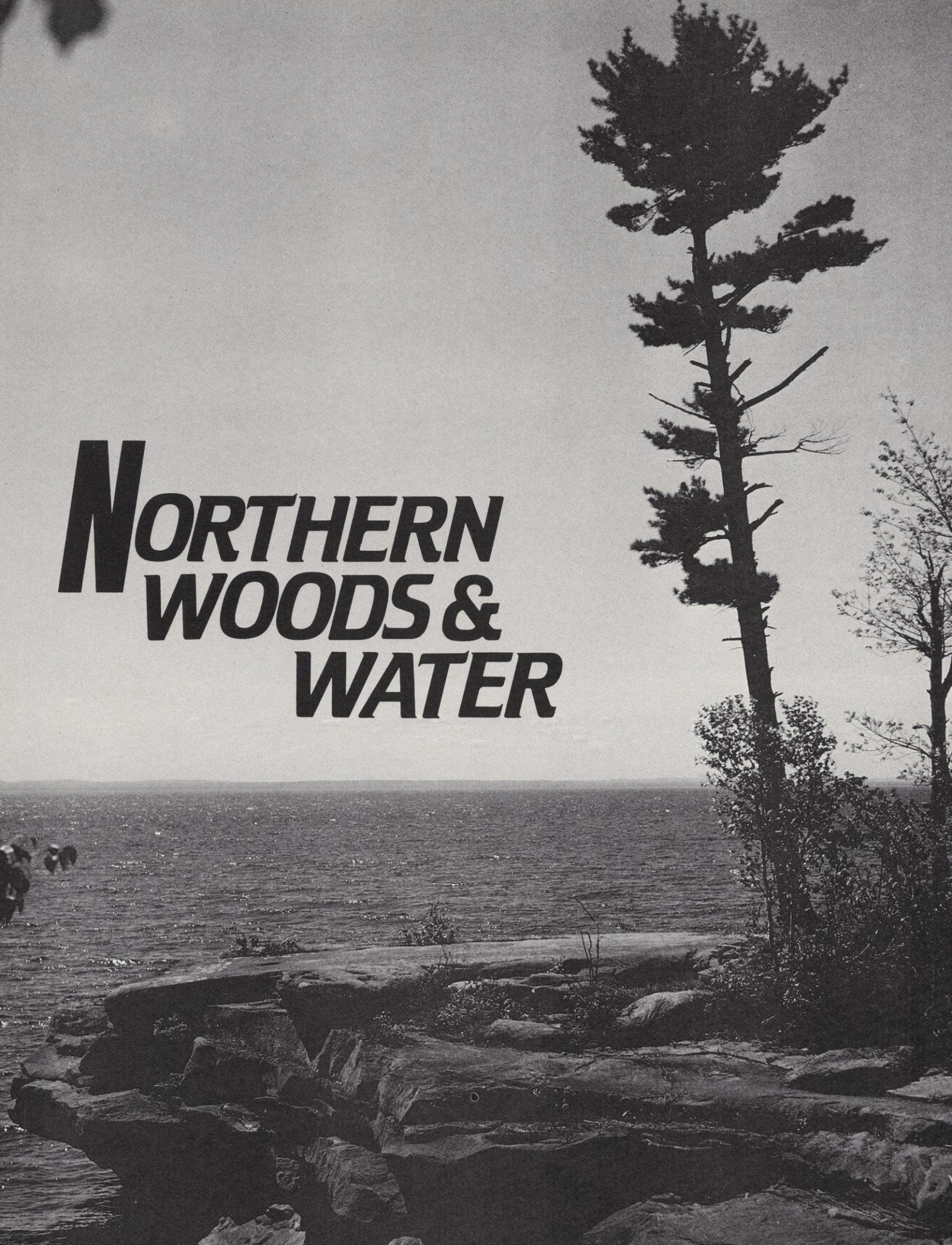
Wyalusing State Park encompasses more than 2,600 acres at the junction of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers in Grant County. There are 132 campsites in two separate campgrounds, an outdoor group camp with a capacity of 100 and a modern indoor group camp which can accommodate 108 people. Five picnic areas and several shelters are scattered throughout the park. It has 14 miles of hiking trail, a cross-country ski trail, two self-guided nature trails and a marked canoe trail through the Mississippi River sloughs which begins at a paved boat landing.



Frozen waterfall at a park cave.
Photo by J. Buchholz

The park is open all year and is located on county highway C west of US highway 18 in the extreme northwest corner of Grant County. Camping is available May 1st through November 15th. **For more information write Wyalusing State Park, Rt. 1, Box 1055, Bagley, WI 53801. Phone: 608-996-2261.**



A black and white photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged rocks. To the right, a tall, slender pine tree stands prominently, its branches reaching towards the sky. The middle ground is filled with a body of water, showing gentle ripples. The horizon line is visible in the distance under a pale sky. The title 'NORTHERN WOODS & WATER' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font.

NORTHERN WOODS & WATER



The Falls at Pattison State Park.
Photo by John Semo

Wisconsin State Parks *Explore & Enjoy*

◀ The Point at Big Bay State Park.

Photo by Jack H. Pickert

Picnic area at Brunet Island.

Photo by Michael L. Ries



Backpacking in the Northern Highland State Forest. Photo by Virginia Leith



Snowmobiling on Tuscobia State Trail.



View from Heafford Grade trestle on Bearskin State Trail.

Amnicon Falls

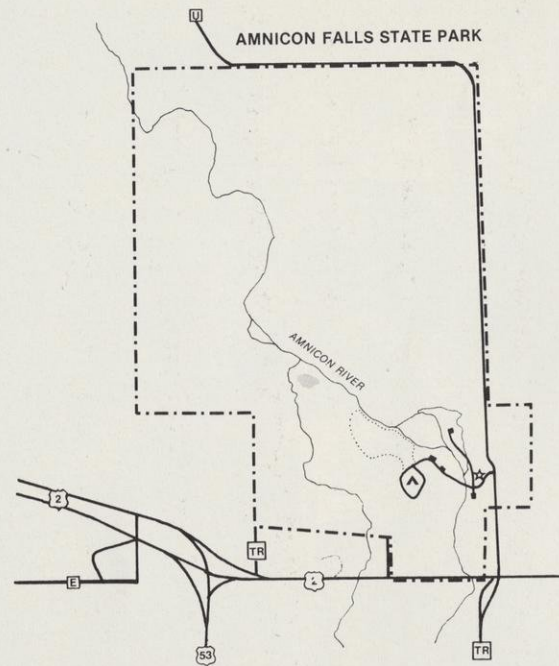
STATE PARK

DONNA MATTHEWSON,
Clerical Assistant

The waterfalls are the main attractions. The park lies on ancient lavas that spewed from fissures in the earth in the Lake Superior region over one billion years ago. In time a huge block of lava settled downward, or faulted into this area known as the Douglas Fault. Then came an inland sea, depositing sandstone. In time, the underlying lavas were completely covered by sandstone. The Amnicon River is now excavating the sandstone, and exposing the lava. Where it encounters resistance, waterfalls are formed. One part of the park is a quarter mile island reached by a covered bridge that lies between the two major falls. The bridge is an excellent vantage point for observers or photographers.

The park has 40 secluded campsites, including six double sites. Tables and grills are located on both sides of the river and provide picnickers with attractive views of the cascades and rapids as the river flows north toward Lake Superior.

Two hiking trails follow both banks of the river with signs that explain plant and animal communities. More than 75 bird species have been spotted in the park.



Lake Superior smelt run the river in early spring and walleye spawn in early summer. Anglers also catch an occasional trout, northern and muskie.

Amnicon Falls State Park consists of 825 acres, 650 of which are undeveloped. It is located 10 miles east of Superior on US highway 2, a half-mile east of the junction of 2 and US 53. The park season runs from April 15 through September. **For more information write Box 125, Brule, WI 54820. The summer phone: 715-398-3000, year-round phone: 715-372-4866.**

- LEGEND**
- ★ PARK OFFICE
 - SHELTER
 - ▲ CAMPGROUND
 - PARK TRAIL
 - ROAD
 - - - BOUNDARY
 - BODY OF WATER

Bearskin

STATE TRAIL

JANET BLAIR,
Woodruff

About 100 years ago, after the north's fabled pinery had been cut down, fishermen discovered that many of the old logging railroads led to the edge of pristine lakes. Trains began running to renovated logging camps and the rough bunk and cookhouses took on a second life as they catered to these early tourists. But it didn't last!

The railroad, which for a century linked the north and south, was finally abandoned here near Minoqua by the Milwaukee Road in 1973 for economic reasons. Since then, DNR has purchased part of the old right of way for a bicycle, hiking and snowmobile trail. Right now, 18 miles are open to public use on Bearskin Trail. There is a quarter-mile gap in the trail that can be detoured via local roads. Development and access points have been kept to a minimum to preserve aesthetic qualities.

The 3% grade and crushed granite surface assure pleasant, effortless pedaling and walking in summer and enjoyable snowmobiling in winter. But, the real charm at Bearskin is the beauty of the land. New growth of oak and maple and a second growth of evergreen now cover the ground that had once been a climax pine forest.

The rolling hills in this neighborhood were once giant mountains of granite, ground down to their present shape by the glaciers. There are cedars and ferns and soft green-pocketed glens that give way to grassy openings dotted with flowers.

The woods and openings are scattered with blueberry, blackberry and raspberry bushes. Pin cherries, chokecherries, hazelnuts and winter-green can also be picked.

Wildlife of every description and size occupy the various habitats. An alert biker or hiker may see eagles and herons, osprey and hawks as well as numerous other birds from tiny to large. Deer, raccoon, beaver and otter also track across the trail.

The biker or hiker who cares or dares to extend the seasons has the added pleasure of a different foliage, brilliant in fall and delicate in early spring.



One of the falls on the Amnicon River.
Photo by Dennis Yockers

Bearskin Creek bisects the trail 10 times on its way from Big Bearskin to Little Bearskin Lake before it empties into the Tomahawk River. The trail overlooks the creek and a portion of Big Bearskin Lake. It skirts the edge of South Blue Lake for nearly a quarter mile. There is a rustic picnic area at South Blue Lake with picnic tables, grills, well, sanitary facilities and an excellent view.

Parking is available at county highway K just six miles north of Heafford Junction on the south end of the trail, and behind the post office in Minocqua at the north end. There is also parking on Blue Lake Road, six miles south of Minocqua. Since the trail has several road crossings, bikers and hikers can conveniently cover only short segments, if they wish.

A fee is required for bikers age 18 or older.

Horses and all motorized vehicles (except snowmobilers in winter) are prohibited.

For more information write Bearskin Trail, Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters, Rt. 1, Box 45, Boulder Junction, WI 54512. Phone: 715-385-2727.

Bridge on the Bearskin Trail.
Photo by Dennis Leith



Big Bay

JACK PICKERT,
Superintendent

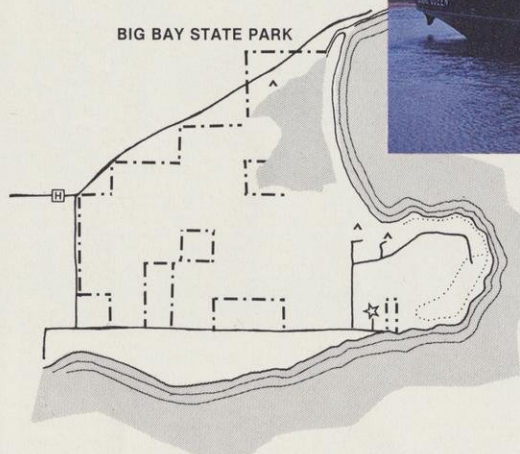
STATE PARK

Located on Madeline Island, this is the northernmost state park in Wisconsin and the only one where you can take a car ferry over and then drive to your campsite.

Madeline, with 14,621 acres, is the largest island in the Apostle group. It is 14 miles long by three miles wide and has 42 miles of shoreline and 45 miles of roads. It is the only island where people live year-round. The Apostles have survived the crushing action of four glaciers during the past million years and the archipelago they formed is unique in the US.



Ferry to Madeline Island.



LEGEND

- ★ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER

Brunet Island

EDWARD FERBER JR.,
Superintendent

STATE PARK

Brunet Island State Park is named after Jean Brunet, a French nobleman who was one of the earliest settlers in this part of Wisconsin. Educated in France, he came to America and settled in St. Louis in 1818. Brunet served as an officer in the US Army and participated in the building of Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien where he settled and married a French woman named Rollette. In 1828 they moved to the present day site of Chippewa Falls. He established a dam and sawmill there, which quickly opened part of the Chippewa Valley to logging. Brunet himself piloted the first raft of lumber produced at his mill down the Chippewa and Mississippi Rivers to Prairie du Chien. He became Chippewa Fall's first judge and legislator. Originally, the Town of Cornell was

named after him. It was called Brunet Falls.

The boulder-strewn soil of this park is of very recent geologic origin. When ice in the last remaining glacier ceased to move, it melted and dropped a big load of boulders, sand, gravel and clay on the ground over which it once lay. This material is called ground moraine, and in the neighborhood of Brunet Island Park reaches a thickness of nearly 100 feet! Huge volumes of melt water cut through the moraine to form the Chippewa River Valley. Another valley was cut to accommodate the Fisher River. Brunet Island itself was created where the Chippewa and Fisher Rivers joined. All the great boulders in the two streams, and the soil and rocks beneath the park "hitch-hiked" here in the glacial ice. The landforms that existed before the glaciers came are completely buried.

Madeline Island is rich in Native American, French, English and US history. Indian legends date back to 1490 and the first fort was built there in 1693.

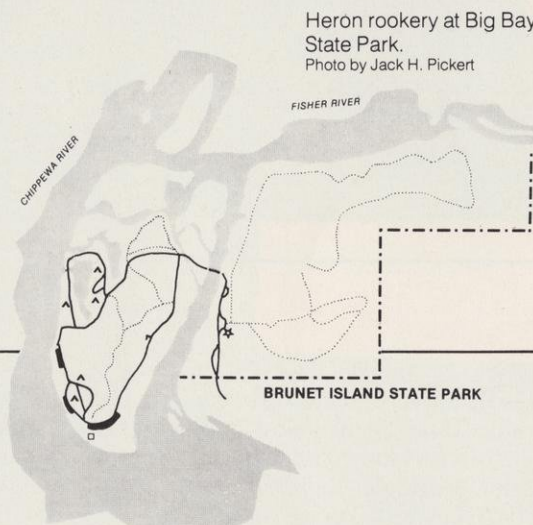
Big Bay State Park was established in 1963 as a recreation area for rustic camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing and swimming in Lake Superior. Deer hunting is also allowed. At Big Bay Point there are picturesque sandstone bluffs and hollowed out caves at the water's edge. A sand beach runs more than 7,500 feet. The park's 2,304 acres include a 120-acre acid bog lake.

The headquarters for the US Park Service's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is in Bayfield and visitors who want to explore other islands can get information there.

Reservations at Big Bay Park for both family campsites and the indoor group camp can be made from May 1st through the first weekend in October. Car ferries run regularly between Bayfield and Madeline Island on a nine month schedule from April to January.

To get to the park, take US highway 63 or 51 north to highway 2, or Wisconsin highway 13 to Bayfield.

For further information write the Washburn Ranger Station, Box 545, 203 E. Bayfield, Washburn, WI 54891
Phone: 715-373-2015.



Heron rookery at Big Bay State Park.
Photo by Jack H. Pickert



The most enjoyable way to see Brunet Island is on foot. Here are some of its features:

● **Trails** — There are six miles of hiking trails in the park, including a self-guided nature trail with interpretive signs identifying 30 species of trees, ferns and shrubs.

● **Forest** — Just west of Cornell is the Chippewa County Forest which includes 44,500 acres of wild land with many miles of trails for cars, all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. It is a prime hunting area with many small lakes and good fishing.

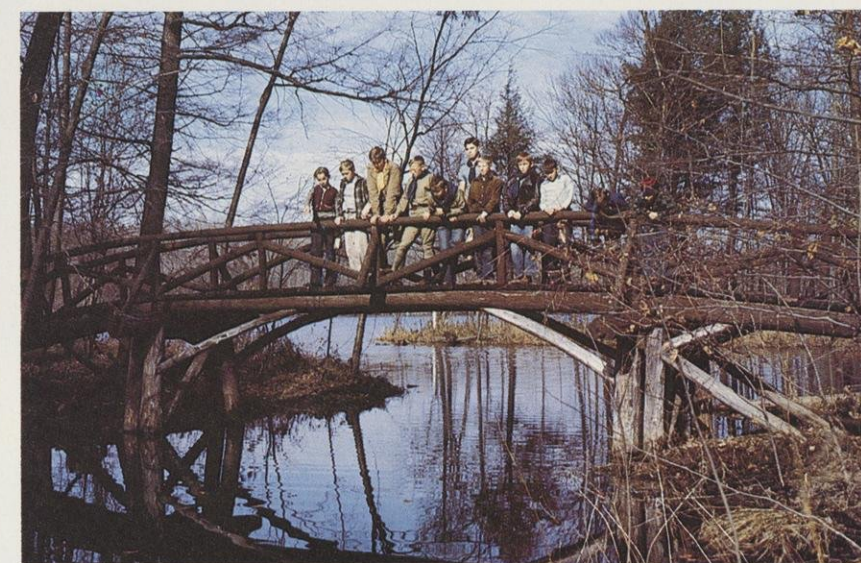
● **Archery** — A 28-target field archery range established by the Cornell Archery Club is available to the public without cost. It is located just east of the park on the Chippewa River.

● **Snowmobiling** — A trail starts a mile west of Cornell and connects with those in the Chippewa County Forest. There are approximately 45 miles of trails.

● **Ski Touring** — There is a three-mile loop. It begins near the parking lot at the park headquarters.

● **Swimming** — There is a 200-foot sand beach on the Chippewa River.

● **Picnicking** — Three picnic areas overlook the



Chippewa River. Capacity is about 600 people and 200 cars.

● **Fishing** — The Chippewa Flowage has muskie, northerns, walleye, catfish, smallmouth bass and panfish. It is one of the best fishing waters in the state. The bays and lagoons around the island are good places for youngsters to fish.

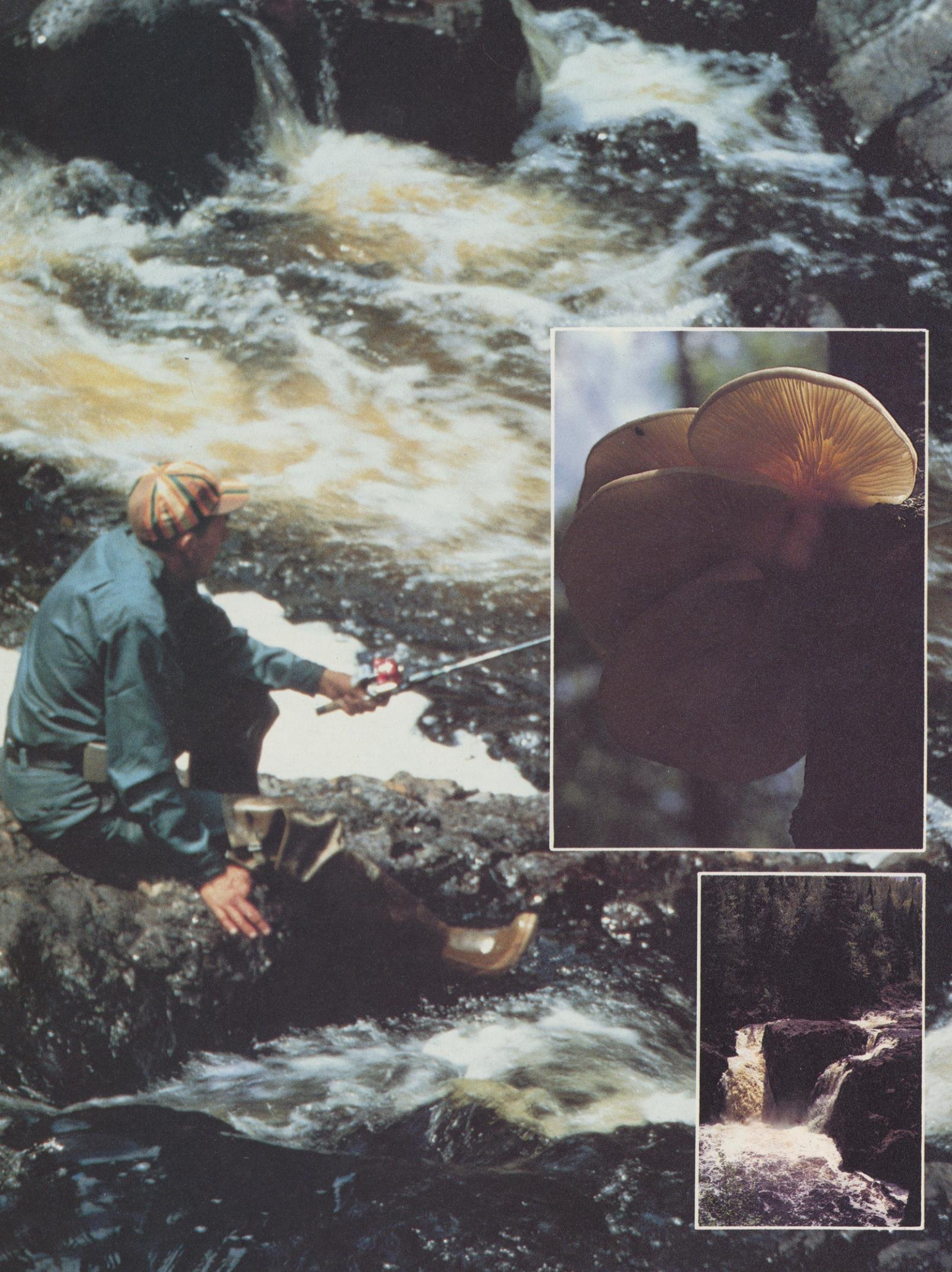
● **Wildlife** — Deer and a variety of birds including the bald eagle plus other creatures like chipmunks, gray and red squirrels and cottontail rabbits are plentiful.

● **Facilities** — There are two campgrounds, both on the island. They have a total of 69 individual sites, 24 of which have electrical outlets. Each site has a picnic table and a fire ring and can accommodate either tents or trailers. Camping is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Bridge to Brunet Island.
Photo by Michael L. Ries

For more information write to Brunet Island State Park, Rt. 2, Box 158, Cornell, WI 54732.

Phone: 715-239-6888.



Copper Falls

STATE PARK

KENDRA NELSON,
Editorial Assistant,
Madison

The smell of the cedar, the roar of the falls, the hard basalt that withstands the eons — all are part of one of the most spectacular parks in the state and Copper Falls is its centerpiece. Footbridges here cross 60 to 100-foot gorges carved over time by the Bad River.

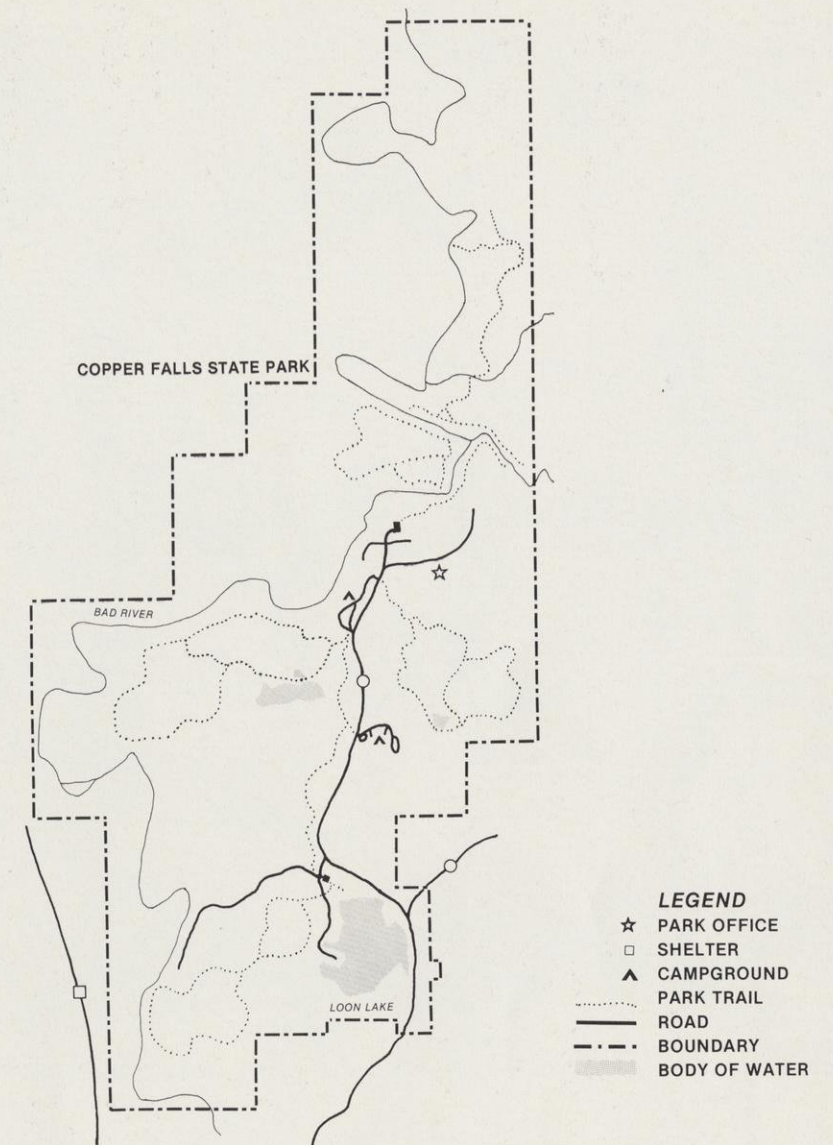
The park has places to picnic where sand, gravel, lava, sandstone, shale, clay and rock know history beyond human imagination. Where there were once glaciers there are picnic facilities, a log shelter and plenty of play area. Before the glaciers, circa 1000-million years ago, Copper Falls State Park was part of the Penokean range where some of the tallest mountains on earth towered into the clouds. They were worn down to a rolling, rocky plain, only to be covered later by basalt from volcanic activity. Warm, shallow seas came next, blanketing the area with sandstone. Later, the earth's crust shifted, heaving older basalt up over the younger sandstone to form an escarpment. At Copper Falls the Bad River plunges 30 feet over this escarpment into a narrow gorge.

Visitors can hear a black-throated warbler call from a hemlock, or a raven growl from a roadside. The chickadee, woodthrush, wren, woodpecker, grouse, and red-eyed vireo are all here. Their songs and those of about 200 other species harmonize, in a way, with the rumble of Copper Falls, of Tyler's Fork Cascades, of Brownstone Falls and Devil's Gate.

Black bear, frogs, coyote, chipmunks, snakes, butterflies, woodchuck, raccoon, skunk, porcupine, deer and anglers roam along the rivers and around Murphy and Loon Lakes. Rainbow, brown and brook trout, bass and northern pike all live in these waters.

A sand swimming beach at Loon Lake attracts many visitors. Others hike trails through sugar maple, aspen, birch, basswood, white pine and red oak, that show off ferns, mosses, wildflowers and herbs. In winter, snow conditions are usually very good for skiers, and Copper Falls Park features three cross-country trail loops.

Some of the development here dates back to Civilian Conservation Corps days in the 1930s. But the park's legacy also includes turn-of-the-century copper miners who failed to find the pure veins used by Copper Culture Indians for tools and weapons.



The park covers 2,400 acres and has two campgrounds with 56 units, 13 of which have electrical hookups. There are four secluded, walk-in campsites. The park's group camp requires advance registration and can accommodate up to 25 people. Advance registration is also suggested for two backpack sites.

**For more information write
Copper Falls State Park,
Box 348,
Mellen, WI 54546.**

Phone: 715-274-5123.

◀ Fishing the Bad River.
Photo by Ken Wardius

Oyster mushrooms at
Copper Falls. Photo by Ken Wardius

Copper Falls. Photo by Staber Reese



Ojibwa shelter house.
Photo by Raymond E. Larsen

Ojibwa

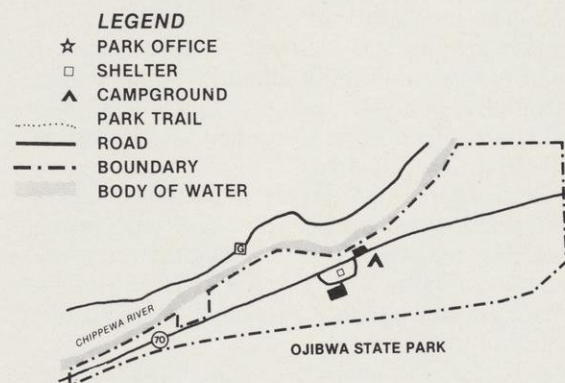
STATE PARK

RAYMOND E. LARSEN,
Superintendent

Eagles soaring over the Chippewa River, scenic canoeing, clean campsites, good fishing, exceptional picnic facilities and solitude — these are regular fare at Ojibwa State Park. Located on state highway 70, one mile east of Ojibwa in Sawyer County, the 366-acre park borders the Chippewa River on the north and Tuscobia State Trail on the south.

With forested hills and valleys, and diverse swamps and bogs, Ojibwa has rich habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Facilities include six campground units with electricity, a large picnic area, parking lot and restrooms. The small stone shelter house is a popular group picnic site. Records indicate heaviest use on holidays, openings of fishing and hunting



seasons and during canoe races on the Chippewa River. In winter, snowmobilers use the shelter house as a rest area while riding Tuscobia State Trail.

The fee is \$3.00 per night for family or group camping, paid by the self-registration system. Camping is first-come first-serve with no reservations. The park is open from May 1 through the gun deer season in November. It is operated under a lease agreement with the Winter Area Lions Club. **For more information write Wayne Carpenter, Winter Area Lions Club, Winter, WI 54896. Phone: 715-266-7941, or Raymond E. Larsen, DNR, Box 187, Winter, WI 54896. Phone: 715-266-3511.**



Pattison

JOHN SEMO,
Superintendent

Bridge at Big Manitou Falls.
Photo by John Semo

STATE PARK

Located in the far northwest corner of Wisconsin, this park contains one of the state's outstanding scenic features — 165-foot high Big Manitou Falls. Named by the Ojibwa Indians who believed they could hear the voice of the "Great Spirit" in the roar of the tumbling waters, the falls are not only the highest in Wisconsin but the fourth highest east of the Rocky Mountains.

From the vistas overlooking Big Manitou, visitors have a breath-taking view of the steep-walled gorge the Black River carved in the past 10,000 years. The cliff walls at the falls are composed of dark basalt, a volcanic rock that formed when great fissures opened in the earth's crust a billion years ago. Further downstream are giant sandstone walls, mute evidence of great oceans that once covered this area.

The park's north-facing overlooks and vistas give a splendid view of the broad, deep valley between Pattison Park and the steeply rising bluffs of Duluth, Minnesota. This valley was created by faulting or settling downward of a great block of earth many hundreds of millions of years ago. As a result, the park is more than 400 feet higher than Lake Superior.

About a mile upstream from the big falls is Little Manitou Falls. Here the Black River drops 31 feet to create a water, rock and forest scene of endless fascination. Between the two falls, the Black River is impounded to form 27-acre Interfalls Lake whose 300 foot beach is the finest in the area.

This park belongs to the public because of the generosity of Martin Pattison, a Superior resident, who became wealthy through dealings in lumber, mining and banking. To protect the falls from development, he purchased the 660 acres around them and gave the land to the state. The park was established in 1920.

There is a third waterfall in a remote section of the park on Copper Creek. This 25-foot falls, however, is not yet accessible by developed trails. It's expected that future development will provide access.

Pattison has a rich history — from the Indians who lived here, worked copper and worshipped at the falls, to the miners, loggers and railroad builders attempting to reach Lake Superior.

The park now covers 1,370 acres with picnic areas scattered throughout. The main picnic area is adjacent to the beach where there are flush toilets, a shelter, concession services and an interpre-

tive center.

Reservations are taken for the campground which has 59 spacious sites with flush toilets and showers. About a third have electricity. There is no winter camping.

More than 14 miles of trail accommodate hikers, skiers and snowmobilers while a two mile labeled nature trail leads hikers around Interfalls Lake.

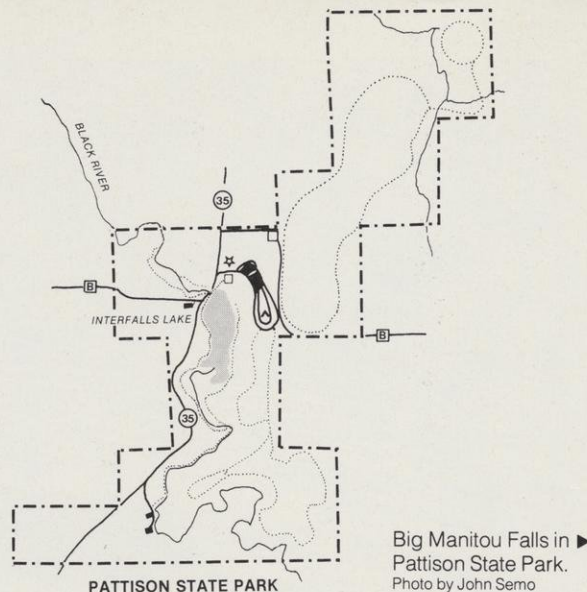
Located 13 miles south of Superior on state highway 35, the park is an easy drive from the Duluth/Superior metropolitan area.

*For more information write
Pattison State Park,
Box 435,
Superior, WI
54880.*

Phone: 715- 399-8073

LEGEND

- ☆ PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- PARK TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - BOUNDARY
- BODY OF WATER



Big Manitou Falls in
Pattison State Park.
Photo by John Semo

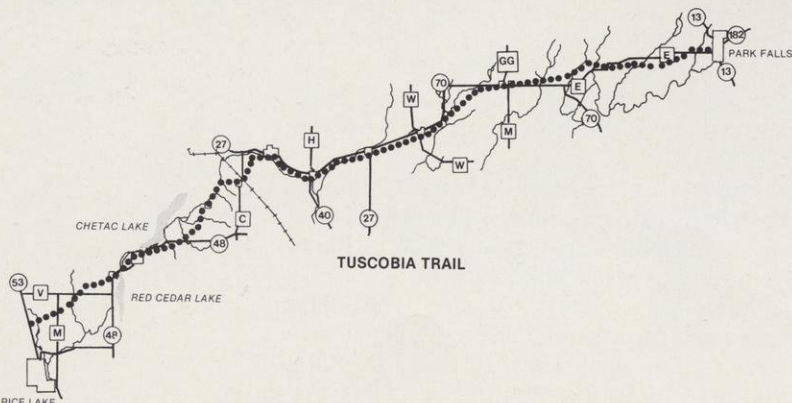
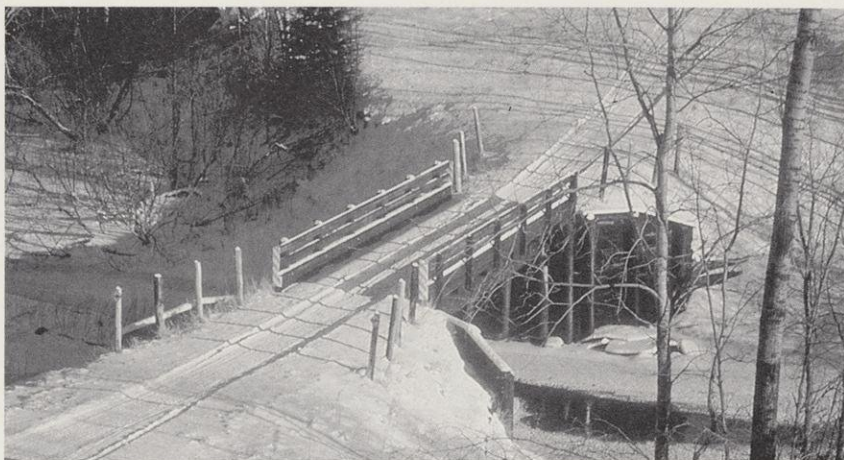
Tuscobia

STATE TRAIL

RAYMOND E. LARSEN,
Superintendent,

The 74-mile Tuscobia Trail is Wisconsin's longest. It runs along a 100-foot right of way on an old rail bed from just north of Rice Lake to Park Falls and is open all year. Most use is by hikers and snowmobilers because the trail is

The trail crosses Butternut Creek.
Photo by Jim Bishop



unsurfaced. The only motorized vehicles allowed are snowmobiles.

The trail gives an exceptional view of the subtle beauty of northern Wisconsin and the variety of birds, animals, plants and trees that inhabit it. Tuscobia Creek, Brill River, Eddy Creek, Butternut Creek and the Brunet River, upstream from the trail offer trout fishing. The Brunet River downstream from the trail provides musky fishing.

At first, from Tuscobia to Brill, scenery along the trail is open farmland, then changes to pothole lakes and marshes and gradually becomes forest. From Birchwood to Couderay, the trail heads across the "Blue Hills," a wild, wooded area whose base material is very old pre-Cambrian quartzite rock. There are very few road crossings on this stretch.

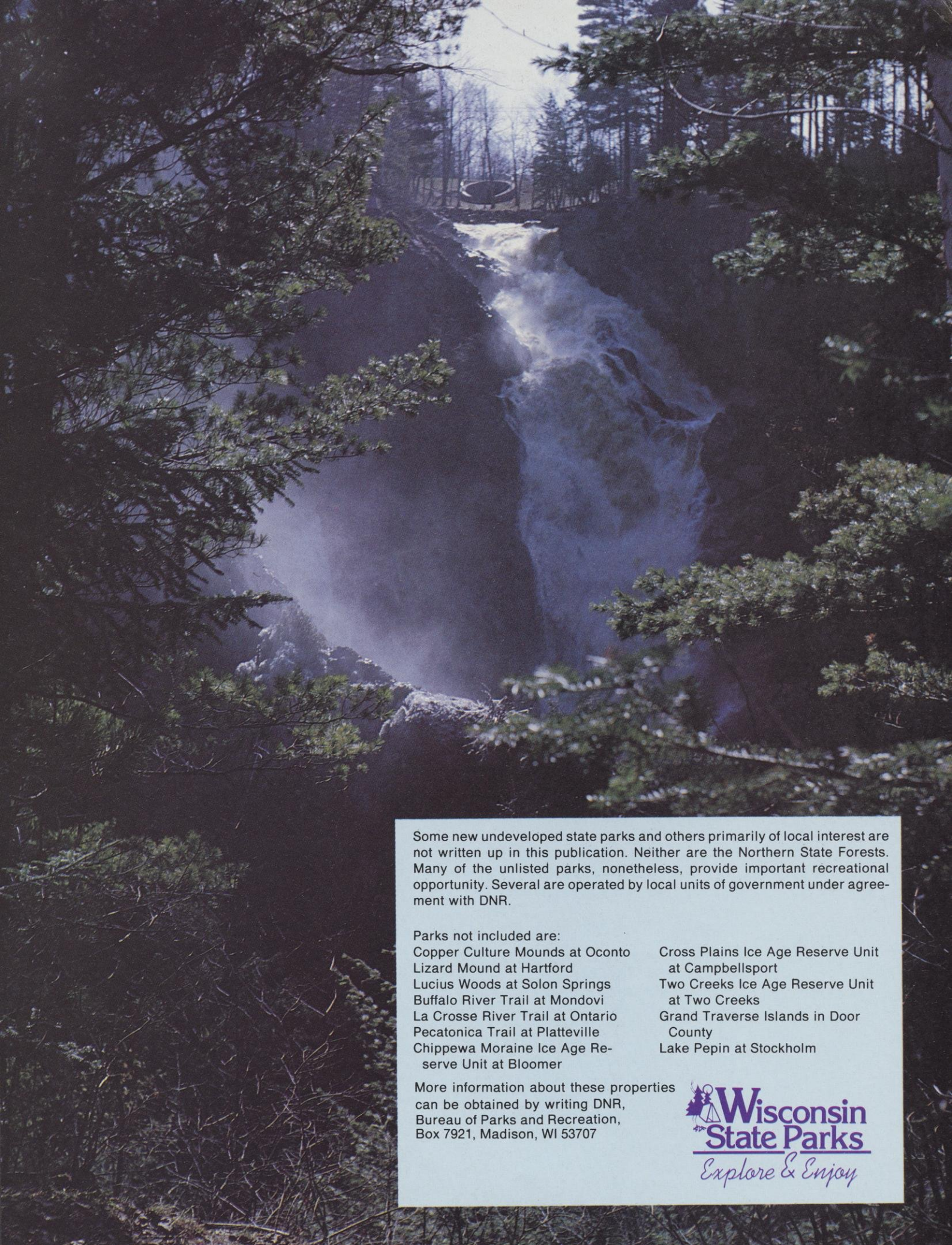
Couderay, an old mill town, has three historical markers near state highway 70 giving the background of the area. The Couderay River can only be crossed by using the highway 70 bridge near Ojibwa. The railroad company removed all the trestles and bridges when the line was abandoned. Replacing them has been a major DNR project, but this one hasn't yet been done!

A wild stretch of the trail cuts through portions of the Flambeau River State Forest and the Chequamegon National Forest. It passes hardwood ridges, aspen, alder-willow lowlands and black spruce and tamarack swamps where hikers have a good chance of seeing a variety of wildlife.

Most services are available at Birchwood and Park Falls, and basic necessities can be obtained at Loretta and Draper. Ojibwa State Park connects with the trail and contains a state-operated campground. Private campgrounds are available at Birchwood.

The western end of the trail is off Barron County highway SS near US 53, four miles north of Rice Lake. The east end is in Park Falls, located in northern Price County on state highway 13.

For more information write Tuscobia Trail, Box 187, Winter, WI 54896. Phone: 715-266-3511.



Some new undeveloped state parks and others primarily of local interest are not written up in this publication. Neither are the Northern State Forests. Many of the unlisted parks, nonetheless, provide important recreational opportunity. Several are operated by local units of government under agreement with DNR.

Parks not included are:

Copper Culture Mounds at Oconto
Lizard Mound at Hartford
Lucius Woods at Solon Springs
Buffalo River Trail at Mondovi
La Crosse River Trail at Ontario
Pecatonica Trail at Platteville
Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Reserve Unit at Bloomer

Cross Plains Ice Age Reserve Unit
at Campbellsport
Two Creeks Ice Age Reserve Unit
at Two Creeks
Grand Traverse Islands in Door
County
Lake Pepin at Stockholm

More information about these properties
can be obtained by writing DNR,
Bureau of Parks and Recreation,
Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707



The Northern Forests

DENNIS LEITH,
Recreation Manager,
Northern Highlands State Forest

There are remote lakes in the 218,000-acre Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest in Vilas County where you can fish, hike and canoe in absolute solitude. All five of Wisconsin's northern state forests, Northern Highland, Black River, Brule River, Flambeau River and Governor Knowles, have this same attribute. Together, they comprise more than 428,000 acres — enough to provide something for everyone year-round.

There are more than 1,000 family camping units, hundreds of miles of hiking and canoe trails, primitive and backpack camping areas, beautiful picnic grounds, thousands of acres of water to fish, plus hunting opportunities galore. In winter, there is cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, winter camping, snowshoeing and much more.

More than two million visitors "get away from it all" every year in Wisconsin's northern forests. Beside solitude, they provide some of the most spectacular canoe trails in the nation. In many cases developed campsites are available. On the other hand, the person who chooses wilderness camping can often be the only human being on a whole lake. Backpackers too find the forests ideal and there are many trails and campsites for them. In addition to wilderness camping, many high quality family and group campgrounds are available. There are picnic areas and swimming beaches that range all the way from small, relatively isolated areas to large popular beaches like Crystal Lake on the Northern Highland.

After Labor Day, recreational activities slow down. However, in autumn sightseeing picks up. The yellows, reds and browns of the hardwoods accent the greens of pine, spruce and fir. Reflections of these colors in the clear lakes and streams are sights not soon forgotten. Then, the marked nature trails are a special invitation.

In fall, wildlife become more active. Deer fawns lose their spots and adults change color from the red of summer to the gray of winter. The goldfinch turns line-striped and olive and the snowshoe hare grows patches of white.

In winter, the forests pay extra dividends to those hardy enough to seek them out. There is cross country skiing on thousands of old logging roads and abandoned railroad grades as well as nearly 100 miles of developed and marked ski trails, many of which are tracked and groomed. Tobogganing is available on nearly any hill, and ice fishing almost every place there's summer fishing. For snowmobilers, there are more than 200 miles of marked and groomed trails, and winter campers find a lot less competition in December.



For more information about recreational activities contact the following:

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, Box 440, Woodruff, WI 54568. Phone: 715-356-5211.

Black River State Forest, Box 5, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Phone: 715-284-5301.

Brule River State Forest, Box 125, Brule, WI 54820. Phone: 715-372-4866.

Flambeau River State Forest, Star Rt., Winter, WI 54896. Phone: 715-332-5271.

Governor Knowles State Forest, Box 367, Grantsburg, WI 54840. Phone: 715-463-2898.

Brule River State Forest.
Photo by Don Blegen

Wisconsin's Ice Age Reserve

GARY WERNER,
Ice Age Trail Council

WILLIAM T. MOORMAN,
*DNR Ice Age Coordinator,
Madison*

Three great rivers have marked Wisconsin. The first was a glacial river of ice that plowed two-thirds of the way through the state. It moved streams, dotted the land with lakes and marshes, mixed a rich diversity of soils for farm and forest and left a landscape of hills and hollows ever pleasing to the eye. It also spawned two other rivers: one wet, one dry. The first is the river of water we call the Wisconsin and the other a river of rocks and pebbles, silt and sand called the terminal moraine.

The Wisconsin River slides out of a glacial lake in the north, pumps through the heart of the state, then slices the dry bluffs of the southwest to merge with the Mississippi.

The other great river — the terminal moraine — is less obvious. This river of rock and soil, frozen in place by the glacier 10,000 years ago undulates across Wisconsin like a huge serpent. In some places it is a prominent ridge — the highest land for miles around. In others it squats low and broad upon old hills and valleys. It separates the lake-pocked northwoods from the dry oak

savanna of the central sands and the rich glacial farmland of the southeast from the bluffs and coulees of the driftless southwest. The moraine crowns the old limestone ridge that keeps Lake Michigan from flooding the Fox River Valley and forms the hills and water-filled hollows west of Milwaukee called the Kettle Moraine. It is the state's culminating glacial landform, yet often goes unnoticed.

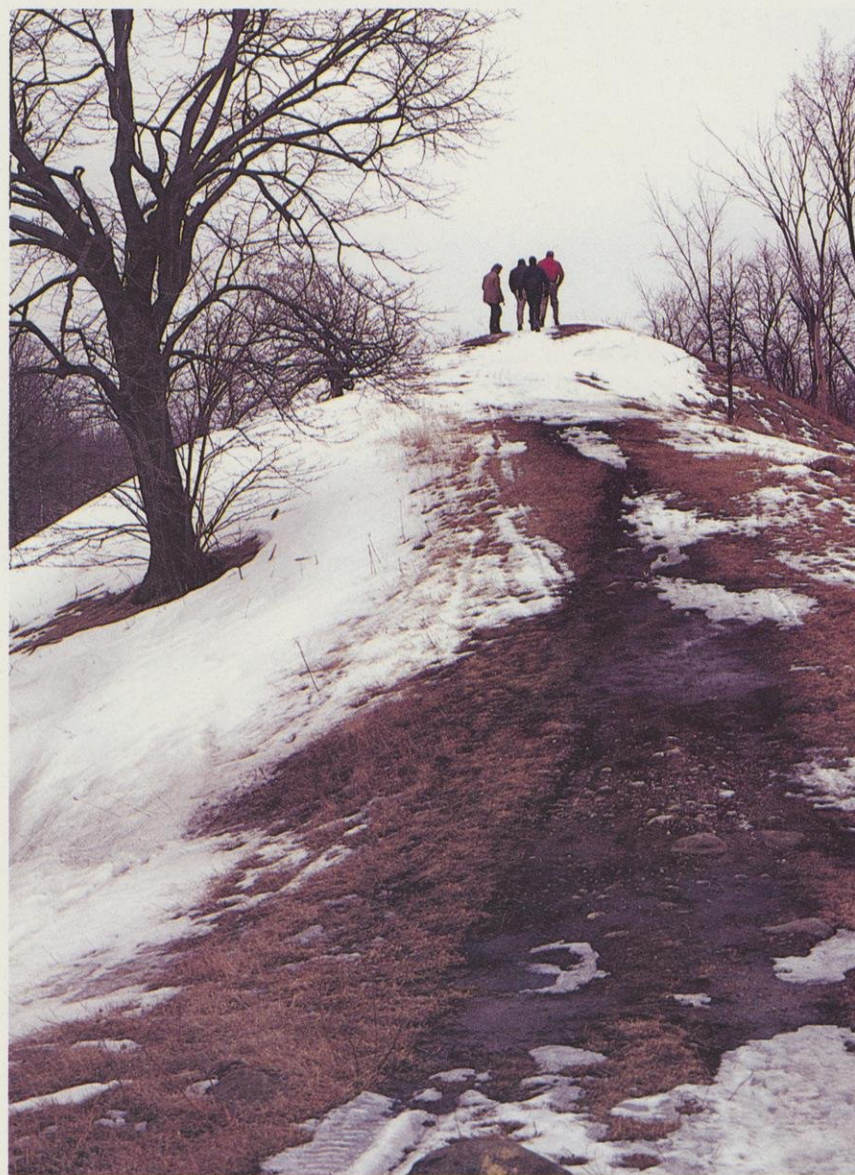
However, thanks to more than a decade of effort by Milwaukee businessman Ray Zillmer, in 1964 Congress did take notice. It authorized the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. This consists of nine units scattered across the glacial face of Wisconsin, protecting, preserving and interpreting its highlights. A component of both the national and state park systems, the Reserve receives partial funding and help in development of interpretive programs from the National Park Service while the state is responsible for operations and maintenance.

The nine separate units comprise over 40,000 acres and each exhibits unique or highly repre-



The Wisconsin landscape
10,000 years ago.
Painting by Roy Anderson

Esker piled up by sand and gravel-laden meltwater in the Kettle Moraine.
Photo by William Moorman



Hiking the Ice Age Trail.
Photo by Roger Reif

sentative features of continental glaciation. Four are in the process of acquisition and development, but the other five have long been open to public use.

Among the five is the Horicon Marsh, best known for its large waterfowl populations each spring and fall. Not so well known, however, is the fact that marsh is an extinct glacial lake. The state-owned southern portion is now a part of the Ice Age Reserve. Overlooks here give spectacular views of the vast marsh and hikers can walk into it on dike trails. The Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, just to the north, also offers self-guiding nature trails.

The other four Ice Age Reserve units already open are part of the state park system and are described in this publication. They include:

Devil's Lake State Park (page 29)

Interstate State Park (page 68)

The Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (page 57)

Mill Bluff State Park (page 62)

The four Reserve units not yet ready for public visitation will open when land acquisition and funding permit. They are:

Two Creeks Buried Forest on Lake Michigan near Two Rivers.

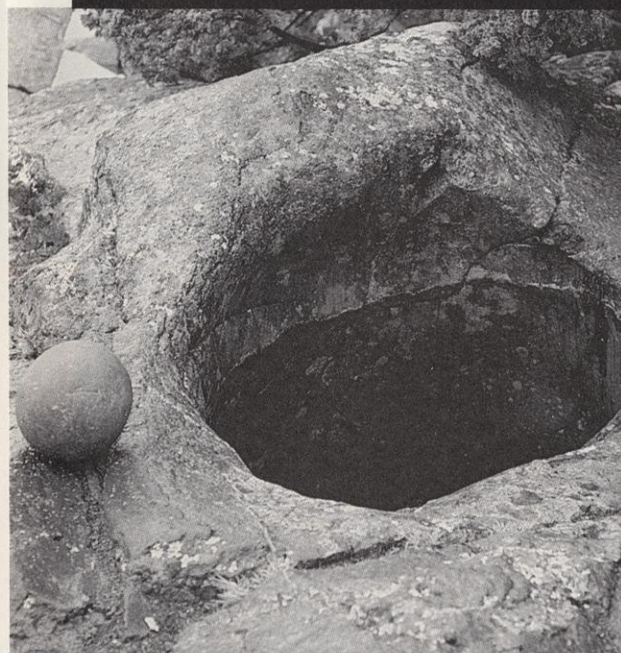
The Campbellsport Drumlins which are glacial hills that formed parallel to the ice movement.

The Cross Plains Unit where the glacier met the driftless area, the part of Wisconsin untouched by glaciation. This site also contains a unique subglacial drainageway.

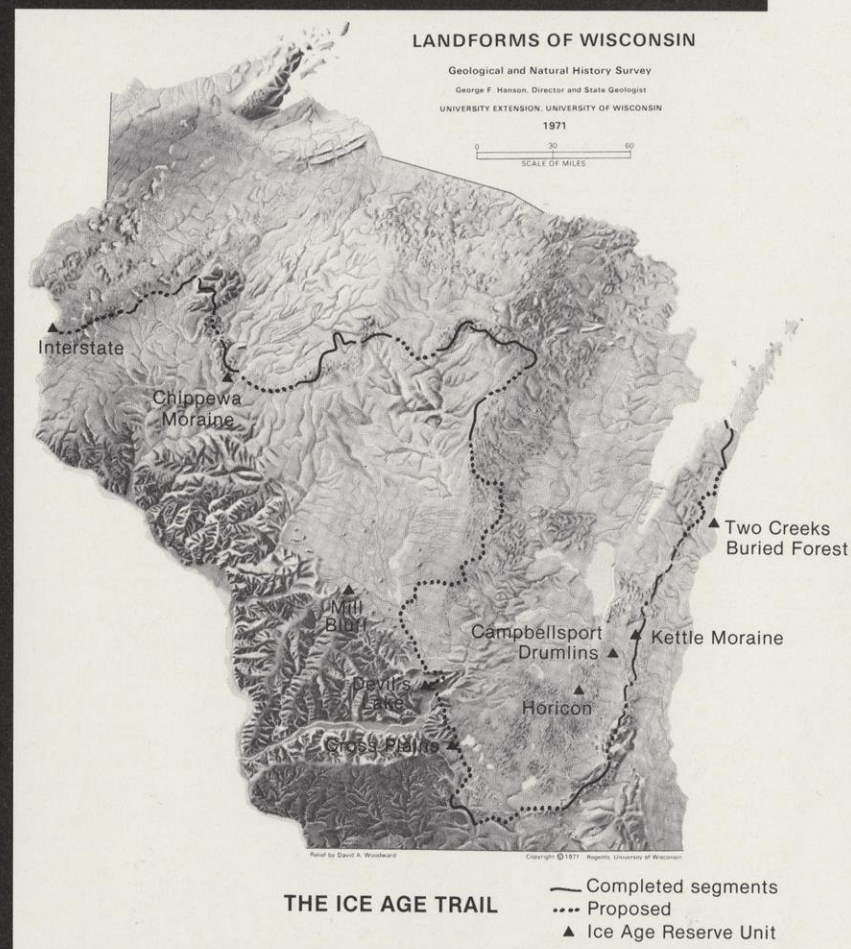
And the Chippewa Moraine near Bloomer where stagnating ice left behind a myriad of kettle lakes, hills and angular ridges. This unit will offer outstanding hiking and cross-country skiing when completed.



Potholes at Interstate Park were drilled into the lava by whirling tornadoes of rock-carrying glacial meltwater. The boulder is one of the rocks that did the drilling.
Photo by William Moorman



Geese at Horicon Marsh.



Ice Age Trail

A key feature of Ray Zillmer's original proposal was a hiking trail that would follow the terminal moraine for 1,000 miles from one end of the state to the other. He founded the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation to help make it a reality. Today, thanks to time, labor and money from many volunteers, the Ice Age Trail exists. Though not complete, it is now possible to walk overland through the Northern and Southern Kettle Moraine State Forests; through the county forests of Langlade, Marathon and Chippewa Counties, and through the Chequamegon National Forest in Taylor County. The Ice Age Trail leads through the Blue Hills of Rusk County, the Baraboo Hills of Sauk County and the Harrison Hills of Lincoln County. It follows the Ahnapee State Trail in Door and Kewaunee Counties and the Sugar River Trail in Green County. It crosses the Wisconsin River on the ferry at Merrimac and the power dam at Castle Rock. The Ice Age Trail is a project of cooperation between private citizens, public institutions, state, local and federal governments and many private landowners. Congress recognized its significance in 1980 by declaring it a National Scenic Trail.

The hope now is that the long gaps which still exist will someday be filled. Eventually, the Ice Age Trail will link most of the units of the National Reserve as well as many other places of special beauty closer to home. It will provide even more opportunities than now to walk quietly and softly, observing the glacial landscape in its many forms and moods. Exactly when it will be completed is anybody's guess. It all depends on whether the cooperation and effort can be sustained. As of now, the odds favor its completion.

Fees

Vehicle admission and camping fees are established by the State Legislature. Revenue from the fees together with general tax monies finance operation and maintenance of the parks. Nonresidents pay higher fees to offset the very heavy contribution all Wisconsin citizens make to support parks through payment of income and sales taxes. Current fees will remain unchanged through 1986.

Vehicle Admission Sticker	Wisconsin Residents	Nonresidents
<i>Annual</i>	\$12.00	\$20.00
<i>Daily</i>	\$3.00	\$5.00
Family Camping	\$3.50-\$4.00/night	\$5.00-\$7.00/night
Electricity	\$1.50/night	same
Sewer Hook-up	\$1.00/night	same
Group Tent Camping		
Juveniles (tax not included)	\$.30/person/night	same
	\$150 maximum/group/night	same
	\$3.00 minimum/group/night	same
Adults (tax included)	\$3.55/family/night	same
	\$.70/person/night/for adult groups	same
	\$14.00 minimum/group/night	same
State Trail Admission (applicable to bikers age 18 or older)*		
Season	\$2.50	\$3.50
Daily	\$.75	\$1.00

*Hiker's admitted free

Reservations are accepted for 2,042 of the state parks' 4,144 campsites. Official reservation application forms must be used and mailed directly to the park. The application has to be received no less than seven days prior to the date the site is to be occupied and has to include the camping fee plus a \$3.00 reservation charge. Reservation applications are accepted from the first working

Secret Gems

KERMIT TRASKA,
Parks Staff Specialist,
Madison

Wisconsin state parks and forests attract more than 10 million visitors annually. Half of these come to just six properties — Devil's Lake, Peninsula, Governor Dodge and High Cliff state parks and the Northern and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Where do the other half go?

They use the quiet parks, the ones it takes a little exploring to find. It's fun and it's easy to do. Each state park and forest is plainly marked on the Wisconsin road map. Each was established to save some unique quality — a special scenic, geologic, historic or natural area. One of them might be just your cup of tea.

How about an outpost in Lake Michigan first used by French traders? Try Rock Island State Park. Perhaps an historic drive through farmland once owned by Wisconsin's first territorial governor? That's Nelson Dewey State Park at Cassville. A campsite with a view? One of Wisconsin's highest points is Rib Mountain State Park near Wausau. How about a geologic expedition into the hills of southwest Wisconsin's driftless area? Try camping along the Kickapoo River at Wildcat Mountain near Ontario. Parks like these, off the beaten path and not crowded with people, are

day in January until September 30, except for Peninsula State Park where reservations may be made through the last week of October.

Official reservation forms can be obtained from all state park and forest headquarters, from all official Wisconsin Tourist Information Centers, including the one in Chicago at 75 East Wacker Drive, or by writing the DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Wisconsin citizens, age 65 and older may purchase a lifetime Natural Resources Senior Citizen Recreation Card for a one-time fee of \$11.00. Any vehicle with a card holder as an occupant is allowed free admission to state parks and forests. The card also gives the holder free lifetime fishing and small game hunting privileges.

The Kettle Moraine State Forest and Devil's Lake, Interstate and Mill Bluff State Parks are also units of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. Consequently, holders of the National Park Service Golden Eagle, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports pay no fee to enter the four properties. Passports can be obtained at most Federal Recreation Areas. The Golden Age and Golden Access cards are issued at the Wisconsin Ice Age Reserve Units and at the DNR central office in Madison.

Pets are welcome in state parks, but not in picnic or beach areas, on nature or cross country ski trails or in buildings. They must be kept on a leash no longer than eight feet at all times.

For other visitor information and rules consult the free "Visitor's Guide" which is available at all state parks and DNR offices.

waiting everywhere to be explored.

Often these locations have lots of attractions outside the park too. Many communities across Wisconsin hold annual festivals which celebrate everything from watermelon seed-spitting to Norwegian Independence Day and other cultural and ethnic events. Call or write the different parks and forests for information on nearby festivals.

For bargain hunters, five out-of-the-way parks charge campers the full \$3.50 fee the first night but only \$2.00 for additional nights. These parks are Nelson Dewey at Cassville, Rib Mountain at Wausau, Roche a Cri at Friendship, Mill Bluff at Tomah and Copper Falls near Mellen.

Traditionally, there are a few holiday weekends when even remote places attract crowds. State parks and forests are busiest on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends. A flexible schedule helps. Many parks fill on Friday and Saturday in summer but have plenty of room for camping Sunday through Thursday.

If you're willing to strike out into new territory, the uncrowded state parks and forests may nicely meet your every need. One may even become "your place" like a favorite fishing hole — your own special secret.

What's This Sign All About?

Park and recreation administrators are always searching for ways to attract new people. Innovative interpretation, new facilities like nature centers, picnic areas, beaches, campgrounds and trails have enticed many a first-time visitor. Last year state parks and southern state forests attracted nearly 11 million people, northern forests almost 2 million. At least that many and maybe more are expected in future years.

Many categories of people, young, old, short, tall, heavy, thin — individuals of every possible description use the parks. The one exception to this cross section, despite their vast numbers, are the handicapped. Approximately one-tenth to one-seventh of the population have some form of permanent physical disability. They may be blind, visually impaired, suffer from heart conditions or use orthopedic aids such as wheelchairs, braces, artificial limbs, canes, walkers, or crutches. They may be deaf or hard of hearing, have respiratory ailments or have arthritis. In addition, there are those with temporary disabilities like broken bones or illness. The vast majority of these people are not isolated, so their family unit is also affected. All in all, because of physical and other barriers a very large number of people may not use state park and recreation areas.

But to provide facilities for them is a main goal of the Wisconsin state park system.

In the early 1970s, Wisconsin initiated a "Review and Redesign" program to eliminate barriers to the physically handicapped in state parks. The idea was to modify camping and picnicking facilities to make them available to disabled persons and their families wherever possible. New construction, existing parking lots, pathways, restrooms, drinking fountains, shelter buildings and other installations are now being modified to insure accessibility. Usually it takes only minor change to greatly improve or eliminate most barriers. The cost is usually less than 1% of the total development expenditures.

Barrier-free designs benefit not only the handicapped but also the able-bodied. Infant strollers are easy to handle on hard surface walkways and tiny tots can maneuver on ramps much easier than stairs.

Today barrier-free campsites and picnic areas have been installed at nearly every state park and recreation area. They are listed in this book, in the Park Visitor Guide and on the state highway map.

There are barrier-free nature trails at Rocky Arbor, Devil's Lake, Lake Wissota and a number of other parks. New nature centers at Interstate and at the Northern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest interpret the Ice Age National Scientific



MICHAEL L. RIES,
Landscape Architect,
Eau Claire

Handicapped access
marker.

Reserve and have accessible auditoriums, displays, toilets, drinking fountains, telephone and other support facilities. An accessible fishing pier has been built at Lake Wissota. Pike Lake, Willow River and a number of other state parks have easy access to swimming beaches. Scenic overlooks, whether in conjunction with nature trails or by themselves are also usually accessible.

DNR has an open invitation to everyone to stop in and check at any state park or recreation area to find out what facilities are accessible to the entire family.

The idea is to provide quality outdoor recreation without barriers for all citizens. That's what the sign is really all about!



Handicapped parking is
provided in all state parks.
The wider spacing between
slots allows wheelchair
passage.

Park Planning

DENNIS KULHANEK,
DNR Park Planning
Coordinator,
Madison

Often thought of only as places for you or me to pursue our favorite recreation such as swimming, picnicking or camping, Wisconsin state parks are planned and managed for other uses too.

Each park is unique and has been set aside not only for recreation but also to preserve examples of Wisconsin's great heritage of landforms, plants and animals. This means that the woods and wetlands, fields and prairies, dunes and shorelines

that contain these features must be protected. About nine-tenths of all park lands are undeveloped — more than 58,000 acres. These are the best places to look closely at wildflowers and carry binoculars for bird or animal watching.

Natural areas that contain significant examples of native plant or animal communities and geological or archaeological features are sometimes set aside as scientific areas. Currently, 40 of these are located in state parks. All are managed to maintain natural conditions with minimum human intervention. Some preserve and protect threatened or endangered plants and animals and are used in education and ecological research.

To make sure parks are managed, protected, used and developed wisely, each has its own master plan. The master plan recommends which areas are to be kept natural and which are to be developed according to needs for picnicking, camping, swimming or other recreation. Sites with scientific area potential are pinpointed.

Although manipulation of natural areas is kept to a minimum, plans sometimes call for managing vegetation. Trees are cut in parks for only four reasons: safety, salvage, aesthetics and to perpetuate a forest stand. Dead or defective trees that may be a hazard to visitors are removed from trails. Those severely damaged by wind, insect or disease are also cut. Trees blocking vistas or overlooks may require removal to improve the view. Conifer plantations are thinned to keep them healthy and vigorous. Proper cutting also eliminates the "block" pattern in plantations and makes the setting look more natural. Aspen, a species desired for both visual diversity and wildlife food, is one that must be cut. It is the only way to perpetuate it!

Master plans may propose that parks which once contained native prairie or oak savannah be restocked with their original species. These areas would then be periodically burned to mimic the natural conditions that help support such special vegetative communities.

Park planning is not an exclusive DNR affair. If you have a personal interest in a particular park and would like to have a say in its future, you can. You might become a member of a citizen advisory committee or attend a public meeting when a draft of the master plan is presented for comment. One or more of these meetings are held on every plan; the purpose is to receive your views. Written comments are also welcome.

Each park tells its own special story. Each helps us better appreciate the natural processes which formed Wisconsin and created the environment in which we live. Parks bring our ancient roots into the present. Proper planning for their best use is a joint citizen-DNR responsibility. Only with active public participation can we make sure the benefits parks bestow will continue into the future.

Scientific Areas

State parks frequently contain high quality examples of Wisconsin's presettlement landscape. The nucleus of the state's scientific area system is provided by 40 scientific areas totalling 3,350 acres within state parks and recreational forests. These preserve exceptional examples of old growth pine, hemlock or hardwood forest, undeveloped lakes, remnant prairies, geological features and endangered or threatened species habitats. Scientific areas are protected and managed to maintain them, now and in the future, as remnants of Wisconsin's native ecosystems, for preservation of genetic diversity, for scientific research and educational use, and as reference areas or guidelines for land and water use.



The Future

The state park system has done well in the last 83 years; but what changes should it look forward to in the future and how can it cope with those changes?

To answer these and other questions, DNR is currently working on a long-range plan that will look at the park system, its mission, goal, objectives, key areas and critical factors like funding, personnel and strategies for the future.

The long-range plan will attempt to find out where the system should be in the year 2000 and how it can get there.

The whole planning process is expected to be completed in two or three years. A key element is public participation. That will involve review of the present system, input of ideas for the future and review of the plan as it progresses toward completion. We hope you'll participate when the time comes.

Interpretive Programs: A Natural Choice

LAURIE OSTERNDORF,
DNR Naturalist,
Interstate Park

Sigurd Olson, a great naturalist of the Midwest, wrote, "While we are born with curiosity and wonder and our early years full of the adventure they bring, I know such inherent joys are often lost. I also know that, being deep within us, their latent glow can be flamed again by awareness and an open mind."

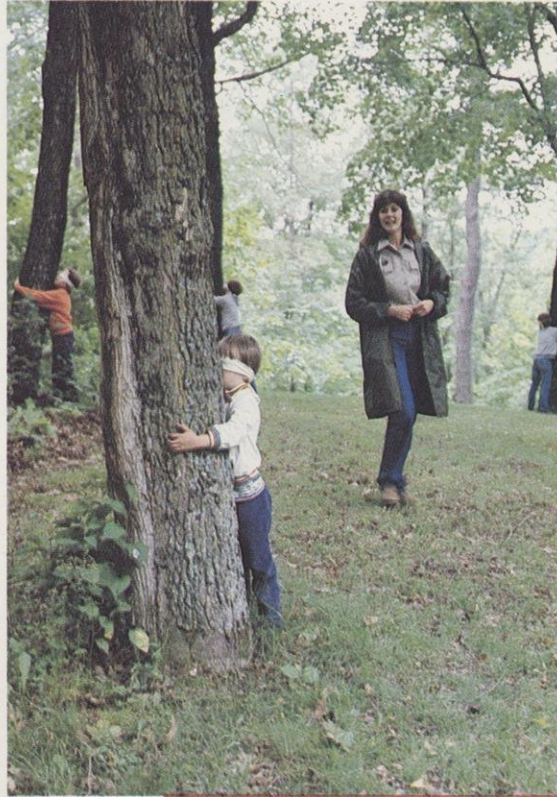
A guiding hand is often helpful to realize this purpose. Each year, millions of people like you visit Wisconsin's state parks and find more than just places to play, picnic and camp. Parks are also places to learn and to inspire. The guiding hand in all these special encounters is the park naturalist whose job it is to reveal meaning and relationships, and to add to your appreciation and understanding of the world.

The interpretive programs are designed to excite curiosity. They transform state parks into outdoor classrooms that give firsthand experience with nature's handiwork. The idea is to do more than simply distribute information laden with facts and figures. Instead, facts are interpreted and complex interrelationships explained to reveal some greater truths that lie beneath the surface.

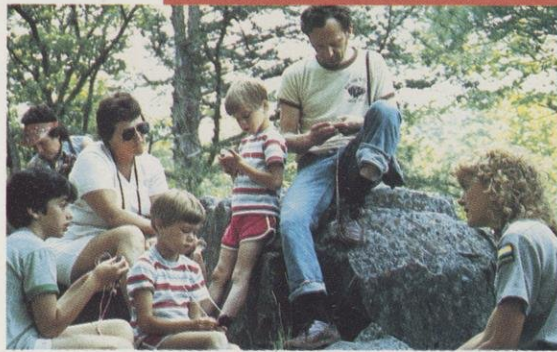
Interpretive programs transform you from spectator into participant. Their scope ranges from plants and animals to the rocks beneath your feet and the sky over your head. Guided nature hikes give you a chance to learn new ideas while enjoying the scenic beauty of an area. For the adventurous, "explorer hikes" introduce participants to orienteering and off-the-trail hiking. Other activities sensitize the individual to the environment by providing opportunities to explore the world by taste, smell, touch and hearing. A canoe nature trip is an exciting and memorable way to learn about wetlands that are otherwise difficult to reach. At dusk, many state parks offer "evening programs;" a chance to gather with other campers and enjoy an illustrated slide talk, a movie or an informal campfire chat.

At your convenience and leisure unorganized interpretation is also available through self-guided nature trails that put you on your own. Interesting or unusual features which might otherwise be overlooked or not fully appreciated are pointed out on labels along the trail, or in brochures keyed to numbered posts. Most state parks offer at least one self-guided nature trail where you can walk at your own pace and not worry about schedules. Many state parks feature nature centers where natural history exhibits illustrate park details or local history.

State parks also provide opportunities for a broad range of children's school activities from the study of ecology to the fine arts. The prime



Children and "tree friends."
Photo by Laurie Osterndorf



Getting to know rock.
Photo by Jim Lissack

purpose of environmental education in the park system is to explain the place of human beings in the environment, to increase awareness of this important relationship and to encourage participation in environmental conservation. Park programs help the younger generation develop a feeling of being at home in the out-of-doors and increase their sensitivity to the beauty, complexity, variety and interrelationships in our environment.

The strength of the interpretive message is that park ecosystems and the everyday world are inter-related and interdependent. Rather than an isolated bit of our heritage, state parks are an integral part of our daily lives. This idea is woven throughout DNR's interpretive activities. Your participation can be a memorable and enjoyable way of keeping your visit to a Wisconsin state park with you the entire year.

State Parks and the Local Economy

GARY KNOWLES,
Wisconsin Division of Tourism
Research by Louise Rech,
Department of Development

Probably the raccoons were the only state residents who didn't feel any economic impact when I camped in Big Bay State Park on Madeline Island. But it wasn't any fault of theirs. On the night I arrived, they tried to kick the lid off my cookie container, rolled it up a hill, beat it against a stump, danced on it and, in desperation, dropped it off the picnic table. But it wouldn't open. Nice tight fit on that can! I think when Mae and I bought it at a cheese store, it held German cookies. The Kaiser would have been proud. It frustrated those raccoons and sent them home snarling.

Natural attractions bring
economic benefits.
Wisconsin Division of
Tourism photo

The animals got nothing, but most everyone else in Wisconsin received some benefit from my camping trip. Whenever someone camps at a state park, the economic ripples spread from Ashland to Zenda!

If that sounds preposterous, consider this: I spent about \$30 on gasoline. Then I bought about \$20 worth of groceries in Bayfield and La Pointe, spent about \$15 for riding the ferry over and back a few times, paid \$10 for rides on a cruise boat, and about \$50 for restaurant meals, bought Mae a sweater and got a wool shirt for myself for about \$50, bought film totalling \$15, and several rounds of drinks at several good bars for about \$35. I paid camping fees at the park, an entrance fee at the Madeline Island Historical Museum (a real bargain!), and spent about \$20 somewhere that I can't remember. Mae spent some too, and together we left about \$300 scattered between Madison and La Pointe over five days.

And where did my money go? To local folks mostly, who in turn spent most of it several times before it left the community. Some of it went as sales or gas tax, to the state's general fund or to



the highway fund. These dollars will, in their own small way, benefit all the people who use the highways or who use goods and services delivered over them, or who benefit from various other state programs and services paid with general revenue.

Mae and I spent about \$300 over five days, averaging about \$30 each per day. That's very high for campers at state parks. According to a 1980 survey by the Recreation Resources Center (RRC) of the UW-Extension, the average state park camper spends \$9.59 per day. Adjust that to about \$12 by 1983 and I was still extravagant by that standard; but then someone has to bring up the average for those folks who hike in, eat wild berries, actually catch fish and don't buy souvenirs!

The RRC says that in 1980 state park campers spent \$16,494,110 while enjoying some of Wisconsin's best campsites. The resulting impact on surrounding communities is indeed substantial. For example, consider that campers at Devil's Lake State Park, according to the RRC study, spent over \$2 million. These expenditures create jobs for local people, especially those who need entry level service employment to finance schooling or a few dollars to supplement retirement income. Some of the facilities these dollars support could not exist were it not for the marginal profit difference camper spending makes. While the business may cater to a summer trade, the services offered are often available year-round, providing convenience to local people long after the peak season has ended.

Growing winter use should increase the value of parks to local communities. While winter camping may never become a mass participation sport, Wisconsin parks are gaining recognition for great cross-country skiing. Snowmobilers, snowshoers and other nature lovers will mean more dollars circulating in nearby communities as visitors buy gas, groceries, souvenirs, fuel and the thousand other things winter travelers need.

Local communities also benefit when visitors purchase major pieces of equipment. I was pleasantly surprised this past January to have a conversation with an Illinois farmer, a snowmobiler vacationing in Boulder Junction, his fourth year in a row. The man told me he and his son-in-law had both purchased snowmobiles from local dealers. He said several other friends of his from Illinois also vacation there and had purchased equipment in northern Wisconsin. "I'd rather buy up here," he said, "because I can try out the machines where I'm using them most . . . on trails through Wisconsin parks and forests."

To have a state park near your community (and who in Wisconsin doesn't!), not only means easy access to recreation, it also represents an economic asset — jobs, stores and services that might otherwise not exist.

Come to think of it, even those thieving Madeline Island raccoons benefited from my visit. They returned the last night of my stay to kick the lid off the garbage can and eat themselves crazy on smoked fish leftovers. Like I said, when I camp at a state park, everyone benefits!

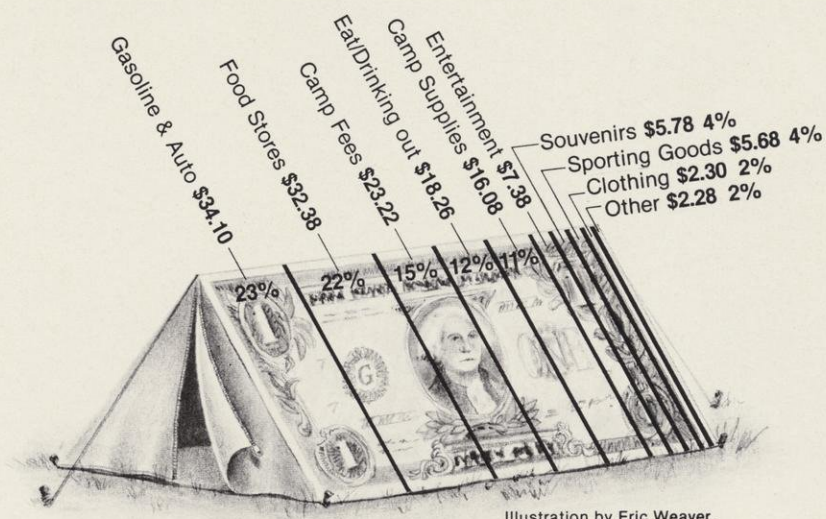


Illustration by Eric Weaver.

State park campers spend an average of \$147 per trip. Here's how it breaks down.



